

# The *First* Word

Volume 23, Issue 7

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

May 2022

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

## Special May Dates

Dorcas Circle Quilters.....	May 4
First Edition Book Club.....	May 7
Home of Lori Northrup	
Mother's Day.....	May 8
W.O.W. Bible Study.....	May 10
<i>Lifelight: Galatians/Philippians/Colossians</i>	
Confirmation.....	May 15
Dorcas Circle Quilters.....	May 18
OWLS.....	May 19
Armed Forces Day.....	May 21
<b>Annual Voters' Meeting.....</b>	<b>May 22</b>
Ascension of Our Lord.....	May 26
Memorial Day.....	May 30



## Annual voters' meeting on Sunday, May 22

First Lutheran's Mission and Ministry Council (MMC) has scheduled the annual Voters' Assembly meeting for **Sunday, May 22**, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service.

At the time this issue of *The First Word* went to print, the agenda for the voters' meeting had not yet been finalized by the MMC.

**Please watch the Sunday, May 1, and Sunday, May 8, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**for the final agenda and all other pertinent information for the meeting.**

Please add the May 22 meeting date to your calendar now and plan to attend this very important voters' meeting!

Per the church's bylaws, an eligible voting member of First Lutheran Church is a confirmed member, 18 years of age or older.



**While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.**

Luke 24:51

## Confirmed in the faith

Confirmation, a rite many churches celebrate each spring, and which we will celebrate at First Lutheran on Sunday, May 15, has biblical roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would



“confirm” a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation.

Today, confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized. Confirmation serves

as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.

— *The Newsletter Newsletter*

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## Prayer's certain payoff

Prayers prayed in the Spirit never die until they accomplish God's intended purpose. His answer may not be what we expected, or when we expected it, but God often provides much more abundantly than we could think or ask. He interprets our intent and either answers or stores up our prayers.

— *Missionary Wesley Duewel from The Newsletter Newsletter*



# Memorial Day more than picnics



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers.

In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

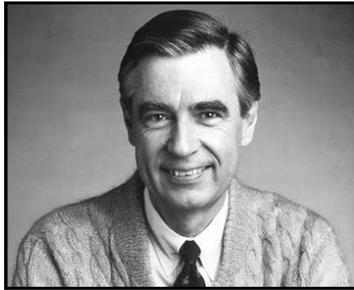
By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

— *The Newsletter Newsletter*

# Mr. Rogers, to grads — and to us all

Our world hangs like a magnificent jewel in the vastness of space. Every one of us is a part of that jewel, a facet of that jewel, and in the perspective of infinity, our differences are infinitesimal. We are intimately related. May we never even pretend that we are not. ... Deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too, even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. ...



is the universe, by love.” ... [There is a] deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive: love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed. So in all that you do, in all of your life, I wish you the strength and the grace to make those choices which will allow you — and your neighbor — to become the best of whoever you are.

— *Fred McFeely Rogers, 2002 from The Newsletter Newsletter*

[Roman philosopher] Boethius wrote this sentence: “Oh happy race of mortals if your hearts are ruled, as



If your family includes a high school, alternative high school or college senior scheduled to graduate this year, *First Word* Editor Linda Fromm needs your help.

She would like to publish a list of 2022 graduates, their parents' names and the high school or college from which they will graduate.

If your student wishes to do so, it would also be great to list his or her plans for life after high school or college (work, college, travel, etc.).

Please e-mail your information to Linda at: [lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com) or put a copy in the *First Word* box in the church office or in Linda's mailbox in Ziegler Hall by *Wednesday, May 18*.

Congratulations to all First Lutheran graduates. May our gracious God go with you as you begin your next big adventure!



A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>March, 2022</u>	<u>FY 2022 Y-T-D</u>
Income (Church & School)	\$41,200.58	\$341,047.45
Expense (Church & School)	\$40,645.46	\$306,205.00
Gain/Loss	\$ 555.12	\$ 34,842.45

The *First Word*

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Linda Fromm.....Editor  
Susan Boyer..... Calendar/Servant Schedule  
Volunteer Staff.....Printing/Collation

Deadline for the June *First Word* is Wednesday, May 18. Place articles in the *First Word* box in the church office or e-mail them to: [lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com)

## Pastor's Page



Dear Brothers and Sisters in the faith,

### Christ Died for the Weak ~ and Rose Again ~ for ALL!

*"While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—  
though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—  
but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us. –*

Romans 5:6-8, NIV

**As Christians, we sometimes forget.** We forget that Christ died for the "weak". We forget that Christ died for those who brought nothing to the proverbial table. We forget Christ died for us precisely at the time when we had nothing to give Him.

