

# The First Messenger

May 2025



*Opening doors to life in Christ.*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

You are warmly invited to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, May 18, 2025**, following worship in the sanctuary (approximately a 10:35 a.m. call to order). This important gathering is a time for us to come together as a congregation to review the past year, look ahead to the future, and exercise our shared responsibility in the life of our church.

During the meeting, we will vote on our 2025–2026 Fiscal Year Budget, elect candidates to leadership positions, approve past meeting minutes, review any old or new business, and hear reports from our Pastor, Vision Council, Treasurer, and others. Baptized and Confirmed members of First Lutheran Church are eligible to vote. In accordance with our Constitution, voting on elections and the approval of the final annual budget will be conducted by secret ballot.

Please note that according to our Constitution, the quorum required to conduct business is reached at 50 voting members, and voting by proxy or absentee ballot is not permitted.

Your presence and participation are vital to the health and vitality of our congregation and for the discernment of where God is calling us. Please make plans to stay after worship and join us in this important work as we continue to live out our mission together!

Peace,

Pastor Joe, *Lead Pastor*

### UPCOMING:

#### May 3

Women of First Lutheran Spring Brunch

#### May 4

Confirmation Sunday  
Last Day of Sunday School

#### May 7

Last Wed Night Oasis  
New member Welcome

#### May 11

New Member Welcome

#### May 18

Annual Meeting

#### May 25

Summer Worship Schedule begins

#### May 26

Memorial Day | Church Office Closed

# MINISTRY & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

By Sarah Nelson, Ministry & Social Assistance Coordinator

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

April was National Volunteer Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our volunteers!

We are called to actively love our neighbors by serving our communities with compassion, following the example of Jesus who came "not to be served but to serve."

This call for us to impactful action encourages us as individuals to actively participate in addressing community needs through volunteering. Let me tell you, it has been so inspiring to see our congregation do this with such compassion, care, and in so many different ways both inside our church walls and outside of them. The term community lends itself to our FLC church community 's needs as well as our local, regional and global community needs.

Here are **some** of the ways our congregation members and guests have given their time and energy over the past several months:

### Within FLC:

- Advent concerts lunches and mini-concerts
- Altar Guild
- Audiovisual Tech Team
- Denise Gaard's retirement celebration
- Fellowship – Sunday's Fellowship Hour and 234 Fellowship events
- Funeral volunteers – bars, servers, greeters
- Graduation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday
- Lent lunches
- Oasis Meal on Wednesdays
- Office staff meeting coverage volunteers
- Pie Auction
- Worship Assistants volunteers – Wednesdays and Sundays during Worship, Christmas Eve services and noon Lenten services and Easter Sunday services



### In the Local Community:

- Angel Tree – FLC fulfilled 112 angels this year!
- Children's Ministry Service projects with our youth
- Christmas Store volunteers and lead organizers
- Food Pantry volunteering – November was FLC's month to support the food pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Salvation Army bell ringing on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Social Assistance - donations and organization for blessing closet, meal makers

### On Regional and Global Scales

- Women of FLC Mission Projects:
  - Quilts for Lutheran World Relief
  - Personal hygiene kits
  - Baby care kits

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHTS

FLC's Agape ministry focuses on demonstrating God's unconditional love through various acts of support when individuals come to us that are facing challenges. We steward donated funds to assist them in overcoming the crisis or barrier(s) they face by helping to alleviate an immediate need.





## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHTS

FLC's Agape ministry generally focuses on demonstrating God's unconditional love through various acts of support when individuals come to us that are facing challenges. We minister donated funds to assist them in overcoming the crisis or barrier(s) they face by helping to alleviate an immediate need.

