



### Grace, peace and Greetings to all of you!

Many of us here today wish we still had our mothers living so we could honor them, remember them and love them. And those who are among us still, face the challenges of motherhood on a daily basis.

Mother's Day is soon to arrive, and we honor those mothers who have endured the often-tiresome task of raising children (and even husbands), and, as people of faith, we should continue to cherish all mothers in what they do and who they are. They embody the qualities of patience and perseverance, love and understanding, and the hope that their children will succeed in so many ways. I came across this light-hearted article, and I thought I would include this as a less serious diversion from my usual articles.

A six-year-old boy, separated from his mother in a supermarket, began to call frantically for "Martha! Martha! Martha!" That was his mother's name and she came running to him quickly. "But, honey," she admonished, "you shouldn't call me 'Martha', I'm 'Mother' to you." "Yes, I know," he answered, "but this store is full of mothers."

Our world is full of mothers, but we have only one mother who is special. Should be. Must always be. There is no one like our mothers. And no one can take the place of our mothers.

Someone wrote,

"You've Turned into A Mom When":

- You automatically double-knot everything you tie.

- You find yourself humming the Barney song as you do the dishes.
- You hear a baby cry in the grocery store, and you start to gently sway back and forth, back and forth. However, your children are either at school or long gone!
- You actually start to like the smell of strained carrots mixed with applesauce.
- You spend a half hour searching for your sunglasses only to have your teenager say, "Mom, why don't you wear the ones you pushed up on your head?"
- You are out for a nice romantic meal with your husband, enjoying some real adult conversation, when suddenly you realize that you've reached over and started to cut up his steak!



The following children from the Parish have received instruction and part-took in their First Communion in April.

First Lutheran: Matthew Walton, Laura Riely, Kally Sorenson, Berkly Wirtz, Will Langford, and Flynn Robinson  
Banks/Garden: Miley Paulicheck & Kira Wold



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**Thank you to First Lutheran Thrivent members for directing your Choice Dollars to your church!**

So far in 2018, First Lutheran Church has received \$4,119 through the Thrivent Choice® program.

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We are stronger together!

#### Things Our Mothers Taught Us

- My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. and "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

***Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob***



### **Confirmation Banquet Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Pictures @ 5:30 PM  
Banquet @ 6:00 PM**

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### **Confirmation Sunday**

The following will be confirmation on May 6<sup>th</sup> at First at 11:00 AM Worship:  
Ashley Holen, Amelia Honstein, Cooper Johnson, Kade Quale, Quinn Voll,

Shayla Rolla will be confirmed at Banks Lutheran on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.



### **Lutheran World Relief Quilt Sunday May 6 at First Lutheran**



Dead line for Clarion articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Email/drop off your articles.





Thank You!

**SPONSORS**

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of April: Nyla Dahl & family in memory of Neil Dahl; Grace Alex & family in memory of Luke Alex; the Jeff Johnsrud families in memory of Les & Phyllis Thorland; in honor of FLC Council by Ari Johnson; in honor of Kay Larsen by Lyle Larsen

Please check your special dates and call the office (444-3244) to sponsor a Sunday in this new year.

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast.



**FLC – WELCA  
Spring Give-A-Way**

Please bring your items to the church in the morning of May 3<sup>rd</sup> (8 AM – Noon).

The Give-A-Way will begin at 12:00 PM and continue until 7:00 PM.

We emphasize that donated items should be summer clothes, recreational items and work clothes.

Save your heavy coats & winter items for the fall sale. Please no large items, appliances or furniture.

Volunteers are welcome to help anytime during the day. This event will take place throughout First Lutheran Church.

**Everything is Free!**



**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Class of 2018 Recognition**

Receiving quilts from the Parish are:

First: Mikka Haugeberg, Austin Johnson, Avery Sundeen, Brittany Sandvik, Jackson Voll, Jayden Uhlich, Sheldon Locke.

**There will be a brunch following the 9:00 AM worship at First Lutheran.**

The Banks & Garden Church will honor:

Banks: Morgan Rolfsrud

Garden: Nikita Wollan, Cooper Berquist



**Circle meetings.....**

**Wednesday, May 2**

10:00 AM FLC WELCA General meeting @ the church

**Tuesday, May 8**

2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon

**Wednesday, May 9**

1:30 PM Peace @ the church  
2:00 PM Banks @ Darlene Wold's

**Monday, May 14**

5:00 PM Hope @ the Horizon



**We would like to welcome the newly baptized**

**First Lutheran Church:**

Jaylee Lass, daughter of Kory and Michelle Lass.

