

**WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN!**  
**“Worshiping Christ and Serving our Neighbor”**  
**May 4 & , 2024 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Graduation Recognition)**  
**5:30 pm & 8:00 am Traditional**

**Prelude – Joyful Noise**

**“Down in My Heart”**

**Welcome & Announcements**

*(Please stand)*

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**Hymn:**

**“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” (#230)**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

(Kyrie)

**P:** In peace, let us pray. . .

**C: Lord, have mercy (x4).....**

**Amen**

(Hymn of Praise/Canticle)

**P:** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**First Lesson: (You may be seated)**

**Acts 10:34-48**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm (Read responsively)**

**Psalm 98**

**Second Lesson:**

**1 John 5:1-8**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation (pg. 62)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel:**

**John 15:9-17**

P: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ. (You may be seated)**

**Children's Message: Graduation Recognition**

**Pastor Carlin Ours**

**The SERMON:**

**Pastor Carlin Ours**

**Hymn: (Please stand)**

**"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (#389)**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Prayers:**

P: Let us pray...

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**The OFFERING (You may be seated)**

**5:30 pm:**

**8:00 am: Choir**

**"Before You I Kneel"**

*(Please stand)* Offertory

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary...

### Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion Hymns:

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (#499)

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (#315)

“Now Thank We All Our God” (#534)

P: The body and blood of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace & lead you into eternal life

**C: Amen**

P: Let us pray

**C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen**

Hymn:

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (#439)

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please sign our guest book located in the Narthex, including a COMPLETE mailing address, so that we may recognize your visit with us! Thank you!

Please continue to pray for: Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Kerry & Carol Foster, Terri Heins, Shelly Hodgson, Jim Jones, Jennifer Kindermann, Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Blayne Dixon, Joshua Durbin, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Katherine Harding, Melissa Hoerner, Joni Koch, Owen Lyons, Ariel Mattingly, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Michael O'Shea, Rick Ours, Richard Pfaff, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Dave & Carol Tharp, John Turner, Bob Wiechmann, Carol Wilson, John Winchester, Tiffany Wubben & PJ & Lori Zachman. CHILDREN: Elliot Buchheit, Able Fuchs, Gabriela Krueger, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

We pray for all families within our congregation who are struggling in any way at this time.

Prayer List....please contact the office if you wish to have a name added AND when someone's name can be removed. THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for sponsoring our Altar Flowers: Marion Willhoite in memory of our parents; Gary & Debbie Crull in honor of their 20th anniversary.

Thank you for sponsoring our Box Cast Livestream Broadcast: Fred & Patti Shirley in honor of blessings received.

Altar Flowers and Broadcast Sponsorships...Please review the sign-up sheets on the board in the Narthex for those weekends you sponsored (or would like to sponsor) the \$20 Altar Flowers and/or \$30 Live Broadcast. Checks for the flowers and/or broadcast are to be made payable to First Lutheran Church. Both charts are hanging up in the Narthex. Thank you!

Writing a check? Please make it payable to "First Lutheran Church", then use the memo line to designate specific location (Flowers; Box Cast; Jesse's Ride, Memorial for \_\_\_\_; etc.). Thank you!!

Food Pantry...During the month of May, we will be collecting: paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, etc., toothbrushes, toothpaste, "pop-top" canned foods, canned "complete" meals (w/meat), complete pancake mix, syrup, feminine products, laundry detergent, kid's cereal. Most of these items can be purchased inexpensively at the Dollar Tree. The pantry will also accept donations of UNOPENED, NON-PERISHABLE food & supplies. Thank you for your continued support

Noah's Ark Preschool – Questions may be directed to: Noah's Ark at 815-842-2625 or feel free to email Mrs. Immke at pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com.

Euchre – 6:30 pm on the first & third Mondays of the month. If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley at 815/545-9293.

Adult Bible Study.... Wednesdays @ 9:30 am AND 6 pm. Subject: "Revelation Apocalypse"

Knitwits...will be on hiatus from May until the fall. Please contact Sue Hiatt with any questions.

Please update your e-mail (& mailing) address(es) with the church office ASAP. Thank you!!  
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)...Quilters will be working on Saturdays from 9 am – 5 pm and may "choose which hours they wish to work". They will be able to come & go during that time as they wish.  
NEW GROUP....."Come Eat Out" (CEO group) will hold their second meal on Tue., May 28th at Pontiac Family Kitchen. A sign-up sheet is on the clipboard (along with the regular sign-up sheets).

GRADUATION RECOGNITION....will take place at all services the weekend of May 4th & 5th.

