

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

We've been proclaiming these words for almost a month at this point, since we celebrated Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 5. They are words that are filled with celebration and song. *Hallelujah*. From the original Hebrew, הַלְלוּ־יְהוָה, it means "Praise YHWH"; to Praise God. This phrase shows up time and time again throughout scripture, from the Psalms to Revelation—it's a phrase that comes with unbridled joy—joy that is held with all that life has to bring. It's a sense of joy that comes forth even in times of loss, death, and destruction. It's a joy that proclaims the truth of who God is and God's ultimate desire to witness all Creation flourish. It's a joy that can also be hard to experience for many in our world right now—especially for those who struggle to make ends meet, whose homes are being bombed into rubble, whose loved ones are taken from them. And, even those of us who have been fortunate enough to not be experiencing these realities, we still sense deep down that joy can be hard to find at times. Because we know and believe that when one part of Christ's body suffers—when one person suffers—everyone suffers and grieves over our world being far from how God intended it to be.

But, *be not afraid!* Joy is always present and it shows up especially in the moments when we come together in community, when we check in and care for our neighbors, when we receive a helping hand in times we may not have realized we needed that support. If it still seems disconnected to shout, *Alleluia!*, in the midst of so much suffering, I invite you to reflect on hard times in your own life—who or what helped you get through? How might you use the gifts and influence you have to help create a more loving and just world for all people, where *Alleluia* feels genuine? Or if this feels like too much because you're going through a hard time right now—what keeps you going? Where might joy enter your life?

The other night, I was watching the Timberwolves in game 4 of their playoff series against the Nuggets. They had gotten off to a surprising start in the series, up 2-1 as the underdog. Things were going fantastic for the team, when less than 2 minutes into the game, their starting guard, Donte Divincenzo felt a pop in his achilles. *Uh-oh*. Then, with just a couple minutes left in the first half, their star player, Anthony Edwards, landed awkwardly on his left leg. Both players were out for the game, and things looked bleak. But that's when *joy* showed up in the form of Ayo Dosunmu—a bench player whose first name literally means "joy" in the Yoruba language. Ayo scored 43 points and sparked the Wolves to another win and a 3-1 series lead. Even though it was just a basketball game, moments like these in life help remind me that even when things feel hopeless, there is always the potential for joy to surprise us—especially when we stick together as a team, in community, as the body of Christ around the world.

So, I invite you to read through this month's newsletter to learn how you might lean into joy in your life—in the life we share together here at First. And, please continue to pray for our country and world, for an end to all wars, and that all the children of the world will grow up in a joyful and loving world where abundance is shared by all.

Alleluia!

Pastor D.J.



May and more...



LOOKING FOR DELEGATES ~ ~ ~
SEMNSYNOD ASSEMBLY
MAY 2nd - 9 am to 5 pm
Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center
Mankato MN
Contact Pastor D.J.

Women of First Lutheran

MEETING DAY → SUNDAY MAY 3RD – AFTER WORSHIP



Did you know? – The first week of May is **Teacher Appreciation Week** - observed from Monday, May 4 to Friday, May 8, and **National Teacher Day** is Tuesday, May 5. By participating in Teacher Appreciation Week 2026, students, parents, and communities can meaningfully acknowledge the dedication, creativity, and impact of educators.



Congratulations & Blessings to HS Seniors

Sunday, May 10 **Senior Recognition** at Morning Worship, 9 am
Wednesday, May 13 **Baccalaureate** at First Lutheran, 7:15 pm
Sunday, May 31 **Graduation** at KWHS, 1- 2 pm

First Lutheran 2026 High School Graduates:

*Elsie Braaten, Patricia Hoffman, Emilie Jarvis,
Ryan Rehtzigel, Lindsey Short*



The Love Day Quilters Invite you to join them on the 2nd & 4th Thursday, 1–4 pm, each month to stitch, assemble, and tie quilts. Pot luck, coffee, and good fellowship are a bonus. Next quilting days are May 14 and May 28. They will continue to meet through the Summer.

...and more *May*

PENTECOST



Sunday May 24 -

Celebrate the Spirit Flame! Color it red!



Thursday June 4 ---

First Lutheran is FOOD VENDOR for Opening Market Day. Helpers/Food Sign-Up to be available on-line & on paper.

Thursday June 18 ---

Fundraising vendor at Market - selling your homemade/crafted items – Price and deliver day before or day of. CONTACT: Susan Hoversten



Wednesday Summer Stretch Program - June 10 to July 15

Youth in Grades 6th through 12th [GRADE AS OF FALL 2026]

Are invited to participate in this service/learning program

Contact Pastor D.J. for more information on how to register.

Friends are welcome to join, too!



Vacation Bible School led by Good Earth Village

is scheduled for JULY 13 through JULY 16

and will be held at First Lutheran Church.

