



The First Messenger

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Communion Class Recognition	April 10th
No Faith Formation	April 13th
No Faith Formation	April 17th
Church Office Closed	April 18th

Volume 31

April 2022

Issue 2



SEE ON PAGE 2

**The President's Post Announcing
The FLC Vision Council's
Opportunity for Strategic Planning**

What's Inside?

Action Corps	Page 7
Calendar	Page 18
Children/Youth News	Page 10
Creation Care Update	Page 13
The Link	Page 12
Memorials	Page 16
Pastor Joe's Message	Page 3
Pastor Lauryl's Word	Page 5
Parish Health	Page 9
Pillars	Page 6
President's Post	Page 2

Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 14

12:05 PM & 6:00 PM

Good Friday, April 15

12:05 PM & 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 17

8:30, 9:30 & 10:45 AM



PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Steve Schantzen



Worship. Fellowship. Learning. Three words you may hear more frequently in the next couple months. Vision Council has been in the works of putting together the foundation for some upcoming strategic planning. I'm excited to share this with you, as it feels overdue, and I believe we are in one of the best positions to dig deep with you and our congregation in planning out the future of First Lutheran Church. A brief overview of why we are doing this, what we are looking to do, who's involved, and when it is going to take place. First and foremost, though, through this process, we seek to understand how God is calling us here at First Lutheran Church.

Why: What are a few of Vision Council's overall reasons for strategic planning?

1. It is a great time to assess where we are as a church community. Pastor Joe and Pastor Lauryl have the opportunity to fully realize this congregation's potential and meet their calling for First Lutheran Church.
2. To grow our relationship with Jesus and God's calling for First Lutheran Church. Building opportunities to cultivate meaningful relationships, and minister to each other through worship, fellowship, and learning. Also, to renew our excitement for worship and each other.
3. To receive congregational input, or really, to hear from you. This will help us identify long term plans for things like our facility, and if our future worship and ministries match how we currently utilize our building.
4. We want to understand what your passions are and how FLC's ministries align. How we can improve, and ultimately what your greatest hope for FLC is.

What: What are we going to do for strategic planning?

1. Council will be utilizing "Cottage Meetings" to facilitate input from the congregation. This will typically be in smaller group settings of hopefully no greater than 10-12 people. A facilitator, most likely a Vision Council member or two, will work through an outline with the group that goes over the process along with a handful of questions for members to provide feedback.
2. Council and staff will compile information that is received from these meetings and identify what common themes may be present, what is important, and how this will help layout the future of First Lutheran Church.
3. Vision Council and Pastors will then report back to the congregation, what we heard, the information we received, and how this will help guide the "Vision" for First Lutheran Church.

Who: Who will be involved in this process?

1. You! The congregation will be involved, and hopefully as many as possible will be engaged in this process. Pastors and Vision Council will work as the facilitators of these meetings, but the main participants will be the congregation. Your feedback is critical to this planning process and FLC staff will assist in setting up meetings and location times.

When: When will this planning take place?

1. The time is now! We have already started getting ready but will be looking to start meetings with the congregation in approximately two weeks. We are hoping for early engagement, and within the next two months have a majority of the Cottage Meetings complete to put together all the information we received from you.
2. It is our goal to have this strategic plan presented to the congregation early summer.

(Continued on page 4)

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

I am going to be intentionally provocative with this upcoming invitation. Don't freak out. Don't leave the church. Before you report me to the church police, I promise it is more faithful than you think. Ready?

Instead of giving something up for Lent, I invite you instead into...**Atheism for Lent**.

Take a deep breath.

(For those who need a refresher, atheism is the term for denying the existence of a god).

I borrow this invitation from the radical theologian and Northern Irish philosopher, Peter Rollins. I invite you into **atheism for Lent**, and here's what I mean: we give things, people, and ideas way too much of our devotion and put way too much trust in what they can do for us...and we need to resist that cycle.

Because life is so inescapably traumatic and painful, we are all constantly seeking dozens of gods that we think will save us: materials, people's opinions of us, more money, better bodies, better fashion, stronger investment portfolios, bigger houses, bigger businesses, better careers, different locations, over-idealized relationships, higher social statuses, careers, politicians, political ideologies, celebrities, etc.

We turn these things into our gods, and they get our constant attention and devotion, and we work like mad to 'please' these gods. Consider this quote from Martin Luther from his *Large Catechism*:

"Anything on which our heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God." —LC 1:3, in BC, 386.

We don't like to admit it, but each of us have multiple gods in our lives that get our heart. Each of us thinks that certain external things will finally give us a life of wholeness and completeness. We turn so many things into our gods.

