

The *First* Word

Volume 15, Issue 7

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

May, 2014

Seek **FIRST** His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Special May Dates

LWML Montana District.....	May 2-4
Convention-Miles City	
FLS Spring Program.....	May 8
Small School Track Meet.....	May 9
First Edition Book Club.....	May 10
Home of Joyce Nachtsheim	
Mother's Day.....	May 11
FLS Spirit Sprint.....	May 15 & 16
Concordia/Nebraska.....	May 17
Chamber Choir Concert	
Concordia/Nebraska.....	May 18
Chamber Choir at worship services	
Voters' Meeting	
(Elections/Spending Plan)	
Memorial Day (observed).....	May 26
No classes at FLS	
Church office CLOSED	
The Ascension of Our Lord.....	May 29

The perfect model for mothers

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Often you weep over our sins and our pride; tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment. You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds; in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy. Despair turns to hope through

your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead; your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness; for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

—Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

A Christian mother's prayers

In the fourth century lived a dedicated Christian woman named Monica who lived in what is now Algeria. Her husband Patricius, a wealthy landowner, was a pagan. In 354, a son was born to the couple, whom they named Augustine.

Monica's passionate desire was that her son would be a Christian; therefore, not only did she expose him to the teachings of Christianity, she also prayed for him daily.

Augustine was a brilliant, but difficult, boy. As he struggled through his teen years, he brought sorrow to his mother because he did not embrace her faith. He became a father at 17. He assumed responsibility for the son and the mother, as well, but only as his common law wife.

Augustine also began to explore a pagan religion called Manichaeism. He continued his schooling, but his life was counter to all his mother's prayers. While praying fervently for her son one day, Monica heard a voice tell her, "It cannot be that the son of these tears shall perish."

Augustine decided to go to Milan, Italy, to study. While there, he went to hear a gifted Christian preacher, Bishop

Ambrose, not so much for his sermons, but for the brilliant rhetoric he used and his unique oratorical style. But, while listening, Augustine began to feel a disturbance within. The Holy Spirit was at work in his spirit.

One day, while sitting in his garden, he heard a voice like that of a child, which told him, "Take up and read." Augustine reached for a Bible which lay open nearby. His eyes fell upon Romans 13:13-14: "Let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness ... But put on the Lord Jesus Christ"

That was Augustine's conversion experience. He became a priest and ultimately was chosen Bishop of Hippo in Africa. For 30 years, he preached and wrote about the Christian faith. He was so dedicated that the church today refers to him as Saint Augustine, and to his persistent praying mother as Saint Monica. St. Augustine, Florida, and Santa Monica, California, are named for him and his mother.

—The Newsletter Newsletter

TITUS 3:5, NIV

*He saved us
through the washing
of rebirth and renewal
by the Holy Spirit...*

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Trinity Lutheran Camp dock damaged by windstorm

For many years, Trinity Camp, located about two miles south of Bigfork on Flathead Lake, has been a summer destination for our youth. They have enjoyed weeks of activities which include fellowship, games, Bible studies, crafts, and swimming.

First Lutheran Church received word from Shannon Ritter, executive director at the camp, that a windstorm in late September of last year caused about \$10,000 damage to the dock.

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell have been assisting with repairs, and we at First Lutheran have been invited to help with the cost. If anyone would care to contribute to the repairs, please send your contribution to: Trinity Lutheran Camp, 400 West California Street, Kalispell, MT 59901. If contributions exceed the cost of the repairs, the money will be directed to the scholarship fund for campers.

A photo of the damaged dock can be seen on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Centre.

— Bridget Michel



The Board of Human Care would like to thank everybody for their help and generosity in making this year's garage sale one of the best in years. Proceeds from the sale help many in need and your donated items have found good homes. Unsold items are picked up by the Fort Harrison Thrift Shop and are given another chance to earn money for another good cause.

A sale of our size requires lots of planning and hours of sorting, displaying, pricing, and selling. We had 27 volunteers who worked a total of 221 hours. Some volunteers worked Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and others offered a few hours of work on one day. Altogether, that's an average of over 8 hours per person – more than a full day of work.

The net total for the Board of Human Care was \$1,476.68. With a Thrivent contribution of \$492.23, the total amount raised is \$1,968.91.

Good work! And—again—thanks to all who contributed to make this garage sale a success!

Do “eustress” enough?

Stress generally isn't viewed as positive, but psychologists speak of both distress and eustress. Eustress is a level of discomfort not so high as to make us give up, but high enough to urge us forward.

