

The *First* Word

Volume 23, Issue 8

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

June 2022

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

Special June—July Dates

First Edition Book Club.....	June 4
Home of Linda Fromm	
Pentecost.....	June 5
FLS End of Year Program/Field Day....	June 8
Last day of classes for FLS.....	June 10
Trinity Sunday.....	June 12
Flag Day.....	June 14
Father's Day.....	June 19
First Day of Summer.....	June 21
Presentation of Augsburg.....	June 25
Confession	
Independence Day.....	July 4

Voters handle full business slate at May 22 annual meeting

Thirty-two eligible voting members signed the registration sheets at the annual voters' meeting held on May 22.

An extra big thank you goes to Anita and Matt Elvbakken for preparing delicious sandwiches, served with chips, beverages, and cookies! Thank you, also, to all those who helped with setup or cleanup after the meeting.



Annual Meeting

program has been added this year, and all spots are full. Lori Radtke will teach the summer camp kids.

Treasurer Wally Smith distributed copies of the April 2022 treasurer's report, and reviewed same. First Lutheran Church, he said, is in excellent financial condition, thanks to a very generous congregation. Copies of the

proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2022-2023 were distributed and reviewed by Treasurer Smith. The plan estimates total combined income of \$517,595, and total combined disbursements of \$503,876.80, leaving a net estimated gain of \$13,718.20. Voters accepted the proposed plan, as presented.

Jason Mercer was elected to a 2-year term as MMC president; Janice Larison was elected to a 1-year term as an MMC at-large member; and David Goodson was elected to a 2-year term as an MMC at-large member. All terms begin on July 1, 2022.

Because there were no nominees for the office of MMC vice president, that office will remain vacant for the present. Because there were no nominees for a second 1-year at-large position, and a second 2-year at-large position, the MMC has authority to *appoint* persons to fill those openings. If you would be interested, please contact Secretary Linda Fromm, who will provide information about the duties involved.

Thank you to all who attended this important meeting!

a godly Father is:



Faithful to God and Family.
Able, to discern God's will in trying times and good times.
Thankful for all the joys and trials of life.
Happy, no matter what the life brings.
Enthusiastic, about a life lived with purpose.
Righteous, rock-solid in heart and mind, from a growing relationship with Jesus.

For these things and so many more we praise God for our Fathers, this Father's Day and always.

Voters approved the minutes of the May 2, 2021, annual meeting, which had been approved by the MMC at its May 18, 2021, meeting, and posted on the bulletin board in Ziegler Hall on May 20, 2021, for perusal by interested members.

Active boards and committees of the church had submitted written annual reports, which were collated into one package and distributed to voters to peruse at their leisure. (The Christian Fellowship and Stewardship and Missions Committees are, at this time, inactive.)

Although First Lutheran School Director Sue Taylor had submitted a written report for the annual reports package, she explained that the plan for the school for this coming school year is to have two classes: one Get, Set! (preschool) class, and one prekindergarten class, provided a full time teacher can be hired for the Get, Set! class. Lori Radtke will continue to teach the prekindergarten class, and the after school care program will continue.

Sue noted that a "summer camp"

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"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises."

— Leo Buscaglia
 from the Newsletter Newsletter



Happenings at First Lutheran School



Director
Sue Taylor

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Lori Radtke

After School Care
Pam Worthy/Marin Roelofs

Pastor
Larry A. Miller

Here's what the kids said when we asked them the age-old question:
What do you want to be when you grow up?

 **Angelo:** Police Officer. They are cool. They drive police cars.

Beckett: Singer. You win medals. I don't know what I want to sing yet.



 **Blake:** Fire Fighter. I want to put out some fires and drive a firetruck. I want to help people.

Brayden: Ninja. So I can fight the bad guys! They do moves, and they can sneak up on people.



 **Chaysen:** Police Officer. They're my favorite guys. They can arrest and throw the bad guys in jail.

Henry: Dragon Rider. I will be making a metal. I will save animals from predators.



 **Declan:** Police Officer. They go fast. They arrest people and have handcuffs.

 **Kaden:** Power Ranger. I like the red and blue Rangers. They fight, and they have robots.

Naomi: Veterinarian. I can help animals. *(When I asked Naomi what a vet does, she said, "I don't really know. I'm not in veterinarian school yet.")*



 **Parker:** Army Guy. They ride in tanks and shoot bad guys.

William: Construction Worker. So I can build houses and stuff. I like the excavators.



 **Zoey:** Day Care for Pets Owner. I like animals. They are cute.

Marcus: Spider Man. I want to shoot real spider webs, so I can hang on the whole building of the city.



Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 8th, for the End of Year Program/Field Day. The last day of school is Friday, June 10th!