I do it all the time. I keep thinking that certain thresholds of achievement or possession will finally release me into a much better life: 'Once we have this much in savings, once we repair this part of the house, once I receive this opinion from these people, once the kids get to this place, once we take care of this, that, and the other thing, I'll be satisfied...'. Again and again, like in the Garden of Eden, I am tempted to think that certain fruits will finally make me feel whole.

But these are lies. These are false promises from false gods. I will again and again fail to either reach these thresholds, **or...** I'll meet the thresholds I so idolize, and like Adam and Eve, I'll still feel broken and insecure on the other side of finally attaining them.

Perfect physique, anti-aging, social status, better achievements, clothes, cars, and careers will not bring any of us the salvation we think they will. Oscar Wilde famously said that "The only thing worse than *not* getting what we want...is getting it." Because as soon as we do, we just realize we want more, or something else, and we just end up right back where we started (For the record, this might be THE theme in the Book of Ecclesiastes).

Now, to be sure, none of the things mentioned above are inherently bad, and, in fact, some of those things make life easier – if not a LOT easier – but none of them are God. None of them, as Rollins says, "solve the trauma that is life itself." None of them will completely fulfill our fantasies. These things, these gods, will ultimately all fail us, so we need to stop giving them the devotion that we do. If not, we remain disappointed at best, and despairing or destructive at worst.

Scripture is filled with all sorts of warnings about these empty, idolatrous pursuits. For Adam and Eve, it was the forbidden fruit. For early figures in Genesis, it was building the Tower of Babel. For the Israelites it was the Golden Calf or the Promised Land. For David it was lust. For Solomon it was extravagance and wisdom. For multiple figures in Israel's history, it was the throne, or increased territory, or victory in battle, and each time these figures ended up on the other side of their pursuit, they were dissatisfied if not destroyed, they were still broken and sinful, and they still wanted more.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from page 3—Pastor Joe's Update)

This is why I invite you into **atheism for Lent**. I urge each of us to rebuke the false gods in our lives that promise us salvation on the other side. Temper your expectations about what the things of this world can give you. Or as I sometimes say, "Beware the promise of snakes" (cf. Garden of Eden). I invite each of us to deny these gods and resist the power they lyingly hold over us.

And this all starts with daily (hourly!) trusting the One True God who already gives us the freedom and blessed assurance we so desire – the God who already calls us his own, the God who already includes us and crowns us, the God who has already prepared us an eternal home, the God who already loves us and accepts us.

My hope is that this all seems a much more powerful and meaningful practice for Lent than some minor behavioral modification like giving up chocolate or wine. Lent isn't fully represented by that, and those practices don't do much to help form our faith in the God who never gives US up.

So, again, **atheism for Lent** for all the false gods in our lives that make us feel ashamed, unworthy, excluded, and dissatisfied, and as Rollins says often, "Accept that you're already accepted." I dare you to remind yourself of this every day for the rest of the Lenten Season.

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm..." (Galatians 5:1). The other gods and lies be damned.

Peace,

Pr. Joe

P.S. I don't think there are church police, but, again, please don't call them. Love you.

(Continued from page 2—Strategic Planning)

I'm personally excited to be a part of this congregation and to help facilitate this feedback. It sometimes feels that I'm "flying blind" without having your critical input in guiding decisions we need to make for Vision Council. This also comes at a time when we are finally back together, and your input will help our two amazing Pastors lead us to where God is calling First Lutheran Church. With that I will leave you with a few questions for discussion in the upcoming Cottage Meetings:

1. What are the current strengths at FLC?
2. What are the gaps and where can we improve?
3. What can we be doing to as a congregation to cultivate more meaningful relationships amongst our congregation?
4. What is one ministry you have a passion for?
5. What is your greatest hope for FLC?

If I can put one more note out, I attended our Great Synod Get-Together last week and wanted to make sure and let you know that Pastor Joe and Pastor Lauryl were recognized by the Synod. With all the Pastors and leaders within the Synod, Pastor Joe and Pastor Lauryl were recognized by Bishop Bill Tesch and received an honorary coin for their service and call to leadership at FLC. Please give them congratulations if you see them.

With that and as always, thank you. Steve



The Annual Meeting will be on May 15th at 9:35 AM in between services in the sanctuary.

LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

....God who created all things.. so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known.....—Ephesians 3:9-10

On March 12th, First Lutheran Church was one of the host congregations in Detroit Lakes, for the Great Synod Get-Together, attended by over 200 of our Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA Bishop's staff, pastors, congregational leaders, delegates, Lutheran Camp Directors, and other guests. It was a great day of Worship, prayer, fellowship, learning and inspiration! Our theme was "All for Love", using Ephesians 3:7-13. Our gifted keynote speaker was Dr. Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda, a Professor of Theological and Social Ethics at PLTS. Workshops available to attendees included: Bold Leadership Training; Stewardship of Creation; and Developing an ELCA Social Statement on Church, State and Civic Participation.

I was inspired to hear speakers talk about engaging in civic conversations as sacred encounters, listening with respect; dealing in love with conflict; being honest and not hurtful; viewing social justice from the standpoint of "we" rather than "I"; seeking abundant life for all; engaging in spiritual practices that draw us to more fully love. I liked the image our speaker quoting Martin Luther gave of our being God's "rusty tools". Bishop Tesch's sermon example of the vulnerability of a father's love brought our tears, and the wonderful hymn singing, that loudly filled the Sanctuary again, brought our joy!



Bishop Tesch "coined" five of the attendees in a ceremony that he explained was a Military tradition to honor people in appreciation for their exceptional work. He recognized both Pastor Joe and me and handed out special coins in recognition of the important healing work we and our First Lutheran Church have done in the past few years. Good job!

If you're interested in being a delegate to the Synod Assembly, or getting involved in Synod gatherings and leadership, please let your pastors know!

May God continue to heal and love and bless us all, —Pastor Lauryl

ALTAR GUILD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—The Altar Guild would love to welcome any new people who are interested in helping prepare and set the Lord's Supper. Volunteers are especially needed for Wednesday worship. Please let Jean Benson or the church office know if you are interested in finding out more about this important ministry. Those who are already Altar Guild members, please check the altar guild sign up sheet in the sacristy for the next six months.

UPCOMING ADULT FORUM

April 3
9:30 to 10:30 AM

Food and farming loom large not only in our daily lives, but also our spiritual lives. Ryan Pesch has been trying to weave the threads of community, farming, and family for many years as proprietor of Lida Farm, a volunteer board member of MANNA Food Co-op, and active leader of multiple food organizations and initiatives from Lakes Area Farmers Market in Detroit Lakes to his newest project, Pelican Market in downtown Pelican Rapids. Come and hear first hand about Ryan's efforts to influence our food system and discuss our own roles in building a vibrant food community which places care for our neighbor and creation first.

Pillars

*Ministries that support our pastors and one another
in faith growth through worship and fellowship.*

By, Mackenzie Hamm



Prospective Member: If you are interested in becoming a new member please contact the office.

We are so glad that you have chosen to worship at First Lutheran Church! I just want to let you know we will be having a time of welcoming new members during our **Wednesday Worship at 6pm on April 27th or on Sunday May 22nd at either the 8:30 or 10:45am service.** It would be our honor to welcome you into membership if you are

interested in doing so at this time. We will have **new members welcome and greeting on Sunday, May 22nd during Fellowship Hour.** Members of First Lutheran, if you can, please attend Fellowship to come introduce yourself to our new members that would be fantastic.



Who We Are | What's Happening | Worship | Faith Formation | Mission & Service | Give | Health



MEMBERSHIP FORM

WELCOME BOOKLET



If interested on becoming a new member please go to our firstlutheranchurch.com website and click on the "Who We Are" Tab and click on "**Membership**" to be directed to this page to click on the Membership Form & Welcome Booklet.

Please check out our website and click on the "Mission & Service" tab and click on "Service to the Community" and click on **Emergency Homeless Shelter & Other Needs** to be directed to this page to see our needs for our neighbors.



Who We Are | What's Happening | Worship | Faith Formation | [Mission & Service](#) | Give | Health



Service to the Community

Click on each heading to read more information about each service.

Emergency Homeless Shelter & Other Needs

Help those looking for shelter or other emergency needs in the Detroit Lakes area.

Quilters

Make quilts that are given to people around the world.

Community Building Use

Many community groups use FLC as place to meet. Click the heading to view the building usage policy.

Creation Care Committee

A group focused on how to best to help serve the earth.

Building & Equipment Usage Form: As more groups are becoming comfortable with starting their group meetings again we are needing to keep track of room usage so we don't double up on our scheduling. The Building and Usage form is located on the website under the tab "Mission & Service" and then click on **Community Building Use**. There are also copies in the magazine rack outside the church office.



Easter Week Worship Assistants Needed for our extra Services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday.

We will be needing extra volunteers to help with our worship service. We will need Ushers, Greeters, Readers, & Communion servers. If you are interested in Helping Serve the meal on **Maundy Thursday at the noon and 6pm Services** that would be fantastic! Please sign up at the Volunteer Table or call Mackenzie in the office.