**VBS.....Scuba (our 2024 VBS Theme) helpers will be needing some supplies to help them get through the week. You will find a list on the tables by the bulletins. Please add: rolls of paper towels, empty shoe boxes, colorful bath poufs/loofahs, plastic tablecloths (\$.97 @ Walmart) in blue, green and yellow, crepe paper streamers (light & dark blue, medium & lime green), 5" plates, 8 oz cups, napkins and medium & large Styrofoam balls. NO more toilet paper rolls or pool noodles, please!! If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you will find specially labeled "Scuba" envelopes in the pew racks. Thank you all for all of your help with this worthy program.**

**VBS DECORATING.....May 9 from 1-6 pm and May 14 from 4-7 pm. All ages are welcome to join in as there are opportunities for EVERYONE to help and the committee will take whatever time someone can give!!**

**CHURCH DIRECTORY.....Plans are moving forward for the creation of a new church directory. The directory will be done under the direction of Universal Church Directories. Photo dates will be Tuesday, May 21st, Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd with photo times between 2 pm & 8:30 pm each day. (NOTE: Tuesday & Wednesday times are completely booked!! YAY!!!). You may sign up for an appointment before/after weekend services. During the week you may go directly to their website: "www.ucdir.com" to sign up for a photo appointment. Once at the site you will need the church code (il370) and the church password (photos) to set up your appointment. (Please keep in mind that the code AND password ARE case sensitive). The online sign-up is NOT active during Saturdays & Sundays. Every family who participates will receive a free directory and a free 8 x 10. Other photo packages, etc. will be available to order following your photo shoot. Price sheets are posted near our entrances for you to review prior to your scheduled photo shoot. If you have further questions, please call the office between 8 am & 3:30 pm M-F. Let's make this directory an overwhelming success!!! **THANK YOU!!!****

**MEMBERSHIP.....If you are interested in joining FLC, please discuss with Pastor in order to move forward with joining us here at First Lutheran.**

**MEN IN MISSION STEAK FRY.....is scheduled for Thursday, June 13th @ 5:30 pm @ Robinson's Pond (Thank you, Delbert & Cathy for the use of your property!!). Cost will be \$20 and a sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board between the church offices. Please see either Roger Henkel or Jim Drenchwitz if you have questions.**

**100th BIRTHDAY!!.....Harley Mayer turns 100 years young on 6/3/24. How many times do you get to celebrate someone turning 100? Please celebrate with us at an open house on Sat., June 1st, 2024 from 1-3 pm in the downtown Evenglow Lodge "Living" Room @ 215 E. Washington St. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to stop by & visit Harley anytime (Tjardes Health Ctr, Rm 141) or send a card. Thank you.**

**Totals for the Week**

**Saturday – 25 Sunday – 8 am – 85 10:30 am – 31**

**Sunday School: Students - Teachers - \$ 31**

**Contributions This Week: Sat./Sun. – \$ 2,933  
(needed to meet budget – \$ 6,123)**

**This week at First:**

**Sat., May 4 9 am – 5 pm – Quilters  
5:30 pm – Traditional Worship Service w/Graduation Recognition**

**Sun., May 5 8:00 am – Traditional Worship Service w/Graduation Recognition  
9:15 am – Sunday School  
10:30 am – Contemporary Worship Service w/Graduation Recognition**

**Mon., May 6 9:15 am – Bible Study @ The Pointe  
6:30 pm – Euchre**

**Tues., May 7**

**Wed., May 8**

**9:30 am – Adult Bible Study  
6:00 pm – Adult Bible Study  
6:00 pm – Choir**

**Thurs., May 9**

**1-6 pm – VBS Decorating**

**Fri., May 10**

**Pastor – Regular Day Off**

**Sat., May 11**

**9 am – 5 pm – Quilters  
5:30 pm – Traditional Worship Service w/Mother's Day Recognition**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**May 13 – Memorial Committee @ 6:30 pm  
May 14 – VBS Decorating @ 4-7 pm  
May 14 – Council @ 7 pm  
May 20 – Grief Support Group @ 7 pm @ “The Breakroom”  
May 21/22/23 – Church Directory Photos @ 2 pm – 8:30 pm  
May 28 – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE @ NOON  
May 28 – 2nd CEO Group @ Pontiac Family Kitchen @ 5:30 pm  
May 28 – Worship Committee @ 7 pm  
May 30/31 – GRMD Retreat in Magnolia, IL  
May 31 – Newsletter Assembly @ 9 am**

**June 1 – Open House for Harley Mayer's 100th @ Evenglow “Living”  
Room (downtown) @ 1-3 pm  
June 3-7 – VBS @ 8:30 am – 11:30 am  
June 13 – Men In Mission Steak Fry – Robinson's Pond @ 5:30 pm  
June 18-22 – Helping Hands Sales benefit Jesse's Ride**