

# First Edition

The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church

## May 2024

Issue Number: 241 Issued: Monthly

### *May Worship*

**Sunday, May 5**

**Holy Communion**

**Blessing of the Quilts**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Celebration

**Sunday, May 12**

**Mother's Day**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Celebration

**Sunday, May 19**

**Holy Communion**

**Syttende Mai**

9:00 am - Worship Service

**Sunday, May 26**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Baccalaureate Service

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*For now the winter is past,  
 the rain is over and gone.  
 The flowers appear on the earth.  
 Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

## FLC Photos



## Youth And Family Mini Golf



## Projects completed!

During April several property projects were completed!

**The organ is fixed!** Stewart is finally back at the organ after a couple of months playing only the piano.

The knob and tube **wiring at the parsonage** was replaced. Plastering and painting were done to complete the project.



# A Word from the Pastor

Dear Baptized Child of God,

Remember Jesus Loves You!  
You are precious in God's sight.  
You have been blessed with many wonderful gifts to share in this world God created. How come we don't always live with this knowledge in the forefront of our minds?



Baptisms are wonderful! Joy is present on the day we welcome another person into God's family. We laugh and smile as a baby cries through the whole service except when water is put on their head - they might be a preacher or a singer! Or when a teen or an adult makes a decision to live a life of faith. These are beautiful days.

And yet Luther told us to remember our baptism daily. When we wake up, when we brush our teeth or wash the dishes, whenever we drink a glass of water, Luther says it is good to remember our baptism. As we remember, we gain strength from God's gift to live out our faith every day.

Baptism brings good gifts like forgiveness and belonging. It is a tangible reminder of God's grace and love. Whenever we remember our baptism it is like a giant hug. In Baptism, God promises to show up. Will you? Can you do a better job of living out the promises of your baptism this month?

*Child of God you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever.*

Now go and live like it!

**Pastor Sara**

## Council Highlights

At its April meeting, the Church Council:

- Learned about issues the Property Committee is working on including **several leaks**:
  - > Roof leaks in several hallways and the Openings Room.
  - > Water coming from the parking lot and concrete pad by the air conditioner into the basement when it rains.
  - > A leak under the parsonage deck. The Council approved replacing some of the boards on the stairway.
- Celebrated that the **organ repairs have been completed**.
- Received a report that the **Easter Egg Hunt** on Palm Sunday was a success.
- Learned that **replacement of the parsonage knob and tube wiring** was fully completed. Special thanks to those who helped move things out of the parsonage so the electricians could do their work.
- Heard that the Youth and Family Committee has held several **successful events** and is planning some new events for the summer.
- Thanked Dave Horneck for working with the technicians from Peak Systems to insure that our **Vaddio Unit** is working for recording and sharing our worship services.
- Learned that a **pipe had leaked** in the Baby Basket Room and needs repair.



## Baptisms

We welcome...

Roland Roedell Stiglbauer Vedvig (left) whose parents are Gordon Stiglbauer & Hillary Vedvig.

Banks Marie Brusegar (right) whose parents are Cole & Alyssa Brusegar.



## Sharing and Caring



### Special Prayers for...



Judy Casey  
Rosalie Fongenot (friend of Diane Halom)  
Gene Heise  
Al King  
Lani Kohrt  
Paul Krueger  
John Lewis (friend of L. & R. Anderson)  
Yvonne Marshall (sister of Wayne Kiefer)  
Ted Olson  
Jean Peterson  
Lois Petrie (wife of Custodian Jim Petrie)  
Ron Pieper  
George Richards (friend of L. & R. Anderson)

Don Steele (brother of Ron Steele)  
Rae Stelzer  
Olaf Stokstad  
Karen Thomson  
Brian Tobin (brother-in-law of the Briccos)  
Emily Vitale  
(daughter of Karen Thomson)  
Ellie Weiner  
(friend of Mary Ellen Gordon)  
Judy Zillmer (mother of Kendra Eppler)

### Our Condolences to the family & friends of...

Archie Christensen  
Dennis Dokken (brother of Pam Close)  
Judy Furseth  
Mark Gretebeck  
Joe McPherson (family of Becky Beck)  
Ron Peetz (stepfather of Teresa Sylte)

Do you have a prayer request or would like your loved one to be listed in this section of the newsletter?  
Please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

### Known to have been hospitalized...

David Leikness



### Cards for My Favorite Resident

You are invited to make or buy cards for Stoughton's Senior citizens in the nursing homes and at the Senior Center by program founder, 8th grade FLC member Malia Becker. There are nearly 600 people in our community who benefit from this program!

Suggested cards include:

- \* Birthday
- \* Valentines
- \* Spring/Easter
- \* Summer
- \* Fall
- \* Christmas

Cards don't need to be in envelopes, but if they are, address cards to "Someone Special," "To a Friend," or something similar. Decorate the front, write a warm, heartfelt message inside and sign either your first name, or "A Friend Who Cares." Put completed cards in the box in the upper atrium. Thank you!

