

# First Fruits

May 2023  
Volume 27, Number 5

## Worship Ministry



### DAY OF PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 28

You are invited to wear red on this fiftieth day of Easter as we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit.

### CONFIRMATION TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 28, at FIRST LUTHERAN

On Sunday, May 28, we will confirm three youth at First Lutheran. TRAYTON BROWN, AUSTIN CAIN, AND MORGAN PETERS will be confirmed on that day. Please hold these youth in your prayers as they complete this milestone in their journey.



### Confirmation News!

Class—May 3 @ 3:30 PM  
Class-May 24 @ 2:00 PM  
Confirmation Sunday-  
May 28 at FLC



### OUTDOOR WORSHIP RETURNS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS AT FIRST LUTHERAN!!

#### MAY 21—HOME OF ROD & GAYLE BORTZ

On Sunday, May 21, we will hold an outdoor worship service at the home of Rod & Gayle Bortz. Please bring your lawn chair and stay for fellowship of coffee and cinnamon rolls after the service.



#### JUNE 18 – JULY 16 – AUGUST 20 AT FLC

On the third Sunday of June, July & August, outdoor Worship is being planned on the west side of First Lutheran on the large cement pad to begin at 9 AM. Please bring your lawn chairs.

### “The Story”

#### Discussion Group

will meet  
Wednesday,  
May 3 and  
Wednesday, May 10 at 10  
AM. The discussion group  
will not meet again until  
fall.



### OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FAMILY OF ALEX OXENREIDER. Alex passed away on April 5, 2023.

He was the son of David and Carrie, brother of Carson, and grandson of Marleen. Please keep this family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Holy Land Presentation.....	2
Synod Revival.....	2
Radio Broadcasts .....	2
Noisy Offerings.....	3
On The Vine.....	3
Cleanup Day .....	3
Ministry Center .....	3
Pastoral Pondering.....	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries ..	5
Calendar .....	6

# Discipleship Ministry

**Walking in Jesus' Footsteps...** Chariton's Trinity Lutheran Church members cordially invite you to a pictorial presentation about the **Holy Land** and a potluck luncheon at their church, 825 N. 7th St., on Sunday, May 7. Jenni Pickel, former Chariton resident, will show us the best of her photos from her travels to the Holy Land from Magdala and the Sea of Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea and all points in between. Check out King Herod's swimming pool, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel's palace ruins and the view of the Valley of Jezreel, Jesus' office of Capernaum, and Peter's Fish and raised fishing boat. The photographs are matched with biblical references and passages and some of Jen's own personal stories. She will prepare authentic Palestinian hummus and pita bread to sample during the presentation. The Holy Land presentation will begin at 10:30 after church services with the potluck approximately at noon. This time together is geared for all ages. **PLEASE SIGN UP AT FLC ON SUNDAY, APRIL 30 OR CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND AND STAY FOR THE POTLUCK!**

## WHAT IS A SYNOD REVIVAL?

A one-day event presented by the Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA designed to nourish and connect people to each other and to reimagine our relationships in and with the church.

This event is free of charge and intended to be a joyful fun gathering for all ages full of inspiration, worship, and prayer. Bring your friends, neighbors, family, or anyone and watch what God does!

Saturday, May 20th  
Grand View University  
Des Moines  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn more at [synodrevival.org](http://synodrevival.org)



## RADIO BROADCAST



## THANK YOU for your support of this ministry!!

The radio broadcast of Pastor Hutton's sermons is 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 (Albia)

[kiicradio.com](http://kiicradio.com)—website  
(Click on "Listen Live")

If you miss Sunday, catch it as a podcast on church's website!

### **Broadcast Sponsors:**

**May 7:** Del & Karen Kray thankful for grandchildren & great grandchildren

**May 14:** Anonymous

**May 21:** Susan Seufferer in honor of Jensen Peters 11th birthday

**May 28:** John & Arta Harman in honor of John's 90th birthday

**Several dates starting in October are still open for 2023! With two 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!**

# Stewardship Ministry

## NOISY OFFERINGS WILL CONTINUE!

“Noisy Offerings” will continue to be taken on Sundays during April with proceeds going to ELCA World Hunger Appeal at FLC and the elementary school’s lunch program at CTS. The cause will change every few months. Please consider bringing your loose change to church and “noisily” depositing it in the pot!!

## SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS!

Please trim the stamps off the envelope, leaving 1/4" around each. Deposit them into the box on the desk in the Fireside Room. They will go to a woman in TX who gets them to stamp dealers who in turn sell them to stamp collectors. The **money goes to Lutheran World Relief for shipping quilts and kits.** Collecting stamps will not stop!



## ON THE VINE



**CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet on Monday, May 1 at 11 AM.

**FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet on Tuesday, May 2 at 10 AM.

**“THE STORY” DISCUSSION GROUP** will meet on Wednesday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 10 at 10 AM.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will be held on Wednesday, May 3 at 3:30 PM and Wednesday, May 24 at 2 PM.

**PRAYER SHAWL/BABY AFGHAN GROUP** will gather in the FLC Library, beginning at 1:30 PM, on Wednesday, May 3.

**LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS** on Monday, May 8 beginning at 2 PM.

**FLC COUNCIL MEETING** on Monday, May 8 at 6:30 PM.

**BREAKFAST GALS** will meet at 8 AM on Tuesday, May 9 at Hardees.

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

**INTERCHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** on Tuesday, May 9 at 11:30 AM.

**THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA** will gather on Thursday, May 11, at 1:00 PM at First Lutheran.

