



# The First Word



Volume 23, Issue 6

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

April 2022

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

## Special April Dates

First Edition Book Club.....	April 2
Home of Connie Onstad	
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	April 6
Palm Sunday.....	April 10
FLS Spring Break.....	April 11-18
W.O.W. Bible Study.....	April 12
Lifelight: Galatians/Philippians/Colossians	
Maunder Thursday.....	April 14
Good Friday.....	April 15
The Resurrection of Our Lord.....	April 17
Youth Group Easter Breakfast	
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	April 20
OWLS.....	April 21
Second Sunday of Easter.....	April 24
W.O.W. Bible Study.....	April 26
Lifelight: Galatians/Philippians/Colossians	
<b>NO FLS CLASSES</b> .....	April 29
LWML Montana District.....	April 29-May 1
Convention	

## Why Christ calls us to worship

Easter services are usually well attended, but what about other weeks? What draws you to worship on an “average” Sunday, and what might Jesus have in store for people in the pews?

Consider this from Pastor Charles Aaron: “Did we come to church this morning thinking it was a safe thing to do? Did we come with some expectation of receiving a blessing, a bit of comfort, but no real challenge? Did we think about the possibility that encountering Jesus would rearrange our lives, explode our priorities, cause us to give more than we ever expected? Did we think we could get a little something from Jesus, a dose of grace to help us through the week? Did we

come for the fellowship, the music, the spiritual boost? No one can argue with those reasons.”

He continues: “The risen Christ, however, may have had other plans for this worship service. Christ may want to come under our skins and transform us. Christ may see through us so that something we have well hidden comes to the surface. Christ may kick out from under us the things we use to prop ourselves up but that we don’t really need. Are we ready for that? Did we bargain on that when we walked through the door today?”

— from *The Wired Word*

## Second call for nominations for open positions on Mission & Ministry Council

In preparation for the annual Voters’ Assembly meeting (date for which has yet to be set by the Mission and Ministry Council), MMC Vice President Jason Mercer, who chairs the Nominating Committee, has issued a second call for nominations for officers and MMC at-large members to be elected at that meeting. The first call was issued in the February *Announcements*, and in the March issue of *The First Word*.

beginning on July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2024.

The offices of President and Vice

President may be occupied only by a male voting member of the congregation. (A voting member is a confirmed member, 18 year of age or older.)

Members of the MMC may not serve on other boards or committees of the church.

If you are interested in sharing your God-given time and skills in one of these positions, please

contact Jason for a description of duties and any questions you may have. He may be reached by phone at (406)438-1182 or by email to: [jmercer@m-m.net](mailto:jmercer@m-m.net).

If you wish to nominate someone for one of these positions, please be sure to speak with that person first, to be certain he or she would consent to accept the nomination.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**



**Christ is Risen!**  
**Alleluia!**

Join your First Lutheran Family in celebrating the Risen Christ by joining us for **EASTER BREAKFAST** Sunday, April 17 7:15 a.m. - 8 a.m.

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# Montana District Camps Red Lodge 2022

"The Household of God"  
Ephesians 2:19

All Congregations Picnic: June 19th  
Backpack Camp: June 20th-22nd  
Family Camp (Session 1): June 24th-26th  
Family Camp (Session 2): June 27th-29th  
Leadership Camp: June 30th-July 1st

Join us for Bible study, hiking, crafts, campfires and more!

The registration fee is \$125 per family.

Please register by June 1st

Questions? Contact the Montana District LCMS office at  
406-259-2908 or office@mdistlcms.org.

## Plan to join us for the Montana District Picnic!

All Montana District congregations are invited  
to share in worship, fun, and food

**Sunday, June 19 - Red Lodge Lions Campground**

Camp games and fun from 1-4 p.m.  
Worship at 4 p.m. • Picnic at 5 p.m.  
Campfire at 8 p.m.

**\$5/person (cash or check only)**

Please RSVP BY May 15 (406-259-2908)



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CAMP

Trinity Lutheran Camp is located on Flathead Lake 2 miles south of Bigfork, Montana, on 40 acres of beautiful forest land. The camp is a non-profit ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell, Montana, and serves to strengthen campers and families through their relationship with God.

