Blessed is the man whose delight

is in the law of the Lord.

Psalm 1

May 12, 2024 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:30 AM Worship

First Lutheran Church 709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218 Washburn, North Dakota 58577 <u>www.flcwashburn.com</u> 701-462-3775

WOV SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(Today's scripture readings follows the growth of the early Christian Church as the disciples of our Lord continue to faithfully serve one another and reach out to the world with the Gospel message. We're glad you're here. Welcome to today's worship service.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (put prayer requests on yellow cards)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESSp. 10

- L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen
- L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen
- L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- L: Most merciful God,
- C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on

us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

- L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
- C: Amen

GATHERING SONGLBW #158 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

ASCENSION

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus 158 0 le - lu ia! Sing Je sus; His the scep Al to ter, - phans Are Al le - lu ia! Not as or we left in 2 _ ia! Bread Here on earth 3 Al le - lu of heav - en, our le ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip 4 Al lu o ia! His the tri - umph, His his the throne; Al - le-lu the -Al - le-lu ia! He is near uŝ; Faith be sor row now; le - lu ia! Here the sin ful Flee Al -food, our stay; to le - lu ia! Born Al of Mar Earth your tent we own; y, vic a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful to ry lieves, ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re nor In from day to day. ter - ces sor, friend of you -foot As with - in veil stool, heav'n your throne. the you flood: "Je Zi on Thun - der like а might - y sus ceived him When the for were o'er, Shall ty days our sin ners, Earth's re - deem er, hear our plea Where the tered, Robed in flesh, our great high priest, Here en on



5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 HYFRYDOL 87 87 D

GREETING – (Lent to Pentecost)p. 46 L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the

communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:13

C: And also with you.

- L: The word is near you,
- C: on your lips and in your heart.
- L: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,
- C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- L: Faith comes from what is heard,
- C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Romans 10

SCRIPTURE SONG

This canticle or another scripture song or hymn may be sung.



- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

- L: Let us pray.
- C: Blessed Trinity, your deep desire for you people is that we may be one as you are one. You have made us one in Christ through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Teach this gathering of Christ's followers to live each day out of our true identity —children of God and one in Christ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READINGActs 1:12-26 (Recognizing the need to for the work of the Gospel to continue, the Apostles' prepare for the mission to come by selecting an Apostle to replace Judas.)

¹²{The apostles} returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about ¹²⁰) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "Let another take his office.' ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us - one of these men

must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

PSALM (Read Responsively).....Psalm 1 (With these words the Psalmist provides wonderful direction to all who seek a life filled with blessing.)

¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING1 John 5:9-15

(God has given us the assurance that we may approach him and ask for anything according to his will. He is not far off and distant, but approachable and grants us eternal life through Jesus.)

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the

testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

SPECIAL MUSICOrlin Larson & Theresa Petersen "Shall We Gather at the River"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONp. 48

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This acclamation or a hymn, song, or canticle may be sung before and/or after the Gospel:



- L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 17th chapter.
- C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READINGJohn 17:11b-19 (In these words, Jesus prays a heartfelt prayer for his disciples then and now, that in the midst of a world hostile to the Gospel, our heart and lives might be anchored securely in God's truth.)

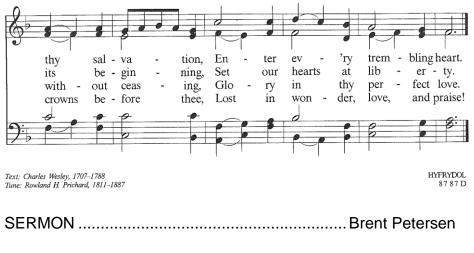
^{11b}{Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said,} "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth "

- L: The Gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMNLBW #315 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

CHRISTIAN HOPE





HYMNLBW #492 "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

O Master, Let Me Walk with You



RESPONSE TO THE WORD.....p. 49

- L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
- C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14
- L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our

Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

- L: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
- C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20

- L: Keep yourselves in the love of God;
- C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 21

- L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
- C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17
- L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.
- L: Gracious God,
- C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
- L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
- C: Amen

- L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11
- L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

OFFERING



OFFERTORY PRAYER - (Lent to Pentecost)p. 51

- L: Let us pray.
- L: Gracious God,
- C: in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BLESSING OF LWR QUILTS & KITS

- L: Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many Gifts --- a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the Quilts we have made, to you.
- C: We dedicate these 39 Quilts and 13 Baby Kits to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each Quilt or Kit is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection of items --- making each piece we have created an expression of love.

