

First Word



May 2011

First
Lutheran
Church

116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN
56058
507.665.2615
www.flcls.org

2011 YouthWorks Mission Trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation

This year the multi-generational mission trip will head out to Eagle Butte, South Dakota at the end of July. The lead is Connie Caspers and includes Klaire Hudson, Vic and Cole Pengilly, Haley Schaaf, MiKayla Falkman, Caleb, Kindre and Bill Radloff, Allison Schwarz, and Grant Miller.

The service opportunities in Cheyenne River will consist of a variety of different projects and ministry partnerships, both labor related and relationally based. Several Work Projects and a Kids Club will help meet the needs of the community. Some of the sites and projects that the group might be working on are:

- ❖ The Cheyenne River Youth Project: assist in several varying projects - crafts, gym activities, community garden maintenance.
- ❖ Sacred Heart Center/Bear Necessities: sorting and folding donations and displaying them in their thrift store.
- ❖ Okiciyapi Tipi Habitat for Humanity: assist in light construction projects.
- ❖ The Mustard Seed: assist in the operation of the soup kitchen as well as assisting in work projects to make the soup kitchen fully functional.

Even if you're not going, you can help. A plastic tote will be set up in the narthex to collect household items and new or gently-used school supplies. They need donations like silverware, pots & pans, clothing (specifically underwear/socks), bedding & towels, etc. No bulky items like furniture will be accepted.

The group thanks everyone who has helped with the fundraising efforts to date. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy the rolls or be here for the Easter Brunch, you can still help send them on their way!

- ❖ A car wash will be held on May 15 during both services. GIGG students will be at the lot entrances to hand out "tickets" and instructions to those who want their cars washed beginning at 7:30 a.m. Cars can be parked as usual and an adult will come move it to the wash area as we work our way through the cars with tickets on them. Be sure to drive through an extra mud puddle or two before the 15th and let the kids sparkle and shine your ride. Free will donations will be accepted to support youth missions.
- ❖ A Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, June 12th. Anyone who would like to donate baked items may contact Connie Caspers at 665-4391.



MISSION PROJECT



Sunday Schedule

8:00 am:

Worship Service

9:00 am:

Coffee Fellowship

9:15 am:

Good News Hour

Adult Forum

First Choir

Rehearsal

10:30 am:

Worship Service

Holy Communion

on 1st, 3rd and 5th

Sundays

Beginning on

May 29 we will

switch to our

Summer

Worship Schedule

of one service at

9:00 am.

Last Month's Offering & Attendance

4/3/11 - \$3,555

8:00 am— 78
10:30 am— 125

4/10/11 - \$4,498

8:00 am— 74
10:30 am— 95

4/17/11 - \$2,968

8:00 am— 90
10:30 am— 129

4/21/11 - \$425

7:30 pm— 99

4/24/11 - \$4,586

8:00 am— 154
10:30 am— 255

Electronic Giving:
\$1,850

Ministry Teams Update

It has been several months since the last update of the Ministry Teams program. Starting in May 2011, the number of Ministry Teams is being changed from seven to five teams. The primary reasons for this change are to increase the number of people per team and to allow teams to serve more often. The January 2011 newsletter has a longer article explaining this adjustment. The people on Teams Six and Seven will be reassigned into Teams One through Five. Some minor adjustments on Teams One through Five may also occur. The people being reassigned will be notified of their new Ministry Teams.

With this change, the schedule using five teams is as follows:

Team 1	May 2011	October	March	August
Team 2	June	November	April	September
Team 3	July	December	May	October
Team 4	August	January 2012	June	November
Team 5	September	February	July	December

In May, another Time & Talent survey will be provided to the congregation. In that survey is a small survey (four questions) of the Ministry Teams program at First Lutheran Church. This Ministry Teams survey is your opportunity to provide feedback on the Ministry Teams program and its future direction. Please take a few moments of your time to fill out the Time & Talent survey and to provide your feedback of the Ministry Teams program at First Lutheran Church. If you have any questions or comments about this update, please contact Bob Patrias at 665-4198.