### FLC Guys Golf



Tuesday, May 14 at 9:00 am  
Odana Hills Golf Course  
4635 Odana Rd., Madison, WI

Tuesday, May 28 at 9:30 am  
Old Hickory Golf Club  
W7596 Highway 33 East  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Join us for any outings that work for you!

Please contact: Chuck Geurink,  
[chuck.geurink@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.geurink@gmail.com), 345-4333, or  
Rich Albright, [albrightclann@gmail.com](mailto:albrightclann@gmail.com),  
215-6027, to be included on our email list.

Game on and bring a friend!!!

## Small Group Ministries

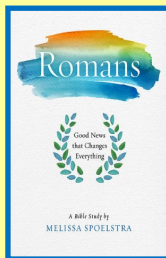
### Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters will meet on Monday, May 20 at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room.

We are studying Paul's letter to the Romans where we are reminded that faith is central to following Christ.

We welcome you as a guest or new member during our fellowship time with refreshments followed by a video and a meaningful discussion.

Contact: [jgeurink@uwec.edu](mailto:jgeurink@uwec.edu)



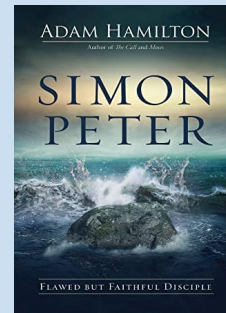
### Men's Breakfast and Bibles

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month.  
The bible study is *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful* by Adam Hamilton

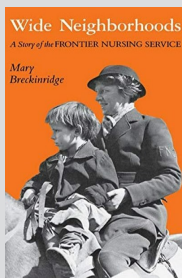
**Breakfast:** 7:45 am at The Pancake Cafe.

**Bible Study**  
9:00 am at the church

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



### Selah Book Club



The **Selah Book Club** will be meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 10:00 am in the FLC library.

The book this month is *Neighborhoods: A Story of the Frontier Nursing Service*, by Mary Breckinridge

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.**



This group is discussing a study called *Acts - The Revolution of Faith* by Randy Frazee.

New people are always welcome!

Get a study guide from Pastor Sara at [pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com](mailto:pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com) or 608-873-7761.

### Women's Circles

Circle 3 will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 11:00 at Deak's.

Phoebe Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 7pm at Laura Stokstad's.



### Volunteers needed to Mow the Church Grounds

FLC needs volunteers to mow the Church grounds throughout the summer. Sign up in the Information Center



## Happy Mother's Day

*She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

*Proverbs 31:26*

# Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt



# Stewardship of God's Creation

## Focusing on What's Necessary

~ Kendra Eppler

With very few exceptions, I am not a sports person. But, I haven't been able to let this tag line go since hearing it in the super bowl ads (while I was working on a puzzle, not even watching):



Shop like a billionaire.

Do you remember it, and what entity used it? Even more so, what did it mean to you?

I found it really irritating, which wasn't helped by the frequency that it was advertised. Why? Because of my interpretation. To me, it was selling consumerism, particularly the desire and perceived need to buy things that are not really needed. It seemed to me to be selling the idea that we can have and be like people considered wealthy, who can purchase whatever they want whenever they want. It certainly isn't the only ad to do this, and its message may actually be more direct than many others. Maybe that is why I found it so irritating.

So, what's the connection to creation care? How we choose to spend our money influences what and how products are made. That includes what products are produced, whether they use recycled materials, if they can be reused, recycled, or composted, etc. Remember this slogan: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle? Reduce is first because it produces the least amount of waste, and decreasing waste is one of the ways we care for creation. One resulting interpretation: Don't buy what isn't necessary.

I encourage you to be alert to how ads or other information may be trying to influence your purchases. For example, pay attention to why TV or print ads indicate you need what they are selling, as well as what emotions they are trying to invoke. "Don't buy what isn't necessary" may not be a realistically instantaneous shift for many of us, but it's a goal worthy of consideration and stepping toward.

## Church Kitchen Updates

The new cupboards are scheduled to be installed July 8, 2024, and the old cupboards will be removed around July 1, 2024.

If anyone is interested in the old cupboards for their garage/basement, etc., they can be picked up around July 1, 2024. We will put them in the Lower Atrium. They can be picked up on a first come, first served basis.

If our members do not take the cupboards, they will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.



## Help Available

FLC has several volunteers that can help you out if you are in need.

**Communion for Homebound:** Naomi Shep and Bob Dent are trained and available to bring communion from the church to a homebound member's house. If you are homebound and would like them to visit please call the church office at 873-7761 to let us know. Naomi or Bob will be informed and will call you to set up a time to visit.

**Need a Ride?:** Robin McElroy is willing to drive people who might need a *ride to 8:30 worship*. She arrives early with our organist, Stewart, and then has time to go and get someone in town before worship. She is also willing to help if a member needs a *ride to an appointment*. Robin can also help with *limited / one time shopping*, if necessary. These rides will need to be coordinated through Program Assistant Teresa Sylte at [program.assistant@flcstoughton.com](mailto:program.assistant@flcstoughton.com) Contact her on a Monday or Tuesday, at least a week prior to the need.