Verse 6 in the above passage says it all. "While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." This word "weak" in the Greek conjures up the image of someone who is **sick**. The word describes someone who is **frail**, someone who is **helpless**, someone who is **so weak** they are not even able to raise an arm to care for themselves. The image is almost like that of someone who is **on their deathbed**. That is quite different from a "righteous" person; who might be deemed "worthy" of dying for. That is quite different from a "good" person; whose kindness in the world might warrant their being saved. No, all of these pictures of "good" and "righteous" people are thrown out the window when it comes to our being saved in Christ. Jesus came to die for the sick, the frail, people so weak **they can't even raise an arm to care for themselves**.

The image is stark: a deathbed, with a person so frail, so sickly, that they are moments away from dying. That is us. **Jesus could have found such more "noble" people to save; people much cleaner, much healthier, much wealthier.** Instead, **Jesus chose us!** Jesus chose to save us when we are at our lowest in life; literally at death's door. As Christians, we can so easily forget how it is we have been saved, how it is we have such hope, how it is we have the Holy Spirit; it all happened because of Jesus' mercy shown to you at the darkest moment of your life. All this because at just the right time, while we were still weak, Christ died for us, the ungodly.

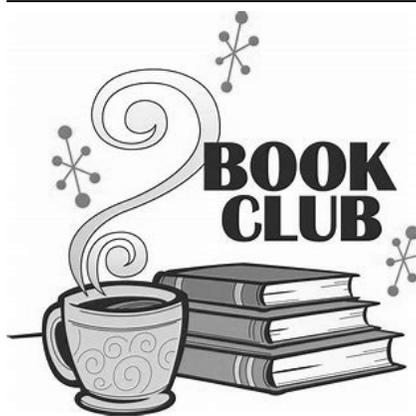


***Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me.  
Died that I might live on high, Lived that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am His and He is mine.***

("Chief of Sinners" LSB 611, s1)

**Rejoice! Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

*Pastor Miller*



First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at the home of Lori Northrup. The group is currently reading—and will discuss—*In the Bleak Midwinter* by Julia Spencer-Fleming. **Please RSVP to Lori by**

**Wednesday, May 4, at 406-461-5378.**

Members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at the home of Linda Fromm. For the June meeting, members will read—and discuss—*The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. **Please RSVP to Linda by Wednesday, June 1, at 406-459-3584.**

## Where home is

As Christians, we trust that after this life, we'll be safe with God in heaven. What heaven is like is a mystery, but we rely on images from the Bible, including “the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven” (Revelation 21:2). Wait — what? Usually we imagine going “up” to God. What a difference to picture God’s city, and God himself, “coming down” to us!

When we travel from the place we know best to visit others, no matter how much we love them we usually don't feel “at home.” On the other hand, when I went from college to visit my parents and sisters, I was immediately at home, not just physically but emotionally.

Revelation 21:3 (NRSV) says, “The home of God is among mortals.” God is “at home” with us! He knows our routines, understands how we live, fits right in. We don't have to behave in any special way, like for “company,” because God is family. He “gets” us and loves us. Best of all, because God is at home with us, we can be at home with God

—Heidi Hyland Mann  
from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

### May 1

Shaimera Best  
Chelsey Gochis  
Julie Johnson  
Zachariah LaForge

### May 2

Dennis Brown  
Levi Hollatz  
William McIntosh IV

### May 3

Beverly Blokzyl

### May 4

Martha Janes  
Richard Morgan

### May 5

Mel Kuehne  
Lynn Wagner

### May 6

Marvin Dye  
Miranda Lawson  
Tom Mayer

### May 7

Levi Brown  
Marylin Smith

### May 8

Wylie Rucker

### May 9

Skyler 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.  
Russ Warren

### May 15

Rebecca Bjerke

### May 16

Thea McCarthy  
Ellie Mercer  
Cheryl Sobeck

### May 18

Randy Sobeck

### May 19

Travis Hyyppa

### May 20

Nicholas Hill

### May 21

Thom Warsinski

### May 23

Oliver Sieber  
Jennifer Woehl

### May 26

Kolton Hyyppa

### May 27

Thelma Gossett  
Everett Hollatz

### May 28

Melissa Miner  
Shirleen Pape

### May 29

Todd Boucher  
Robert Fox  
Robert Janes

### May 30

Jeanette Talley

### May 31

Tom Cannon  
Matthew Ellwein



## Save the date . . . and start collecting your “treasures”

Circle Saturday, September 17, 2022 on your calendar NOW and plan to attend the Human Care Annual Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day!

