

First Edition

The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church

April 2024

Issue Number: 240 Issued: Monthly

April Worship

Sunday, April 7

Holy Communion

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional
10:00 am - Celebration

Sunday, April 14

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional
10:00 am - Celebration

Sunday, April 21

Holy Communion

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional
10:00 am - Celebration

Sunday, April 28

Choir Festival

FLC Choir & Alleluia Bells
8:30 am & 10:00 am services



In This Issue

<i>FLC Photos</i>	2
<i>From the Pastor</i>	3
<i>Sharing & Caring</i>	4
<i>Small Groups</i>	4,5
<i>FLC Happenings</i>	6
<i>7th & 8th Grade Retreat Photos</i>	7
<i>Stewardship of God's Creation</i>	8
<i>Baby Baskets, First Kids Sing</i>	8
<i>First Kids & 456ers</i>	9
<i>Youth & Family Ministries</i>	10



Speaking to one another with psalms,
hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing
and make music from your
heart to the Lord...

- Ephesians 5:19

FLC Photos

Chili and Game Night



Lent



A Word from the Pastor

“So, what do I do now?”

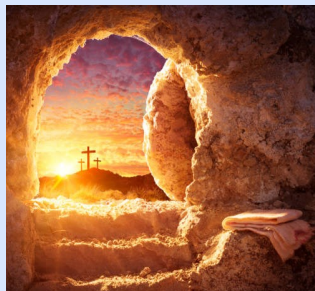
After Jesus is placed in the tomb, the disciples decided to go into hiding. They worried that others would say they were Jesus' followers and thus were afraid they might get crucified too.



Imagine being one of them and wondering what to do next. When will it be safe to walk the streets again? What would Jesus want them to do now that he was gone? Should they just go back to fishing or some other job since there was nothing better to do? How would their families react after all of the drama in Jerusalem and in Golgotha, the place where Jesus was crucified?

They had a couple of days to think about it all. Talk about being between a rock and a hard place! They seemingly had lost everything. Danger lurked everywhere. Hope was replaced by fear and trepidation.

Then.....**SURPRISE!!** Everything was turned upside down. The tomb was empty. They heard someone had actually talked with Jesus. How could that be? Was it OK to hope for something that is unbelievable?



What did they do next? Some doubted. Others believed. Thomas was not persuaded. Neither were the ancient Jews or Romans. If we were in their shoes, what would we have thought?

For Christians, Easter is the highest Sunday of the year. It is also the prime event that serves as the cornerstone of our faith. But there is more.

The disciples' lives were changed forever due to Jesus' resurrection. They needed to adapt to a new way of serving. After Jesus' ascension, they graduated from being pupils to becoming apostles, ambassadors for the faith.

How about us? What does Easter mean for our lives? It's not about just one day. How does the celebration of the resurrection influence our lives?

Perhaps these are important questions we should always be asking!

Pastor Lehman

Council Highlights

At its March meeting, the Council:

- > Approved a proposal from Noah Steinmetz to do a project at FLC and earn an **Eagle Award** as a Boy Scout. (Only 4% of Boy Scouts earn such an honor.)
- > Approved a recommendation from the Administration Committee to **restructure some of FLC's Dedicated Funds** to make reports easier to read and access.
- > Approved a recommendation from the leaders of the **kitchen remodeling** project. This project was approved. The remodeling will take place during the summer. Caring Hearts and Hands gifts will fund this appeal.
- > Learned that the Administration Committee approved **two facility requests** for dates in May related to Syttende Mai.
- > Learned that the **electrical update project** for the parsonage will likely take place in April.
- > Learned from Pastor Sara how the preaching schedule will be adjusted while Pastor Lehman is on sabbatical.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"What I like best about Easter Sunday is the candy, and Jesus not bein' dead anymore."

Sharing and Caring

Special Prayers for...

Susan Albright
Judy Casey
Dennis Dokken (brother of Pam Close)
Stephanie Gilbert
Richard Green (father of Rikki Klassy)
Gene Heise
Gary & Gwen Hicks (friends of Albrights)
Al King
Lani Kohrt
Paul Krueger
Yvonne Marshall (sister of Wayne Kiefer)
Ted Olson
Jean Peterson

Lois Petrie
(wife of Custodian Jim Petrie)
Ron Pieper
Kathy Saxe (friend of Pastor Sara)
Don Steele (brother of Ron Steele)
Ron Steele
Rae Stelzer
Emily Vitale
(daughter of Karen Thomson)
Elena Weiner
(friend of Mary Ellen Gordon)
Judy Zillmer (mother of Kendra Eppler)
Steve Zillmer (father of Kendra Eppler)

Our Condolences to the family & friends of...