There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life --- how you can use something as small as a Quilt, a Baby Care Kit, a School Kit or a Health Kit to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

- L: Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people.
- C: Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words: L: Lord, in your mercy,

- C: Hear our prayer.
- L: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYERp. 52

- L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

BLESSING

- L: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.
- C: Amen
- L: May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
- C: Amen
- L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen

Romans 15

"Be Thou My Vision"

TRUST. GUIDANCE



Text: Irish 8th-10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt. Music: Irish tune

DISMISSAL L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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<u> Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!</u>	
INTERIM PASTOR	Pastor Paul Krueger
WORSHP LEADER	Brent Petersen
READER	Sarah Rosenquist
ORGANIST	Theresa Petersen
USHERS/GREETERS	Chris & Nicole Albers Family
VIRTUAL SERVICE	Kyle Albers
COFFEE HOUR	Wes & Pat Sick
	Darrell & Stacey Scheresky
ALTAR GUILD	Theresa Petersen
SERVICE GROUP COORDINAT	ORS Randy & Gwen Hall Melanie Beckman

First Lutheran Church 709 5th Ave. - PO BOX 218 Washburn ND 58577 701-462-3775

INTERIM PASTOR: Paul Krueger email: <u>revpaulkrueger@gmail.com</u> Cell phone: 701-240-4712 ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost Church Office: 701-462-3775 Email: <u>flc@westriv.com</u> Website: <u>www.flcwashburn.com</u> COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe Email: <u>fly@westriv.com</u> OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30 W – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

Our Mission

"Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service."

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

Happy Easter! (Yes, it's still that season!) And Happy Mother's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a mom or momfigure. Welcome to worship.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, May 5, Attendance – 180 Online Viewing – 28 General Fund & Plate Giving - \$8,673.47

Hearing Assist

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

This week we pray for:

This Week's New Prayer Requests:

Prayers of Christian Sympathy: Family of Jamie Westrum

Long Term prayer requests:

Members: Alton Krebsbach, Melisa Chrest, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

This month we pray for:

Members: Dick Bickert, Arlene Schwarz, Marion Narum (Peggy Moran), Ty Brown (Jody & Nicole Brown), Alice Richard, Jackie Olson

Friends & Family: Jerry Smith, Warren Pauling (Audrey Pauling)

This Quarter we pray for:

Members and Nonmembers: Perry Thyberg, Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson)

Military Prayer and Card List

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard: SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed SPC Christian Gardner – Army National Guard SPC Cassidy Sommer - National Guard SGT Jonathan Melvard – Army National Guard Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard: SGT Dustin Enockson - National Guard Emily Johnson – Air Force Bryar Anderson – Marines 1SGT Jordan Ternes – Army National Guard Tech. SGT Andre Austin – Air Force Hunter Feigum – National Guard Morris Duffy - Medical Air Guard Brandon Searcy - Navy - Deployed Adam Walsvik – National Guard

Notice of Prayer List Policy

We have a monthly /quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our "This Quarter we pray for:" list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God's people.

Large Print Bulletins

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

Flowers

Altar flowers today are from Eric & Sarah Rosenquist family – Happy Mother's Day.

Happy Mother's Day to all mother's today!

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Jamie Westrum. A Celebration of Life for Jamie was held yesterday here at First Lutheran Church. May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting will immediately follow today's worship service. We will be voting on extending a Letter of Call to Pastor Paul Krueger. If that passes then we will vote on his compensation package. See letter to congregation in this bulletin for more information.