Items can be dropped off at the church beginning on Wednesday evening, September 14, after the mid-week service, and again on

Thursday and Friday, September 15 and 16.

Watch for more details—and ways that you can help—to come! In the meantime, PLEASE start cleaning and collecting all of your no-longer-needed personal and household items, garage and DIY projects, craft and decorating items, furnishings . . .

Money raised goes to assist individuals and families through program offerings of the Good Samaritan, Options Clinic, the Florence Crittenton Home, God's Love, Family Promise, and First Lutheran Church members who need assistance.

We hope to see YOU at the sale!

## First Lutheran Members

Please indicate your **interest** in one or more of the opportunities below by returning the bottom portion of the sheet to the Board of Human Care box in the Church Office (next to Pastor Miller’s Office). **You are NOT committing to volunteer** – we will contact you to find out more questions you have first. Thank you! ~ *Board of Human Care*

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Florence Crittenton Home

Tasks may include teaching a life skill, unloading groceries, tutoring, cleaning

Before volunteering a HIPAA form must be signed: this requires about 20 min. with the Executive Director (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - 1996 Federal Law). This restricts access to an individual’s private health information without the patient’s consent or knowledge.

A background check and TB test are required. (Board of Human Care will pay this.)

#### Good Samaritan Thrift Store

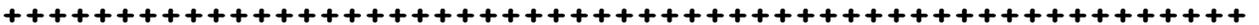
Volunteers work: back of the store - no heavy lifting; work with staff (various departments vintage, craft, misc); price/hang clothes

Fill out application form, need a background check (Board of Human Care will pay), volunteer will be covered by Good Samaritan insurance.

VERY FLEXIBLE with hours, where you’re most comfortable working. Volunteer will receive a 4-digit number to clock in - don’t need to work at the same time each time you come.

#### Family Promise ONLY DELIVER Food to the SITE

Work with 2-3 other First Lutheran members to prepare and deliver a meal to Family Promise Center (near Arby’s on Montana Ave.). This is needed once per month; however if we have enough interest, volunteers will have fewer meals to prepare. Number served may vary: usually 4 - 10 people.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY I’M INTERESTED IN: \_\_\_\_\_

If Family Promise -- FREQUENCY of Meal Prep: (i.e. 2 x/year, every month, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_



***(If interested, please return bottom portion to the Board of Human Care box in the Church Office.)***



# Happenings at First Lutheran School



**Director**  
Sue Taylor

**Pre-Kindergarten Teacher**  
Lori Radtke

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

**Pastor**  
Larry A. Miller

This has been another wonderful school year at First Lutheran! On June 10 we will complete our second school year since restructuring the school. We have shared God’s Word and the great news of our Savior with more than 25 families and anticipate reaching out to more families next school year.

The school currently consists of two classes with two teachers. Ms. Lori, our PreK teacher, has been with us through our growth these past two years. She teaches two sessions of PreK and utilizes the Concordia curriculum for structuring her Bible instruction and class lessons. Ms. Sue has acted as director for the past two years and took on the role of a part-time preschool teacher in February of this school year. She also utilizes the Concordia curriculum and has completed six out of eight classes for the colloquy program that is offered through Concordia University. Sue is scheduled to complete her colloquy interview in November of 2022.

This summer we have the addition of summer camps for

children ages 4-8, in an effort to support our school families and continue to spread the Word. We have seen great interest in this program and have watched it fill up quickly. We will have units that focus on fun subjects such as dinosaurs, plants, bugs and outer space. It sounds like lots of fun!

Thank you for your support of our school! We love knowing that our church and school are walking hand in hand in the effort to spread the message of God’s love. Every ounce of support—from volunteering in the Classroom, to making financial donations, providing supplies and gifts for the students, to kind words of Encouragement—is greatly valued.

Through the great Grace of God we will continue in our mission for another school year.

— Sue Taylor  
Director

## A Mother’s Day prayer to honor and bless moms

Heavenly Father,

I speak this prayer to you now in gratitude and praise for the gift of mothers. My mother, those of my friends, relatives, those I’ll never know, all mothers.

