

# The *First* Word

Volume 21, Issue 4

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

January-February 2020

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

## Special January-February Dates

National Lutheran Schools Week	Jan. 26-Feb. 1
WOW <i>Life of David</i> Bible study	Jan. 28
Dorcas Circle quilters	Jan. 29
FLS registration opens for FLCs families	Jan. 31
First Edition Book Club Home of Linda Fromm	Feb. 1
Presentation of Our Lord F.L.Y. Super Bowl Party	Feb. 2
Warm Hearts donations due	Feb. 3
WOW <i>Life of David</i> Bible study concludes	Feb. 4
Dorcas Circle quilters	Feb. 5
FLS registration opens for the public	Feb. 7
Preschool & Pre-K students sing at evening worship service	Feb. 12
Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
WOW <i>Proverbs 31 Woman</i> Bible study begins	Feb. 18
Dorcas Circle quilters	Feb. 19
Transfiguration of Our Lord	Feb. 23
WOW <i>Proverbs 31 Woman</i> Bible study	Feb. 25
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 26

### NOTICE

**There will be no meeting in January for further discussion on the status of First Lutheran School grades Kindergarten through fifth.**

**Thank you.**

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## In other words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words.

What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message* Bible reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure



in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

## God is our safe habitation

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. . . . In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into

the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation.

— A. W. Tozer



## Books, books and even more books!

First Lutheran Church has a library filled with fiction and nonfiction books. The library in the Music Room has been reorganized, and now it's time for you to browse the shelves. Stop in and choose a couple of books to help pass the winter doldrums. There is something for most everyone: Bible commentaries and background, biographies (including a section on Martin Luther), self-help volumes, devotions, Bible studies, and a large variety of fiction books. Borrow a history of First Lutheran Church or dig into a Debbie Macomber novel.

To check out a book, just sign it out. Return it to the box when you have finished reading it. We will shelve the books. Give us feedback on the books you borrow. We haven't read them all and would appreciate comments.

Happy reading!

*Jeannie Hubbard and Bridget Michel*



### First Lutheran Youth News

Now that our youth room is all cleaned up and ready to use, we want to get together for a “kick off,” and what better way to do that than by having a Super Bowl party!

We’ll meet in the youth room on Sunday, February 2, at 4 p.m. to watch the Super Bowl game, eat yummy food and enjoy lots of laughs! *All family members are invited*, so bring your favorite Super Bowl appetizer and we will provide the pizza! **Please RSVP to Jason Mercer by Wednesday, January 29.**

Beginning on Wednesday, February 19, we will start our brand new Youth Night. We will grab dinner from the nor-

mal Wednesday night dinner in the fellowship center and take it downstairs to the youth room, where we’ll eat, play games and then have a short Bible lesson.

Please join us for this revitalized time to join together for learning, fun and lots of laughs!



*In Christ’s Love,*

**First Lutheran Youth Board: Jason Mercer, Kim Hoxie, Abbie Ebert, Elly Schmeltzer, Bruce Nachtsheim, Sydney Elvbakken & Pastor Miller**



WARM HEARTS is an ecumenical ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Associates of Helena.

With your generosity to Warm Hearts last year, the poor in Helena were warmed with 140 blankets and 225 towel sets throughout the year!

This January we invite you to help us fulfill their needs for this year. Donated *new* twin blankets and *new* towels

(bath towels, hand towels and washcloths) will be distributed through organizations serving the poor in the Helena area: Willis Cruse House, Family Promise, God’s Love, Florence Crittenton Home, Good Samaritan Ministries, Rocky Mountain Development Center, The Friendship Center and the YWCA.

Please place your articles in the collection box located under the mailboxes in Ziegler Hall *by February 3.*

Thank you for supporting this ministry!



First Edition Book Club members will meet for luncheon and discussion at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, at the home of Linda Fromm, 718 Maple. Members are reading *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by British-born American author Helen Simonson.

Please RSVP to Linda by Wednesday, January 29, by calling 459-3584 or emailing to: [lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com).

