

First Fruits

May 2022

Volume 26, Number 5

Worship Ministry

ON SUNDAY, MAY 1, BISHOP AMY CURRENT WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST LUTHERAN and CHRIST THE SERVANT.

*** AT FIRST LUTHERAN, a time of coffee and fellowship will follow the morning worship service to give everybody time to visit with Bishop Current.

*** CHRIST THE SERVANT WILL BE HOSTING A POTLUCK MEAL FOLLOWING THEIR WORSHIP SERVICE. This will give everyone a chance to visit with Bishop Current and get to know her better. Everybody from Chariton is invited to attend. Each family attending is asked to bring a dish to share. The meal will begin around 12:15 pm.



Rev. Amy Current is a pastor in The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and has served the Southeastern Iowa Synod in the office of bishop since 2020. She is a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN (B.A.) and Wartburg Theological Seminary (M.Div.).

Prior to her role as bishop, Current served as vice president for admissions and student services at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. She also served in various leadership roles at Wartburg Seminary including director for financial aid and stewardship formation, director for public communications, and interim director of the Center for Youth Ministries. Born and raised in North Dakota, Amy was honored to serve as pastor of Maple Sheyenne Lutheran Church in Harwood, N.D., as pastor of Golden Ridge Lutheran Church, Fargo, N.D., and Congregational Lutheran United Church, Gardner, N.D.

Bishop Current serves on the boards of Grand View University, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Wartburg College, and Unity Point Health – Des Moines.

Bishop Current is married to Rev. Dr. Samuel Giere, who serves as professor of biblical interpretation at Wartburg Theological Seminary. They have two children, Isaac and Shonagh Current Giere. The family has two miniature Australian shepherds, Archie and Otis.

Bishop Current enjoys reading novels, kayaking, snowshoeing, walking, sharing meals, lingering in conversation, watching tv, and exploring through travel.

IT IS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TIME!

First Lutheran has two graduating seniors this year: **Max Aulwes & Logan Newsum.**

Baccalaureate Service

A Baccalaureate Service for the 2022 graduating class of Chariton High School will be held at Cornerstone Church on Wednesday, May 4, beginning at 7:00 PM. This event is sponsored by the Interchurch Council of Lucas County. All are welcome to attend.

On Sunday, May 8, First Lutheran will recognize our high school graduates, MAX & LOGAN, during the 9 AM morning worship service. A reception will follow in the Fireside Room.

Chariton Graduation Ceremonies

Chariton High School Graduation will be Sunday, May 15, at the Chariton High School Gymnasium beginning at 3:00 PM.



Discipleship Ministry

THE RADIO BROADCAST OF PASTOR HUTTON'S SERMONS WILL BE AN ONGOING MINISTRY OF FIRST LUTHERAN and CHRIST THE SERVANT

Ways to listen at 10:30 AM each Sunday morning:

- KIIC Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia
- The radio stations website: kiicradio.com (click on the “Listen Live” button)

If you miss the broadcast on Sunday, you can also catch it as a podcast on the church’s website: firstlutheran-christtheservant.org

THANK YOU for your support of this ministry!!

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR WEEKLY RADIO BROADCAST! We are in need of radio sponsors for August until the end of the year. With three members now in care facilities, the broadcast brings our worship to those, plus we have listeners all across southern Iowa. Sponsorships are \$35. Please call the church office to sponsor a Sunday. 641-774-4875 Thank you!

Broadcast Sponsors:

- May 1: Joann Narber in observance of May Day
- May 8: Del & Karen Kray in honor of all Mothers
- May 15: Del & Karen Kray in memory of their Fathers, Ralph Schuldt & Karl Kray
- May 22: Joann Narber in honor of her birthday on May 20
- May 29: Marlene Oxenreider

Stewardship Ministry



THE SET ME FREE PROJECT

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00AM – NOON

Location: First Lutheran Church

1004 Curtis Ave

Chariton, IA 50049

FREE FOR THE COMMUNITY!!!

<https://www.setmefreeproject.net/>

The Set Me Free Project is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring prevention education to youth and families to stop human trafficking before it begins. The curriculum is informative, interactive, and flexible – reaching students, educators, parents and leaders in every facet of our communities.

Depending on community attendance, there will be break away groups for Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers and Adults.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS REAL. PLEASE COME AND LEARN HOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS COULD BE AT RISK.



FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DRIVE-THRU MEAL!!

On Tuesday, May 24th, we will say thank you to all the First Responders in Lucas County – EMTs, Firemen, Police, and Sheriff’s Deputies – by providing them and their families a drive-thru dinner at First Lutheran from 5-7 pm. They will have a choice of a steak or chicken sandwich or a hamburger, together with baked beans, potato salad, and a drink. It is our way of saying thank you for all that they do to protect and serve the people of Lucas County. The meal is free to all the First Responders and their families.