Lenny Dokken (brother of Pam Close)
Lois Krekling (sister of Jeanne Jacobson)

Congratulations to...

Aaron and Hallie Jahr on the birth
of their daughter, Ellie June

Baptism



We welcome
Mason Carl Vale,
whose parents
(far right and left) are
Gregory Gretchen Vale.
His sponsors (center) are
Erik and Jazzmine Rusch.

FLC Guys Golf

The 2024 golf season is starting soon. Outings will be scheduled the 2nd & 4th Tuesday morning of each month at area golf courses. Please join us for any of the outings that work for you. It's a great opportunity for some fun on the course and fellowship with your FLC friends.



Please contact: Chuck Geurink, chuck.geurink@gmail.com, 345-4333, or Rich Albright, albrightclann@gmail.com, 215-6027, to indicate your interest in being included on our golfers email list. Notices to sign-up for each outing will be sent out as the season progresses. Game on and bring a friend!

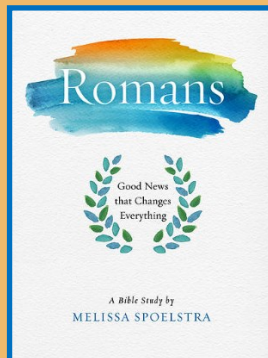
Small Group Ministries

Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters will meet on **Monday, April 15, from 10:00-11:45 am** in the Fireside Room. Guests and new members are always welcome!

We will begin a new study called *Romans: Good News that Changes Everything* by Melissa Spoelstra.

The Book of Romans will highlight significant concepts regarding the good news about faith, grace, daily life, God's plan, relationships, and eternity. **Find the good news that brings hope and spiritual renewal!**



Men's Breakfast and Bibles

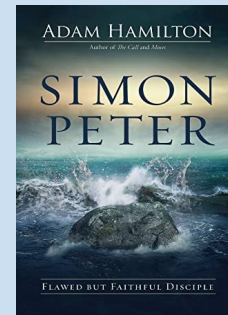
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

The bible study is *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful* by Adam Hamilton

Breakfast: 7:30 am at The Pancake Cafe.

Bible Study 9:00 am at the church

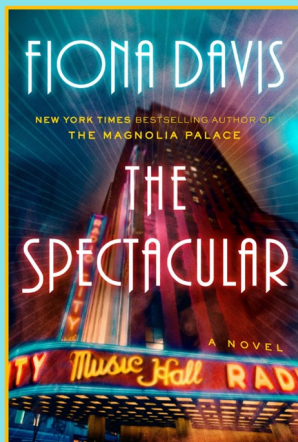
Information:
Contact **Rich Albright**
albrightclannn@gmail.com /
(608) 215-6027.



Selah Book Club

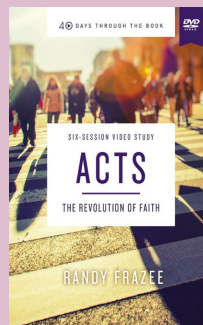
The **Selah Book Club** will be meeting on **Thursday, April 18 at 10:00 am** in the Church Library. The book for this month is *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis.

If you have questions about this book club or would like to join please contact Marcia Seybold at (608) 333-7326. A list of the books for this year is on the Information Center bulletin board.



Monday Zoom Faith Conversations

Join the Monday Study group! It meets **Mondays on Zoom at 6pm**. We will begin a new study on **April 22**.

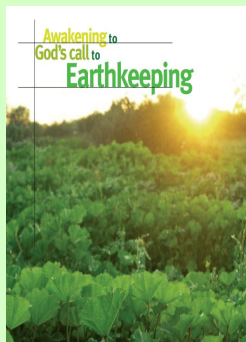


This group will use **40 Days Through the Book: Acts - The Revolution of Faith** by Randy Frazee. All are welcome to participate!

Get a study guide from Pastor Sara at pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com or 608-873-7761.

Care for Creation Study

Starting Monday, April 1, 6:00 pm, FLC Library
Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping



The series is a four week Monday evening study on our call to care for creation.

Contact Kendra Eppler at (608) 219-5525 with questions.

Contact Kendra or the FLC office to join the group.

