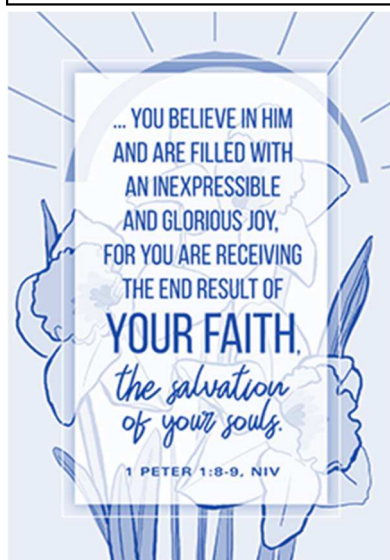




Seek FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Special April Dates

First Edition Book Club.....	April 1
Home of Linda Fromm	
Palm Sunday.....	April 2
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	April 5
Maundy Thursday.....	April 6
Good Friday.....	April 7
The Resurrection of Our Lord.....	April 9
Youth Group Easter Breakfast	
W.O.W. Bible Study.....	April 11
Lifelight: Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi	
Second Sunday of Easter.....	April 16
Dorcas Quilters meet.....	April 19
Third Sunday of Easter.....	April 23
W.O.W. Bible Study.....	April 25
Lifelight: Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi	
Fourth Sunday of Easter.....	April 30



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Call for nominations for open positions on First's Mission & Ministry Council

In preparation for the annual Voters' Assembly meeting, which will be held in June 2023, MMC President Jason Mercer has issued a call for nominations for officers and MMC at-large members to be elected at that meeting. The list of nominees will be closed at the time the meeting agenda and slate of candidates is distributed prior to the meeting.

Nominations are now open for the office of Vice President (for a 1-year term); Secretary (for a 2-year term); Treasurer (for a 2-year term); and four at-large members (two for a 1-year term, and two for a 2-year term). All terms will begin on July 1, 2023.

The office of 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.) Basic duties of the Vice-President include presiding at all meetings of the MMC and/or the congregation when the President is absent, or when requested by the President to do so; initiating counsel with the President should a violation of policy occur; and leading the nominating committee for the election of officers and members of the MMC.

Basic duties of the Secretary include maintaining minutes of all MMC and congregational meetings and documentation of MMC decisions; ensuring that all such minutes are kept on file in the church for future reference; conducting all official correspondence of the MMC and congregational meetings; and being familiar with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Basic duties of the Treasurer are overseeing the financial records of the church; suggesting solutions regarding the church budget; preparing and presenting an annual church budget (spending plan) to be presented to the congregation at the annual voters' meeting; and being familiar with the Constitution and Bylaws.

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

The MMC generally meets one evening each month, for approximately two hours.

If you are interested in sharing your God-given time and skills in one of these positions, please contact Jason. He may be reached by phone at (406)438-1182 or by email to: j Mercer@m-m.net.

(Please see Page 5 for a description of powers and duties of the MMC.)



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The God Who hides

Isaiah declares, "Truly, you are a God Who hides Himself, O God of Israel, the Savior" (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn't our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

"Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ," said 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "know

how wonderfully God hides Himself in this world and how He is closest precisely when we believe Him to be most distant." So God assures us of His presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during His ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover Him precisely where we need Him most, and where others need us most.

— The Newsletter Newsletter

Montana District Family Camps

Red Lodge 2023

"The Household of God"
Ephesians 2:19

Family Camp 1: June 23-25

Family Camp 2: June 27-29



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

Registration fee is \$125
per family.

Questions? Contact the
Montana District LCMS
office at 406-259-2908 or
email:

office@mtdistlcms.org

Register online at:

<https://mtdistlcms.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 18 - 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 19 to (406)259-2908

or email to: office@mtdistlcms.org



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.

2023 Summer Camp Dates

3rd/4th Grade Day Camp.....June 19-21

3rd/4th Grade Overnight Camp.....June 21-23

5th/6th Grade Camp.....June 25-30

7th/8th Grade Camp.....July 2-7

Servant Event Week.....July 9-14

5th-9th Grade Basketball Camp.....July 16-21

9th-12th Grade High School Camp...July 24-29

Registration opens April 1!