FLCW Outing

All women of First Lutheran are invited to the FLCW Outing this Wednesday, May 15th. They will be touring the Assumption Abbey in Richardton, going for lunch and then on to the Taylor Nursery in Taylor. Everyone will meet at the church at 8:30 that morning to carpool. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet this Thursday, May 16th, at 9:30 am at the church. Norma Petersen & Kathy Keller host. Study is Tender Warrior – lesson 4.

High School Senior Recognition

Next Sunday, May 19th, we will recognize the First Lutheran High School Seniors during the worship service. A tea follows the worship service for the graduates, families and prayer warriors. Following are the seniors and their prayer warriors:

> Aaron Blumhagen – Randy Hall James Chrest – Sylvia Thompson Madelyn (Maddie) Jaeger – Carla Bickert Carter Knutson – Alexis Solomonson Alex Retterath – Mac & Judy Beaudry Justin Scheresky – Melissa Rothe Ashlyn Schmitz – Janet Hanson

Carnival Committee Meeting

The carnival committee will meet next Sunday, May 19th, at 10:45 am. Anyone is welcome to be on this committee. Any questions, please talk to Kacy Hardt.

Super Sunday Supper

Join us next week Sunday, May 19th, for our Super Sunday Supper from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. It will be a Fiesta Sunday meal. Tacos and Mexican food. Everyone is welcome. Freewill offering.

Riverboat Days Quilt Display

June 1st Riverboat Days Pie & Ice Cream Social will have a display of quilts. If you have a quilt you would like displayed, please contact Donna Gunderson at 315-0275 no later than May 30th.

Riverboat Days Community Band

Do you play a band instrument? The join us for the Riverboat Days Community Worship Service on Sunday, June 2nd at 10:30 am. Dust your band instrument off and join the fun! Rehearsal will be Wednesday, May 29th, at 6:30 pm here at First Lutheran. Contact Pastor Paul Krueger at First Lutheran for music and to find out more!

Support Melissa this Summer

Melissa Rothe is going to a 40-day leadership and discipleship experience near Duluth through Tentmakers. There are <u>support</u> <u>letters and brochures in a basket on the table in the narthex</u> if you would like to support her through money and prayer. Please talk to Melissa to hear more about what she will be doing and what she hopes to gain from this experience.

Altar Flower Signup Sheet

A signup sheet for altar flowers through September 29th is on the table in the narthex. Signup for that Sunday you want before it is taken. You furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church.

Mother The Camp

There is a plastic tub in the Narthex for the annual MOTHER THE CAMP donations. A list of food items, kitchen supplies, housekeeping, office supplies, craft items, and maintenance supplies is on the tub, with lists tacked on the bulletin board for the taking. Any donations help to reduce the operating costs of the camp. Donations will be collected until Sunday, May 12, 2024, and then will be packed up for delivery to the Camp.

Camp of the Cross Camp Scholarships

THANKS to the FLC Church Council, FLCW, Evangelism Committee and an anonymous party, all registration fees will be covered for the FLC campers to Camp of the Cross Ministries this summer. Please let Peggy Moran know by **May 19, 2024**, if you have any campers registered so funds can be sent to the camp before camp season begins.

Connections

The May/June issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Take a copy today to read updates on the LCMC and NALC plus other interesting articles.

Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer

The March/April/May issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the April -June 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

TODAY	THIS WE 9:30 AM	EK AT FIRST LUTHERAN Worship Special Congregational Meeting Immediately following Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour follows meeting Fireside Bible Reading follows meeting
	7:00 PM	0 0
MON.	10:00 AM	Chat & Sew Quilting
TUES.	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study Mommy's Group
WED.	8:30 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	FLCW Meet at Church for Garden Tour & Richardton Abbey Tour Hotdog & Brat Picnic Choir FLY
WED TH	IURS.	LWR Quilts & Kits to Bismarck
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study at the Church
SUN.	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:45 AM	
4:00	– 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	8

HOTDOG/BRAT PICNIC

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 6:00 PM

ALL FREEWILL OFFERING GIVEN TO MELISSA ROTHE TOWARDS HER 40-DAY TENTMAKERS LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