If you would like to help BBQ the meat, plate, or serve there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex on the table by the baptismal font. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

If you’d like to make a donation towards the cost of the meal, since the meal is free to the First Responders and their families, please give your gift either in an envelope marked “First Responder’s Meal” or so designate on the memo line of your check. Your gift can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or dropped off at the church office. It is with great thankfulness and joy we look forward to saying thank you to all the First Responders of Lucas County.

Pastoral Pondering

A miserly baker once lived next to a poor, kind and generous soul. Every morning the smell of cinnamon buns and sweet rolls wafted out of the bakery and the neighbor would enjoy the aroma as he ate his breakfast of oatmeal. The baker watched from his window – he could see the neighbor enjoying the scent of fresh rolls. The baker’s miserly heart was struck, and he thought to himself: The smell of my rolls and bread make his lousy food taste delicious! He should have to pay me for it! Well, he went next door and handed his neighbor a bill. The neighbor laughed and said: Thank you for the wonderful smell of your rolls, but I don’t have enough money to pay this bill.

Enraged, the baker went to the judge to plead his case. Everyone expected the judge to laugh him out of court, but after listening to the baker, he said, “This is a very unusual case. I must be fair to both parties.” He ordered the baker and the neighbor to appear in court and he ordered the neighbor to bring along five gold coins. The neighbor was nervous! Five coins was all the money he had left in the world. Still, he showed up the next morning with the money.

The judge made his decision. I find you guilty of stealing the baker’s smells, he told the neighbor. Do you have the five gold coins I told you to bring? Sadly, the neighbor started to hand the coins over, but the judge ordered him to stop. Not yet. Drop the coins from one hand to the other. After the neighbor had done this, the judge asked the baker, “Did you enjoy that sound?” The baker answered, “Oh, very much sir.” The judge smiled to the neighbor, then turned back to the baker: “Then you have been repaid,” said the judge. “The pleasant sound of money is, I think, a fair payment for the sweet smell of your rolls. Case dismissed!”

Now here is a story that is more than just a cute fable about wisdom - more – it is a story about our connectedness to one another. We are bound to each other in sounds and smells, in works and ways of which we are often not even aware. In these times of societal division, I thought it appropriate for today.

Jim Wallis, the well-known commentator on religion and values in American wrote an article for TIME Magazine entitled “*Whatever Happened to the Common Good?*” Like the baker in that story, Jim Wallis writes that many Americans are so focused on their personal rights, they fail to see their connectedness to their neighbor. It’s my right to refuse the vaccine. It is my right to own a gun. It’s my right to refuse to wear a mask. It’s my right to speak my mind however I choose. It’s my right to do this or that – and so on and so on. We are consumed with our personal rights! Have we forgotten a principle at the heart of community, a principle that has been a building block of society for centuries – we are in this life together. We are connected to one another in a social contract that should not be broken. This is the Common Good!

Jesus spoke about the sense of common good when he shared the Parable of the Good Samaritan and asked a young man: Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The writer of James speaks of common good, he writes: Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is faith? Again, St. Paul writes to the Corinthians: There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body.

I wonder if a renewed commitment to the Common Good might help our country heal in a time of deep division. How do we work together? How do we treat each other? How do we take care of not just ourselves, but also one another? These are the questions of the Common Good. In the end these are the questions of how we love our neighbor as ourselves.

Blessings!

Pastor Dick

Stewardship Ministry

AID FOR UKRAINIAN PEOPLE



With all the suffering among the Ukrainian people many have asked how we might help those who have been impacted by the war. There is a tremendous need for food, health supplies, and assistance for those who are now homeless; so, if you would like to donate to this crisis, we will receive donations and forward them to the ELCA for Relief in the Ukraine. Please note on your check that the gift is for “Ukraine Relief.”

The suffering caused by the military actions in the Ukraine are affecting thousands of people and it is appropriate for us to remember these folks in our prayers and share some of our blessings so that life might be a little better for them. God blesses us so that we might be a blessing to others! Thank you for considering the gigantic need.

Baptismal Anniversaries

During May, we remember and give thanks for the baptisms of:

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| 5/ | Gayle Bortz | 5/22 | Deb Carlton |
| 5/4 | Logan Shore | 5/22 | Trish Sharp |
| 5/5 | Marleen Oxenreider | 5/22 | Mya Krutsinger |
| 5/8 | Coleton Atwell | 5/23 | Bob Schmitt |
| 5/8 | Kelsey Seufferer | 5/24 | Karen Kray |
| 5/10 | Kay Tighe | 5/24 | Keara Storm |
| 5/10 | Jody Draper | 5/26 | Bob Prather |
| 5/13 | Gert Patterson | 5/29 | Beckett Dachenbach |
| 5/20 | Scott Luehring | 5/29 | Grace Helbing |
| | | 5/29 | Josie Helbing |

Thanks be to Jesus for the saving waters of baptism!

(In baptism, we all are made one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither Chariton nor Corydon! Are we missing your baptismal anniversary? Let us know! Tell us the story of your baptism!)