For detailed information and to register:

www.trinitylutherancamp.org

Choose *Summer Camps 2023* in the menu

Camperships available!

Contact Mel Reiner: mel@trinitykalispell.org



A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>Feb. 2023</u>	<u>FY 2023 Y-T-D</u>
Income (Church & School)	\$36,077.44	\$356,629.23
Expense (Church & School)	<u>\$40,360.50</u>	<u>\$333,814.78</u>
Net Income/Loss	(\$ 4,283.06)	\$ 22,814.45

The First Word

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(406)442-5367



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

**Deadline for the May First Word is Wednesday,
April 19. Place articles in the First Word box in
the church office or e-mail them to:**

lindafromm@mac.com



FROM OUR
PASTOR

Easter Crosses the River!

"God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh," Romans 8:3.

Max Lucado, in his book, *Six Hours One Friday*, tells the story of a missionary in Brazil who discovered a tribe of Indians in a remote part of the jungle. They lived near a large river. The tribe needed medical attention. A contagious disease was ravaging the population. People were dying daily.

A hospital was not too terribly far away - across the river, but the Indians would not cross it because they believed it was inhabited by evil spirits. To enter the water would mean certain death. The missionary **explained** how he had crossed the river and was unharmed. They were not impressed. He then took them to the bank and **placed his hand in the water**. They still wouldn't go in. He **walked into the water up to his waist and splashed water on his face**. It didn't matter. They were still afraid to enter the river. Finally, he **dove into the river, swam beneath the surface until he emerged on the other side**. He punched a triumphant fist into the air. He had entered the water and escaped. It was then that the Indians broke out into a cheer and followed him across.

That's exactly what Easter is about! When Jesus dwelt on earth, He told the people of His day that they need not fear the river of death, but they wouldn't believe.

He **touched a dead boy and called him back to life**. They still didn't believe. He **whispered life into the body of Jairus' dead daughter** and got the same result. He let His dear friend, **Lazarus**, spend four days in a tomb and then **called him out**. The people still didn't believe Him. Finally, on the day we call Good Friday, **He entered the river of death**. Many watched but were unmoved. He **was buried** while others, including His disciples, feared death all the more. On Easter morning, **He came out on the other side**. Through **His resurrection** we have the "medicine" we desperately need for the contagious deadly disease of sin. When **He rose from the river of death** on the other side, like the Indians in Lucado's story, we break out into cheers yelling, **"He is risen, risen indeed!"**



The day will come when we follow Him across the river of death, and we will rise on the other side. As Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, we can say, "O death where is your sting, O grave where is your victory?"

On Easter Christ made the way for us to cross the river! Thanks be to God!
Happy Easter, Church Family!

Pastor Miller

+ Holy Week and Easter Worship at First Lutheran +

Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound!

On this 250th anniversary year of the writing of “Amazing Grace” we tie the words of this beloved song to our lives today as Christ’s disciples.

Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us to realize that though we once were lost in sin,
we have been found by Jesus,
and though we once were blind to God’s mercy,
we now can see His love at work in us
through our Savior’s death and resurrection.



Palm Sunday – April 2 – (8:15 & 11 a.m.) - *Peter*

We wave palm branches to our coming King,
and we ponder the amazing grace that came to Peter,
who denied Jesus yet was fully forgiven by him,
just as we are, and called into service for him.

Maundy Thursday – April 6 (12:10 & 7 p.m.)- *John*

John experienced amazing grace in the Lord’s Supper,
humbly receiving the body and blood of Jesus in the bread and wine.

We experience this amazing grace, too,
each time we partake in Holy Communion.



Good Friday - April 7 - (12:10 & 7 p.m.) – *The Penitent Thief*

We recognize that the penitent thief crucified with Jesus
received amazing grace when Jesus promised him
that he would be with the Lord in paradise that very day.
That promise of paradise extends to us through the cross.

Easter SonRise - April 9 - (6:30 a.m.) – *The Risen Body of Christ*

Easter Resurrection Festival -

April 9 - (8:15 & 11 a.m.) – *Mary Magdalene*

we come to understand that Mary Magdalene
witnessed amazing grace outside the empty tomb
when she encountered Jesus risen from the dead.