## 2022 Summer Camp Dates

3rd/4th Grade Day Camp.....June 20-22  
3rd/4th Grade Overnight Camp.....June 22-24  
5th/6th Grade Camp.....June 26-July 1  
7th/8th Grade Camp.....July 3-8  
Servant Event Week.....July 10-15  
Basketball Camp.....July 17-22  
High School Camp.....July 24-29

Prices vary according to camp.  
Camperships are available!

Registration opens April 1.

Save money and get a free t-shirt if you register by June 1.  
Prices increase after June 1.

Invite a friend and get a free hoodie (\$35 value)!

For complete information and registration  
forms, go to:

[www.trinitylutherancamp.org](http://www.trinitylutherancamp.org)



A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>Feb. 2022</u>	<u>FY 2022 Y-T-D</u>
Income (Church & School)	\$33,793.51	\$299,846.87
Expense (Church & School)	\$33,609.77	\$265,559.54
Net Income/Loss	\$ 183.74	\$ 34,287.33

### The First Word

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First Lutheran Church  
2231 Broadway  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406)442-5367



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

Deadline for the May First Word is Wednesday,  
April 20. Place articles in the First Word box in  
the church office or e-mail them to:  
lindafromm@mac.com



*Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands For our offenses given;  
But now at God's right hand He stands And brings us life from heaven.  
Therefore let us joyful be And sing to God right thankfully  
Loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia! ~ LSB 458:1*

**"I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth." [Job 19:25](#)**

In 1524 Martin Luther wrote the hymn known to us as **"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands."** We have all seven stanzas of it in *Lutheran Service Book*. The outline of the first stanza has three points: 1) Christ lying down in death and what it means, 2) Christ arising, or standing, again and what it means, and 3) our response.

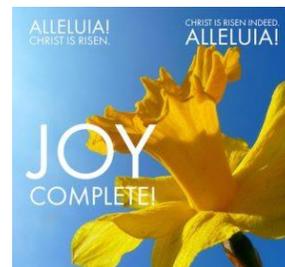
First, **Christ lay down in death-bands!** And willingly our Lord subjected himself to the dungeon of death. Why did he do this? Because it was the will of his Father that he be given for our sin and become the offering for our offenses. The fact that Christ lay in death's bands shows that he has been sacrificed, and therefore our sins are forgiven.

Second, **Christ has risen again!** He lay down. He got up. This simple change in Christ's posture means everything to us. No human being could escape from death's fetters. When death took us, we would have been forever trapped in its dungeon. But not so with Jesus. He is no ordinary human being, but is God in the flesh. When death tried to keep Jesus captive, it was up against more than it could handle. As Peter preaches at Pentecost, "God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it" ([Acts 2:24](#)). Luther focuses in on Jesus' domination of death in stanzas three and four.

What has Jesus done by rising from death? **He has brought us life!** The life of man is tied up with the life of Christ. If Jesus had stayed dead, no other man would ever rise from the dead. But since Jesus returned to life after he died, so all flesh shall rise: we who believe in Christ to the resurrection of life, the wicked to the resurrection of judgment ([Jn. 5:28-29](#)).

Third, **our response is joy and singing and thankfulness to God!** The resurrection of Jesus makes us happy, because we no longer need to fear death's bands. Jesus has burst them for us. Before Christ rose, we were like dead men whose mouths couldn't sing praise to God. But now that Christ has risen, he has enlivened our mouths to sing: "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise" ([Ps. 51:15](#)). And so on Easter let's sing Alleluia, "Praise the Lord!"