Women's Circles

Circle 3 will meet on **Tuesday, April 9 at 11 am** at Deak's.

Phoebe Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm** at Linda Milam's home.

If you are interested contact Jeanne Gilbertson at 608-692-3452.



FLC Happenings

Thank You!

Thank you to the Scouts for bringing all the food we collected in February to the Stoughton Food Pantry! We collected over 600 pounds!



Spring Choir Festival

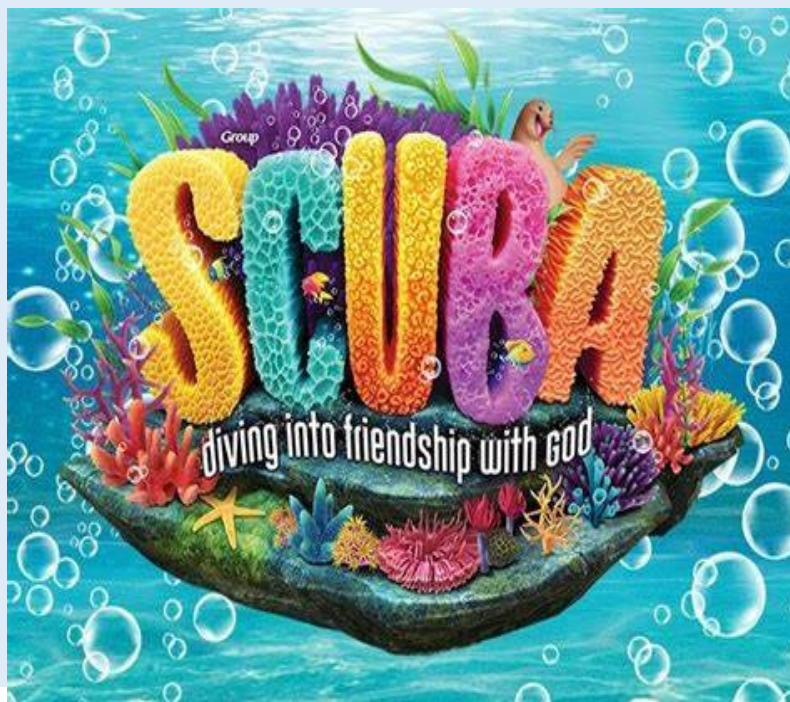
The Alleluia Bells and FLC Choir will offer inspiring anthems during their annual spring choir festival on **Sunday, April 28** at both the 8:30 and 10:00 am worship services.

Invite your friends and relatives to join you in attending this musical worship experience.

Save the Dates! SCUBA Vacation Bible School

Sunday - Thursday
June 23-27
6:00 - 8:00pm

Mark your calendar and tell your friends! We will need help decorating prior to VBS and help with a variety of activities during VBS. Please see Pastor Sara or Emilee Purcell if you are interested!



7th and 8th Grade Retreat Photos



At the end of February the Confirmation Students came to the church for the Sexuality Retreat. The kids learn about the gift God gives us through sex. Using games, worksheets and small group discussions, they get to practice decision making skills from a faith based perspective. Parents also get involved and have an opportunity to talk to their kids about sex.



Stewardship of God's Creation - April is Earth Month



April is Earth Month ~ Kendra Eppler

While we should continuously put forth effort to care for God's creation, April is commonly considered Earth Month. A month in which care of the earth is of particular focus.



Please consider joining me on Saturday, April 20, in supporting St. John's (Oregon) Earth Day Festival. The event is scheduled for 12:30 – 4:30 pm. If you can join me, please let me know (608-219-5525 or jkepplerfamily@gmail.com) or sign up in the information center. My intent is to coordinate carpooling to/from St. John's, meeting at FLC about 12:00 noon and leaving at 12:10pm for St. John's.

Following are a few other "goings on" during April that I've come across (live links in online newsletter). An online search is likely to reveal others as more are announced.

[Earth Day Celebration](#) at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville (April 21), though several other earth-related activities are planned throughout the month.

[Earth Month Clean Up](#) with Sustain Dane at Garver Feed Mill in Madison (April 13)

[Family Friendly Restoration at Steward Lake County Park](#) with Dane County Parks (April 21)

[Family Night Out](#) with Dane County Parks (April 26)

[Youth Volunteers for Conservation Spring 2024](#) with Dane County Parks (April 6, 17)

[UW Arboretum](#) various nature related activities in April

[Clean Lakes 101: Rights of Nature](#) with Clean Lake Alliance (April 17)

[Climate Change Story Slam](#) with Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters at Madison Public Library Central Library (April 20)

[Party for the Planet](#) at Henry Vilas Zoon (May 4)

Please help us fill the baskets!