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

April

Leader: **NEEDED**

Sara & Jared Aelony
Andrew & Meagan Barker
Claire Beardsley
Dean & Susan Berg
Alan & Brenda Bergum
Mitchell & Jaquelyn Buboltz
Brian & Jessica Burhans
Daniel & Janelle Disrud
Brad & Erin Erickson
Daniel & Angela Erickson
Troy & Skye Fingalson
Stephen & Jennifer Frank

John & Kim Green
James & Sandra Hedstrom
Steven & Elizabeth Hedstrom
Eric & Jennifer Hellekson
John & Lori Hinrichs
Timothy Hunnel
Gladys Johnson
Larry & Kimberly Kjono
Robert & Jill Larson
David & Kathryn Larson
Esther Lindgren
LaVon Loerzel

Christopher & Miranda Mahlum
Jessica Moench
David & Melissa Opsahl
Jeremy & Jessica Peterson
Judy Peterson
Bonnie Price
Steven & Courtney Schantzen
Diane Schjervheim
Vonnie Stenger
Josh & Sarah Tommerdahl
Christopher & DeAnne Udby
Brian & Coleen Voeltz
Ryan & Carolyn Zurich

Action Corps serves the Coffee Fellowship time on Sunday mornings, provides desserts for funerals and serves other congregational events.

The month you are on Action Corps, you will be called by your Action Corps leader to see when and how you would like to participate. For Sunday mornings: You **can serve** (set-up, serving and/or clean up). You **can donate food** items or you **can donate money** to purchase food items. You will only be called as the need arises for funerals & other events.

We accomplish big things when everybody does a little bit! Thank You!!



MAY

Leader: **NEEDED**

Hope & Darin Adams
Brian & Kristin Bausman
Nathan Bausman
Gary & Ruth Bendewald
Kathleen Blacknik
Chris & Kari Borgmann
Terrence Jay & Karen Buboltz
Angelyn Cameron-Dickson
Casey & Lisa Christensen
Patricia Dahlin-Rouse
John & Mary Erickson
LeAnn Erickson

Bernard & Joyce Gilbertson
Donald & Cherrilyn Haderly
Bradley & Linda Hanson
Ardys Horner
Jason & Megan Huus
Robert Jernberg
Charlene Jernberg
Philip & Nicole Kirchner
Wayne & Joan Lee
Patricia Magnusson
Gregory & Glenice Marxen
Gary Myers & Pam Bergeson

Sandra & Patrick Onstad
Karla Peterick
Robert & Sandra Roel
Marjorie Schroeder
James & Paula Schulz
Ruth Seal
Donald & Norma Smith
Marlys Smith
Timothy & Mary Sundby
Bradley & Jennifer Wentz
Sharron Wolf
David & Judith Wood

Each family/person has a 3-month quarter in which they will be called upon for serving. If you know which Sunday you would prefer to help serve during Sunday Coffee Fellowship time, please contact your leader and let them know! Call the office, 847-5656, if you would like to change the season in which you serve.



Northwestern Minnesota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

DELEGATES NEEDED FOR THE ANNUAL NW MN SYNOD OF ELCA ASSEMBLY **MAY 20-21, 2022**

FLC has space for 3 delegates to attend with the pastors—please call the office if you're interested or would like more information. Thank you! This is a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening around the NW MN Synod, and to have a voice in the work we do together!



LSS Financial Counseling

Sense & Centsibility

LSS Financial Counseling offers a blog called Sense & Centsibility where you can learn about financial topics and find tips and resources. In a time when prices are going up on everything from housing to food to entertainment, we can all use accurate, practical information. Subscribe to the blog at www.lssmn.org/financialcounseling/blog or contact LSS Financial Counseling at 888.577.2227.

WELCA SPRING GATHERING

April 26, 2022 8 AM Registration
9 AM Program

Immanuel Lutheran Church
403 2nd Street SE, Wadena, MN 56482

Registration Fee: \$15, Lunch Included

Bible Verse: "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.—Micah 6:8b

Bible Study: Pastor Megan Clapp — **Devotions:** Diane Teigland
Speaker: Johanna Brunsberg—"A Young Woman's Perspective"





Parish Health

Denise Gaard ♦ 218-847-5656 ♦ denise@firstlutheranchurch.com

Grief

How to Help Those Who are Grieving - Part 2

Last month, we discussed what to say and what not to say to someone who has lost a loved one. This month we'll review some important information about the grief process that can help us be more compassionate and helpful.