Type of Assistance	January	February	March	April
Groceries and Household toiletries/items gift card	5	7	9	8
Meals (homemade)	22	8	11	21
Identity Document Assistance	0	0	2	1
Minor Billing Assistance	8	5	3	1
Major Billing Assistance	0	4	0	2
Transportation (# of people)	2	4	5	5
Short-Term Lodging (# of nights)	21	8	6	11

**Minor bill assistance examples:** cellphone minutes, medical prescription, minor utility bill, minor auto repair, car insurance

**Major bill assistance examples:** rental assistance, rental deposit, major utility bill, major auto repair

**Transportation examples:** Jefferson Lines/Greyhound (bus), Amtrak (train), Becker County Transit bus tokens

**Ministerial Association Fund:** FLC also utilizes the funds given to the Ministerial Association Fund. The Ministerial Association Fund is a charitable financial resource maintained by our local ministerial association to support community needs. The fund is contributed to by member churches, including FLC, that choose to contribute.

Type of Assistance	January	February	March	April
Gasoline (Holiday Gas Station)	15	11	14	19
Clothing and household items (Boys and Girls Club Thrift)	6	3	4	1



## Thoughtful Tidbit *by Pastor Matthew Engum*

**Thought Tidbit:** While I named last time that Lent is perhaps my favorite season of the church year, I'm going to give an unpopular opinion here: Easter is my least favorite. Mainly, because of how cliché and capitalistic the day has become. But also because our focus on Easter leans so heavily, at least most often, *in the future*. Christ has risen today, hallelujah! And yet we immediately shift to, 'when Christ will come again?' What happened to His rising, *today*? So in this Easter season and the subsequent days after, I challenge myself and invite you all in, in recognizing the significance of Christ's resurrection *right now, today*. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is here and now and amongst and within us. We need not worry about the future or think of the future because of what Christ has done. But our present moment is radically changed, knowing that the risen Christ is here today. Let us live into the presence of the risen Christ in every present moment.

**What I've been doing:** I offer here the books, films, and other art forms I'm engaging in for the month. These are in no way a recommendation for anything listed, just an offering of what I've explored in the last month. I believe art and the imagination to be a Truth telling device as we live out the Gospel together. Engaging in and consuming art together is a way to *be the Kingdom of God*, here and now, together. So here is what I've been reading, viewing, and listening to this month:

- *Sable, Fable* (Music Album by Bon Iver)
- *The Wild Robot* (Film directed by Chris Sanders)
- *The Fog of War* (Documentary Film directed by Errol Morris)
- *Sugarcane* (Documentary Film directed by Emily Kassie & Julian Brave NoiseCat)

As always, my door is always open, stop in for a chat and a warm or cold beverage.

Best,  
Pastor Matthew Engum



## Women of FLC | Piecemakers

Since we ship quilts in early June, we are busy in May finishing as many quilts as we can, prior to the shipping date. As quilts are completed, they are tightly rolled (a two person job), and packed 6 to a box. The boxes are labeled to show how many quilts they contain, taped shut and stored until they are sent on their way.

**The FLC Quilters meet Tuesday mornings from  
8:30 to 11:30 am in the Recreation Room. Join us !**



**Room for one more.**



**Quilt rolling team**



## April Highlights

### Service Project

Rescheduled for April 30th - Check back next month to see how our 1st graders helped our planet.

## May News

### Confirmation Sunday

This service will take place May 4th, in the sanctuary. Service will start at 12pm, with photos and light refreshments to follow. Please consider attending this special service to congratulate our 2025 confirmands on the work and dedication they've put into their faith journey.

## High School

May 8th - Lunch w/Pastors @Pizza Ranch

May 15th - Lunch w/Pastors @Pizza Ranch



**Last Day of Children's classes and Youth Classes**  
**Sunday School—May 4**  
**Wednesday School and Confirmation—May 7**

## Looking Ahead

### Vacation Bible School

Registration for VBS is now OPEN!

To sign up, visit the Children's Page on the church website. Hard copies are also available in the office.

We are also in need of volunteers to help make this the best week ever. We have spots available to help with snack time, counselor support (aka extra eyes), and counselor meals. A volunteer only sign up can also be found on the Children's Page of the website.