- Steve Alinder*
- Jan Rhode**
- Kay King
- Bob Podhradsky
- Ann Porter
- Ed Rasmusen
- Mark Sullivan
- Bob Terwedo
- Diane Anderson
- Christian Dwyer,
- Youth Representative
- *President
- **Vice President

April 26 Council Highlights:

- Focus Time - review meeting structure, intent of “consent agenda” and 2011 Council Goals.
- Council will seek input from teams on ideas/strategies to meet goal of building worship attendance
- Gail Wentzlaff reported on her work with youth to raise funds to contribute to the Partners in Hope – Building a Future 100th Anniversary Gift for our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Of the \$1,000 goal, \$60 has been raised so far. One idea proposed was to have a Water Softener Salt Sale with delivery service by youth.
- Pr. Bruihler and Ann Porter will travel to Tanzania with a SEMN Synod group in December. They will explore ways to communicate to the congregation about the upcoming trip and ways FLC can partner with the Central Diocese and our partner congregation, Tulya.
- March 27 Councils as Leaders event attended by Diane Anderson, Steve Alinder, Jan Rhode and Pr. Bruihler. Peter Steinke talked about the need for all congregations to have a clearly defined mission statement and to be challenged to fulfill their calling.
- April 9 Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations Convention with an emphasis on Servant Leadership as a way of life, was attended by Kay King, Ellen Cauffman & Pr. Bruihler. GACAC Student Leadership Day attendees: Gail Wentzlaff, Sarah Bruihler and Alicia Selders.
- Pastor Carl reported that Jan Rhode and Gail Wentzlaff will serve as lay voting members at the SEMN Synod Assembly, May 6 & 7 in Rochester. The theme: *God's Work – Our Lutheran Hands*.
- The Scholarship Committee has received applications and will award scholarship to FLC high school graduates
- Requested the Finance Team provide general guidelines for fundraising activities for all FLC groups
- Postpone a new pictorial directory until at least 2013.

A Word from the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green."
[Evangelical Lutheran Worship, No. 379]*

The label on the bag showed a picture with lovely red and yellow blooms. It was impossible to pass them by, even though it was late November. So I bought them; three bags in all. Tulips and daffodils - fall bulbs. The intent was to plant them before the first hard frost. But an early snow came and covered the ground before there was time. Next came the cold – bitter, bitter cold; the soil froze. Then more snow. The bulbs were tucked away in the garage; they would wait until spring.

Snow was still on the ground in late March. Winter had a strong grip; it didn't want to let go. The first days of spring were still a couple of weeks away when I looked in on them... Yellowish green shoots; so eager they were to grow! They couldn't wait to get into the soil, to find the light. Shoots, beginning to emerge from the orbs!

Planting time... But first they would be sermon props. Something about rising from an earthen grave. Word was announced in the children's sermon that boys and girls could come and help plant them after school on Monday.

Kindre came promptly, before cookies and milk, or homework; excited to take on the task. Together we made quite a team. She placed the bulbs into the holes as I opened the earth with the spade. Occasionally, a worm was discovered and the root of a weed pulled. Out of the mesh bags filled with brown, tear-shaped orbs, she fetched one bulb after another and poked them into the holes. Apparently, the tips of the bulbs are to be pointed upward, but some of them tipped onto their sides. Will it matter? Only time will tell. Finally, we raked moist earth over the entire bed so that the bulbs would rest in their earthen tombs.

Winter has been long. Spring seems slow to come. Kindre and I, along with all of creation await the warmth that will fully awaken the earth. Buried and gone from sight are the bulbs.

Grace moments happen. Love lives again. When we see the tulips push their way up from their graves to embrace the spring air and burst forth in color, we will not only talk about bulbs of tulips and daffodils, we will also talk about Easter, about death and life, about Jesus, love, and hope. It will be resurrection talk.