:::..: On the Vine

WENDY'S SCHEDULE:

Wendy plans to be in the office from Monday thru Wednesday from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (some afternoons if needed). THE BULLETINS WILL BE PRINTED ON WEDNESDAY MORNING – SO PLEASE GIVE HER YOUR INFORMATION FOR THE BULLETINS ACCORDINGLY.

THE CIRCLE OF FREEDOM WORKDAY WAS POSTPONED AND RE-SCHEDULED FOR THIS

SATURDAY, MAY 7, from 8 am – 4 pm at the Circle of Freedom Building at 400 E. 4th Street in Seymour. Please RSVP to Kim Crawford at 641-414-2999 if you will be able to help that day.

PRAYER SHAWL/BABY AFGHAN GROUP will gather in the FLC Library, beginning at 1:30 PM, on Wednesday, May 4.

BREAKFAST GALS will meet on Tuesday, May 10, at Hardee's, beginning at 8 AM.

“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING at CTS will take place on Tuesday, May 10, from 9 AM-3 PM.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will gather on Thursday, May 12, at Homestead, at 1 PM.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, May 15, at 5 PM. Your hosts will be Joanne Fletcher and Joann Narber. Please bring a food item to share.

THE CTS WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet on Tuesday, May 17, at Christ the Servant beginning at Noon.



First Lutheran Church
Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

1004 Curtis Ave • Chariton, Iowa 50049

Pastor Dick Hutton
 email: flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
 FaceBook: First Lutheran Church ELCA, Chariton, IA
 and Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
 phone: 641-774-4875

May

**** BISHOP AMY CURRENT AT FIRST LUTHERAN
 AND CHRIST THE SERVANT
 SUNDAY, MAY 1**

**** CIRCLE OF FREEDOM WORKDAY**
 Re-scheduled for Saturday, May 7
 8 am- 4 pm

**** HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION**
 - Sunday, May 8, at First Lutheran

**** FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION
 DRIVE-THRU MEAL AT FIRST LUTHERAN**
 May 24 from 5-7 PM

**** THE SET ME FREE PROJECT**
 Saturday, June 4
 All are invited!!

**Be Bold in our Faith as Children of God
 and Share the Good News of Salvation with All People**

(First Lutheran Mission Statement)



Share the Joy of Christ, and Serve Others

(Christ the Servant Mission Statement)

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<http://twitter.com/iowalutheran>



First Lutheran Church Chariton, IA
 flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
 (641)774-4875
 Worship &
 Sunday School 9 AM

Pastor Dick Hutton

Christ the Servant Corydon, IA
 Office: 641-774-4875
 Sunday School 10 AM
 Worship 11 AM

MAY 2021

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Bishop Amy Current at Chariton & Corydon Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship <u>10 am</u> – Coffee Reception at Chariton <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship <u>12:15 pm</u> – Potluck Meal at Corydon | 2 <u>11 am</u> - CTS Worship & Music Committee Meeting at Church | 3 <u>10 am</u> – FLC Worship & Music Committee Meeting <u>11:30 am</u> – Lucas Co. ICC Meeting <u>6:30 pm</u> – Southgate Service | 4 <u>1:30 pm</u> – Prayer Shawl Group <u>7 pm</u> – Baccalaureate at Cornerstone Church <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS | 5 Office Closed | 6 Office Closed | 7 <u>8 am-4 pm</u> : Circle of Freedom Workday <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS |
| 8 MOTHER'S DAY Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship & Graduate Recognition <u>10 am</u> – Chariton Graduate Reception <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship | 9 <u>2 pm</u> –Laplanders Quilt Guild at CTS <u>6:30 pm</u> –Council at FLC | 10 <u>8 am</u> – Breakfast Gals at Hardees <u>9 am-3 pm</u> – Blanket Making at CTS | 11 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS | 12 <u>1 pm</u> – Women of the ELCA at Homestead Office Closed | 13 Office Closed | 14 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS |
| 15 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship <u>Noon</u> – CTS Task Force <u>3 pm</u> – Chariton Graduation <u>5 pm</u> - Lutheran Adult Fellowship | 16 <div style="background-color: #FF00FF; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Wendy Out of the Office This Week</div> <u>6 pm</u> – Quilt Guild in Fireside Room | 17 <u>Noon</u> – CTS Women's Bible Study at CTS | 18 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS | 19 Office Closed | 20 <div style="background-color: #FF00FF; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">May 20-21 Synod Assembly at Coralville</div> Newsletter Deadline! Office Closed | 21 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS |
| 22 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship | 23 | 24 <u>5-7 pm</u> – Drive-Thru Meal for 1 st Responders, EMT's, Firemen, etc. at FLC | 25 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS | 26 Office Closed | 27 Office Closed | 28 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS |
| 29 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship | 30  Office Closed | 31 | | <div style="background-color: #FF00FF; padding: 5px;">Wendy's Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Afternoons if Needed)</div> | <div style="background-color: #FF00FF; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">AA – Alcoholics Anonymous</div> | |