Winemakers know that the best wine comes from stressed grapevines, planted in rocky soil and given only enough water to prompt the roots to stretch downward to find more moisture. People, too, grow strong when pushed to work hard, not when handed everything we want or need. Good parents know this, as does our good and gracious God.

When we're struggling and stressed, God hasn't abandoned us, but he may be practicing the vinedresser's tough love to help us grow. Perhaps the Spirit allowed the Bible to be difficult in places so we'd work to learn what it means. Perhaps God lets questions challenge our faith so we'll stretch to find answers. Maybe God will transform what seems distressing into eustress — making us the very best we can be.



A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>March 2014</u>	<u>FY 2014 Y-T-D</u>
Income	\$45,509.29	\$387,747.63
Expense	\$46,201.99	\$373,515.23
Gain/Loss	(\$ 692.70)	\$ 14,232.40

The First Word

Published monthly by:

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Helena, MT 59601
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Rev. Larry A. Miller.....*Pastor*
Linda Fromm.....*Editor*
Susan McCormack.....*Calendar/Servant Schedule*
Volunteer Staff.....*Collation*

EARLY DEADLINE

for the June First Word is **Wednesday, May 14**. Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or e-mail them to: fizziehoot1917@bresnan.net



Special Events in May!

We're holding several special activities this month for our congregation, school, and community. Please mark your calendar, make plans to attend, and invite your family and friends!

Sunday, May 4

Food for the Poor Sunday

a Guest Preacher from Portland, Oregon will be here to lead our worship, preach, teach and bless all who attend and to give us an opportunity to answer Jesus' call and help the poor!



The choir's tour repertoire includes anthems by Hans Leo Hassler, Henry Smart, Stanford Scriven and René Clausen.

Vocal jazz selections include an arrangement of The Mamas and the Papas' "California Dreamin'" as well as music by Paris Rutherford and Take 6. The choir also will sing **well-known hymns and spirituals.**



Sunday, May 11

Mothers Day

We'll give loud thanks and praise to God for His precious gift of mothers and other special women in our lives!

The choir is conducted by Dr. Kurt von Kampen, professor of music at Concordia.

Joshua and Johanna both sang with Dr. von Kampen and in this choir!



Saturday, May 17 - Concordia Nebraska Chamber Choir Concert

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. at our church!!!

The 16-voice Chamber Choir

from Concordia, Seward Nebraska, will perform at First Lutheran in Helena as a part of a 10-day tour of the upper western United States. Tour stops include churches and schools in Iowa, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

Admission to concerts is free.

An offering will be gathered during evening performances.

Sunday, May 18 - Worship with the Concordia Chamber Choir

8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Services followed by lunch with the choir



Sunday, May 25

Memorial Day

Following the return procession of the flags, we will remember and thank God for those who have died before us, especially those who have given their lives in military service to God and for us and for our nation.

I hope you will join us for these special events as together we celebrate the wonder-full grace of God for us, His people, in Jesus, our risen and living Lord!
Rich blessings this May and always in Him!

Pastor Miller

Climbing higher and higher — from your Board of Stewardship

In a unique way, the author Max Lucado offers an interesting perspective regarding the life of Christians and the branches of a tree. According to his tree analogy, most Christians sit comfortably on low-lying thick branches. Life for Christians next to the trunk of the tree is steady and predictable. There are higher branches, but they appear risky and a lot less comfortable. In our humanity, we desire to stay where it is safe and easy. We become branch sitters.

Again considering the analogy of the tree, we can say that Jesus calls each of us to climb higher in our prayer life, in our worship, in reading His Word and in our generosity. As we climb, the branches will be thinner and less steady, but Christ will support us. The world tells us to stay put on our secure

big branches, but the One Who loves us is quietly nudging us to go higher. Jesus wants us to depend on and trust in Him. He promises that He will never leave us.

One climb that we may resist the most is in the area of giving. The average Christian household gives approximately 2.7 percent of its income to the church, so most of us are sitting securely on some rather low branches. Our heavenly Father wants us to climb higher in the area of our giving.

“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that

there will be no collecting when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

We are to climb so that we regularly give a portion of our income. As we climb in our giving, we show our gratitude and thanksgiving for all of God’s blessings. When we climb toward the branch that says “tithe” and go beyond that branch to the one marked “sacrificial giving,” we hear God’s Words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will lead us to higher and higher branches. After all, God knows better than anyone the cost of hanging on a tree.