Life rising from the earth; a mystery and wonder to behold. By faith we trust that the Spirit will cause what is planted to grow. The Risen Christ, the one who loves us enough to be placed in an earthen tomb and to be raised to new life so that we might know God's holy love; that is the power of Easter.

*"Now the green blade rises from the buried grain . . .
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green."*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Carl Bruhler

Weekly Bible Readings

2nd Sunday of Easter
May 1, 2011
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2011
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

4th Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2011
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

5th Sunday of Easter
May 22, 2011
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

6th Sunday of Easter
May 29, 2011
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21



Gardening...

*The Lord will open for you his rich storehouse,
the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season
and to bless all your undertakings.*

~Deuteronomy 28:12

Every spring I am amazed that despite my rather unskilled and sometimes lackadaisical efforts, shoots of green begin sprouting in my garden. There are the Lily-of-the-Valleys dug up from my husband's grandmother's garden that continue to thrive and spread, through no effort of my own. There are the Stella d'oro daylilies transplanted from the church when their efforts were so successful they needed to share. There are the hostas that came from a friend and have been divided and transplanted many times and now provide the foundation of my garden. And in a few weeks, when I'm absolutely certain that there is no chance of nighttime freezing here in Minnesota, I'll add some annuals.

I'll begin my spring gardening with the best on intentions. *This* is the year that I'll fertilize on schedule. *This* is the year that I'll dead-head those fading blooms. *This* is the year that I'll actually weed regularly. It's a pretty safe bet, though, that by mid-summer, all my best intentions will be just that, as other priorities creep in, time gets away from me, and I decide that things are "good enough." Yet, people will still walk by and comment on the beauty of that garden. Those day lilies and Lilly-of-the Valleys will continue to thrive and bloom. And the deer will have a summer-long meal of my hosta plants (much to my chagrin). In short, my garden will continue to thrive in spite of my efforts because even though I may have been the one to put the plants in the ground, it is God who sends the rain and the sunshine and the growth. It is God who blesses this garden.



As I look out at the promise of my garden, it represents for me the promise that is revealed in our ministries as well, as many hands come together to tend the hearts and lives of our young people. There are those like my husband's grandmother, who did the planting long ago, but whose efforts continue to bear fruit amongst us. There is the community of faith that shares in the work and then offers the abundance of its harvest to those outside the church. There are the friends and family who support us by establishing the foundation of our ministry. Then there are those of us involved in Children, Youth and Family ministry, who add the splashes of annual color. We are often the ones responsible for the "public," flashy parts of our ministry – the summer trips, camp, youth events, VBS, Sunday School, Confirmation. Yet these are all set in the midst of a thriving garden that is built upon the efforts of many others, both those who have gone before us and those who continue to walk alongside us.

As we tend the gardens of our ministry and head into the often chaotic weeks of summer, we do well to remember that we do not garden alone. To be sure, we have an important role to play in laying out the dimensions of the garden and deciding which plants to add. But sometimes someone will share a plant we had never considered. Or someone else will volunteer to do the fertilizing or the weeding. When despite our best intentions, we simply can't do everything we plan to do, it is important to remember that there are many others who can pick up the slack – and it is God who will send the rain and the sunshine and the growth. Knowing *that* gives us the opportunity to sit back, see God's blessing upon our ministry, and enjoy the beauty of it all.

*Earth is here so kind,
that just tickle her
with a hoe
and she laughs
with a harvest.*

~ Douglas William
Jerrold

*The best place to seek
God is in a garden.*

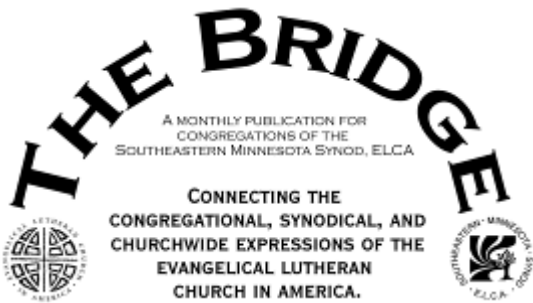
*You can dig
for him there.*

~ George Bernard
Shaw

*God almighty
first planted a garden:
and, indeed,
it is the purest
of human pleasure.*