JOIN US FOR A PICNIC

What a great time it is for First Lutheran Church. <u>Melissa Rothe</u> has agreed to further her spiritual leadership to better serve our youth. She will embark on The TENTMAKERS 40-Day Leadership Training in early June. This is a one of a kind discipleship and leadership training course that offers world class personal development and training experiences where participants grow in knowledge, disciplines, skills, and the transformational attitudes of Christian leadership. What a blessing this is for our youth in our community! PLEASE JOIN US as our youth will be serving a hotdog/brat meal in appreciation for Melissa's servant leadership. There will be fellowship, yard games, and music to enjoy. All freewill offering will go to Melissa to assist her on this journey.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday of Easter — May 12, 2024

"But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

– John 17:13 –

The joy of Christ is not just a future promise, it is a present reality. Those who believe in the Son of God have eternal life. It is not the promise of a place we will go one day; it is the promise of the life we live for today. We are stuck between the promise and the reality, yet even here we have the life of joy He has promised. Eternal life is for those who dwell in the word of God.

We are made holy by God's Word. Our relationship with Christ makes us different. We are not taken out of the world but sent into the world. We must be careful that we do not become like the world; everything we do is dependent on our identity In Christ. It isn't easy. The world hated Jesus and they will hate us, but we need not live in fear or worry. Jesus' prayers are heard and answered and He has prayed for us. Through His prayers, Jesus assured the disciples that they were to be part of something much bigger than themselves. We have been assured, along with the disciples, that God will never abandon us.

It might not seem like God will never leave us, especially in times when we feel particularly alone. On Ascension Day Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, leaving behind the world in which He had lived for thirty or so years. He left behind the people He loved, called into service, and taught about the Kingdom. He left them with a promise, but He left them alone and they did not receive the Holy Spirit until Pentecost. For those ten days, the disciples were stuck between the ministry they did with Jesus and the ministry they would do in His name. They may have felt abandoned, alone, and afraid, wondering to themselves how could they do the work without Him?

This Sunday we experience that very brief moment of abandonment with the disciples. Though we know that the promise has been fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit is with us, we also know fear, worry, and doubt when it seems like God has abandoned us. This is when the words of Jesus are such a comfort to us; by His Word we know that we are not alone. We have the life He promised, the life of joy with Him here and now and forevermore.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 218 • 709 5th Ave. Washburn, ND 58577-0218

4-15-2024

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

During the past many months, our Call Committee has been working diligently with God's guidance to find a pastoral candidate who might be called to serve First Lutheran Church. I am pleased to report that the Call Committee has recommended Paul Krueger for consideration by the congregation. The Congregational Council has met and concurs with this recommendation.

A Congregational Call Meeting has been called and is scheduled for Sunday, May 12th, 2024, at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary following worship services.

All members are invited to attend. Only voting members (defined as confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year) will have the privilege of voice and vote at this meeting.

The purpose for this meeting is specific to the call of a pastor for First Lutheran Church, and will include the following two orders of business provided the requirements for a quorum are met:

- A vote by written ballot to approve placing a Letter of Call to candidate Paul Krueger will be held (approval will require a 2/3 majority).
- If the candidate is approved, a second vote by sign to approve the salary and compensation to be included in the Letter of Call will be called (approval will require a simple majority).

A draft Letter of Call will be available for review and placed in the Narthex. The voter registration will be passed around with a clipboard and pen following the service. Members of the Church Council will issue ballots to each pew for each Congregational Member to cast their vote. Upon completion, ballots will be passed to the center isle for collection and will be counted immediately. If the candidate is approved, there will need to be a motion from a Congregational Member to approve the salary and compensation as well as a second. Any discussion will be heard at this time. Following the discussion, a vote by sign will be called.

I would ask that you all please prayerfully consider this important matter and attend the meeting if you are able. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you might have prior to the meeting. Thank you to everyone for showing faith, patience, and perseverance throughout this time of pastoral vacancy. We have truly been blessed in many ways as we have been able to continue to work to know Christ and make Christ known!

Peace and blessings,

Joseph Sheldon Congregation President