

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mandan, ND 58554

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*Building Faith and  
Transforming Lives  
in Christ.*

[www.firstlutheranofmandan.org](http://www.firstlutheranofmandan.org)  
We're on the web!

ADDRESS LABEL



# First Lutheran Church May Newsletter

May 2026

## First Lutheran Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Phil Leer  
663-3594  
701-341-7784

### Pastor

Rev. Adam Barden  
663-3594

### Parish Administrator

Jackie Klein  
663-3594

### Financial Administration

Curtis Peterson

### Worship Accompanists

8:30  
10:45  
6:30 (Wed.) Kathy Brandvold

### Bell Choir Director

Cathy Long

**First Lutheran Is A Mission  
Partner with Camp of the  
Cross Ministries**

Happy May everyone! The weather is getting warmer, and our days are lasting longer. With our programmatic year coming to an end, we begin to transition into Summer Mode! Our worship times change from our usual two services on Sunday at 8:30 and 10:45, and Wednesday service at 6:30, to one 9:30 worship on Sunday and a Wednesday worship at 6:00. With the end of the school year fast approaching, we have many people become busy with things like summer sports, camps, and family trips.

I recently got back from my First Call Retreat. For the first three years after becoming ordained, a new pastor or deacon in the Lutheran Church spends time throughout the year participating in First Call education. For me, this mainly looks like quarterly zoom meetings with Pastor Brad Doken, the assistant to the bishop in charge of candidacy, and my fellow ministers that are in the first three years of their calls. Along with these meetings, we are asked to participate in a retreat that is hosted by Camp Metigoshi. It serves as a time to listen to guest speakers and the synod staff, discuss and ask questions about our calls and ministry, and to gather in worship.

During the final worship service, the executive director of the camp, Pastor Jon Halverson, gave a message about the importance of having a good prayer life and the struggle to maintain one. This is something, I think, many of us can relate to. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we can find ourselves looking at our list of things to do and see that praying is towards the bottom or not even present. In all honesty, it is something that I have struggled with for many years and something that I still struggle with. When asked about how often we pray, many of us are likely to point to when we are in worship. Some of us might point to times where we are struggling.

Pastor Jon brought a similar issue to one of his seminary professors. In response, Jon was asked a question. "When is a time when your mind is quiet and at peace?" For Jon, it was when he went fishing. His focus was solely on the fishing rod and line. He would focus on the sensation that came from the line, giving him feedback on what was at the other end of the line, be it mud, gravel, or a fish.

Much like sabbath rest, our prayer practice can look rather different from one another and can be outside of a church on a Sunday morning. Prayer is more than giving praise or bringing our wants and needs to God, it is conversation. It is taking time to center ourselves and listen to what God is saying to us. It can be a meditative practice where we can clear our minds of our daily worries. For me, this is playing my guitar and singing.

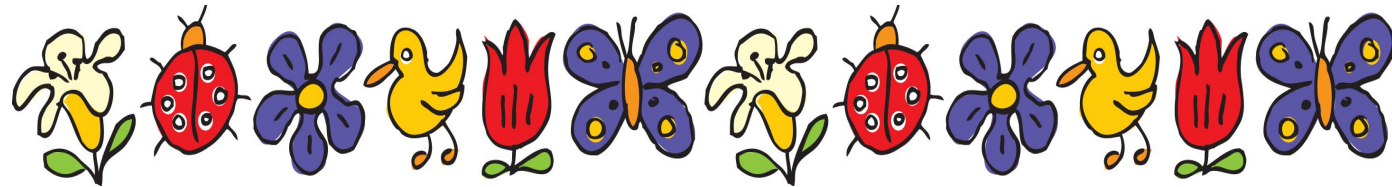
As we enter the summer season, consider the things you do that are prayerful. The things that clear your head and open your heart to what God might be saying. The things that give you peace in the chaos of life.



## PLEASE NOTE!



We will be transitioning our Sunday and Wednesday worship times to our summer schedule starting in May. **ONE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:30 a.m., beginning Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Following the Sunday schedule change, we will then move back to 6:00 p.m. for our Wednesday evening worship service, beginning Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.



Women of First Luncheon will be held at Bennigans on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. If you are planning on attending please call the church office at 663-3594 as soon as possible so we can have an accurate count for them. Please bring a food item for the food boxes outside.