# SCUBA Vacation Bible School



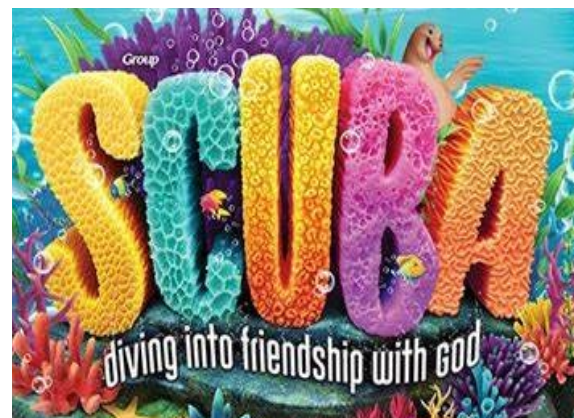
## SCUBA VBS Coming to FLC!

**June 23 - 27**  
**6:00 pm - 8:15 pm**

We will have dinner waiting at 5:30 pm with activities beginning at 6:00 until 8:15 pm.

SCUBA VBS is the summer event that helps kids dive into a friendship with God.

Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! You can expect a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and amazing undersea adventures to experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God!!



**Want to Lead?** Sign up for **Crew Leaders** (helping a group of 5-6 kids through the evenings) or **Station Leaders** (providing learning for those groups) on the Bulletin Board in the upper Atrium or call Pastor Sara at 873-7761.

### **Can you donate something?**

Here's a list of all the stuff we need by June 9 to help us out:

- ✿ Craft sticks ✿ cardboard boxes, medium and large ✿ stuffed animals
- ✿ two cans of tuna in plastic container ✿ red, orange, green and yellow crepe paper streamers
- ✿ two 10 x 25 foot rolls of black plastic ✿ duct tape ✿ eggs ✿ 30 ping pong balls
- ✿ 4 blue cloth tablecloths ✿ 5 plastic blue tablecloths ✿ large piece of white fabric
- ✿ 2 folding clothing racks ✿ purple fabric ✿ blue fabric ✿ large bubbles with wand
- ✿ 3 cases of bottled water/ sturdy bottles ✿ 10 ketchup packets ✿ cotton swabs
- ✿ 10 disposable lasagna pans ✿ blue food coloring ✿ foam ball ✿ 4 beach balls ✿ 4 sand pails
- ✿ pool noodles ✿ dice ✿ bells, whistles and noise makers ✿ cup cake liners

## Registration is going on now!

Fill out a registration form, return it to the church office by May 29  
and your child receives a theme T-Shirt!  
Cost is \$25 individually/\$40 per family. (*Scholarships are available.*)  
Invite friends and neighbors!

We will also have a registration table open on May 12 in the Fellowship Hall.  
You can check out the T-shirt sizes there!  
Lots of fun awaits at SCUBA VBS this summer!



# First Kids and IMPACT 456



- First Kids** will be learning
- May 5: God wants us to show his love.
  - May 12: It's good to praise God.
  - May 19: Syttende Mai: No Class
  - May 26: Jesus wants us to serve others.
  - June 2: Spring Program at 10am for all kids

*During this month we will be practicing songs and readings for the Spring Program in June. If your child would like to read please let their teacher or Pastor Sara know.*

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

- May 5: Jesus' Arrest and Trial
- May 12: The Crucifixion
- May 19: Syttende Mai: No Class
- May 26: Review and hand in books and practice lines
- June 2: Spring Program at 10am for all kids



## 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 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.



Our 4th grade students received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Please pray for them as they begin this new part of their faith journey.



# Youth and Family Ministries



## Youth Rummage/Bake Sale was a Success!

This year's Youth Rummage and Bake Sale raised over **\$2,000** for campers attending Lutherdale Bible Camp this summer!

Thank you to everyone who helped accomplish this goal. Thanks especially to the individuals who helped with setup, sales and cleanup!

**Thank you for supporting our youth!**



Thank you to all the youth who serve our church so faithfully! Thank you to all the adults who help them learn!

## Lutherdale Camp

Registration forms and brochures for all ages of campers grades 1-12 are on the bulletin boards. Plan on making a week at Lutherdale a part of your summer this year.

*Scholarships and fundraisers are available. If you have questions about Lutherdale please contact Pastor Sara.*



## 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!

## Baccalaureate Worship Service

Sunday, May 26 at 10:00 am

Join us for this special service to recognize our high school graduates! Caps and gowns will be worn, and a special photo/musical tribute will be shown. Graduates please get your photos in by Mother's Day!



## Summer Planning

The Youth and Family committee is looking for ideas from our youth about summer activities. Some of the ideas submitted so far include: Mallards Baseball, water balloon fight, Packer Fun Night and Bay Beach, a night under the stars, video game fun night and more. If you have an idea please submit it to Pastor Sara by Mother's Day.

# First Edition

*The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church*

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## May 2024

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