~ Francis Bacon

Reprinted with permission of the author, Jacqui Thone, who writes a blog for the ELCA YMNNet organization. This blog may be found at the following web address: http://www.elcaymnet.org/_blog/Something_for_the_Heart



Homeless Teens

Get a Place to Find Help

Picture a homeless person. Are you imagining an unshaven man sleeping on a bench in Central Park? Maybe a woman dressed in tattered old clothing pushing a cart down an alley in Chicago? Or is it a worn down musician in the subway station? Did you picture a teenager crashing on a friend's couch in southeastern Minnesota?

In 2009, the [Wilder Institute](#) estimated that about 2,000 youth were homeless and unaccompanied on any given night in Minnesota, though they acknowledge that it is difficult to accurately predict this number.

[Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota](#) (LSS-MN) recognized that there was a gap in services to the homeless because most programs are for adults or families. They began to implement programs in Minnesota for to homeless, runaway, and at-risk teens.

One program is based out of Mankato. In 2009, LSS-MN began discussions with Mankato congregations about addressing the needs of homeless teens in the community. The first step was to create "Circles of Hope," small groups to meet and discuss and work on possible solutions. As individuals and groups become involved, the response grew and is now ready to take another step

As of February 1, 2011, there is a drop-in center in Mankato for youth to come for help. Teens are able to come to the center for a warm meal, clothing, showers, and personal hygiene products. They can also receive assistance in areas including legal, medical, housing, career, and educational services. It is also a safe place where youth and young adults can gather and interact with their peers in a positive setting.

Craig Hinkle, an LSS-MN mental health practitioner, works with youth outreach programs, including the creation of the drop-in center. He explains that teens are, in a way, "the hidden homeless." He says, "Most of the time they're not out on the street. They're either in school or they're staying with someone. They are out there, but most of the areas you find them in are the bigger cities where they know there are sheltering facilities. If we have a facility and they know we have a facility, they will come there and get the help they need."

This center is being made possible, in part, through an [ELCA domestic hunger](#) grant. Ministries that receive these grants create strong community responses to the root of the hunger problem, not just providing food for those in need. The Mankato drop-in center was one of two projects in the [Southeastern Minnesota Synod](#) receiving an ELCA domestic hunger grant in 2011.

LSS-MN has worked with several congregations, including [Bethlehem](#), [Christ the King](#), and [Grace](#), in Mankato to make these services a reality. Mary Johnson is a member of Circles of Hope at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato. Since the group began, Mary said that the response in the congregation has been "quite remarkable." Through "Circle of Hope Sundays" and other projects, they have highlighted the needs of the homeless and she says the congregation has been very generous and quick to respond. Gifts from the congregation have included donations of books, cleaning supplies, quilts, and more. Overall, Mary says, working with the Circles of Hope project has "enriched our congregation with knowledge and an opportunity to give and, and I think they've really responded beautifully."

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA.

For more information, contact the synod office: Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

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GIGG Schedule**May 4:**

5:30 Final & Potluck
7:30 Guides Meet

**Teacher Appreciation - May 22**

The Christian Education and Youth team will host the Hospitality Hour on May 22 in appreciation of the time and talents the following teachers, subs and helpers have shared this year:

Good News Hour Teachers:

3 yr olds: Becky Pollack

4 yr olds: Molly Schultz and Theresa Sullivan
Kindergarten: Tiffany Vanden Einde

1st Grade and 2nd Grade: Amy Gulbranson

3rd grade: Gene Dwyer

4th Grade: Paul Richter

5th Grade: Liz Osborne

Music: Shelly Segler

Coordinator: Becky Pollack

Helpers: Klaire Hudson, Sara Osborne, Sarah Bruihler, Allison Spinler, Taylor Kiemele, Ethan Dwyer, Aubin Bruns