*Lord Jesus, You have forgiven our sins by lying down in death  
and You have brought us life by rising from the dead.  
Give us joy this Easter in all that You have done for us.  
In YOUR Name we pray. Amen.*



**Have a rich, Alleluia-filled celebration of Easter**

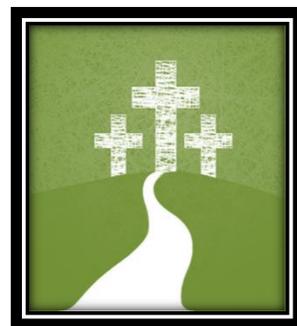
**and ALL that Jesus has done for your salvation!**

*Pastor Miller*

## SINGING WITH THE EXILES

### Holy Week and Easter Worship

Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: **Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change?** God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.



**Do you ever feel this way?** Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?

Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40–55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. Barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). **The exiles are going home!**



**That's why we are singing with the exiles!**

This Holy Week and Easter,  
**Isaiah 40–55 will shape us** as we . . .

***Meditate on, Study, and Listen*** to sermons  
***Based on the following themes and texts:***

**April 10 ~ Palm Sunday** ~ "Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!" ~ (Isaiah 49:1–6)

**April 14 ~ Maundy Thursday** ~ "He Prepares a Table" ~ (Isaiah 49:7–13)

**April 15 ~ Good Friday** ~ "All" ~ (Isaiah 52:13–53:12)

**April 17 ~ Easter Sunday** ~ "Going Home" ~ (Isaiah 55:6–13)

Join in **singing with the exiles** as we learn from Isaiah  
to **journey the Lenten way to the cross**  
and **rejoice at the empty tomb**  
as **God turns our weeping into joy**  
and **our present pain into an endless Alleluia!**

## It's almost time, ladies! Can we count on your help?

The 2022 LWML Montana District Convention, being hosted by groups in the Divide Zone, is set for Friday, April 29, through Sunday, May 1, at First Lutheran. We are excited to be holding the convention at our facility, and hope that all women who are able will volunteer to help, and join in the fellowship and fun.



### Help is needed in the following areas:

- Preparing sack lunches for lunch on Saturday, April 30. These can be assembled ahead of time, and bars and cookies can be donated. Number of lunches will depend on number of registrants.
- Putting together snacks (cookies, candies, fruit, etc.) to have during the convention. Bars and cookies can be donated, and other snacks can be donated or purchased.
- Preparing and supplying coffee and tea throughout the convention.
- Helping with physical arrangements before—and during—the convention, as needed.
- Serving as part of the Hospitality Committee by picking up guests at the airport and transporting them in town.

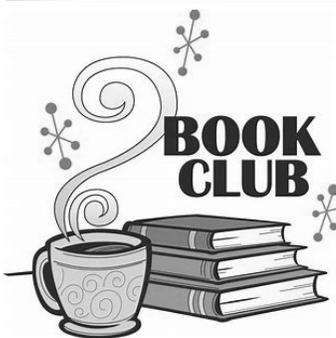
Please let Bridget Michel or Shari Miller know if you are willing to help, and add your name to the sign-up sheet for the area in which you are interested! We appreciate you!



**Christ is Risen!  
Risen, Indeed!  
Alleluia!**

First Lutheran Youth  
will prepare and serve  
a delicious  
**EASTER BREAKFAST**  
on  
Sunday, April 17  
from  
7:15 a.m. to 8 a.m.

*A free will offering will be gratefully  
accepted and proceeds will go  
toward costs to send youth group members  
to the  
2022 National Youth Gathering  
July 9-13  
in Houston, Texas*



First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, at the home of Connie Onstad for lunch and discussion. **We'll meet at the parking lot at JoAnn Fabrics (next to old Shopko building) at 11:30 a.m. and car pool to Connie's home.**

Members are currently reading—and will discuss—*My Remarkable Journey: A Memoir* by Katherine Johnson with Joylette Hylich and Katherine Moore.

**If you have not already done so, please RSVP to Connie IMMEDIATELY by calling 406-461-8741.**

The May luncheon and discussion will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at the home of Lori Northrup. For the May meeting, members will read—and discuss—*In the Bleak Midwinter* by Julia Spencer-Fleming. Please RSVP to Lori by Wednesday, May 4, by calling 406-461-5378.