We await the free gift of new life to come
because of His resurrection for us.



Easter Wednesday - April 12 - (6:30 p.m.) – *Easter Devotion*

Second Sunday of Easter - April 16 - (8:15 & 11 a.m.) – *Paul*

we marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul,
who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord
through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

The cross of Christ changes us all from enemies to friends!

Powers and duties of the Mission & Ministry Council

For those who wish to consider serving as an officer or at-large member of the MMC, following is a brief description of the way our governing body operates.

The MMC has the power to develop policies as required to execute the goals approved by the Voters' Assembly, and has no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon it by the Constitution, the Bylaws, and by the Voters' Assembly.

It is the chief governing body of the congregation, and acts in all matters pertaining to the legal and general welfare of the congregation, except those reserved for the Voters' Assembly (in Article VI.B. of the Constitution).

The MMC sees to it that all activities of the church reflect the purpose (Article II) and faith (Article III) of the congregation. It concerns itself with establishing all policies governing the activities of the congregation and with the implementation of the mission, vision, budget, goals and plans adopted by the Voters' Assembly.

The MMC may appoint any group or individual needed, and oversees and has authority over all other boards, committees, task forces, action teams, or other groups of individuals appointed by the MMC.



I am sure your baby bottles for Options Clinic are filling up (or are filled) by now. Please think about bringing them back to the church so we can get them to the folks at

Options who so lovingly help many in need. Your help in this fundraiser is gratefully appreciated.

— Ruth Stelter



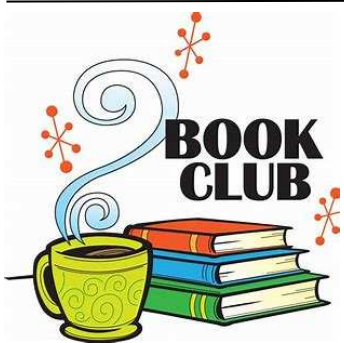
***Christ is Risen!
Risen, Indeed!
Alleluia!***

First Lutheran Youth
will prepare and serve
a delicious
EASTER BREAKFAST
on

Sunday, April 9
immediately following the
Sunrise Worship Service
(approximately 7:15 a.m.).

Please join us!

*A free will offering will be gratefully
accepted and proceeds will go
toward costs to send youth group members
to the 2025 National Youth Gathering
in New Orleans.*



First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the home of Linda Fromm for lunch and discussion.

Members are currently reading—and will discuss—*A Cup of Tears: Escape from Siberia to a Life of Triumph in America* by Florence Smith and Bonnie Kay Worley.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP to Linda IMMEDIATELY by calling or texting 406-459-3584.

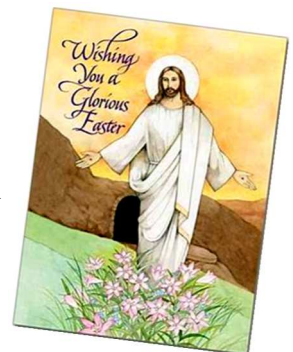
The May luncheon and discussion will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at the home of Terry Wareham. For the May meeting, members will read—and discuss—*A Noble Calling* by Rhona Weaver. Please RSVP to Terry by Wednesday, May 3, by calling or texting 406-697-6612. Watch for further information on possible carpooling to Terry's home.

Purchase of Easter cards benefits 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. Card packages, which are made up of 10 cards and priced at \$5 per package, will be available through April 8.

Janice thanks all those who purchased Valentine cards in February. A total of \$116 was given to F.L.Y. to support their programs and activities during the coming months.

Janice is accepting donated holiday cards, envelopes, and any other scrapbooking type materials you may be able to provide for this ministry.