Substitutes: Chris & Kalynn Allen, Sara Becker, Cindy Logue, Marie Schultz, Melissa Hudson, Ginger Nesbit, Jim Abraham, Marni Dunning, Megan Schwarz, Melissa Holland, Nikki Kiemele, Lisa Radloff

GIGG Guides:

9th Grade: Jodi Bruns and Gene Dwyer

8th Grade Girls: Nikki Kiemele

7th & 8th Grade Boys: Ron Grothe

7th Grade Girls: Karla Kleschult*

6th Grade Boys: Bill Radloff and Vic Pengilly

6th Grade Girls: Joan Schwarz*

Coordinator: Gail Wentzlaff

Pastors Carl Bruihler and Barb Lindgren*

* denotes United Methodist Church participant

Paintball Outing-May 15

Meet at church at 1 pm and we will go to Jordan for Action Packed Paint Ball Games! Paint ball will last till around 4 pm.

Contact Gail for Waiver and Release of Liability Forms and to sign up!
Grades 7 and up.



Visit Hometown Nazareth,
Where Jesus was a kid.

**Vacation Bible School June 6-10, 2011**

9am – Noon each day

The Vacation Bible School committee has begun planning for the Le Sueur VBS. The theme for the 2011 is "Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus was a kid." We are looking for volunteers; high school thru adult to help with all aspects of this fantastic ecumenical faith development program: tribe leaders, market place shop keepers, game leaders, drama team and music leaders. Sign-up sheets will be distributed at Good News Hour and will be available in the narthex. A copy will also be posted on www.flcls.org. Le Sueur VBS is for children from the entire community and is in partnership with First Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, Zion UCC and Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in helping with any part of VBS please contact the Church Office or Gail Wentzlaff. Children who are eligible to attend Kindergarten in this fall through grade 5 are invited to attend VBS.

Join CTI for Sunday Worship

On May 22 at 10:30, the young people from Carpenter's Tools will be back to lead us in worship as a follow-up to Rally Sunday last September.

GIGG**Camping Trip**

An overnight camping trip for GIGG students is on the schedule for Friday and Saturday, May 13 & 14 at Cleary Lake



Park, near Prior Lake. This opportunity is open to all confirmation-age youth. The group will be tent camping at the Birchwood Group Camp Site. See Pastor Carl or Ron Grothe for more information.

FLC High School Graduates

We offer congratulations to nine high school seniors from First Lutheran as they prepare for graduation from high school this spring. We will formally recognize their achievement during the 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, May 15.

Our Class of 2011:

Brandy Balder
Kyle Dose
Patrick Enerson
Richard Keech
Erin Kelso
Cameron Peterson
Zepherin Richter
Megan Skelly
Megan Zeiher

Baccalaureate Service for LSH High School will be held at St. Anne's Church on Sunday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

"The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity".

Meets the first Tuesday of each month. Meets the first Tuesday of each month. The body of Christ is called into the world to tell the good news of Jesus Christ. How that is done sometimes divides the body of Christ. Join us in May for stimulating thoughts on just how to tell the good news-how to be an evangelist in today's world. All women are welcome to attend. The next meeting is

Tuesday, May 3

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

For more information, contact Rita Patrias 665-4198 or patrita@tcq.net.

Theme Verse for May Lesson ~Acts1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Mary Unit invites anyone interested to join them for their monthly study on the third Tuesday morning at 9:30. They will meet on May 17 at the home of Grace Kamrath. Rita Patrias will lead the study. For more information, contact Arlene Stagg at 665-3950. This past month, Mary Unit sent a donation of \$150 to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Mankato State University.

Ministry Team Support

The next Ministry Team Support meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday May 3 at First Lutheran Church. This is an informal meeting to discuss and work on ideas and improvements to the Ministry Team program at First Lutheran Church. The meeting is open to all members of First Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, ideas or suggestions that you would like to share please attend the meeting or contact Bob Patrias at 665-4198. We hope you can attend!

