

First Lutheran Church

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Upcoming Events

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Service
7:00PM

Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

Sunrise Service: 8:00

Easter Breakfast: 9:00

Festival Service: 10:30

Wednesday's During Lent

Soup Dinner Served at 5:30

Midweek Lenten Service 6:30

Monthly Readings:

April 7th- 5th Sunday in Lent: Is. 43:16-21; Phil. 2:8-14; Luke 20:9-20

April 14th- Palm Sunday: Deut. 32:36-39; Phil. 2:5-11, John 12:20-43

April 18th- Luke 22:7-20

April 19th- Good Friday: Is. 52:13-53:12, Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9,

April 21: Resurrection of our Lord: Sunrise- Job 19:23-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; John 20:1-18 Festival: Is. 65:17-25; 1 Cor. 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

April 28th- 2nd Sunday of Easter; Acts 5:12-20; Rev.1:4-18; John 20:19-31

The Biblical Call to GRACIOUSLY ADAPT

"Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Colossians 4:5-6)

Paul's words give us important insight into how to talk about our faith with folks who aren't Christian.

First, we learn we are supposed to be thoughtful and informed and wise in how we interact with the non-Christians in our lives. Paul invites us to "*walk in wisdom toward outsiders*" not just "wing it" by saying whatever comes to mind.

Second, Paul reminds us that it is important, and even *urgent*, that we do this. After all, we are only given so much time on earth, so it is important that we are "*making the best use of the time*" that God has given us.

Third, Paul is clear that spiritual conversations aren't supposed to be angry or aggressive or argumentative. Paul urges us to "*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt.*" This is similar to how Peter urges us to always answer questions about the faith "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15b).

Fourth, Paul encourages us to gear our spiritual conversation to the actual person sitting in front of us. You can't just memorize one Gospel speech that you go to no matter who you are talking to or where they are in their journey. As we'll see, there is a time for succinct Gospel summaries, but Paul calls us to "*know how you ought to answer each person.*" This means part of being wise is knowing how to talk with the particular person that God has put across the table from you. We are supposed to *graciously adapt* to the people we are having a spiritual conversation with.

This is exactly what Paul did. Paul talked with lots of different non-Christians about Jesus. But from one spiritual conversation to the next, Paul didn't always talk about Jesus using the exact same words. In spiritual conversations, Paul *graciously adapted* his words to the spiritual posture of the people he was talking to.

For example, consider Acts 13. In this chapter we find Paul talking with *Jewish* non-Christians about Jesus and the Christian faith.

If you read an excerpt from Paul's words that day (Acts 13:16-41), you'll notice that he speaks in language and metaphors that would have made a lot of sense to Jews. Paul even quotes multiple times from their Hebrew Scriptures. It's clear he has graciously adapted to their spiritual posture as Jews. Paul is "answering" the people he is talking to.

But then look at Acts 14. Just a chapter later Paul is talking with *pagan* (non-Jewish) non-Christians about Jesus and the Christian faith. If you read an excerpt of Paul's words from that day (Acts 14:14-17), you'll see that his words are very different than the previous chapter. Gone are the Jewish metaphors and references. In their place we find Paul talking about nature, the earth, the sea, fruitful seasons ... he has adapted his message to the language and cares of his pagan audience so that he is really "answering" them.

Paul had a single Gospel message, but graciously adapted how he presented that message to the particular people he was talking to. Paul summed up this way of relating with non-Christians as "being a Jew to the Jews" and "being as one under the Law to those who are under the Law." Paul was convinced that graciously adapting to the people he was talking to was how to "walk in wisdom towards them." As he summarized at one point, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22b).

Jesus did the same thing. Not only was Jesus gracious adaptation personified (God becoming human to save humans), but have you ever noticed how Jesus adapted His conversation to different people? Jesus spoke with tenderness to a new widow (Luke 7), but He spoke with sharpness to stubborn Pharisees (Matthew 23). Jesus softly invited the timid to "come and see" (John 1), but He boldly invited the ready to "come and follow" (Mark 1).

If Jesus Himself was in the habit of gracious adaptation in spiritual conversations, no wonder Paul practiced this same habit in his conversations—and encouraged other Christians to do the same.