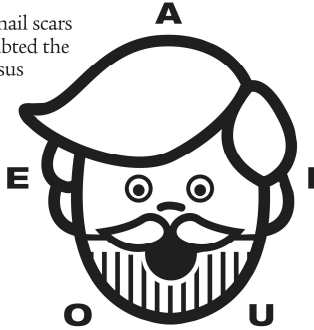




SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ n m _ ,
y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
s _ _ n _ nd _ y _ t _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



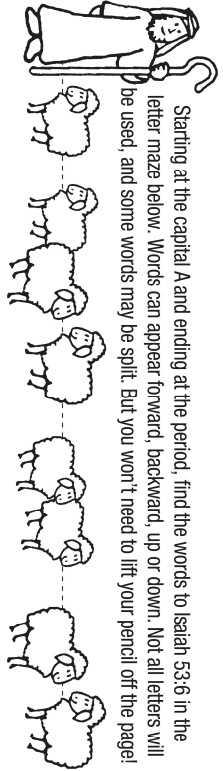
What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

All we like to believe we say we command and so the rightness of
gospel to us reveal the testimony of our sin and the iniquity
right as it is praised self to our way of a human corner for
heavenly is a good one to give us a way to go for a reason
return to our faith and trust in the word of the Lord.

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV



April 1

Kristin Basinger
Arlena Deppmeier
Sonja Elvbakken

April 2

Richard Ellwein

April 3

Darlene Staffelt

April 4

Quinn Hanson
Ryan Rose

April 5

Elijah Walker

April 8

Kim Ballard
Lillian Buhr
Jonathan Maxwell

April 9

Joseph Ellwein

April 10

Tierney Beatty
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 18

Pippa Davis

April 19

Joe Jorgensen

April 20

Dale Young

April 21

Meagan Kraft
Rob Lebahn
Gibson McIntosh

April 22

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

Jerry Smith





Happenings at First Lutheran School



Director
Sue Taylor

Get Set Teacher
Hanna Hollatz

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Lori Radtke

After School Care
Julia Hollatz/Pam Worthy/Jessie Belcourt

Pastor
Larry A. Miller

What We Know About Jesus and His love

*First Lutheran School's PreK students know that Jesus loves them!
They shared what they know about His love.*

Archie: "Jesus loves us and we love Him back."

Averie: "Jesus is the best human. He died for our sins. He forgives us.
He is God now."

Brayden: "Jesus rose on Easter Day. He is back alive."

Charlotte: "Jesus died to wash away our sins. Now He is loving us."

Emery: "Jesus had nails in His hands. He came back alive! He rose back
from the dead."

Kamilah: "God died on the cross for our sins. He washed away our sins.
That makes me feel good."

Kyson: "Jesus is the Dad of us! He likes us!"

Sierra: "Jesus died on the cross for us. He healed Himself."

Beckham: "Jesus is the strong super hero. Jesus heals us."

Kylie: "Jesus took away our sins. Jesus rose again."



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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

Gifts for the generations to come — from your Board of Stewardship

“The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children’s children! Peace be upon Israel!”
(Psalm 128:5-6)



Stewardship is a generational thing. Without fail, those who grasp and practice the depth and joy of faithful stewardship have almost always learned it, not from a book or seminar, but from the faithful

example of those who paved the way before them. In many churches, the visible generosity of the sanctuary is a clear example. That God’s people would be willing to sacrifice for the sake of the joy of the Gospel being proclaimed to subsequent generations,

even when they rest from their labors with Jesus, is nothing short of remarkable!

We know peace with God because it was passed down to us from earlier generations. This puts our stewardship in a much clearer perspective. So often we have thought of stewardship considering what is needed for the here and now. But the blessing from God is generational. As the Lord allows us to see our children’s children, it gives us the opportunity as stewards of God’s grace to share the Gospel and its treasure with the generations that follow. This generational stewardship is really nothing other than sharing the peace that is ours in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As stewards, we respond to God’s giving of simple gifts with joy. Joy like this is contagious! It is our goal to have it be catching from one generation to the next. How you respond today, both with the action of

faithful stewardship, as well as the depth of your generosity, is what causes this joy to spread. Knowing that we are sharing this simple gift is the greatest blessing!

Prayer

Generous Lord, You have caused us to be heirs of the Gospel because of the generosity of the generations before us. We are grateful for these simple gifts. We pray that by Your Holy Spirit You would continue to spread the joy of this prosperity with the generations after us by leading us to be faithful stewards of these simple gifts today. Show Jesus to them through us now and even after we rest from our labors with you! Amen.

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