Thank you for the role they play in the family unit. Thank you for their teachings, their wisdom, their patience, and understanding. Thank you for the physical, emotional, and spiritual gifts they possess.

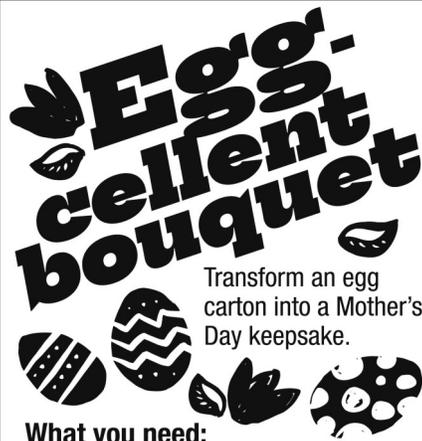
I pray that you help mothers all across the world to be a blessing upon their children. Whether delivering affirmation or discipline, I pray that you help every word and action to be done in love. And I pray that children throughout the world would take time to honor their mothers, that you would show them how to uniquely do so.

I pray that these mothers also act as a blessing beyond their households, reaching into their extended families, communities, churches, schools. I pray that the impact of motherhood is revered throughout society and that these

women are acknowledged for their everyday impact on the world. May you guide each of them into fulfilling their purpose here on Earth. Amen.

— Aaron D. Brown  
from the Internet





Transform an egg carton into a Mother's Day keepsake.

**What you need:**

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

**What you do:**

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.

# PUZZLE



## A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

*Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.*



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_ \_ \_
2.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. \_ \_  \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
4.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. \_ \_ \_ \_  \_ \_
6.  \_ \_  \_ \_
7. \_  \_ \_  \_ \_ \_
8.  \_ \_ \_
9.  \_ \_  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ o n o \_ \_ your \_ \_ a t h e r and \_ \_ o u r m o \_ \_ h \_ r ,  
 s o t \_ a t y \_ u m a y \_ \_ i \_ e l \_ n g i n t \_ e l a n d  
 t h e L \_ \_ R D \_ \_ o u \_ \_ G o d i \_ \_ g i v i \_ \_ g y o u .

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

### Kids know all about MOTHERS!

- What kind of girl was your mother?** They say she used to be nice.
- What does your mother do in her spare time?** Mothers don't do spare time.
- What makes a real woman?** A real woman is that you have to be really bossy without looking bossy.
- Is there anything about your mother that's perfect?** Just her children.
- If you could change one thing about your mother, what would it be?** I'd make her smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Congregation of  
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**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

## Stewarding God’s simple gifts — from your Board of Stewardship

*“... so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him” (Eph. 3:10-12).*

**What is the goal of our stewardship?** This is really the WHY question of stewardship. Human beings were created for the task of being stewards. Read Genesis chapter one and two and we will see this. We were created to have dominion and subdue creation in a way that reflects the image of God in which we were created. This takes place in the way that we work and keep the creation entrusted to us by God.

The only problem we have with stewardship is found in Genesis chapter three. There, in an act of rebellion and sin, stewards named Eve and Adam claimed ownership over that which God had created them to steward. We have a word for claiming ownership over something that belongs to another. That word is theft. But they were stealing more than a fruit. They were stealing God’s place and God’s glory! Ever since that fateful day in the garden, we have followed suit. What God has given us to steward, we have attempted to own.

So, God once again shows His glory in establishing the

eternal purpose of Jesus Christ. In going to the cross, Jesus restores us in forgiveness to the task of once again stewarding what God has given us. Forgiven and restored in Jesus, we are once again stewards. Not just of creation, but of the Gospel as it is served by creation, including us!

Today we pray again that we would be able to recognize the simple gifts the Lord has given us to steward for the sake of the Gospel. In this we make known the manifold wisdom of God. As we faithfully steward the simple gifts God has entrusted to us, we point people to the redemption and restoration of our stewardship through Jesus Christ. Remember, the world sees Jesus through your stewardship. What are you showing the world in how you steward God’s simple gifts?

### Prayer

*Blessed Lord, Your simple gifts are given from Your generous heart to a people who tend to want to own rather than serve. Lead us to repent of our ownership and then steward creation for the sake of the Gospel so that the manifold wisdom of Your grace might be shown through us. Amen.*

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