A LOOK At Our Budget

A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>April, 2022</u>	<u>FY 2022 Y-T-D</u>
Income (Church & School)	\$61,658.46	\$402,705.91
Expense (Church & School)	43,771.77	349,976.77
Gain/Loss	\$17,886.69	\$ 52,729.14

The First Word

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Linda Fromm.....Editor
Susan Boyer.....Calendar/Servant Schedule
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There will be NO First Word in July. Deadline for the August issue is Wednesday, July 20. Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or e-mail them to: lindafromm@mac.com



Pastor's Page – a Devotion from the pen of Pastor Miller

A Father like No Other!

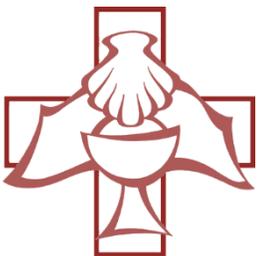
Years ago, a president of the United States encouraged **"Take time to be a dad today."** I appreciate the encouragement, for it's true that a stable society stems from a stable home.

Not all homes are "stable". In fact, I would go so far as to say that no homes are entirely stable. Perhaps there are "peace time," but how long is it before that golden silence with the cries of sadness, suffering or loss?

The truth is, unfortunately, **that's the way it will always be this side of heaven.** The devil continually lurks and prowls to pull you away from God. Read the book of Job and you'll see him doing his best. The sinful world around us launches its best to distract us with earthquakes, fires, floods, famines... And then there's the old sinful nature which creeps up and convinces us we're doing just fine. "You don't have to take time to be a dad today (or mom or child). You can do whatever makes you feel best." Wham-o! Before you realize it—that peace is turned upside down.



fathers to
from a
far as to
spells of
is broken



At times like this, the best advice I, or anyone, could give is: **"Take time to be with your Heavenly Father."** He's a Father like no other. We can be with Him as we read and study and hear and share His Word, as we worship Him around His Word and Sacraments, even in the summer, and as we pray to Him and praise His Name.

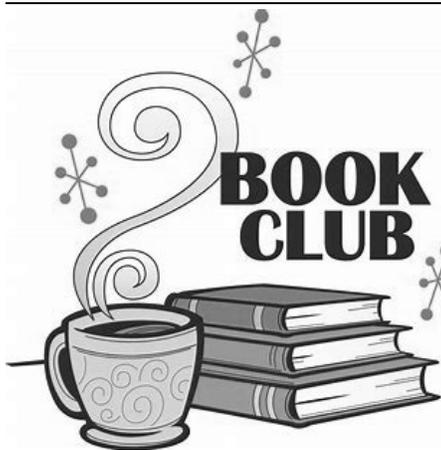
Not only did He create you but **He has also promised to provide for you and protect you** all your days. Read about His love and concern for the birds and the flowers and for you in Matthew 6:25-34. The birds and the flowers don't worry where their next meal comes from, yet the Father provides for them. How much more valuable are you than they!

When we take time with our Heavenly Father to seek his face in the Scriptures, **He settles our fears with His mercy and forgiveness and the great Good News of Jesus Christ** and our salvation in Him, because of all that He has done for us.

Now He quiets the storms of life. He restores your soul and creates that steadfast spirit within you. **Let's take time, not just this Father's Day, but every day, with our heavenly Father.** He's a father like no other!

Blessings to all fathers – and others, *Pastor Miller*

Happy
FATHER'S
Day



First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at the home of Linda Fromm

Members are reading—and will discuss—*The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel.

This will be the last regular meeting for the year. Ladies are asked to be

thinking about books they would like to suggest for consideration for next year's reading list.

Please RSVP to Linda by Wednesday, June 1, at 406-459-3584.



We Give Thanks to God
for our **Choir Members**

HIS Kids! | Chancel Choir

Dorcas Circle quilters work wonders with fabric, thread!

The women of Dorcas Circle thank the members and friends of First Lutheran Church for their wonderful support throughout the year. We received a generous amount of beautiful fabric, sheets, crochet thread, and school supplies. We also thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for awarding an Action Grant of \$250 to purchase batting.

In addition to the Wednesday morning crew, other women cut squares and sewed schoolbags. Lisa Olson brought boxes and provided the professional scale when we packed boxes for shipping.

The quilts were blessed on May 4 and 8, packed on May 11, and picked up on May 13. With our partner quilters at Touchmark, we sent 72 quilts and 25 school kits to Lutheran World Relief. We also donated two quilts to First Lutheran School and one to the Florence Crittenton Home (through the LWML Montana District Convention).

To see where items were distributed in 2021, check the map on the quilting closet door. For more information, talk to a quilter or read about Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org.

We thank God for your contributions to this ministry of the church. If you would like to sew tops during the summer, please speak to Bridget Michel for squares or details.