Old Log Theater Trip

The Thursday Morning Bible Study Group is going to the Old Log Theater in Excelsior to see *On Golden Pond*. We have 16 tickets reserved for the noon luncheon and the 1:30 p.m. matinee on Thursday, May 5, 2011. Cost is \$32.25 per person and includes the luncheon, show, tax and gratuity. We will leave church at 10:30 a.m. and return by late afternoon. See Pr. Carl if you are interested in going.

CHANCEL DESIGN TEAM

On May 3 The Chancel Design Team will meet with a representative from VIVUS Architecture who is preparing several design alternatives for the altar, lighting, video projection and narthex.

Be on the lookout for....

The Stewardship Team has been busy preparing for the annual **Time & Talent** drive. Much like last year, we are taking a "green" approach and utilizing *Survey Monkey* to distribute the surveys.



For those that have shared their e-mail addresses with First Lutheran Church, you will receive an e-mail on May 17th with a survey attached to complete. However, this year it has been "fixed" so that more than one person can submit the survey from the same e-mail address! Please do your best to complete the survey by May 31st so that we can get the information shared with the team leaders.

***If you have not yet shared your e-mail address with the church, please do so in an effort to save on paper and postage!

If you do not have an e-mail address, we will be including a paper version of the survey in the June First Word newsletter, which we ask that you submit to the church office or place in the offering plate by June 20th.

Perhaps a minister named of Bruce Bugbee said it best.....

God has created and designed us with a purpose in mind. We are wired to care about some things more than others. We have been given a passion. We have been given spiritual gifts to completely accomplish ministry tasks. We have also been designed with a personal style of relating to others and the world around us.

1 Corinthians 10:31

"So ... whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God."



Please Note:

- ◆ Deadline for the weekly bulletin is Wednesday at noon.
- ◆ Deadline for the *First Word* monthly newsletter is the 20th of the month.

Please have all submissions into the office by the days noted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 507.665.2615.

Thanks!

If you are interested in receiving your newsletter electronically, please email the church office at info@flcls.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the second Tuesday (May 10) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Rita Patrias for more information: phone 507-665-4198 or e-mail: patrita@tcq.net.

First Lutheran Quilters

The quilters meet at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month. The next opportunity to join in this project will be on May 24. Please contact Grace Kamrath at 665-6369 if you have questions.



Our 125th Anniversary Cookbooks

are still available in the narthex or the church office. They make wonderful graduation gifts. 667 recipes now on sale for only \$10.00!

Sympathy

We extend sympathy to

- the Kelso family on the death of Frank’s father, Frank Kelso II in Arizona.
- the Bartle family on the death of Joy’s sister, Marilyn Mewes, of Walnut Creek, CA. She passed away on April 4, 2011.
- the Weick family on the death of Shawn’s grandfather in North Dakota.



We wish Sarah Schleeve and Luke Novak a blessed life as husband and wife. They were united in marriage on April 16 here at FLC.

No Fifth Sunday Potluck in May

Please enjoy all the weddings, graduations, and Memorial Day weekend. Drive safely!

Thank YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Spring Luncheon happen! It takes a lot of hands to do the planning, preparation and serving. Without people to come and enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors, we would be at a loss. ~The Hospitality Steering Team

You Are Invited to an Open House

Come help Jeannette Nelson celebrate 90 years. May 7th 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Le Sueur Co-operative Great Room, 200 South Third Street, Le Sueur, MN. Your presence will be her gift.

Don’t Help a Butterfly



There is a story about a man who kept watching a cocoon. The man knew a butterfly would emerge, but it seemed to take forever.

Finally, being impatient and wanting to free the struggling insect, he took a knife and split the cocoon.

The butterfly was born, but it could not fly. The man had prevented a very necessary struggle that the butterfly needed. That struggle forces body juices into the insect’s wings, giving it strength to fly.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us in the story. Those who have had some great struggles in life are often better for enduring the difficulties. Losses, rejection, disabilities and disappointments can teach us patience, strengthen us spiritually, and make us better, more kindly humans.

Theologians sometimes use the phrase “No cross, No crown.” It was victory over the Cross that made Christ King.