1. Many of us learned the "stages of grief" many years ago. At that time, the stages seemed to fit into neat little compartments...you went through a stage and then entered the next stage. But grief research shows that grieving is a process that is not at all "neat" or predictable. We can seem to be healing and moving forward...and then find ourselves right back at the beginning stages of grief. Often, an anniversary date (a birthday, anniversary) or a holiday or a song, smell, sight will evoke the deepest grief again. This is why we need supportive loved ones around us who will remind us to be "gentle" with ourselves and allow us to grieve in our own way with no judgment or advice.
2. Often, when a friend loses a loved one, we are tempted to ask, "How can I help?" But, in fact, it's very difficult for people to identify what they need.
3. You might try saying: "I'd like to bring a meal...what would be a good time for me to do that?" Be sure to ask about food allergies/intolerances and try to bring something other than lasagna! (I once heard of a widow who had 5 lasagnas in her refrigerator, and she didn't even like lasagna!) There are other creative ways to give help (cutting their lawn; shoveling snow; giving rides)
4. Send cards often...maybe every few weeks for several months. The toughest time for those grieving is after the funeral is over and everyone has gone back to their normal routine. Don't disengage with the grieving person. Acknowledge that the process of grieving continues. A phone call just to "listen" is also helpful.
5. If you're aware of a grief support group in your area, you can gently mention it as a resource...don't push or force. Sometimes it's helpful to offer to go with the grieving person to the first couple of meetings. *(There are excellent grief support groups in Detroit Lakes. For information on these groups, contact Denise.)*

Earl Grollman writes: "Grief is not a disorder, a disease or sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve."



FLC Blood Drive: May 1, 2022 7:30 AM—1:00 PM

There is always a need for blood and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Every 2 seconds, someone needs blood. Most of us will need blood in our lifetime. You have the power to save up to 3 lives with one donation! The bloodmobile will be in the Church Parking Lot May 1st from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM. To make an appointment go online at vitalant.org and enter sponsor code dfirst to make an appointment. Thank you!



Youth & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



As we enter into our last stretch of the Faith Formation year, I am super excited for what is coming up! Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

April 3rd

2nd Grade Service Project - We are inviting Wednesdays 2nd graders to come on Sunday, April 3rd for a special opportunity to meet a K9 in training! Everyone will meet in the Chapel at 9:30am.

5th Grade Communion Class - From 12-2pm in the Dining Room we will be trying communion and diving into our 2nd session of what Communion truly is and why it is so important and special.

April 10th

We are inviting all Sunday and Wednesday School kids to either of our Sunday Services, 8:30 or 10:45 to help us celebrate Palm Sunday by carrying in palm branches to begin the services! You can meet Emma in the back of the Sanctuary to get your palm branches and line up!

5th Grade Communion Recognition - During the 10:45 service, we are recognizing our 5th Graders who came to the Communion Class! There will be a special lunch to follow in the Dining Room.

April 13th

No Wednesday School during Holy Week - Please check our Holy Week Schedule for services days and times.

April 17th

No Sunday School - Happy Easter! Check service times and please join us!

April 27th

Confirmation Stole Making - Regular class time, but may run long.

7th Graders will still come, but will join 6th Graders!

May 1st

8th Grade Confirmation Service at 1:00pm!

5th Grade Service Project



Thanks to Max Maxwell for building this contraption to make quilting easier on the quilters backs on Tuesday mornings.



The Link

Update from the Women of First Lutheran Church—Written by Norma Smith

Spring has sprung! April is here and the time has come for the earth to begin anew. As I write the sun is shining brightly, the temperatures is rising and the snow is melting. Soon the trees will start to bud, sap begins to run from maple trees and some tulips and crocus begin to peek through the dormant round. Also a time to remember that each day begins anew. What we do with each day is our choice. Begin with God and be friendly, kind, considerate wherever we are—you never know if you have made someone's day.

After two years dealing with COVID, things are happening. The Synod WELCA Spring Gathering will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena on April 26, 2022. Registration fee is \$15 and begins at 8 AM. Program starts at 9 AM—lunch is included. The theme: "BE JUST AND KIND" Pastor Megan Clapp will give the bible study. Speaker Johanna Brunsberg will speak on "A Young Woman's Perspective. All women are encouraged to attend.

After being "cooped up" for two years the FLCW are sponsoring a "Great Get Together" on April 30 at 10 AM in the church dining room. This is open to all the women of the church and any men who want to join in. It is going to be a time to gather together, get to meet new people, to just visit and enjoy a cup of coffee and a roll.

The Lenten Project is underway to collect items for Personnel Care Kits. There is a display of items needed and information on the posters including maps where LWR is being sent.