Some of the beautiful quilts lovingly made by Dorcas Circle and Touchmark ladies displayed in the First Lutheran Sanctuary during the LWML Montana District Convention held April 29—May 1, 2022.

WNT Bible study to recess

The Wednesday New Technology (WNT) Bible study group will recess from June 1 through July 12, 2022. Hank Trenk, the leader, lives in Missoula, thus the telephone number. We will resume on July 6 at 11 a.m. in the library, or by calling in from individual homes. Check with us for the phone number. Both fellows and gals are welcome (young folks, too). We are currently studying a small portion of the many writings of Martin Luther.

Cards 4 KIDS needs help

Do you have leftover scrapbooking materials? Cards? I will be working on greeting cards this summer, and would love your donations toward CARDS 4 KIDS!

I would welcome stickers, envelopes, and various holiday cards. Thank you!

Janice Larison



Zach LaForge

Zach graduated from Jefferson High School in Boulder on May 22. He is currently employed at Evergreen Irrigation while making a decision on what he would like to pursue in the future.

Zach is the son of Louisa and Al LaForge.

Megan Taylor

Megan graduated from Helena Christian School on May 20. She will be attending Helena College to get her general requirements before transferring to a school that offers Biological Sciences.

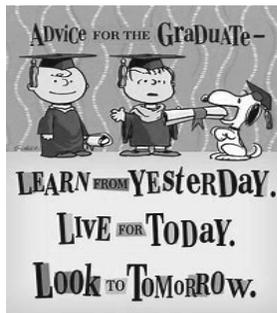
Megan is the daughter of Susan and Paul Taylor.

Thomas Taylor

Thomas graduated from Helena Christian School on May 20. He is planning to attend Montana State University and pursue a degree in Biological Sciences.

Thomas is the son of Susan and Paul Taylor.

**GO WITH GOD,
GRADUATES, AS YOU
START A NEW CHAPTER
IN YOUR LIVES!**



On Sunday, May 15, 2022, after much preparation and study, Julia and Avery Hollatz, daughter and son of Hanna and Aaron Hollatz, were confirmed by Reverend Larry A. Miller.

We thank our gracious God for those who have served faithfully this year as Confirmation teachers: Bridget Michel, Shari Miller, Pastor Miller, and Sue Taylor, Pre-Confirmation teacher.

Julia Grace Hollatz

John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”



Avery Bruce Hollatz

Psalms 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”



*May our gra- cious God go
with you,
Julia and Avery, as you go forth*



F.L.Y. would like to extend a **BIG THANKS** to all who have donated via the envelope board in Ziegler Hall, for generous donations at Easter brunch, and those who came out to the youth car wash! We are getting much closer to our goal, and will be Houston-bound on July 8th!

Your generosity and support is much appreciated!

Summertime splendor

One theme in Psalms is how nature reveals God's glory. That's especially evident during summer. "There is a signature of wisdom and power impressed on the works of God, which evidently distinguishes them from the feeble imitations of men," writes John Newton. "Not only the splendor of the sun, but the glimmering light of the glowworm, proclaims his glory."

That glory shines even brighter when we spend time in God's Word. Thomas Merton writes, "By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God, and I feel fire and music under my feet."