A banner for Vacation Bible School. The text "Vacation Bible School" is in large yellow letters at the top. Below it, in a blue oval, is "\*June 16th-19th\*". In the center, there are three logos: a blue dove with a yellow star, a black outline of hands holding a church building, and a red and white Luther Crest. Below the logos, it says "We Are The Church" in black. At the bottom, in yellow letters, it says "Open to kids completing K-5th" and "Free to all campers!". The background is a blue and white wavy pattern.



# Congratulations FLC Seniors

Lakyn Bellefeuille  
Hunter Biegler  
Brooklyn Blake  
Nicholas Buboltz  
Casey Cole  
Jace Fields  
Aiden Hamar  
Stephen Hilde  
Alexis Hilde

Isabel Hunnel  
Jaelynn Jensen  
Charlee Lokken  
Keifer Lundmark  
Madilynn McLaughlin  
Mathew Mosher  
Carter Mouw  
Gavin Ortiz  
Isla Pender

Anna Ramsey  
Megan Shepard  
Alison Steward  
Caden Strand  
Thomas Suckert  
Averi Syverson  
Dylan Thompson  
Tanner Wilson



CLASS OF  
2025



***Graduate Blessing Sunday , April 27***

## FLC CHURCH DIRECTORY update!

Have you submitted your  
updated photo and  
address to the office yet?

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are updating the church directory! If you would like to have an updated photo for the directory, stop by the "photo kiosk" after our worship service **on May 4, 7 or 11**. Or, you can email a photo it to the church office at: [sara@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:sara@firstlutheranchurch.com).

*Please note: if you do NOT want your contact information printed in the new directory, you must let the church office know by **June 1**, otherwise your information will be printed. To inform the office, stop by the photo "kiosk", during the dates listed above or contact the office directly.*

## Memorial Gifts Received

FLC acknowledges with appreciation the following memorial gifts which have been received this past month.

### AGAPE

In memory of Ken Christianson  
from Janelle Maday

In memory of Ken Christianson  
from Lynn & Beverly Hummel

In memory of Harriet Barrett  
Claire Beardsley

### BECKER CO FOOD PANTRY

In memory of Jon Horner  
from Ardys Horner

### MUSIC

In memory of Ken Christianson-  
from Family of Keny Christianson

### RADIO

In memory of Harriet Barrett  
from Ruth Circle

In memory of Ted Heisserer,  
from Mackenzie Hamm

### SOUND & TECH

In memory of Ken Christianson  
from Betty Fischer

In memory of Ken Christianson  
from Adrienne & Larry Buboltz

### UNDESIGNATED

In memory of Ted Heisserer,  
from LeAnn & Brant Mouw

*Reminder: when giving memorials to the FLC  
Foundation or FLC Quilters, please make  
separate checks.*

## NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

The total from the **March** Noisy Offering, going  
to: **Becker County Food Pantry is: \$1,608.25**

The **April** Noisy Offering went to: **Solar Sister.**

In **May**, the Noisy Offering will go to:  
**Lutheran World Relief**

## FLC March Financial Snapshot

Actual Revenue*, Year to Date:	\$541,375.17
Budget Revenue, Year to Date	<u>\$568,896.00</u>
Favorable/(Unfavorable)	(27,520.83)
*unaudited	



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Begins  
May 25!**

**SUNDAYS**

 **8:30am Traditional Worship Service**  
**10:30am Outdoor Worship Service**

## Outdoor Worship is Back!

Our summer worship schedule  
begins on May 25 with an in-  
door, traditional worship ser-  
vice at 8:30am and our outdoor  
worship service at 10:30am.