CONTACT: Bryana Lothert

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"May is a canvas;
paint with vibrant strokes
of courage."
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First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – April 15, 2026

Welcome and Call to Order: Eric Hoversten @ 6:02 pm

Devotions: Carmen

Present: Pastor D.J. Chatelaine, Eric Hoversten, Susan Hoversten, Tammy Fletcher, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Bryana Lothert, Peyton Temple, and Sherry Sathrum

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions. Tammy/Carmen/pass

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary's Report: Reviewed as printed in the March newsletter

Treasurer's Report: Overall attendance down but Easter Sunday attendance was 141. Giving is ahead of last year at the same time accounting for one large giving unit for annual distribution. Expenses: Benevolence/ again one family unit allocated a large amount. Missionaries have been paid. Caring fund has \$2,300.00.

Tammy has requested for phone bill to be set up for automatic payments.

Pastor's Report: A huge thank you to all involved with Lent, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and the altar guild for all of the hard work.

- Home visits are ongoing. Continue to hear appreciation for livestreaming the services—learned that closed captioning is available on YouTube if needed.
- Concluded Lenten Wednesday Night services, centered on the theme “Who is Jesus?” Cheers to the Confirmation kids for their leadership during these services!
- Holy Week: Passion Sunday (thanks to all readers involved!), participated in the Palm Sunday procession and service at the State Capitol—around 10,000 were present there alone! Maundy Thursday service at First and Good Friday at Vang.
- Planned Summer Stretch program and activities with Pastor Joe (Gol). Registration information coming soon. Dates are Wednesdays from June 10-July 15.
- Began Bible Study on Revelation on April 12 after worship. Everyone is welcome to join, especially if you have questions about this book of the Bible and what it means for us!
 - Attended KAIC soup cookoff and auction. Thanks to Julie Pepin for making the “Cheeseburger in Paradise” soup, Eric and Susan for serving, and Chris and Luke for helping with the Auction. Thanks to all who donated baked goods and to anyone who came out to support the internship program.
- Met with my first call cohort and revisited the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI).
- Attended the VFW Fish Fry on March 27—enjoyed some tasty food and good conversation with folks who were there. ● Celebrated Luke Cordes at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on March 28 and provided a closing prayer and blessing for the program.
- Attended the Fosdick Lecture at Augsburg University. The speaker was Rev. Alan Storey, who is from Cape Town, South Africa. I attended his former church when I did the Summer service program in Cape Town in 2016.

President's Report:

March madness comes to a close with all the excitement and energy we might have anticipated. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed.

The youth March Madness event on the 19th was well-attended and a great way to come together in the spirit of the NCAA tournaments, MN Highschool League Tournaments, and bring the youth in our ministry together to simply have fun. Thanks to Brianna for her helpful work to pull this together... and Pastor for his inspiration to make it happen.

I was sad to miss Palm Sunday activities, down with a sinus head-cold. I was looking forward to participating in the Passion Story, hearing the shrill clatter of a Noisy Offering, enjoying the Brunch, the Easter Egg hunt, and collecting up pans of breakfast rolls prepared by the Kids for the Ed Youth fundraiser. And I also missed the assembly and procession worship at the Capital. I know all these activities took intentional and dedicated effort by so many across the congregation and culminated in the fullness and breadth of the worship experience we created for each other.

Lent Wednesday Worship wrapped up with the stripping of the Altar on Maundy Thursday to mark the crucifixion of Jesus. Thanks to everyone who supported the Wednesday ministry with meal prep, serving,

clean-up, and just by being there to share in the Good News of the Easter story. The new and creative recipes certainly stirred the pot in a delicious way.

Throughout March, we came together and raised funds and collected gifts for the Kenyon Food Shelf. Free Will Offerings from Wednesday Suppers, After Church Coffee, the Noisy Offering, and the March Madness North Vs South Food Drive raised over \$500.00 for this vital local food security operation... right in our back yard. Bravo!!

Easter Sunday brought a wonderful attendance and many families who have left the local area back to worship with their more local family members. We raised a Brass band, and a choir!!! What fun; and we should strive to do this more often for key Sundays in our church year. Huge thanks to Annette, those who sang, and the Aldorfer Brass for taking this on again! I'm excited to explore the opportunity to possibly partner with a local college student to make this more regular, intentional, and not "more work" for those among us that do so much already. Thanks to all who donated flowers for the altar area... and the dedicated parishioners who kept up with the sometimes twice-a-week changes to paraments. These elements add so much to the Easter Celebration.

"It is Finished"... Post-Easter brings a moment of calm... perhaps much needed rest... but not for too long... April 12 our Congregation showed up in great numbers at the Kenyon Area Internship Committee Soup Cookoff and dessert auction. Our soup, prepared by Julie Peppin was awesome. Gol took the traveling trophy crock pot this year; but we had the most fun. General attendance was off this year - perhaps due to not having an active intern with us... but this event proved yet again a great opportunity to support broader ministries in the community, and see our friends and neighbors from the other local congregations. I was reminded of our Bishop's words, "Together we are the church, and to be the church we must be together."

Looking ahead, we will send delegates to the Synod Assembly on May 2nd and experience "Baptism in Muddy Waters". There will be many opportunities to celebrate and bring Commencement to our amazing Seniors throughout May. The distinctive sound of our dedicated Pickle ballers will return to the parking lot. How do you describe that noise? Poyngk.?? June will bring Farmers Markets back to our parking apron. We will provide the "Concession Stand" for the Market grand re-opening on June 4th and our pop-up market for any foragers, crafters, makers, etc on June 18.