**THE CTS WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, May 16, at Christ the Servant beginning at 11:30 AM.

**LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP** will meet on Sunday, May 21, at 5 PM. Lonna Wantland and Joann Narber will be hosts. Please bring an item to share.

## CLEAN-UP DAY!

Council has set Sunday, May 7 as a cleanup day after church at First Lutheran. Please plan to stay after the service and help with outdoor cleanup!



## MAY IS CANNED VEGGIES AND CANNED FRUITS MONTH

for the Ministry Center. The Ministry Center is currently OUT OF toilet paper and laundry soap. They also need ½ gallon milk jugs. Please consider helping with this ministry!



**Change**

## ADDRESS CHANGE!!

**DELORES RANSHAW** has moved to her daughter, Sheryl’s house.

Her address is:

3608 Western Hills Drive  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

# Pastoral Pondering . . . .

*“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples , which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31*

There are many reasons I like the month of May. The month of May has many signs of new life, beginning with the change from winter to spring. Soon, hopefully very soon, the sun will shine with increasing power to warm the earth and the air. There is the aroma of freshly turned earth that fills the air as we drive through the countryside and see the tractors in the field, preparing the earth for planting new seeds. At the end of May, we will celebrate a time of Confirmation, as confirmation students take the next step in their faith as they affirm their baptismal vows, confessing their faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and promising to live out their faith in the midst of the communion of saints. And, as the month continues, we get excited in seeing the different shades of green - the grass turns a vibrant green, the trees become filled with new leaves that have their own shades of green, and in the middle of the month, we begin to look for rows of green corn and beans. It's exciting to see this new life all around us. Then there is high school and college graduation - students have achieved a milestone in their life as one adventure ends, and a new adventure begins. So, as you can see, there is a lot of newness of life celebrated in the month of May.

As John tells the story of Easter, he adds that Jesus did many other signs, which were written that we might have life in his name. Right before this, John related the story of Easter morning and the night of Easter. Early in the morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, but discovered it was empty. Immediately, she runs and tells Peter and John. They check out the tomb and discover it is empty. Now, Mary hangs back, crying, for she misses Jesus. Then Jesus appears to her, and she goes running to all the disciples and tells them, “I have seen the Lord.” The disciples are not so sure this is true. That evening, behind locked doors, the disciples are gathered in the Upper Room, Jesus appears in their midst, saying to them, “Peace be with you.” The disciples are still doubtful, thinking they are seeing a ghost. But then Jesus shows them his hands with the wounds of the nails, and he pulls back his robe to show them the wound in his side. Now, the disciples are glad to see the Lord.

After Jesus has assured his disciples that it is indeed him, and sharing his peace, Jesus gives the disciples the Holy Spirit by breathing on them. And, he says to them, “If you forgive the sins of any, they will be forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” These words of Jesus give us reason to pause; we know how the disciples abandoned Jesus as he was arrested. Now, the first words Jesus gives to his disciples are, “Peace be with you.” Jesus doesn't hold their sin against them, he doesn't ask them, “Why did you abandon me?” No, Jesus offers his peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Jesus stands in their midst demonstrating his victory over sin and death with instructions to forgive sins. To be forgiven is to be set free from the guilt and the hurt sin created. To be forgiven is to be set free to have a new beginning, a chance to be reconciled, to begin the relationship anew. To be forgiven is to have newness of life, peace and joy. Before they can face Jesus to ask for his forgiveness, Jesus offers his peace and forgiveness. Then our risen Lord gives his disciples a mission - as the Father sent me, so I send you, forgive the sins of people and they will be forgiven. In forgiveness, Jesus offers all the gift of new life.

May is the season of new life. We witness the newness of life as spring wakes the earth from its winter slumber. We see new life all around us in the plants and new baby calves in the field. These are all a witness to the newness of life we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly we have newness of life in his name.

Blessings!

*Pastor Dick*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May Baptismal Anniversaries

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

Table with 2 columns: Date and Name. Includes entries like 5/ Gayle Bortz, 5/22 Deb Carlton, 5/4 Logan Shore, etc.

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!)

THE LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE is now posted on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room. Primary duties in this ministry involve mowing and trimming the area immediately surrounding the church building (inside the circle driveway) and sweeping off the sidewalks. If you prefer, you can call the church office (641-774-4875) and have Susan put you on the schedule. Please consider helping with this important ministry.



CORYDON BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 Mark Harders
5/6 Sheri Mason Rogier
5/27 John Harman

CHARITON BIRTHDAYS

- 5/3 Bill Anstey
5/3 Ian Luehring
5/5 Natalie McGee
5/6 Debra Carlton
5/6 Scott Luehring
5/7 Ann Aulwes
5/9 Larry Wheeldon
5/11 Madison Buckalew
5/16 Lisa Junkman
5/18 Earl Comstock
5/19 Eric Johnson
5/20 Joann Narber
5/23 Leigha Mehlert
5/23 Gary Pepping
5/24 Hunter Clark
5/25 Bruce Junkman
5/25 Max Aulwes
5/27 Sharon Anstey
5/30 Diane Lukavsky
5/31 Liam Cunningham

CORYDON ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/23 Judd & Anne Kruse
5/25 Wade & Angela Harman

CHARITON ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/16 Ralph & Ruby Hanson
5/28 Scott & Rae Luehring
5/28 Angela & Mike Wilson
5/30 Julie & Eli Horstmeier

Minutes and Reports

Copies of recent meeting minutes and financial reports are available on site at both First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. At FLC, please look on the bulletin board outside the church office. At CTS, check the table by the windows on the lower level.