Bring a blanket or a lawn  
chair—we will see you outside  
for worship on May 25th



## Share your Musical Gifts With Us!

Do you have a musical message you would like to share during one of our worship services this summer? Perhaps you have a relative or friend visiting that would like to share their talents with us. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact the office or Karen Bimberg at [Karen@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:Karen@firstlutheranchurch.com)



# Adult Faith Formation

## Loving Our Adult Neighbors with Disabilities

Continuing with our current theme of Loving Our Neighbors, the Adult Faith Formation Team hosted speaker Sarah Hill, Executive Director of the Becker County Developmental Achievement Center (DAC) on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Sarah shared that the DAC has been empowering adults with disabilities since 1967, providing services that embrace differences and enrich lives. The mission of the DAC is to foster independence, build confidence, and create opportunities for every individual they serve. At the heart of their work is a deep belief in the value and potential of every person.

Their programs include:

- Day Habilitation – helping individuals build life skills, confidence, and social connections,
- Employment & VRS Services – supporting meaningful employment and career development,
- In-Home Supports – promoting independence and safety in daily living.

While the DAC is proud to partner with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, much of what they do is only possible because of the generosity of our community. From volunteers to donors to local partners, our support makes a lasting difference. Donations to fund services and support new opportunities, community connections to spread their mission and strengthen their outreach, and volunteers to help with programs and activities are essential to their work. Some possible volunteer activities include visiting the DAC and conversing with clients, playing games with clients, or providing and serving a meal at one of the DAC monthly meetings. We encourage you to reach out to this very important agency in our community. To learn more, volunteer, or donate, please contact Sarah Hill at 218-850-3710 or [sarah@beckercountydac.org](mailto:sarah@beckercountydac.org).

- Submitted by Phyllis Neuenfeldt



## POVERTY SIMULATION

As the Adult Faith Formation team here at FLC continues to offer educational sessions and experiences that might help us all "learn to love and serve our neighbors", here is still another growth opportunity. Yes, we all know about poverty – the seriousness and the impact of this growing epidemic. So please read on and consider taking advantage of a "real-life" simulation depicting the struggles of others with and living in poverty.

On **Thursday, May 22**, from **9 a.m. to 12 noon** Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union is sponsoring and facilitating a complimentary "Poverty Simulation" at M-State here in Detroit Lakes. This experience helps participants and volunteers develop a "greater understanding of our region and dismantle preconceived ideas of our neighbors that live in poverty."

Who should participate and/or volunteer in this simulation . . . customer service groups, health care professionals, educators, clergy and congregations, social services providers, elected officials, college students, community organizations, and corporations.

To learn more about this life-altering program, please contact Nicole Pfeffer, Community Outreach Specialist, at 218.736.9843. Or stop in at our church office and pick up a flyer with additional details on this simulation experience.







## Making Connections | Meet the Chases!



Sonny and Dawn Chase have built a life rooted in love and faith, blessed with three daughters and a son that regularly attended First Lutheran Church.

Sunday school was a routine event, with Dawn and I teaching for about nine years and myself playing in the church band until COVID-19 in 2020. We often helped with kitchen duties, including doing dishes, making coffee, setting tables and much more. First Lutheran is a vibrant community where we have met many new and regular attendees

throughout our 20 years there.

Now with adult children, Dawn and I cherish our two grandchildren. The family thrives on strong bonds and shared values. With First Lutheran being an essential part of our lives during both high and low points. It remains a place we can turn to when needed and enjoy assisting during shortages.



## FENCES

By Patti Cummins

*For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14*

Oaklyn was helping me "review" some children's books donated to the church library. One particular book told of two girls who lived on opposite sides of a fence – each taught to never cross that fence. Friends of one girl gathered on her side of the fence, but the other girl was alone and yearned to join the others in community.

Of course, this caused my social Oaklyn no end of anxiety. She so wanted them to be able to play together.

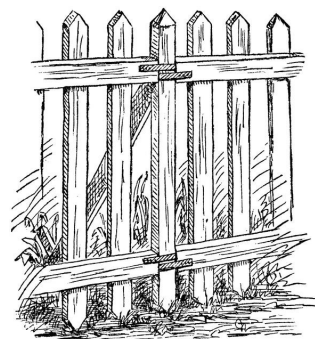
The two girls eventually came together sitting on the fence, where they had a much better view of the world around them. Soon, other friends joined them in play and in sitting on the fence, a much better vantage point. At the end of the summer, one of the girls reckoned, "Someday somebody's going to come along and knock this old fence down."

