

First Lutheran Church

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Upcoming Events

May 5

Commissioning & Installation of Jessie Irwin as Called Principal

May 19

Voters Assembly following Worship Service

May 24-25

Youth Rummage Sale

On the Move

Genesis records the call of Abraham by God. No less than six times God declares His purpose and promise for the world by choosing, calling, blessing, and sending Abraham so that he and his descendants might be a blessing to others.

Like Abraham, we have been chosen by God and received a new identity and purpose. We have been called into a new relationship with our Father and He declared us to be "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" (1 Peter 2:9). This is who we are, not by our choice but by the promise of the One who has made us and also redeemed us in our Baptism. This changes everything.

Also like Abraham, we have been sent out with a declaration of God's purpose: "That you may declare the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:10). That sounds scary. He calls me and then sends me out to accomplish this task all by myself? Just exactly how am I supposed to declare His praises to the world? After all, I'm just one person!

Michael Goheen wrote *"The great commission is not a task assigned to isolated individuals; it is an identity given to a community."* Peter's words reflect this. Every time the word "you" is used in 1 Peter 2 it is plural. Peter is reminding us that we, all of us together, have been called, declared to be God's chosen possession, and joined together "like living stones" to be God's dwelling. Now we know our true identity (1 Peter 2:9) and are assured that we are never alone in this journey. We have the church around us and Christ in us.

But it is still a journey. We have been sent as pilgrim travelers in this world, not permanent residents. In our travels we don't wander aimlessly or without purpose. We have a goal: the place that our Lord Jesus has prepared for us. Along the way we have a purpose: to

Monthly Readings:

May 5th: Acts 9:1-22; Rev. 5: 1-7, 8-14; John 20:19-31, 15-19

May 12th: Acts 20:17-35; Rev. 7:9-17; John 22-30

May 19th: Acts 11:1-18; Rev. 2:1-7; John 16:12-22 or John 13:31-35

May 26th: Acts 16:19-15; Rev. 21:9-14, 21-27 John 16:23-33 or John 5:1-9

May 30th: Acts 1:1-11; Eph. 1:15-23; John 17:20-26 (Ascension)

extend God's gracious call "out of darkness and into His marvelous light" to people we encounter along the way.

This journey assumes connection with those around us. We do not live and serve Him in anonymity with our light hidden under a bushel basket (Matthew 5:14-16) but, as God's chosen people, we proclaim with reckless confidence what He has entrusted to us (Matthew 25:14). We are His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), planting and watering Gospel seeds (1 Corinthians 3:6-7), living in a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-19), always prepared to give a gentle and respectful reason for the Hope that only is found in Christ Jesus (1 Peter 3:15).

Dr. Oswald Hoffmann wrote *"I have noticed that the most effective witness for Christ is offered by people who have a heart for other people, something like the [compassion] of Christ Himself ... Most of my witnessing has been in the ordinary course of everyday life. I didn't have to go out of my way to reach anybody. I just did what I have to do every day, and Christ always put people in my path to whom I could witness. The key for our world is every Christian everywhere sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in the most natural way possible."*

All of us are chosen, called, declared, and sent on a journey to our homes, our jobs, our communities, and our congregations so that we, all together, by the Holy Spirit, might be Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church!

Article by Phil Johnson, International LLL Board of Directors Chairman



Board Happenings

**5/7 Stewardship Meeting
7:00PM**

**5/14: School Board Meeting
6:00PM**

5/14: Elders Meeting 7:00PM

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 700 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, Sharon Mueller, Marilyn Wing (homebound) Douglas Rodenbeck(transition to being homebound) Jim and Rosa Beck,

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: Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are. Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2) We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required. Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

55 Alive: On Thurs.-May 9th, at 12:00 noon, we have the privilege of hearing Tom & Juanita Matthews, missionaries who are serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Kenya. Knoxville/Oak Ridge,TN is their home in the US. Tom is a translation consultant serving Bible translation teams in Kenya and Tanzania. Juanita is a middle school math and Bible teacher at West Nairobi School. God has been abundantly faithful to them most recently in Tom's overcoming kidney cancer and in orchestrating their return to the field. A delectable chicken dinner will be served. Gloria Schulz - Direct Rep 865-690-6464 865-207-6464 jpsgks1@aol.com

Youth News: 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! Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter desserts. It was a great couple of days filled with laughter and fellowship with our youth!