## Easter cards on sale for Cards 4 Kids ministry

Janice Larison, who shares her creative talents and time designing unique greeting cards, now has Easter cards available for purchase in Ziegler Hall. Sales will continue through Palm Sunday (April 10). Easter packages are made up of eight cards, both secular and sacred, and are priced at \$5.



A basket of birthday and general assortment cards is also available, and individual cards are priced at 50 cents each.

All proceeds from card sales go to the First Lutheran Youth (FLY) program.

Many thanks to those who have donated recycled cards, stickers, envelopes, etc. toward this ministry!

# HOLY WEEK i-spy

Create this craft to share the events of Holy Week with a younger sibling or friend.



**What you need:**

- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- White rice
- Small items that symbolize Holy Week events

**What you do:**

1. Pour rice into bottle or jar so it's about two-thirds full.
2. Add the small items. Ideas: leaf, donkey, cup, towel square, praying hands, coin, bird, nails, thorn, cross, dice, stick, lamb, stone, white fabric.
3. Fasten the lid. Then shake and turn the bottle to "spy" each item.

# PUZZLE

## Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection, and each one offers important details.

**Directions:** Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

**ACROSS**

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

**DOWN**

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



**What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?**

"I \_ m ascen \_ ing \_ o my  
Fat \_ er and your Fa \_ her,  
to \_ y \_ od and your God."  
Joh \_ 20:17, NIV

Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered; 4. worshipped; 5. white; 7. Galilee; 8. linen; DOWN 1. garden; 3. earthquake; 6. Salome; I am ascending to my Father and

# Puzzle!

Using the code, complete this passage based on Ezekiel 34.

**CODE**  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

"As a \_\_\_\_\_ looks after his  
H S V K S V I W

\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_ is  
H X Z G G V I V W U O L X P S V

\_\_\_\_\_ them, so will I \_\_\_\_\_ after my \_\_\_\_\_  
D R G S O L L P H S V V K

I will \_\_\_\_\_ them and \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
I V H X F V K Z H G F I V

I will \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ and bring back  
H V Z I X S O L H G

the \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_ up the \_\_\_\_\_  
H G I Z B H Y R M W R M Q F I V W

and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. You are my  
H G I V M T G S V M D V Z P

\_\_\_\_\_ ... and I am your \_\_\_\_\_  
H S V V K T L W



Answer: shepherd, scattered, flock, he, with, look, sheep, rescue, pasture, search, loss, strays, bind, injured, strengthen, weak,

# April Birthdays!

- April 1**  
Kristin Basinger  
Arlena Deppmeier  
Sonja Elvbakken
- April 2**  
Richard Ellwein
- April 3**  
Darlene Staffelt
- April 4**  
Quinn Hanson  
Don McCarthy  
Ryan Rose
- April 5**  
Jacob Balcerzak  
Elijah Walker
- April 8**  
Kim Ballard  
Lillian Buhr  
Jonathan Maxwell

- April 9**  
Heather Basinger  
Joseph Ellwein
- April 10**  
Tierney Beatty  
Zachary Everson  
Cheyenne Frank  
Crystal Gozelanski  
Larry Shields
- April 11**  
Chuck Ballard
- April 12**  
Melinda Longworth
- April 13**  
Jean Hanson
- April 14**  
Liz Belcourt  
Rena Belcourt  
Amber Champagne  
Henry Schmeltzer

- April 15**  
Zachary Antonick  
Kristina Johnson
- April 16**  
Betty Burton
- April 17**  
Danielle McCarthy
- April 18**  
Pippa Davis
- April 19**  
Joe Jorgensen
- April 20**  
Dale Young
- April 21**  
Meagan Kraft  
Rob Lebahn  
Gibson McIntosh  
Nathan Mohs

- April 22**  
Dallas Anderson  
Brianna Brott  
Chris Brott  
Carla Smith
- April 25**  
Emilie Glenn  
Julianne Hill  
Sid Lebahn  
Daniel O'Malley  
Nicolaus Peterson
- April 27**  
Danielle Malaski  
Mariah Mercer
- April 28**  
Ruth Alling  
Jerry Smith
- April 29**  
Sharyn Gunderson
- April 30**  
Kiela McCarthy





# Happenings at First Lutheran School



**Director**  
Sue Taylor

**Pre-Kindergarten Teacher**  
Lori Radtke

**After School Care**  
Pam Worthy  
and Marin Roelofs

**Pastor**  
Larry A. Miller

## What We Know About God

(We asked the kids to tell us what they know about God, and here's what they said.)