This article is from the March-April 2019 edition of *The Lutheran Layman*, a publication of Lutheran Hour Ministries



Board Happenings

Stewardship Meeting: 4/9

**School Board Meeting: 4/9
6:00PM**

Elders Meeting : 4/9 7:00PM

**Trustee Workday: 4/13
9:00AM**

**LEGS: 4/6 Zone Retreat at FLC
and 4/13 Lenten Tea
10:30AM**

**Easter Egg Hunt: 4/20
10:30AM**

**Planning Council: 4/23 6:30
PM**

Weekly Happenings

Sunday: First Bells: 8:45AM Bible Class for all ages: 9:15AM

Worship Service: 10:30

Monday: New Testament Books 6:00PM (Meeting Room)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays: Quilting 9:30 AM (Meeting Room)

Wednesday: School Chapel 8:30AM Lutheran Ringers 5:45PM, Choir 730 PM

Prayer Requests

Serving Our Country: Brett Anthonijs, Robert Boatman, Isaac Davis, Chad Kaiser, Adam Smith, Jeff Stone, Neil Whitehead, William Smolter

Members: Brion Bissell (needs kidney) Eric Lintz, Margot Bridges (homebound) Carl Testerman (stroke) Gene Franklin, the Varner family, Don & Carolyn Weaver, Karla Hood, Kris Weaver, Mike & Mary Jones Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound) Don & Sandy Linde, Mary Ann Wheat, Sharon Mueller, Marilyn Wing (homebound) Douglas Rodenbeck (transition to being homebound) Jim and Rosa Beck, Sherry Wheat

Non Members: Jonathan Campbell (Diane Baum's co-worker's brother) fighting infection after an appendectomy to remove his ruptured appendix, Steven Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend), Bill Flynn (Sharon Mueller's brother), whose cancer has returned Ken Hamilton (father of Anna Marie Hamilton, UT student from Alabama) Judy Hamrick (Shirley Watson's neighbor) with a tumor that is growing, JoAnn Harbaugh (Kathleen Holliday's mother) Cheryl Hooks (Diane Baum's friend) undergoing months of chemotherapy after removal of part of her colon and intestines due to cancer, Helen Linderfelt (Lynda Graves' friend) Joyce Lipscomb (Rick Elmore's friend) Annette Lotivio (Marc Blais's friend) with pancreatic cancer, Joanne Mattingly, Joan Mincey (Shirley Watson's friend) with stage 4 COPD and breast cancer Karen Nall Travis Parrott (the Wolford's son-in-law) needing a kidney transplant Tom Roberts (Sara's grandfather) with Alzheimer's Daniel Rule (the Slifkas' friend) suffering from RSD, Kristy Shirk (Lynda Graves' friend) with cancer of the sinuses Barbara Thornton (Janice Kaiser's relative) Sam and Alex Weaver,

In Other News

Stewardship: "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out" (Deut 28:3-6). This is God's promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. But there's a catch. He would do this for Israel only "if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deut 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that "all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you" (Deut 28:2a). Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have. It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

55 Alive: Mark your calendar for April 11th with Darrell DeBusk, Public Affairs Specialist, FBI who will discuss the scams that are currently targeting senior citizens, how they work and how you can avoid becoming their next victim. If you are targeted or find that you have been scammed, how and why it's important to report it immediately. We will see you at 12:00 noon for a delicious luncheon at \$7.00/person.

Youth News: BBQ Bingo was a great success! We raised over \$1400.00 for the National Youth Gathering. Thank you for a night filled with fellowship and laughs! We have two great fundraisers coming! Make sure you order your Easter Desserts from our youth. We will be selling cakes for \$20.00 each. (Carrot Cake, Coconut Cake, Lemon Pound Cake, Pecan Pie, Classic Vanilla w/ butter cream Icing and 12 count Cupcakes- chocolate or vanilla) Order forms will be on the youth board or see a youth or Shellia. Mark your calendars for our Rummage Sale May 24-25th. While you are spring cleaning please consider donating items to the sale! Contact Shellia with any questions!