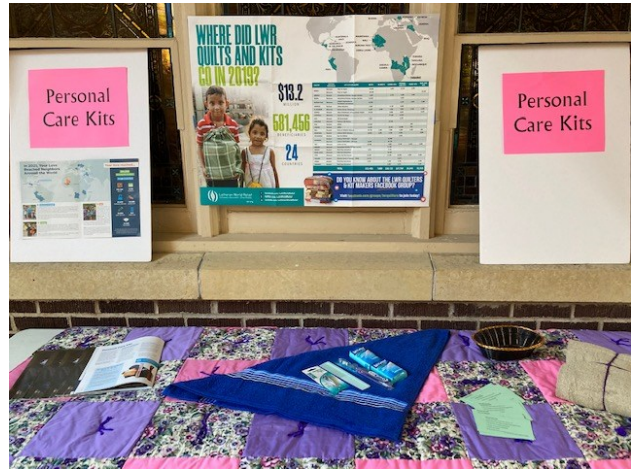
1. **Bath Towel**—A light weight towel (can get from Walmart \$2.98)
2. **Heavy Duty Comb**—We suggest purchasing the Conair combs that come in a packages of 2 for approximately \$3.00. They are not always available so the Council has ordered some.
3. **Toothbrush**—They have been donated by a dentist and toothpaste is given when kits are delivered.
4. **(2) Bars of Soap**—You can donate any kind, but must equal 8oz—9oz.
5. **Nail Clipper**—Can be purchased from Central Market for .89 cents.

If you plan to donate, you have until the end of April to deliver the items. They will be assembled after that. You can also donate money. Leave items in the office. Thank you for participating.

The next council meeting is April 13 at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room.

Blessings to each of you this Easter.

-Norma Smith



**Ruth Circle will meet
Thursday, April 7 at 1:30 PM
in the FLC dining room.**



Creation Care - Earth Week Table

For Earth Week celebration...FLC Creation Care Team has assembled a table of environmental goodies for FLC congregation to see and receive FREE stuff too! Come by the CCT table in FLC downstairs hallway on Wednesday, April 20 5:00 - 7:00 pm and Sunday, April 24 9:30 – 11:00. We will be giving away our special FLC Creation Care re-usable shopping bags for those who promise to use them!! As a bonus our youth are showing their enthusiasm for our Earth by entering our contest and completing a contest question, “*I can help our planet by _____.*” Entry forms are available on page 15 of the newsletter. Stop by the table and see the completed entrees.

Earth Week Celebration with FLC Creation Care Friday, April 22—DL Library

Earth Day 2022 will be celebrated Friday, April 22 at the DL library from 10:00 to 2:00 with a short program at 1:00. Local organization working together to help the environment will be there to show and discuss their materials and handouts to help our environment. A one stop shop!

Attendees include: Becker County Soil and Water, Becker County recycling, City of DL public utilities, Friends of Tamarac, Lakes chapter of Izaak Walton League, Manna food co-op, First Lutheran Church Creation Care, Pelican River Watershed and Becker County Master Gardeners.

Learn and ask questions of our local environmental experts. Becker County Soil & Water has...programs for windbreaks, shorelines, pollinator planting. Becker County recycling...what how to recycle your stuff. Friends of Tamarac...their environmental programs and volunteering. Izaak Walton...local environment service club. Manna food co-op...sourcing food locally. FLC Creation Care...caring for God’s creation. Becker County Master Gardeners...love to garden? Have lawn pollinator questions?

Stop by between 10:00 and 2:00 at the library or attend the short program at 1:00. Treats and refreshments.

FLC Tree Give-Away Sunday, May 1

Last year FLC Creation Care Team (CCT) sponsored our first tree give-away. Our goal was to plant a tree to show our care for God’s earth. The entire DL community was invited to come to FLC parking lot and pick-up their seedlings of Paper Birch, Black Chokeberry, [Cranberry bush](#), [Red Splendor Crabapple](#), [Sugar Maple](#), and [Black Hills Spruce](#). The event was well-received as all 275 trees were given away in less than 2 hours.

Given the success of last year’s event, the CCT is increasing its efforts. We have 325 trees to give-away to help offset the effects of global warming. Available species include Chokecherry, Red Splendor Crabapple, Red (or Norway) Pine, and Black Hills Spruce.

Our CCT will be assembled in the southwest corner of the church parking lot on **Sunday, May 1st from 9:30 to 11:00** am ready to give you 1 to 3 seedlings to plant and enjoy for years to come. Species availability will be first-come, first-serve basis. You are invited to bring a bag/container suitable to carry mulch (free also). A mulch donut helps your young trees survive during the early years of life.