The March luncheon and discussion is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, at the home of Pam Tudor, 3109 Miranda Road. For the March meeting, the group will read *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved* by Kate Bowler.

Please RSVP to Pam by Wednesday, March 4, by calling 227-6731 or 439-9719.

## LOOK At Our Budget

A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>December 2019</u>	<u>FY 2019 Y-T-D</u>
Income	\$ 58,158.26	\$280,702.51
Expense	<u>46,081.87</u>	<u>252,591.50</u>
Gain/Loss	\$ 12,076.39	\$ 28,111.01

### The First Word

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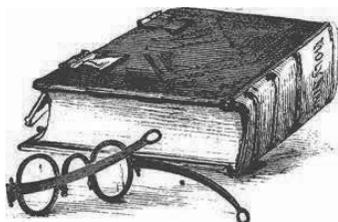
Rev. Larry A. Miller.....Pastor  
Linda Fromm.....Editor  
Sydney Elvbakken.....Calendar/Servant Schedule  
Volunteer Staff.....Printing/Collation

**Deadline for the March issue of the First Word is Wednesday, Feb. 19. Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or**

**e-mail to:  
[lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com)**

Pastor's *Potpourri* ~  
 a mixture of comments  
 concerning our life together  
 in Christ!

**Adult Bible Study**



Meets each  
**Sunday**  
 at **9:45 a.m.**  
 in the **Fellowship**  
**Centre!**

Please join us as we study  
*the Book of Acts.*

See how God turned the world  
**Upside Down!**

**Membership Classes for Adults\*\***



We'll begin a new class soon!

For further information,  
 or to express  
 your interest in the class  
 please contact

Pastor's  
 Discovery  
 Class

Pastor Miller or Sydney  
 in the church office (442-5367).

(\*\* Those preparing for membership  
**AND** those who are already members.)

**February 26**  
 is **Ash Wednesday**

– (the beginning of Lent) –



Our "Love-Month"  
**O.W.L.S.\* Event**



will be  
 Thursday, February 20!

Watch upcoming Bulletins  
 and your email box  
 for the *intimate* details!

\***O**lder **W**iser **L**oving **S**aints are 55+ish

for the cards, greetings, gifts and the gift  
 from the congregation  
 this Christmas!



Your love and support  
 is precious and so encouraging!

*Pastor and Shari*

*"Greater love - has no one than this,  
 that someone lay down his life  
 for his friends."*

- John 15:13 -

What a **FRIEND** we have in **Jesus!**

**He laid down His life,  
 and died for us,**  
 so that we can live, really live,  
 and so that we can love  
 Him and one another!



This "love month"  
 let's discover **new ways**  
**to love and care for one another**  
 in the family of God: our congregation!

Then, let's do it! Without hesitation,  
 let's practice forgiving, and having compassion  
 for each other,  
 because Jesus first loved us!

With **LOVE** for **YOU** in **CHRIST,**

*Pastor Miller*

# Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



### What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

### What you do:

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

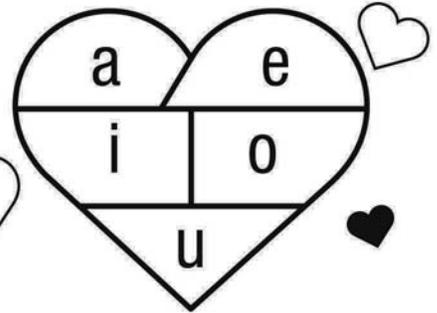


# A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



*Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.*



“Y \_ \_ \_ r \_ my fr \_ \_ nds \_ f

y \_ \_ d \_ wh \_ t \_ c \_ mm \_ nd. ...