— *The Newsletter Newsletter*



June/July Birthdays

June 3

Pam Dye

June 4

Kelli Maxwell

June 5

Thomas Basinger

Nancy Westerbuhr

June 7

Camille Botteron

June 8

Seth Brott

Claire Longsworth

Randy Middlebrook

Elly Schmeltzer

Cliff Ulmer

June 11

Abbey Barnhart

Tammy Little Hicks

Nathan Nachtsheim

Randy Williams

June 13

Jayce Volpe

June 14

Shirley Clearman

Skip Nicholls

June 17

Wanda Person

Daniel Warsinski

June 18

Dustin Tiegen

June 19

Ezekiel Hollatz

Theodore LaForge

June 20

Michael Bridegroom

June 21

Rick Northrup

June 22

Ava Ellwein

Nora Keim

Jessie Pate

Kathy Rucker

Dale Wagner

June 23

Jenna Blair

June 24

Jim Talley

June 25

Louisa LaForge

June 26

Ela Shields

June 27

Pat Hartman

June 28

Barbara McNeil

June 29

Vickie Stefanik



Happy June
Birthday! Birth

July 1

Duane Westerbuhr

July 4

Asher Hollatz

Nancy Jenkins

July 5

Mary Casey

Crystal Nachtsheim

Kelley Shields

Susan Taylor

July 6

Sam Schmeltzer

July 7

CoraLee Kuehne

Samuel Yager

July 8

Robert Johnson

July 9

Garett Bacon

Spirit Hartford

July 10

Joleigh Mander

July 11

Marge Bouldin

July 12

LeAnn Ferron

July 13

Lorrie Bridegroom

Ryan Clinch

James Hicks

July 14

Dorothy Goodson

July 15

Dean Belcourt

Traeton Duty

July 16

Betty Brewer

Elainah Veach

Emma Veach

July 18

Bryon Elybakken

Laurie Hanson

July 19

Samantha Taylor

July 21

Lowell Bartels

Dennis Giulio

Cheryl Summerer

July 22

Tiffani Eccleston

July 23

Jerry Michel

Emma Taylor

July 24

Bruce Nachtsheim

July 26

Laurie Stelter

Debbie Sternberg

July 27

Nancy Kraft

Pam Worthy

July 28

Thomas Leitzke

July 31

Joseph Warsinski



Happy July
Birthday!



Some popcorn plus a little heat makes a big change.

What you need:

- 2 Tbsp. popcorn kernels
- 2 tsp. oil
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- Brown paper lunch bag

What you do:

1. Add popcorn kernels, oil and sugar to the bag.
2. Fold the bag's top down about half an inch. Repeat two more times. Gently shake to mix ingredients.
3. Microwave for 1½ or 2 minutes (or use the Popcorn setting). Allow bag to cool before removing and opening it.
4. As you share popcorn with family and friends, discuss the change in the kernels. Read Acts 2 together. What changes did the disciples experience? What was the source of their power?



A POWERFUL CALLING

Before his ascension, Jesus tells the disciples they will receive a gift and carry out a job.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

	□	○	△
✝	R	H	L
☩	S	P	W
☪	O	A	I
⊗	T	N	E



“But you will receive _____ when the
 Holy _____ comes on you; and you
 will be my _____ in Jerusalem,
 and in all Judea and Samaria,
 and to the ends of the _____.”
 ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power, Spirit, witnesses, earth

A super idea for kids . . . and parents!



Sometimes, young children have a difficult time sitting still during worship services. Kim Ballard of the Evangelism Committee at First Lutheran has assembled unique “Busy Bags” for kids to use during services on Sundays. The bags were donated by First Lutheran School Director Sue Taylor, and sport the church and school logo. They are located on the “pencil” coat stand in the church entryway, and are to be returned (with contents) at the end of the service so that they can be cleaned and restocked for the next youngsters. Kim put together the special stand, and the extra-special wooden string lacing boards, which are included in the bags, along with other fun items to keep little hands and minds busy.

Evangelism Committee members hope the bags will be popular and well-used!



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

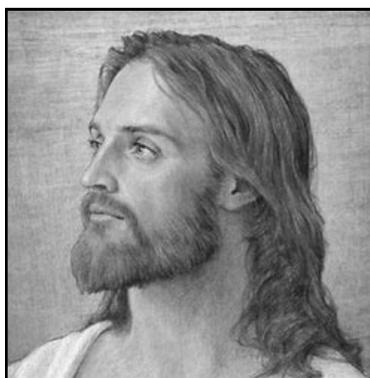
Tune in to “*The Lutheran Hour*”—Sundays at 8 a.m. on the Christian Satellite Network 91.1-FM
or listen on “*Family Talk*” on Sirius XM 131
“*Woman to Woman*”—Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on KMTX 105.3-FM

The Savior’s gift — from your Board of Stewardship

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Is. 43:2–3a).

Savior. That is a word in which we in the Church have so often taken great comfort. We love to talk about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! And we should. We have much to be thankful for in the person and work of Jesus. We should shout it from the rooftop! But, when was the last time you Contemplated the word “Savior”? To say that Jesus is your Savior is also saying something about you. It shows your weakness. To say that Jesus is your Savior means that you are confessing that you can’t save yourself. This flies in the face of what we have been saying since we were three years old. We always want to do things ourselves. The child wants to be independent. The youth can’t wait to

leave home and be independent. The senior citizen does whatever can be



done to be as independent as possible. The sinner in us wants to be independent from God’s rules. The sinful steward often wants to get by with giving as little credit and stewardship as possible to the Lord! But all of these strivings for independence usually end badly! What a mess we can make of our lives at times. We are overwhelmed, consumed and drowned. But Jesus IS

our Savior. All those times we have tried to be independent of Him, He has been right there to catch us when we have fallen. When we have hoarded, He has been generous with His grace. When we have claimed ownership of that which is His and deserved death in the process, He has been there to save us and give us life! He is our Savior! Of that we can be thankful for every day! We are called then to be stewards of this Savior. We serve and live for Him every day. Our lives, and all our possessions, belong to Him. They are to be used for His glory every day! We are saved in Him. In Him we have life!

Prayer

Lord of promise, You are there for us to save us from ourselves every day. Save us again this day from ungratefulness, selfishness and unfaithful stewardship of all we are and all we have. Save us so that we in turn can be used by You to save others. Amen.

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