The trees are gifted to you by the Creation Care Team of First Lutheran Church. It is our hope that you and your family will plant, care for, and enjoy this free gift as a celebration of God’s wonderful creation. Planting a tree declares hope for the future!

The Creation Care Team was created to celebrate the beauty of God’s creation and to realize our responsibility as stewards to care for our earth.





FREE TREE GIVEAWAY

at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN
by the FLC Creation Care Team

Sunday, May 1st, 2022

9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

in the FLC Parking Lot, by the playground

FREE TO ALL

Tree options include:

- Chokecherry
- Red (Norway) Pine
- Red Splendor Crabapple
- Black Hills Spruce

We are offering 6"-10" bare root trees

Limit 3 trees per person.

We have free tree mulch. Bring a container.

I CAN HELP OUR



BY:

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Phone: _____

You could win one of three \$10 gift cards to Becker Pet & Garden and the Candy Store! Contest sponsored by Becker Pet & Garden and First Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes Creation Care Team. Open to kids Preschool through 8th Grade. Turn in entries by 8pm on Wednesday April 13th to the First Lutheran Church Office or by 5pm at Becker Pet & Garden (1008 Washington Ave). Or scan and email your entry to Scott at beckerpet@arvig.net by 8pm 4/13/22. Thank you!



WE NEED YOU

Saturday May 7, 2022 at 8:30 AM
417 Main St W, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Did you know that the American Red Cross responds to a disaster every 8 minutes, and the vast majority of these are **home fires**? Sadly, every day seven people die from home fires, most in homes that lack working smoke alarms, with children and the elderly disproportionately killed. That's why the Red Cross launched the Home Fire Campaign in 2014. Since then, volunteers and partners have made over 300,000 households safer.

On Saturday May 7, 2022, at 8:30am, in Partnership with Becker County Sheriff Office, Fire Departments and the Office of Emergency Management, we will be installing free smoke alarms all over Becker County, with major events taking place in the City of Detroit Lakes, MN. We are counting on families like you to help us ensure that our neighbors are prepared for home fires!

Volunteer to help Sound the Alarm, Save a Life or simply reach out to your Local Fire Department and sign up to get alarms installed in your home. Sign up as a volunteer or request free alarm installation by clicking this link <https://www.redcross.org/local/mn-nd-sd/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign/smoke-alarm-request.html> or pick up registration forms at 925 Lake Ave and 1025 Roosevelt Ave in Detroit lakes MN before **April 16th, 2022**. More information on this event can be provided by reaching out to Jamie Bishoff at Jamie.bishoff@co.becker.mn.us or 218-847-2661. Our Volunteers and Partners will work to install free smoke alarms, educate and help families and help you create fire escape plans.

Thank you for all that you do to serve our community. I look forward to walking along side you as we save lives on MAY 7, 2022.

Thank you, Maria Jordan



FLC acknowledges with grateful appreciation these memorials which have been received this past month.

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: LuVerna Geiselhart

Given by: Patti Cummins

In Memory of: Tae Sun Nygaard

Given by: Terry & Sandi Kemmer

In Memory of: Robin Adams

Given by: Terry & Sandi Kemmer

In Memory of: The Century of Friendship Between
Charlotte Hoeglund & Opal Wieck

Given by: John & Judy Hoeglund

ALLELUIA RINGERS FUND

In Memory of: Carla Hansen's Mother

Given by: Mike & Dianne Fillmore

Given by: Rod & Sue Schaffer

CREATION CARE FUND

In Memory of: Robin Adams

Given by: Mike & Dianne Fillmore

FLOWER FUND

In Memory of: LuVerna Geiselhart

Given by: Rodger & Marilyn Tinjum

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: LuVerna Geiselhart

Given by: Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Jan Johannson

Given by: LouAnne Gerdes

Given by: Marlys Douglas

In Memory of: Ginny Barnum

Given by: Pat Zurn

UNSPECIFIED FUND

In Memory of: Jan Johannson

Given by: Sara Leigh & Dean Sather

In Memory of: Virginia Barnum

Given by: Jessie & Scott Rinne

In Memory of: Tae Sun Nygaard

Given by: Cindy & Jim Bruflodt

Update From Trinity Hope



News from Trinity HOPE

This is one of a series of articles which we make available each month to keep our supporters informed about our activities. Trinity HOPE, a not-for-profit charitable organization, raises funds and administers feeding programs that provide a noon meal for the hungry children who attend our schools in Haiti where the Good News of Jesus is shared daily.