**Thank You!**

Thank you to the Adam Klein Chapter 3 Disabled American Veteran's group for serving LAF this past Thursday, April 9th, and sharing a generous donation for the meal. Your kindness and service to our country are greatly appreciated!

## Rhubarb Butter

### Ingredients

3 cups chopped rhubarb ½" pieces (approx. ¾ pound)  
 ½ cup sugar or ⅓ cup maple syrup or honey  
 3 tablespoons water  
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon (optional)  
 Pinch of salt  
 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

### Instructions

Add the rhubarb heavy-bottomed saucepan or Dutch oven, along with the sugar, water, a pinch of salt, and cinnamon (if using). Stir well to combine.

Heat over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture comes to a boil.

Once a boil is reached, reduce the heat to low (or low medium) to maintain a simmer.

Cook for 20-25 minutes, stirring often, or until the rhubarb is well broken down and has released its juices. It should easily mash with a fork.

Remove the rhubarb butter from the heat and add the vanilla extract. Stir well.

If desired, puree the mixture using a handheld immersion blender, or transfer it in batches to a blender. If using a blender - be careful! Follow the instructions for your model, and drape a towel over the lid when blending.

Transfer the rhubarb butter to glass containers or jars and allow it to cool completely before placing lids on the jars.

Transfer the cooled jars to the fridge and store them for up to 1 week. If you need extended storage, place them in freezer-safe containers and freeze them for up to 6 months.

Serve spooned on biscuits, scones, toast, muffins, ice cream, etc.



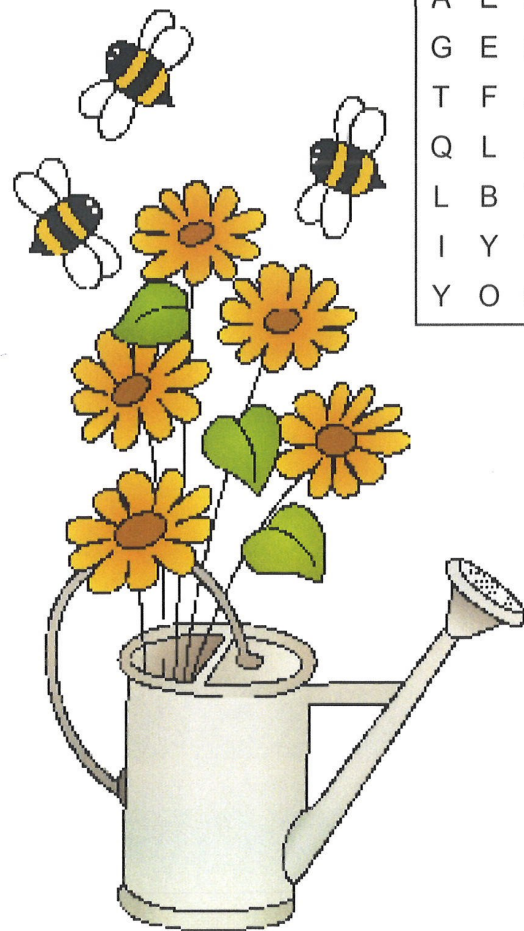
# MERRY MONTH OF MAY

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



- BASEBALL
- BLOSSOM
- BUMBLEBEE
- BUTTERFLY
- CINCO DE MAYO
- FLOWERS



- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| GARDEN       | MOTHER'S DAY |
| GEMINI       | PIÑATA       |
| GREEN        | PLANT        |
| LADYBUG      | SEEDS        |
| LAWNMOWER    | SPRING       |
| MAYPOLE      | SUNSHINE     |
| MEMORIAL DAY | TAURUS       |
| MOM          | TEACHER      |

# May Youth Page

Mark Your Calendar...



7th: LAF ~ Chef's Choice

14th: LAF ~ Hot Dogs

21st: No LAF

28th: No LAF

**Happy Mother's Day to all the women of our congregation!**



## Join us for Vacation Bible School!

Come and join us for 3 days of fun!

Counselors from Camp of the Cross Ministries will be here to help us learn and grow in Christ.

All K-6th graders are invited to join us **June 1-3**

The cost is \$20.00 per child or \$40.00 per family.