The simple but powerful bugle melody “Taps” has been a standard component of U.S. military funerals since 1891. It’s also played during each of the 2,500 military wreath ceremonies conducted every year at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, including those held on Memorial Day.

Many legends exist about the origin of “Taps” — both its melody and its lyrics. The words below, by Horace Lorenzo Trim, make an appropriate bedtime prayer.

**Day is done, gone the sun,
from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.**

**Fading light dims the sight,
and a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar, drawing near,
falls the night.**

**Thanks and praise for our days,
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know,
God is nigh.**

Get used to it!

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn’t want her to walk with him, but she wanted him to feel independent, yet not know that he was safe. She asked a neighbor if she would follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he wouldn’t notice her. The neighbor agreed.

The next day, the neighbor set out following behind the boy as he walked to school with a neighbor girl. She followed them for a week. As they walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, the boy’s little friend noticed the woman following them, and asked him if he, too, had noticed her following them each day.

He shrugged and said, “That’s Shirley Goodnest and her daughter, Marcy. Every night, my mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm because she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm it says, ‘Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,’ so I guess I’ll just have to get used to it!”

Blooming Button Flowers

For Mother's Day, add a special touch to any houseplant with this easy craft.



What you need:

- A small houseplant with leaves
- Colorful buttons of various sizes
- Green 26-gauge floral wire
- Wire cutters

What you do:

1. Stack three buttons from largest to smallest, with the smallest on top. Align the button holes.
2. Cut 8 inches of wire. Thread it up through one hole of the stacked buttons and back down through another hole.
3. Twist the wire just below the bottom side of the button stack to secure it.
4. Insert the "flower" in the plant's soil and repeat the process.
5. Present this to Mom and wish her a happy Mother's Day!



Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

MOTHERS

CHILDREN

Eve ³¹	bore	Cain, Abel and Seth ¹¹
Sarah ²³	bore	Isaac ²⁵
Rebekah ⁷	bore	Jacob and Esau ¹⁸
Rachel ¹³	bore	Benjamin and Joseph ²⁷
Leah ¹²	bore	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah ⁴³
Zilpah ⁴⁴	bore	Gad and Asher ³⁹
Bilhah ³⁴	bore	Dan and Naphtali ²⁸
Jochebed ¹⁹	bore	Moses ²⁹
Naomi ²	bore	Mahlon and Kilion ³²
Ruth ¹⁴	bore	Obed ⁸
Hannah ²⁶	bore	Samuel ⁵
Bathsheba ¹⁰	bore	Solomon ²¹
Elizabeth ³	bore	John the Baptist ³⁷
Mary ⁶	bore	Jesus ⁹
Eunice ³	bore	Timothy ⁴



“ _____ ;
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ... 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 _____ W _____
 21 22 3 23 24 25 _____ 26 27 28 29 30 31 4 32 33
 _____ f _____ !”
 34 35 36 37 38 39 31 41 42 3 43 44

PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

Answer: "May your ... mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!" Proverbs 23:25, NIV

A mother's share

During a study of fractions, a school teacher asked a boy this question:
 "Suppose your mother baked an apple pie and there were seven of you to eat it—your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?"
 "A sixth, Ma'am," the boy answered.

"But there are seven of you," said the teacher. "How could you have just one sixth of the pie? Don't you know anything about fractions?"
 "Yes," replied the boy, "I know all about fractions, but I know all about Mother, too. She would say she did not want any pie."

Thrivent Financial® “Direct Now . . . and add \$20!” campaign can help support our congregation

First Lutheran Church can get an extra boost from the “Direct Now . . . And add \$20!” Thriven Choice® campaign this spring! The campaign began on April 1 and will run through May 31, 2014. Here is how it works:

- During the campaign, an eligible member directs Choice Dollars® to a congregation or non-profit organization.

- The first congregation or nonprofit organization the member selects will receive an additional \$20 grant from Thrivent Financial.
- The congregation or organization will receive the additional funds prior to June 30 as a one-time payment.

It's that easy!

If you have questions, please contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say “Thrivent Choice,” or send an email to fraternal@thrivent.com. For faster service, please have your member ID or contract number available.



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Bible Study Fellowship to study Life of Moses

This interdenominational Bible study opportunity will be held this fall at Hannaford Street Bible Church. The class will meet on Monday nights and is open to women and children (first through twelfth grades). To learn more, call Kristin Connolly (431-9719) or Laura Bjerke (461-2266).