2024 Hunters Place, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 • admin@trinityhope.org • (615) 394-4950

Web Page: www.TrinityHope.org • Facebook: [trinityhopehaiti](https://www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti)

Never Lose Hope

By Keith Logan



In today's world it's easy to look at all the suffering and feel hopeless. Now that we are starting to come out of a global pandemic (hopefully!), our world is facing the devastating impact of a terrible war in eastern Europe, economic uncertainty with rising inflation, world hunger for millions of people, and much more. It is easy to have a "Woe is me" attitude for our entire mankind. So, what does God have to say about all this? He puts things in perspective for us and reminds us of His truth. Romans 8:18 says, *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."* As bad as things get in this world, we are assured that this suffering is only temporary and we will receive His Glory for eternity, which far surpasses today's challenges. We must keep our eyes focused on the Lord, and trust in His plans.

I am certainly not diminishing the human pain and reality those most impacted by these terrible events are experiencing. May God be with them during this difficult time! Although I can only imagine how those personally inflicted feel, my work with Trinity HOPE has exposed me to the terrible suffering those in Haiti face every day. As the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and where close to half of the adult population is illiterate and millions of children go hungry every day, Haiti is a land that has not escaped long-term suffering. As a ministry, Trinity HOPE continues to do everything we can to lessen some of that distress. By the grace of God, we are now providing over 52,000 meals each school day to children, teachers, and cooks in approximately 250 Christian schools throughout Haiti. Each meal is a spiritual reminder of the glory God has promised them in Romans 8:18. The life-sustaining meals allow the children to better retain the education they receive and encourages the parents to keep their children in school, where they hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you are helping support the work Trinity HOPE is doing, I want to say Thank You!! Your on-going support is truly making a difference in the lives of these precious children. If you are not currently supporting us and would like to learn more about the work we are doing, please visit our website at www.trinityhope.org. We still have thousands of children on our waiting list, hoping their school will one day receive a feeding program. Your support will be a tremendous blessing. In many cases, new donations are eligible for matching funds, allowing every dollar to make an even bigger difference. May we all continue to pray for those suffering throughout the world, as we confidently look forward to the eternal glory we are promised in Jesus Christ.



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	28 5:00p Al Anon, Library	29 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom	30 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 12:05p Lenten Service 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	31 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	1 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel	2
3 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult Forum, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship	4 5:00p Al Anon, Library	5 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 7:00p Creation Care Disc., Zoom	6 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Oak Crossing Worship 12:05p Lenten Worship Svc 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	7 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 1:30p Ruth Circle 7:00p Creation Care Zoom	8 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 1:00p Hospitality Mtg, Din Rm 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	9
10 Sunday Schedule <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Recognition of Communion Class</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	11 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	12 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:30a Rebekah Cir, Dn Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	13 Wednesday Schedule <i>No Faith Formation</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:00p Personnel Mtg 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	14 Maundy Thursday Schedule 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 12:05p Worship Service 2:00p Linc Prk/Winch Wrshp 6:00p Worship Service	15 Good Friday Schedule 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 12:05p Worship Service 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:00p Worship Service	16
17 Sunday Schedule <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Communion Sunday</i> <i>No Faith Formation</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	18 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 	19 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 6:30p Cottage Mtg, Din. Rm	20 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship Svc 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:30a Cottage Mtg, Library 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 6:30p Cottage Meeting, Din Rm 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	21 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	22 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 	23
24 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	25 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p Cottage Meeting	26 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	27 Wednesday Schedule <i>New Member Wednesday</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:00p New Member Welcome 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation hour 6:30p Cottage Meeting, Din Rm 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	28 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	29 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	30
1 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion Sunday</i> <i>FLC Blood Drive</i> <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Free Tree Giveaway 9:45a Cottage Meeting, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship 1:00p Confirmation Wshp Svc	2 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	3 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Rachel Circle, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	4 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Oak Crossing Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	5 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib	6 12:00p AA, Lib 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	7 9:30a Tree Planting @ Farm



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
912 Lake Avenue
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Office Hours:

Winter Hours

(Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Monday—Friday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Monday—Thursday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Fridays
8:30 AM to Noon

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Treasurer: Chad Carlblom

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Todd Gaard, Tanner Duncan, & Kari Stattelmann

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Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

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Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

**Worship is broadcast on KDLM-1340 AM and on
93.1 FM Radio each
Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM.**

**Worship is also webcasted on the church website
www.firstlutheranchurch.com.**

**Worship is also broadcast on T.V. on Saturdays at 9:00 AM
on Arvig Cable channel 14.**