Please register at <http://bit.ly/VBS2026FLM>



### Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:  
Corey Jane Marie Palmer

Funerals:  
Howard Moldenhauer



### Memorial Fund

In memory of Chloe Leingang given by Debra Grueneich, family & friends.

In memory of Gene Eckholm given by Harlan Eckhokm, family & friends (for LAF).

In memory of Jill Roth given by Norm & Audrey Roth (for Mandan School kids).

In memory of Howard Moldenhauer from Ron & Laura Webb (for LAF).

### May ~ Mission of the Month

#### Dakota Children's Advocacy Center

Items needed are Bottled Water, Individually Packaged Snacks (nut free), Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissue, Clorox Wipes, Hand Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner, Combs/Brushes, 13-gallon Garbage Bags, Baby Soap, Adult & Child Body Wash, Toothpaste.

You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thanks!

### Special Thanks

*Thank you to all the greeters, ushers, communion servers, readers, communion set-up, coffee hour workers, and to all who have supplied goodies for the last month. Your help is greatly appreciated!*

Deadline for articles for the June/July Newsletter will be May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Worship Schedule

Sunday ~ Starting May 3  
9:30 am ~ Worship

Wednesday ~ Starting May 6  
6:00 pm ~ Worship



**Attention Senior Parents:** We mailed a letter out to you on April 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the Senior Recognition Service that will be held on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 A.M. service. Seniors will also need to have your picture sent to the church before 5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please send the picture to [jackie@firstlutheranofmandan.org](mailto:jackie@firstlutheranofmandan.org).



A huge THANK YOU to all of our Church School teachers and Confirmation leaders who gave of their time and talents this year to bring the Gospel of our Lord to our children of First Lutheran! You are a blessing to us all!



"THANK YOU" to everyone that provided items for the "May Day" baskets, and/or gave of your time to assemble and deliver the unique baskets from First Lutheran Church. 40 baskets were filled with items to bring joy and were delivered to our Nursing Home, Assisted Living, and Homebound Members. You are truly a blessing to our congregation!

March	Mar-26	YTD	2026	Percentage
<b>FINANCIAL GIFTS</b>	2026	2026	ANNUAL	2026
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	%
Total Receipts	69,872.19	164,225.98	665,225.95	24.69%
Total Disbursements	86,792.48	185,610.70	665,225.95	27.90%
Receipts Over or (Under)				
Disbursement	(16,920.29)	(21,384.72)		
<b>BUDGET 2026</b>				
<b>ACTUAL INCOME vs. BUDGET</b>				
	<b>Received</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Difference</b>	
March 1, 2026	12,945.85	12,792.81	153.04	
March 8, 2026	14,894.92	12,792.81	2,102.11	
March 15, 2026	21,100.59	12,792.81	8,307.78	
March 22, 2026	9,481.28	12,792.81	(3,311.53)	
March 29, 2026	10,795.01	12,792.81	(1,997.80)	
Interest Earned on Checking	\$ 654.54			
	69,872.19	63,964.05	5,908.14	
<b>BUDGET 2026</b>				
<b>DEBT RETIREMENT</b>				
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Difference</b>	
March 1, 2026	2,211.00	1,153.85	1,057.15	
March 8, 2026	1,694.44	1,153.85	540.59	
March 15, 2026	526.78	1,153.85	(627.07)	
March 22, 2026	740.41	1,153.85	(413.44)	
March 29, 2026	1,968.47	1,153.85	814.62	
	7,141.10	5,769.25	1,371.85	
<b>IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FOR MAR 2026</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE FOR MAR 2025</b>			
March 1, 2026	170	March 2, 2025	172	
March 4, 2026	128	March 5, 2025	305	
March 8, 2026	148	March 9, 2025	160	
March 11, 2026	117	March 12, 2025	100	
March 15, 2026	128	March 16, 2025	160	
March 18, 2026	82	March 19, 2025	94	
March 22, 2026	223	March 23, 2025	152	
March 25, 2026	113	March 26, 2025	73	
March 29, 2026	318	March 31, 2025	206	
Total Attendance for Month	<b>1,427</b>		<b>1,422</b>	

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Date: April 16th, 2026

**Members Present:** Vice President Tim Faller, Veronica Barnick, Kristy Mindt, Travis Schmidt, Greg Grube, Lori Meyers, Sue Ziemann, Cara Mitzel, Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam

**Members Absent:** Kenton Holle

**Additional Present:** Curtis Peterson

**Meeting was called to order by** Vice President Tim Faller

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Travis. Kristy seconded. None opposed. Approved.
- Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Sue. Lori seconded. No one opposed. Approved.