Oaklyn was relieved the girls could be together, but then asked, "Who built that fence to start with?" She could not understand why people would separate them.

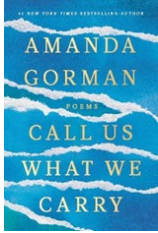
But the truth is, people built fences even in Jesus's day – social or political status, which leader's teaching they followed, which foods they ate, or whether the men were circumcised or not.

And we continue to either build fences today or cling to old, broken-down ones that may have no relevancy as we come to know and understand each other better. Fences can provide safety, but they can also divide us, or take away our freedom, or dampen our joy in community.

I need to figure out which fences to hold on to (one old fence kept me from getting lost in the woods during deer hunting), and which ones I need to help tear down.

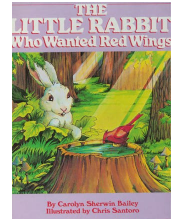


## New At The Library | Submitted by Patti Cummins

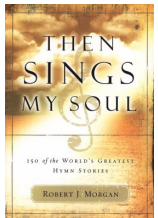


***Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman.** Bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman captures a shipwrecked moment in time and transforms it into a lyric of hope and healing. In *Call Us What We Carry*, Gorman explores history, language, identity, and erasure through an imaginative and intimate collage. Harnessing the collective grief of a global pandemic, this beautifully designed volume features poems in many inventive styles and structures and shines a light on a moment of reckoning. *Call Us What We Carry* reveals that Gorman has become our messenger from the past, our voice for the future.

***The Little Rabbit Who Wanted Red Wings* by Carolyn Bailey.** When a little bunny wishes for red wings and his wish comes true, everything is not as he had expected it to be. This classic tale is as beloved today as it was when it was written over 50 years ago.

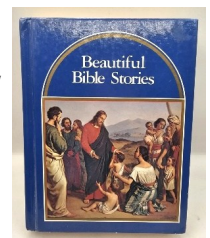


***The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson.** A story of friendship across a racial divide. Clover, the young African-American narrator, lives beside a fence that segregates her town. Her mother instructs her never to climb over to the other side because it isn't safe. But one summer morning, Clover notices a girl on the other side. Both children are curious about one another, and as the summer stretches on, Clover and Annie work up the nerve to introduce themselves. They dodge the injunction against crossing the fence by sitting on top of it together, and Clover pretends not to care when her friends react strangely at the sight of her sitting side by side with a white girl. Eventually, it's the fence that's out of place, not the friendship.



***Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan.** Three hundred of the world's greatest hymn stories.

***Beautiful Bible Stories* by Patricia Summerlin Martin.** This book is every story in the Bible, in order from Genesis to Acts. All have said that it has increased their Bible knowledge tremendously. I recommend it for any person, at any age, who wants to know what the Bible is about, but wants it in small, easily digestible chunks. The author is very good at keeping the stories true to scripture while necessarily abbreviating them for understanding and clarity



*Some books are temporarily missing from the library. If you have one and are done with it, you can return it at any time so others can enjoy them. If you have one you are still using and would like to have it longer, leave a note to that effect in the office for "Library-Patti".*

Watch for the new Little Public Library to be installed on our front lawn!



# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 <b>9:30AM</b> Women of First Lutheran Brunch
4 <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>Confirmation Sun-</b> <b>day Last day of</b> <b>Sunday School</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Worship <b>10:30a</b> Fellowship	5	6 <b>8:30a</b> Quilters <b>6pm</b> Dream Big Committie Mtg	7 <b>6:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship team rehearsal <b>LAST WED NIGHT OASIS</b> <b>5-6p</b> Oasis Meal <b>6p</b> Worship service <b>NEW MEMBER WELCOME</b> <b>6:15p</b> Alleluilla Ringers rehearsal <b>6:30</b> Wed school / Confirmation <b>7:15p</b> Jublate Choir practice	8 <b>9a</b> Women's Bible Study <b>11:30am</b> High School FREE Pizza Lunch <b>1:30pm</b> Ruth Circle	9	10
11 Mothers Day <b>NEW MEMBER</b> <b>WELCOME</b> 9:30a Worship 10:30a Fellowship	12	13 <b>8:30a</b> Quilters <b>9am</b> Rebekah Circle	14 <b>6:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship team rehearsal <b>6:15p</b> Alleluilla Ringers rehearsal	15 <b>9a</b> Women's Bible Study <b>11:30am</b> High School FREE Pizza Lunch	16	17
18 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:30a Worship 10:30a <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	19	20 <b>8:30a</b> Quilters	21 <b>6:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship team rehearsal <b>6:15p</b> Alleluilla Ringers rehearsal	22 <b>9a</b> Women's Bible Study	23	24
25 <b>SUMMER WORSHIP</b> <b>SCHEDULE BEGINS</b> <b>8:30 am</b> - Traditional service <b>10:30 am</b> - Outdoor service	26 <b>MEMORIAL</b> <b>DAY</b> Office Closed	27 <b>8:30a</b> Quilters	28 <b>6:30a</b> Men's Bible Study <b>5p</b> Worship team rehearsal <b>6:15p</b> Alleluilla Ringers rehearsal	29 <b>9a</b> Women's Bible Study	30	31

Please note: this Newsletter Calendar showcases and prioritizes the basic ministry schedule at First Lutheran and does not contain every congregational activity or the multiple ways our building is being used throughout the month.

Calendar is correct at time of printing. UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR AVAILABLE at [firstlutheranchurch.com/calendar](http://firstlutheranchurch.com/calendar)

## CONGREGATIONAL STAFF

**Lead Pastor:** Pastor Joe Skogmo

[pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastorjoe@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Associate Pastor:** Pastor Matthew Engum

[pastormatthew@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastormatthew@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Director of Operations:** Paul Haarstick

[paul@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:paul@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Ministry & Social Assistance Coordinator:** Sarah Nelson

[sarah@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:sarah@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Communications Director:** Sara Peterson

[sara@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:sara@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Youth & Family Ministry Director:** Olivia Sauer

[olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Worship Music Coordinator:** Karen Bimberg

[karen@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:karen@firstlutheranchurch.com)

**Adult Choir Director:** Kathy Larson

[kathrynmyrom@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynmyrom@gmail.com)

**Bell Choir Director:** Carla Hansen

[hansencarla62@gmail.com](mailto:hansencarla62@gmail.com)

## Vision Council

President: Carla Solem

President-Elect: Tom Neuenfeldt

Secretary: Paula Schulz

Treasurer: Kevin Shipley

Erin Erickson, Mike Pladson,  
DeAnne Udby, Jon Freeman,  
Catharine Weisenburger

## Foundation Board

President: Ryan Manke

President-Elect: Les Perry

Secretary: Patti Cummins

Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

Shar Arvig, Alex Hagedorn,  
Don Busker & Pam Orth



**First Lutheran Church**

912 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Office phone: 218-847-5656

[flc@firstlutheranchurch.com](mailto:flc@firstlutheranchurch.com)

[firstlutheranchurch.com](http://firstlutheranchurch.com)

### OFFICE HOURS

(Monday-Friday)

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Our worship services can be  
found on:

KDLM-1340 AM and  
on 93.1 FM radio  
each Sunday morning at  
10:00 AM.

On the church website:  
[firstlutheranchurch.com](http://firstlutheranchurch.com)

on TV: Saturdays at 9:00 AM  
on Arvig Cable channel 14.

# Adult Vacation Bible School

**Monday, June 23 &**

**Monday, June 20**

**5:30 – 8 p.m.**

**Outdoors on the Green Space**

**(Watch for specifics in the June Newsletter)**