A Special Thank You: Dear Friends in Christ,
David and I would like to say thank you once again for your support, phone calls, visits, meals and most important your prayers. When life gets complicated it is comforting to know you have friends and family who are there for you. We have been truly blessed with a wonderful church family and couldn't have made it this far without all of you.
Thank you so much again!
Love,
David and Karen Varner

News from First Lutheran School

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11

The end of the school year is upon us. The list of things to do can feel overwhelming. As a school, we have already accomplished so much, what else could we possibly have to do? Apparently plenty. The school musical is produced and performed. End of year projects and assessments to complete. Middle School class trips to Nashville and Washington D.C need to be taken. The ECE, Kindergarten and 8th grade Graduations need to be celebrate. All this on top of the usual teaching and instruction. It is astounding that all this will be done in less than a month.

School Happenings:

3rd: Kgn Assembly; No Uniday;
School Spirit
5th: 3rd-5th Choir Sings at FLC
7th: ECE Closing at 5:30
10th: 4th Quarter Awards Assembly
14-17th: Middle School Class Trips
20-23rd: Free Dress
21st: Kgn and 8th Graduation 7PM
22nd: ECE Graduation
23rd Last Day of School K-8
dismissed at Noon; ECE and SS
closing at 1PM
29th: Summer Camp Begins

Christ
is
Risen!

The end of the year is an excellent time to reflect on what have we accomplished? What was done well? Where are opportunities for improvement? However, what I find myself thinking about a great deal are the graduates. Musing about how our current ECE students and Kindergarteners will change over the years and relishing the opportunity to watch them grow as they continue their education at First Lutheran. Certain talents and tendencies are already shining through, but as they learn and grow as young Christians, it is fascinating to watch the changes happen.

However, it is the 8th grade graduates who most occupy my thoughts. Some of them have been at First Lutheran for only a year and others since preschool, but every one of them is now a part of the First Lutheran family occupying a place in our hearts and minds. First Lutheran School is something special, and its graduates regularly recognize the role it plays in making them the people they are today. We do our best to prepare them for their future. Nevertheless, when our current 8th graders enter high school in the fall, they are sure to encounter new and unfamiliar challenges. We are no longer able to walk side by side with them as they navigate this new world, but we can still support them. I regularly pray that they remember all they have been taught here pertaining to their academics, faith, and character. I pray for their parents, family, and friends that they may provide support and encouragement as these young people grow into kind and responsible Christian citizens.

As Christians, we know the future is in God's hands, and we trust in his plan. God has great plans for First Lutheran School and every student who enters our halls. As First Lutheran Church and School looks to the possibilities of the future, for our students and our mission, I ask that you keep all those involved in your prayers. With God all things are possible; in [Mark 11:24](#) reads. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Prayer for Schools and Students

Lord, hear us as we pray: for all schools and those who teach and those who learn,

For all the schools of the Church, For all the colleges and seminaries of the Church,

For all the teachers and students of the Word, For all missionaries and evangelists,

For teachers and students: in particular those at First Lutheran School and ECE.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Anniversaries:

19: David and Karen Varner 26: Mike and Melissa Sanders

27: Kevin and Vicki Broyles

28: Brad and Bethany Capehart 28: Don and Terrie Yeatts

Birthdays:

1: Barb Eisold	16: Mike Jones; Kim Mabe; Annette Tower
3: Alice Munsey	18: Heidi Bartholomay
4: Clara Cox	19: Dylan Keiser; Aaron Wade
5: Morgan Slomski	21: Taylor Day; Angel Mueller; Cutter Tillman
6: Jim Roberts; Arlene Stern	22: Michael Warwick; Penny Wright
7: Karen Fortune; Nicolas Mueller; Brion Bissell	
9: Jim Scarlett	25: Chelcie Holloway
13: Greg Buckner	26: Jeff Wheat
14: Miranda Witt	27: Olivia Killian; David Norton
15: Margot Bridges	28: Liam Milbourn; Benny Samuel

Deadline for June Newsletter is Friday, May 17th

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