**Banks Lutheran Church:** Avery Frick daughter of Zane and Marit Frick



**Worship Assistants for May**

**9:00 AM May 6-- Quilt Sunday**

Reader: Gretchen Stenehjelm  
Greeters: Jeff & Mindy Meyer  
Ushers: Glen & Anne Beard  
Comm: Lloyd & Ardyce Alvshere  
Coffee Hr: Kenneth & Milana Berg  
**11:00 AM**  
Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

**9:00 AM May 13—**

Reader: Barbara Curren  
Greeters: Terry & Angie Moe  
Ushers: Mitch & Lynn Haugeberg  
Coffee Hr: Dwite & Joy Brew

(Confirmation @ the 11:00 AM worship)

**9:00 AM May 20**

Reader: Dale Washburn  
Greeters: Val Swensrud  
Ushers: Jim & Joyce Tveter  
Comm: Ed & Charlotte Schilke  
**Coffee Hour Brunch honoring the Graduating Class of 2018**

**11:00 AM –**

Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Schedule Begins:**

**9:30 AM May 27**

Reader: Joy Patten  
Greeters: Grace Alex  
Ushers: Pete & Donna Rausser  
Coffee Hr: Norman & Eleanor Kostad



**LYO & Youth News**

Every Sunday! Popcorn and a Movie! Starting at 7:00 PM in FLC basement fellowship hall! Bring a friend!

LYO Task Force meeting Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM

Last day of Sunday School is May 6h at 10:00 AM.

*Newsletter*



**Articles not available at print time:**

First Lutheran Church Council minutes

Note: Next meeting May 9 @ 6:00 PM



May 2018



## Growing, Together, in Christ.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.” (Eph 5:31-33)

In a few weeks I will be in Colorado officiating at my nephew's wedding. They will be making vows together, before God, to love, honor and cherish one another in sickness and in health, 'til death do they part. It will be a wonderful, sacred ceremony; the start of a new life together that took a while to prepare. Andrew and his fiancé, Rachel, dated for several years before becoming engaged, and then took 2 months of premarital counseling with me before their big day. Marriage vows are something we take seriously, and Scripture connects marriage to our relationship with Christ.

Another group of people making vows this month are our confirmands. Confirmation is also a wonderful, sacred ceremony, the start of a new life together with Christ that took a while to prepare. Our confirmation kids had 6 years of Sunday School, 2 years going through the Bible, and a year studying the catechism to get to this point. They will make vows very similar to the vows their parents and sponsors made at their baptisms: to go to church, to hear God's word and receive the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, to serve people as Jesus served people and to work for justice. They are serious vows the students make as they affirm their faith and begin their own relationship

with God; a relationship, as I said, that scripture compares to a marriage.

In my office I have a sign that reads “A successful marriage is not the result of marrying the right person, its about doing the right things. Period.” It is a quote by Pastor Mark Gungor who leads the Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage workshops along with his son Phil. We had Phil in Watford City last year and he did a great job. He helped couples like my wife and I understand and appreciate our differences as we recommitted ourselves to the vows we made at our wedding. It had been 20 years, so it was a good reminder.

The Apostle Paul connected the relationship of a husband and wife with the church's relationship to Christ. “Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.” And just as a bride would wash and be anointed for a wedding, the church is washed and anointed in baptism by the Word and the Holy Spirit. This washing continues as we hear the Word spoken every Sunday and receive the body and blood twice a month. Through confession and forgiveness our souls remain without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind.

But how can we remain spotless if we neglect church? And how are we upholding our vows when we let other things take priority over our relationship with Jesus? As the bride of Christ, we made vows to be faithful to church, Scripture and the sacraments as Christ is faithful to us. And just as a good marriage is made of two people doing the right things, our relationship with Christ is good when we do the right things. Jesus has already given his life for us, cleansed us from sin, feeds our

souls through scripture and sacraments, and remains faithful to us. That is the good news! The question Luther would have us ask is how we will then respond to Christ's faithfulness? Alleluia, He is risen! Together in Christ,

Pastor Mark



## Camp Meals are back!!

**The popular Camp Meal will be sold on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>!!**

All proceeds will go towards the Pine Ridge Mission Trip for First Lutheran Youth on July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Please enjoy a fun Camp Meal of hamburger, potatoes, peas and carrots and onions to be sold on May 20<sup>th</sup>. You can enjoy your meal hot and ready after the 11:00 Church Service, or, take it home cold and ready to bake at 10:00.

Pre-sales will be available starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Pre-sale forms will be available in the Narthex of the Church.

A **Free Will** offering for the camp meals will go towards the Mission Trip for the youth.

Watch for signs and the pre-sale sign up sheets to order your Camp Meal!!