Month-by-month we as a Congregation create an amazing ministry for each other; but more so for the community around us who sees our work; and shares in our demonstration of Christ's work among us. There are so many ways we can share the worship-expression of these ministries with the many among us: present, past, and even those new to the work of God. Please invite others to share in the joy that these works can bring to light in the daily life of all.

Ongoing items:

1. Membership statistics: Susan, Tammy and Erica continue to work on the process. No new updates.
2. Sanctuary Screens: Starting to utilize prior to service. Possible idea to utilize for Senior Sunday - announcements and birthday announcements. Thanks to Property and Management for all of their hard work. Worship Committee will continue to brainstorm ideas with all other ideas welcome.
3. Continued need for Vice President.

New items:

1. Public Library requested to use FLC lawn for Sunshine Stories. Motion by Susan/ Carmen to approve, unanimously passed.
2. Choir: There has been interest in the informal pop-up type of choir one time per month for summer. Will have a sign-up list and sing a familiar hymn. In fall, will reassess.

Youth Report: The school has cut 2 janitor positions. Peyton will be groundskeeper for the summer. KW/Goodhue track has started as well as golf, softball and baseball. Prom is May 2. Band/ choir concert on 5/6. Last day of school 5/22.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FLCW: Thank you to everyone who helped with a successful Palm Sunday Brunch! A Church Banner was purchased for event use. Cannon River Valley Spring Event is April 25th 8-12 at Cross of Christ of Christ Lutheran, Welch, MN. Walk-ins welcome, Registration due April 15. Synod Assembly is May 2 in Mankato; Congregation is seeking delegates- See Pastor. May 10th, Carmen Nesseth will present the HS Graduates with a gift; This is her 30th year! Thank you Carmen for your dedication to our youth! June 18th is our FLCW Farmers Market Fundraiser; Plan ahead with your home-made talents. Price your items and bring to church a few days before or even day of. Our Next meeting is June 7th in the JOY Room after service.

Worship/ Evangelism: Did not meet but will meet 4/27. Will brainstorm ideas for screen use to enhance Sunday services, including Senior Sunday.

Property and Management: Did not meet. Continue to contemplate ed wing water issues. Awaiting proposal/cost to redirect roof water onto parking lot reducing the need to install "pop-ups" out in yard. Would follow that with additional landscaping on north side of building to further direct water away. Church boiler systems performed as hoped this past heating system. May have to consider replacing one of two boilers in main building due to early signs of failure.

Stewardship: Did not meet.

Youth and Ed:

- Participated in March Madness with the use of the new popcorn popper.
- Completed the caramel/cinnamon roll fundraiser and Easter egg hunt.
- On 6/4, FLC will be providing food for Farmer's Market. Will have both online and paper sign up for helpers/ food.
- Packed 22 care packages for 18-22 year olds.
- Ditch clean up on 4/26 with walking tacos served after.
- Good Earth Village: 7/13-7/16. Will be at First Lutheran. Bryana will post flyers.
- Blessing box/ Library- Summer stretch program will help with building. Bryana will contact Endowment Committee for money to help with landscaping. Will need hole for posts prior to 6/10. Bryan will look into finding someone to cut the wood.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Did not meet. Endowment meeting next week.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19 @ 6:00 pm

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Sherry/Brad/pass Time: 7:20 pm
Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Sathrum, secretary

May 2026






*MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



SEASON / COLORS

Easter/White Day of Pentecost/Red Holy Trinity/White

1	2 Synod Assembly Mankato KW PROM NITE
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3 EASTER 5 9 Worship 10 Sun Sch 10 Coffee 10 FLCW Meeting In Joy Rm 10 Men's Ministry	4	5	6 5:30 Confirmation 7pm - KWHS Band/Choir Concert 	7	8	9 11 Willie Dahl Funeral 9:30 Visitation VFW Lunch
10 EASTER 6 MOTHER'S DAY HS SENIOR ★ RECOGNITION 9 Worship LAST DAY of Sun/Sch 10 Coffee	11	12	13 5:30 Confirmation 7:15 ↓ Baccalaureate at FIRST 	14 ASCENSION 1 LOVE DAY 	15	16
17 EASTER 7 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 Revelation Bible Study	18	19 6 COUNCIL	20	21	22 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	23
24 DAY OF PENTECOST 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 Revelation Bible Study	25 MEMORIAL DAY 	26 2 Grief Support @ Little Joy Coffee-Nfld	27	28 1 LOVE DAY 	29	30
31 HOLY TRINITY KW GRADUATION 9 Worship 10 Coffee						



JUNE

June 4 FARMER'S MARKET, 4-7 pm – First Lutheran as Food Vendor this day.

June 7 FLCW Meeting after worship – Joy Room.

June 10 Wed "SUMMER STRETCH" Youth Program begins, with Gol Church-weekly until mid-July.

June 18 FARMER'S MARKET, 4-7 pm – Fundraising vendor of homemade items.



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May

Newsletter



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