News from First Lutheran School

First Lutheran School just returned from Spring Break. It was a welcome opportunity to relax, travel, mark things off our to-do lists. Those 7 days had so much potential; looking ahead you envisioned the perfect week. Day 1: Get done any work you may have so it wouldn't loom over you. Day 2: Try a new dessert recipe you found. Day 3-4 mini-vacation to that cool city a few hours away. Day 5-6: Finish those DIY projects you have been meaning to do. Day 7: Take it easy and read a book on the front porch while sipping your favorite beverage.

That's it the perfect Spring Break, but something happens. Instead of accomplishing our goals, we binge watch 5 seasons of House Hunters on HGTV, surf the web looking at pictures of dogs wearing wigs, and sleep till noon every day.

Students, teachers, everyone; we are all guilty of dreaming big, but then dragging our feet when it comes to putting forth the work and effort necessary to accomplish those plans. Sometimes it is Spring Break plans; sometimes the matters are bigger and even more important.

First Lutheran School is doing great things, but the potential is there for so much more. The teachers work hard to meet the needs of every student. The students embrace the opportunity to learn and

1-12: Read-a-thon

3: ECE Closing at 5:30

5: No Uniday (Fav. Book Character) and PTL Paint Night 6:00-8:00

12: Athletic Banquet 6:30PM

17: 3-4th Assembly

8-12: Week of the young Child

18-22: Easter Break

26: Spring Musical

Birthdays:

2nd: Chris Dalton

5th Becky Hodson

7th Louise Hodson

8th Steve Keyes

9th Carolyn Milligan

10th Chuck Balm, Jason Collver, Jackson Killian

12th Ingrid Capparelli

14th McKenzie Day, Gerene Jones

18th Tonya Knopps, Mary McKenzie

19th Mary Croes, Judy Testerman, Rebekah Parrott

22nd Kelsie Reed

25th Larry Farris

26th Jeff McKenzie

28th Isaac Davis, Shannon Milbourn

30th Lois Blais, Jeremaih Davis, Brittany Johnson, Gene Stern, Kamden Kreger

Anniversaries:

1st Steve & Shellia Bryd

5th Carlyle & Dolly Roth

6th Bill & Rosie Rosen

15th Barry & Melissa Layke

24th Doug & Wendy Slifka

29th David & Susan Rodenbeck

love. However, there are still those days when work is hard; when we want to crawl back in bed and pull the covers over your head, they fell asleep! Christ did the work God set before him, but the disciples kept falling asleep. . Even Christ had those moments, in Gethsemane he prayed, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me." The disciples had a job to do at that time as well, pray with their Lord; instead

All too often we are like the sleeping disciples, unwilling to do the work, to make the most of the blessings and gifts God has given us. The work could be enjoyable, help make us a better person make the world a better place, or even bring others to Christ; instead, we take the lazy way out.

As Christians we have an obligation to do the work Christ called us to do: to witness, to share the Law and the Gospel, to love one another, to give, and to sacrifice. Are you making the most of your potential? Are you living up to the plans God has for you? Are you working as hard as the Kindergartener who mastered tying their shoes, or the First Grader who can now write their name in cursive? Or perhaps you are up for the challenge of mastering Algebra like our 8th graders? Or maybe you are busy trying grow in faith like our 6th graders who are studying Christ as Man and God?

For First Lutheran School to be a successful mission, God needs us all to work. If you aren't sure what work needs to be done, I can promise you there is plenty to go around. You can help the Trustees keep our campus beautiful by joining them on a work day. You can serve on our amazing School Board. You can volunteer in the classroom or even work as a substitute teacher. You can donate to our scholarship funds or send a note of support to a teacher. You can refer friends and family who are looking for a place to educate their child. You can do any of this, but most importantly you can pray. Pray for our ministry that we may continue to serve the family's and students who come through our doors.

As the adage goes "It's **hard work but somebody's** gotta do it." Now let's get to work!

Deadline for May Newsletter is Friday, April 19th

Sundays: 9:15AM Bible Study for all Ages. 10:30AM Worship Service

Rev. Larry Rockemann, Vacancy Pastor, Rev. John Schulz, Pastor Emeritus, Jessie Irwin, Principal