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1

*Julie Johnson
Zachariah LaForge*

May 2

*Dennis Brown
William McIntosh IV*

May 3

Beverly Blokzyl

May 4

*Ermel Campbell
Martha Janes*

May 5

*Mel Kuehne
Lynn Wagner*

May 6

*Marvin Dye
Tom Mayer*

May 7

*Charles Clifford
Marylin Smith*

May 8

Wylie Rucker

May 9

*Skylar McIntosh
Derick Mohs*

May 11

Mark Meek

May 12

Kelly Koenig

May 13

*Linda Fromm
Zyrus Hartford*

May 14

*Lorraine Bauer
Kelly Blackford
Roman Glenn Jr.*

May 15

Rebecca Bjerke

May 16

*Ellie Mercer
Cheryl Sobeck*

May 18

Randy Sobeck

May 21

Thom Warsinski

May 22

*Alyson Lee
Cassandra Pelo*

May 23

Jennifer Keim

May 24

Bruce Duenkler

May 25

Darius Leitzke

May 27

Thelma Gossett

May 28

*Sibyl Govan
Melissa Miner*

May 29

*Todd Boucher
Robert Fox
Tami Jacobs
Robert Janes
Ollie Mires*

May 31

Tom Cannon





Happenings at First Lutheran School

Pastor
 Reverend Larry Miller
Director
 Denise Underwood



Teachers
 Heather McIntosh,
 Heidi Westerbuhr, Stacy Smith,
 Donna Fischer & Melissa Mousel

PANDA EXPRESS

We hope everyone had a great meal at Panda Express. Thank you for taking the time to support our school by either going to Panda Express to eat or by ordering take out.

The Small School Track Meet is scheduled for Friday, May 9, beginning at 8 a.m. at Vigilante Field. Come CHEER us on!



First Lutheran School's Spirit Sprint will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16. Information has been sent home. Let's GO, First Lutheran KIDS!



Our "New Beginnings" Spring Program is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



In Miss Westerbuhr's class, we have finished the second month of the Montana big Sky Fit Kids program. We all worked hard toward the \$500 drawing for one of the area schools. Visit our classroom to see all the "POPCORN" words we have learned so far this year. It is AMAZING!

Our class celebrates the baptism of Kindergartner Thomas Newmeyer!



In Mrs. Smith's class, first and second-graders are busy, busy, busy with different math concepts this last month of school. We are working very hard on identifying 3D shapes, and are also learning how to tell time. (Mrs. Smith is sure parents are going to be asked, "Do you want me to tell you what time it is?") We are also spending a lot of time learning how to count money! Good job, first and second-graders!



**First Lutheran School
 END OF YEAR CELEBRATION
 CEREMONY
 Friday, June 6, 9:30 a.m.**

All children will be recognized for their accomplishments during the year, and we'll thank our school volunteers.

Please join us as we thank our loving Lord for the wonderful school year. We'll have an early dismissal so that we can enjoy the **ALL SCHOOL PICNIC** immediately following the ceremony!

PICNIC



In Mrs. Mousel's 3 and 4-year-old classes, we will start working on Mother's and Father's Day gifts. They are surprises, so don't ask us a lot of questions!

We will finish learning the alphabet with the letters X, Y and Z, and will also be studying about bugs, space and summer!



In Mrs. Fischer's Prekindergarten class, we are reading a book titled "AT BAT," along with other books, and loving being able to read!

We have learned 35 sight words, and are working on more, including color and number words.

We would like to have volunteers in our classroom to help kids read their cards and books!



In Miss McIntosh's class, Iowa Basic Assessments are finished, and we can now enjoy getting back to our normal schedules.

We are learning about the Louisiana Purchase and the American movement to get settlers to move west.

In Religion class, everyone made her/his own Resurrection booklet.



Please KEEP SAVING BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION. The next mailing will go out the end of May. A special THANK YOU

to all who have participated in this program during the year!

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a
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Missouri Synod

**THE MISSION of First Lutheran
Church is "Sharing God's Word with
Everyone, Everywhere!"**

Tune in to—*The Lutheran Hour*—KAWZ 90.9 FM—Sundays at 8 a.m.; KCAP 1340 AM—Sundays at 9 a.m.
"Woman to Woman"—105.3 KMTX FM—Sundays at 9:30 p.m.
"Making a World of Difference"—Channel 11—Fridays at 5 p.m.

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 17,
for a concert performed by the Chamber Choir
from Concordia University/Nebraska



The choir will perform again at the 8:15 & 11 a.m. worship services
on Sunday, May 18