Th \_ s \_ s my c \_ mm \_ nd:

L \_ v \_ \_ \_ ch \_ th \_ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

# Duties of a Christian steward — from your Board of Stewardship

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'" (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are

keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

— LCMS website

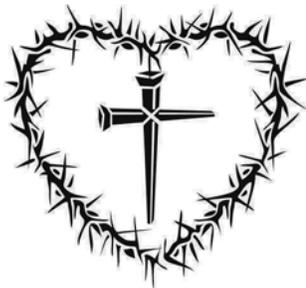


# February lessons focus on how God redeems His people



Date	Topic	Bible Passage
Sunday, Feb. 2	Mountain Message-Jesus Preaches on the Mount	Matthew 6:25-34
Sunday, Feb. 9	A Weather Wonder-Jesus Calms a Storm	Mark 4:35-41
Sunday, Feb. 16	A Life Restored-Jairus' Daughter	Mark 5:21-24,35-43
Sunday, Feb. 23	The Fish-and-Bread Sign-Jesus Feeds Five Thousand	John 6:1-15

## Our Lenten focus



Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much

we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

## February Birthdays

<b>February 1</b> Doris Sparks	<b>February 8</b> Kim Hoxie Ken Olson	<b>February 15</b> Larry Laposky	<b>February 23</b> Bob Antonick	<b>February 28</b> Angela Ewing Lori Nichols Lori Northrup Carla Staffedtl
<b>February 2</b> Elise Stelter	<b>February 9</b> Arleen Wagner	<b>February 16</b> Tucker Deppmeier Benjamin LaForge Dave Tudor	<b>February 24</b> Lindsey Houska	<b>February 29</b> Abbie Ebert
<b>February 3</b> Sam Morgenroth	<b>February 10</b> Jacque Heida Steve Longsworth Ruth Stelter	<b>February 17</b> Terry Hoppe Dureen Lanter	<b>February 25</b> John Shields Meta Spaulding	
<b>February 4</b> Mashayla O'Malley	<b>February 11</b> Brian Buhr	<b>February 18</b> Gene Hanson	<b>February 26</b> Tami Cook Beth Schmeltzer Pam Tudor	
<b>February 6</b> Caleb Hoxie Kate Johnson	<b>February 12</b> Dylan Veach	<b>February 20</b> Tim Schroeder	<b>February 27</b> Abby Northrup Jared Northrup	
<b>February 7</b> Miles McCarthy	<b>February 13</b> Bea Jorgensen Loretta Schultz	<b>February 22</b> Eric Leitzke Marie Ringle		

*Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what His will is.*

— Amy Carmichael

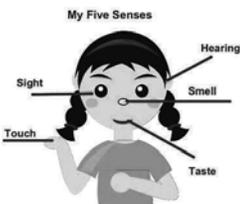


# Happenings at First Lutheran School

**Pastor**  
Rev. Larry A. Miller  
**Director**  
Stacy Smith



**Teachers**  
Lisa Kimmet, Heidi Hultin,  
Stacy Smith, Allyson Briese  
& Patti Tofflemire



**February greetings from Mrs. Kimmet's pre-school class!** Preschoolers came back from the Christmas break working harder than ever learning letter

sounds and recognizing letters. They will be learning the letters R, S, and T in February.

Also in February, we start learning about the five senses.

We continue to learn about animals that hibernate in the winter, including our bears that are hibernating in the cave the preschoolers made.

February is a good month to start learning about the United States, and we finish up the month making an "All About America" booklet, and having a red, white, and blue celebration.

**Happy New Year from the Pre-Kindergarten!**



February is going to be an exciting month. One of our units focuses on colors and the rainbow. There are so many fun experiments that we do to learn about primary and secondary colors.

We have been raising a tadpole and are hoping to see it grow legs during this month.

We have been practicing letter sounds and are ready to start "smooshing" those sounds into being able to read simple consonant-vowel-consonant words.

Our study of the letter of the week will include W, E, and R.

Our Bible stories are all about the miracles of Jesus—stories that are as relevant today as they were in biblical times—as we watch God continue to bless our school miraculously! Happy February!