**Beckett:** "God is kind. He is smiling and being happy! He is strong."

**Blake:** "I like Him (God) when He does Bible with us."

**Brayden:** "He rose on Easter. He helped the people to not be sick anymore."

**Chaysen:** "Miss Lori teaches us about God!"

**Henry:** "God is powerful. He is 1,001 POWERFUL!"

**Declan:** "He created us and made us alive."

**Kaden:** "God cares about us. He watches us and plays with us."

**Naomi:** "God helps us by sending the Savior to us!"

**Parker:** "God is a miracle! He heals the sick people."

**Angelo:** "God is the boss. All the people obey Him."

**William:** "God knows everything! God knows that He forgives us."

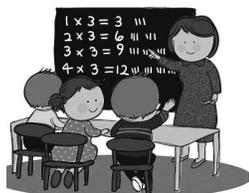
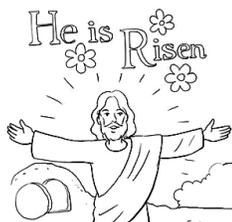
**Zoey:** "God loves us. He takes away our sins."

**Ellie:** "God loves us and cares for us."

**Selma:** "God loves."

**Sierra:** "God makes a crayon and He makes a butterfly."

**Charlotte:** "God takes away our sins by washing it away."



When God  
made ME,  
He said  
"TA-DA!"

First Lutheran Church & School  
2231 Broadway  
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Congregation of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**THE MISSION of First Lutheran Church is**  
“Sharing God’s Word with Everyone, Everywhere!”

Tune in to “*The Lutheran Hour*”—Sundays at 8 a.m. on the Christian Satellite Network 91.1-FM  
Or listen on “*Family Talk*” on Sirius XM 131  
“*Woman to Woman*”—Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on KMTX 105.3-FM

## God’s gift of life

— from your Board of Stewardship

*“For one who has died has been set free from sin” (Rom. 6:7).*

**Here we go again**, talking about death. Death can be so unsettling for those of us who want nothing more than to possess life. Death is so final. The one who dies tends to stay dead. Those who are dead can’t do anything. If stewardship is something we have been created and redeemed to do, what good is death? But once again, our Lord, through His servant Paul, reminds us of the great stewardship of life that has been given to us in Jesus Christ. We are not called to free ourselves from death for stewardship. It is Christ’s death on the cross that sets us free. His death is far from being in vain. In fact, it is His death that gives us the greatest freedom: life! Life is meant to be lived and lived to the fullest. However, because we were once in bondage to death, we have not been set free to do whatever we please.

God has set us free from death in Christ for a purpose. The purpose, like the life we now live in Christ, comes from outside of us. Stewardship of the



new life we have in Christ is never about us. It is always about the One who gives us life: Jesus. All that we are and have then becomes a living, breathing, baptism-inspired billboard for the new life that comes to all those in Christ. How we live and how we give of ourselves is to be for the glory

of Christ and for the sake of our neighbor. We give freely of ourselves because Jesus has given freely of His life for us. He gave that life so that we might know the love of God. We give so that others might experience that love which comes in Jesus. We are free. Free from death. That means we are free to live. This free life is a steward life. We give all that we are and have for the sake and glory of the One who gave it all to make it possible. This is the new life we are called to live for Him!

**Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Your death set us free from death. Those free from death are given life. May that life flow out from us to others. Lead us to live and love as stewards of this gift of life in such a way that others would crave this grace as well. Use us as Your instruments in this new life. Amen**

— This article is taken from *Simple Gifts*, a series of LCMS Stewardship Ministry devotions. Used by permission.