First Lutheran Church
MISSION STATEMENT

*UNITED by Christ,
God calls us to LOVE one another as
we RECEIVE, DISCOVER,
and PROCLAIM God’s Word*

May Calendar and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Worship-Communion 9:00 AM Hospitality Hour 9:15 AM First Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Good News Hour 10:00 AM Bus service-Communion Nikki Kiemele	2 Sam Swanberg	3 7:00 PM Ministry Team Support 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Chancel Design Team Shirley Frauendienst Robyn Pfarr	4 5:30 PM Sonshine Choir Picnic 5:30 PM GIGG Potluck 7:30 PM GIGG Guides Meet Ralph Toizman, Joan Reasoner Stacy Gross	5 10:30 AM Log Theater Outing 4:30 PM Christian Ed & Youth Team 7:00 PM Property Team Chelsea Mathews	6 Synod Assembly Rochester Bob Johnson Pat Smith Michael Harder Paula Pesch	7 Megan Turek Kali Logue Brandy Balder
8 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM LWR Coffee Break 9:15 AM First Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Good News Hour 10:30 AM Worship Nona Strandjord Lynn Krueger	9 6:30 PM BINGO Jeannette Nelson Donna Johnson Bob Reuhling Gabby Thomas	10 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Team Bonnie Keech	11 Bill Radloff	12 Doug Malm Peter Kisling Maverick Ingles	13 Ed Hein Tom Nelson Tammy Ellickson Cody Ellickson Michael Balder	14 GIGG Camping Amy Spinler
15 7:30 AM-Noon Car Wash 8:00 AM Worship-Communion 9:00 AM Hospitality Hour 9:15 AM First Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Good News Hour 10:00 AM Bus Service-Communion Jacob Martell	16 Rachel Wagner Melissa Hudson	17 9:30 AM Mary Unit At Kamrath's Myrtle Steinborn Cathy Johnson Marie Schultz Theresa Dose Jessica Keech Keely Olness	18	19 Vanessa Kisling	20 8:00 PM Taize Prayer Service Randy Schleeve Kelly Martell Becky Pollack Ashley Schaefer	21
22 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Hospitality Hour 9:15 AM Good News Hour 10:30 AM Worship-CTI Jean Toizman, Greg Jerdee, Brian Flo Chad Nesbit, Michelle Sampson Cole Pengilly, Isabelle Sampson	23 Elaine Buley Connie Caspers Mike Borth	24 9:00 AM Quilting Day 7:00 PM Church Council Leslie Ponzio Ava Becker	25	26	27 Gail Nelson	28 Theda Frost Sherry Rice Kyhl Thomson Alexis Meyer Christina Johnson
29 9:00 AM Worship with Communion Yvonne DeGroot, Cindy Handwerk Ronda Schleeve, Erin Schultz	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 Tim Lovich	1	2 4:30 PM Christian Ed & Youth Team	3	4

May Volunteer Schedule

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	READER SERVERS	NURSERY	HOSPITALITY HOUR	Altar Guild
May 1 8:00 am	Dora Slack	Chuck Frauendienst Bob Reasoner	Dakota Slack Hayley Schaaf	R: Bob Reasoner C: Rachel & Dal Meske	N/A	Connie Caspers	Patrias Family
May 1 10:30 am	Karen Mueller	Chad & Sue Olness	Mason Zeiher Jack Schwartz	R: Dave Beutler C: Randy Baum Open 2x	Open		
May 8 8:00 am	Open	Chuck Frauendienst Open	Cole Pengilly Ethan Dwyer	R: Joan May	N/A	LWR Fair Trade Coffee Break	Patrias Family
May 8 10:30 am	Marie Schultz, Hannah, Chelsea Mathews	Ron Schultz Adam Schultz	Alicia Selders Sarah Bruihler	R: Open	Open		
May 15 8:00 am	Open	Vic Pengilly Jon Hagger	Sara Osborne Aubin Bruns	R: Joan May C: Joan May Open 2x	N/A		Sue Rame
May 15 10:30 am	Open	Open 2x	Dakota Slack Bailey Fitzgerald	R: Open C: Open 2x or 3x	Open	Rame Family	
May 22 8:00 am	Stacy & Travis Lawrence	Steve Olson Open	Caleb Radloff Kallan Hudson	R: Steve Olson	N/A		Patrias Family
May 22 10:30 am	Connie Baum	Randy Baum	Claire Kelso Trevor Thomas	R: Open	Open	Christian Ed Team	
May 29 9:00 AM	Open	Chuck Frauendienst Vic Pengilly	Klaire Hudson Hayley Schaaf	R: Open C: Open 2x or 3x	Open		Open