Keep saving those Box Tops for Education! We will be sending in our spring collection at the very end of February. Thank you!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



### LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK January 27–January 31

- Monday—Pajama/Comfy Clothes Day
- Tuesday—Crazy Head & Foot Day
- Wednesday—Dress Up Day
- Thursday—Favorite Sports Team Day
- Friday—FLS Flames or Red Shirt Day

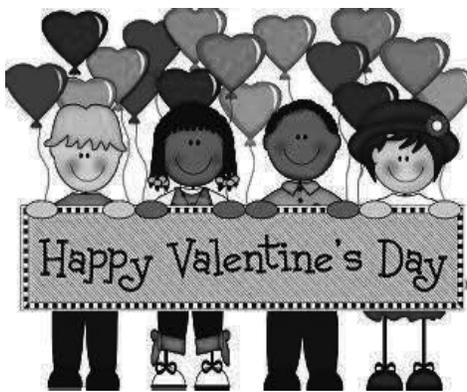
**Friday, January 31**  
Registration opens for First Lutheran Church & School families

**Friday, February 7**  
Registration opens to the public

If you are interested in registering for the 2020-2021 school year, please pick up a registration packet in the school office.

**Wednesday, February 12**  
Preschool and pre-kindergarten students sing at evening worship service.

**Kindergarten through 5th graders will go skiing at Great Divide in March.** (They went the first time on January 10th.)



The kids in Kindergarten and first grade are making great improvements in their reading and writing skills.



This month we'll be using the many holidays of the season to make our learning feel more like play. We start by celebrating the 100th Day of School. We do lots of counting to 100, using different methods, and include other fun "100" activities.

We will take some time to learn about Groundhog Day.

Later in the month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day as we remember that Christ is our best Valentine, Who laid down His life for us, because of how much He loves us.

We will finish the month learning about the former presidents as we celebrate Presidents Day.



**Happy Valentine's Day from Grades 2-5!** We are off to a great start in 2020 and are finding it hard to believe Lent will begin on February 26th!

In addition to our regular Lutheran curriculum, this school year we have taken on a "Faith Alive-Old Testament" theme using our Concordia Student Bibles. We are looking at the books of the Old Testament as they are broken down into the five books written by Moses, the historical books, the books of Hebrew poetry/wisdom, and the books of the prophets.

In Science, we are learning about various forms of energy and how they are used.

For Social Studies, we are learning about the branches of U. S. Government and how they work, while exploring a variety of key presidents of the 20th century.

We are also working hard on broadening our skills in math and mastering all the key fundamentals to ready us for middle school, as well as reading, writing and some poetry, which ties in rather well to the books of Psalms and Proverbs. Everything integrates together in some special way and gives us really practical purposes for learning!

Stay warm and have a great February.

— Mrs. Briese



# Women of the Word (WOW)



We have two meetings left to finish our study of the Life of David. Please join us!

**January 28 and  
February 4**

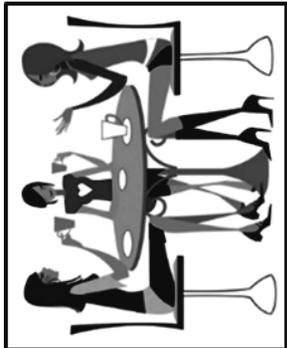
**WOW! Bible Study—  
Demystifying the  
Proverbs 31 Woman—  
February 18, 2020,  
at 7 p.m.**

Our group continues studying God's Word into 2020. Please join us! Beginning **February 18—April 28, 2020**, we will meet every Tuesday for the study, Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman (11 sessions).

Proverbs 31:10-31 has become a beloved, often quoted passage—yet it is often misunderstood and misapplied. As today's culture lauds the woman who does and has it all, Christians seek to reconcile what they hear from the secular, feminist world with what God says in His Word.



Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman is an authoritative, yet inviting discussion of the passage in terms of language, history, purpose, and application. Readers will come away with a sense of renewal and affirmation—and a keener understanding of the biblical example of the Proverbs 31 woman. What shines through is not a prescription for how to become a better wife, mother, woman, or friend, but a description of our Savior, the Church, and ourselves.



Unfold the riches this proverb offers. You will find Jesus there.

We meet at the church at 7 p.m. and we'd love to have you come. Mark these dates on your planners, tablets, phones, calendars, and **join us!** Talk to Shari Miller for more details.

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Missouri Synod  
  
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is "Sharing God's Word with Everyone,  
Everywhere!"**

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