Baby Basket needs:

Baby Wipes
Fall and winter 9-12 month old outfits for Boys
Fall and winter 0-3 month old outfits for girls
Girl Onesies 9-12 months
Hooded Towels

Items can be placed in the basket in the Lower Atrium or brought to the office.
Thank you for giving generously to these little ones!



First Kids Sing

Sunday, May 12

Sing at both services
Kids Under Construction

Sunday, June 2

Spring Program at 10am

First Kids

Growing

In Faith

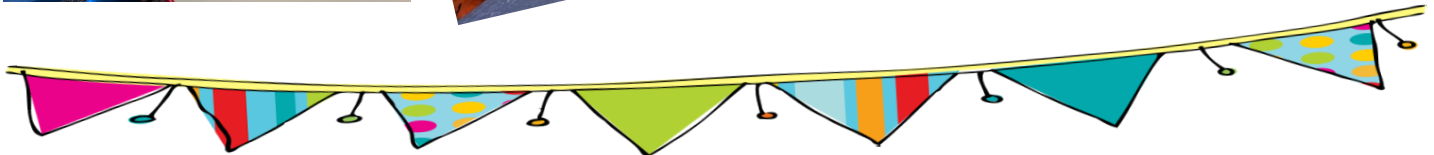
Together



April 7: Jesus wants us help others
April 17: Jesus wants us to be fair
April 21: God has the power to heal us
April 28: God can change our hearts

4th - 6th Graders or **IMPACT 456** will be learning about the New Testament.

April 7: The Triumphal Ride into Jerusalem
April 14: Tricky Questions
April 21: Last Day in the Temple
April 28: The Last Supper and Gethsemane



First Kids Sunday School Spring Program

Sunday, June 2 at the 10:00 am
Worship Service

First Kids will have an opportunity to share a special program with the congregation on Sunday, June 2 at the 10:00 Worship Service. Children will learn the songs for the program during the Openings Time before First Kids classes during April & May.

Children or youth who would like to **play an instrument** in the program can contact Pastor Sara or sign up outside the Openings Room.

Youth and Family Ministries

Senior High Youth Bible Study

- Who?** All Senior High Youth and Friends!
- What?** A Bible Study just for Sr. High Youth! We will focus on the texts preached about in church and make real life applications to our lives.
- When?** Every other Sunday at 11:30 am. In April we will meet on April 7 and 21.
- Where?** Meet in the Fellowship Hall. On some Sundays we might go out to eat for our discussions.
- Why?** To have fun and learn and grow in faith together.



Attention Youth Musicians!

Do you have a Solo or Ensemble piece to share?

Have a recital coming up and need some extra practice in front of an audience?

Have a couple of friends who love to share music together?

See Pastor Sara for a time to share your music in worship!

Youth Rummage Sale

**Saturday, April 20
8am to Noon**

It's the New Year! Time to clean out the attic, garage, basement and closets! The annual Youth Rummage Sale is scheduled for **April 20** (Some might need that much time. 😊) You can bring donations now!



This event is a huge fundraiser for the youth. Thank you in advance for your donations!

FLC Youth Mini Golf

Who: Middle School and High School Students and friends

What: Fun event: Pizza at FLC followed by Mini Golf Event at Vitense Golfland
Play a round of mini golf and then choose one of the following:

- ◆ 2nd round of miniature golf
- ◆ Batting cage tokens
- ◆ (1) 6 minute session of hiball
- ◆ Remote control boat tokens
- ◆ Small bucket of range balls
- ◆ Climb on the rock climbing wall

When: April 14, 11:30 am pizza at FLC, then Mini Golf at Vitense Golfland

Why: To have fun with faithful friends and meet new ones!

Cost: \$10 per person

Transportation: If you would be willing to drive please e-mail Pastor Sara at pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com



Thank You Youth for Your Help
with Lenten Suppers!

First Edition

The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church

Contact Information:

310 E. Washington Street

P.O. Box 322

Stoughton, WI 53589

Phone: (608) 873-7761

Email: info@flcstoughton.com

Website: www.flcstoughton.com



April 2024

**Address
Service
Requested**

**First Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 322
Stoughton, WI 53589-0322**

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 30
Stoughton, WI**