If you are a greeter for a Communion Sunday, you are also the gift bearer(s) for Communion on that Sunday.
If you cannot serve on the Sunday listed above, please contact the May Ministry Team leader, Bob Patrias.

How Many Volunteers? -- Part 3

This series of articles has been exploring the number of worship service volunteers needed (Part 1) and available (Part 2) at First Lutheran Church. In Part 3 of this series, we look more closely at the rate which volunteers are needed for worship service activities.

As you may recall, in Part 1 of this series the number of volunteers needed for the various worship activities was estimated. For example, on a regular Sunday with communion and two worship services about 24 volunteers are needed. A regular Sunday with no communion and two worship services about 15 volunteers are needed. During the summer these numbers are 12 and 9 volunteers, respectively.

Now, let us estimate the number of worship service volunteers for a one year period. We use the year 2011 as a typical year. During the school year, there are about 19 Sundays with communion and 18 Sundays without communion. In the summer there are about nine Sundays with communion and six Sundays without communion. This gives us $19 + 18 + 9 + 6 = 52$ Sundays. To keep the calculation simple, we exclude some dates that are special, i.e. Christmas (multiple services), Maundy Thursday (weekday services), etc. We try to adjust for those missing dates shortly. Here's an estimate for the number of volunteer needed annually: $(19*24) + (18*15) + (9*12) + (6*9) = 888$. If we estimate the volunteers from the excluded dates, the total probably exceeds 925 volunteers needed annually. For this discussion we use 925 as the number of worship service volunteers needed annually at First Lutheran Church.

Now, as you may recall, Part 2 of this series looked at the number of volunteers in the Time & Talent pool. There are about 124 volunteers in the most recent pool of Time & Talent volunteers. We need to include acolytes (about 40) and Altar Guild (about 6) not accounted for as Time & Talent volunteers. We add these numbers together: $124 + 40 + 6 = 170$. For this discussion we use 170 as the number of listed volunteers for worship service activities. Also, keep in mind the total numbers of confirmed members (573) and total membership (726).

Now we compare the estimate of worship service activities (925) with the estimate of worship service volunteers (170). First, we make a simple calculation: $925 / 170 = 5.4$. In other words, every listed worship service volunteer is needed at least five times each year. If every confirmed member volunteered each year, they would serve about $925/573 = 1.6$, between once and twice a year. Not a likely scenario. A more typical scenario is that some people volunteer several times a year and a smaller number of people volunteer many times throughout the year. You can try your own calculations for greater insight. While writing this article, a particular biblical passage wanted to be in this article. Jesus is speaking to his disciples: "He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" Gospel of Luke 10:2.

Next month we will wrap up this series with some final observations and suggestions. If you have any questions or comments about this article please contact the author Bob Patrias at 665-4198.



Help Wanted

God is looking for your help in doing God's work!

Opportunities include: communing with God, visiting with your neighbors and volunteering in church. Pay: beyond measure. Benefits: eternal. No experience necessary. Contact a Ministry Team leader to learn more and apply!



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FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Carl Bruihler
*Coordinator of Children, Youth,
Family Ministry:* Gail Wentzlaff
Admin. Assistant: Marge Maetzold
Custodian: Wayne Brogger
Organist: Virginia Miller
Substitute: Paul McDaniel
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Joyful Noise Choir Director: Liz Osborne
Sonshine Choir Director: Jennifer Weick

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