**Correspondence:**

- Mandan Golden Age Club thank you for donations for home delivered meals
- Missouri Slope thank you in support of the M-Fund
- Thank you from Moore Engineering, Inc for allowing them to use our space to hold the public meetings about the 2027 construction in the area.

**Devotion:** Pastor Adam: Shared a blessing from a funeral recently. Our ultimate calling as a church is to be present, and with everything we do, act with a loving and tender heart.

**Pastor Phil's Report:** 2 funerals. One burial. No weddings but several on the horizon for this summer. Sunset Nursing home worship service with Pastor Adam on 4/16. Weekly hospital calls and some care center/nursing home calls. One Funeral planning meeting. Occasional Tuesday text study meeting with pastors. Sr. Choir practices most Wednesdays and Confirmation weekly with Pastor Adam. The last day of Confirmation is next week. Executive Team meeting last week and LAF gatherings almost every week. Meet with Pastor Adam every Monday. Hospice home visit with Holy Communion. Celebrated Maundy Thursday with First Communion kids and their families. Good Friday in-person cancelled but recorded online with our great tech crew, Dave, Jeff & Lori. Easter Sunday services had over 560 in attendance. Participated in Ecumenical Easter Vigil Service on 4/4 at Bismarck United Church of Christ. Participated in the "Palm Sunday Path" on Mar 29th and walked with Corby, Rachel and Linda. It was great weather and a great event attended by over 450 people. Coming up – Summer worship begins Sunday, May 3rd at 9:30 and Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00pm. Synod Assembly May 29-31st with Bishop's election (Bishop Craig NOT seeking another term and has accepted a position with ELCA in Chicago). Special thanks to Cathy Long and Loretta White for accompanying added worship services while Kathy Brandvold is on family leave. John Weber will accompany two services this month as well. Sr. Choir will take a break over the summer.

**Pastor Adam's Report:** Finished up our Lenten and Easter services. Experimented with both Pastor Phil and I preaching on Easter. It went well. Started the process of receiving coaching through the Synod. Joined Camp of the Cross Board of Directors. Coming up – First Board meeting with camp on Saturday. First Call Retreat is Apr 20-22nd at Metigoshe. Youth Task Force meeting with Education and Youth leaders past and present to discuss responsibilities for the two youth ministry positions.

Next meeting with the call committee members will be Monday, April 27th at 7pm. New Member Orientation and supper on April 26th at 5pm. Youth/Mission trip: April Rummage sale is cancelled. Kidnap the pastor will be the last scheduled fundraiser. The youth will be leading worship on Apr 19th and the 22nd. We ran through the service this last Sunday. Two surveys available to the congregation regarding youth ministry and the mission trip. Paper copies are available as well as on Facebook. Community youth mock-in at Trinity Lutheran Friday, April 24th.

**Financial Report:** Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.

- A motion was made to approve the March financial report as presented was made by Kristy. It was seconded by Greg. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- CD matured on April 14th. Current interest rates are 3.7%. See New Business

**Jackie's Report:**

- North side cameras are installed
- Old Chairs – so far 98 chairs have been taken. 80 of these when to Bohemian Hall
- Dakota Fire Station is now doing our Ansul system and fire extinguisher inspections as recommended by the fire department. JT Fire used to do it and this company was sold and we were not notified. Dakota Fire found that our Ansul system was not up to code. If it is not brought up to code, we could get written by the Fire Dept. Received a quote from Dakota Fire for \$7953.83.
- New member orientation is Sunday, April 26th at 5pm. Council members will bring a dish to share.

**Team Reports:**

- **Executive Team:** All items covered in the agenda
- **Worship Team:** Did not meet in person this month
  - \*Still want to have a recognition Sunday for our church musicians but will wait until Kathy B can be here in person.
  - \*Thanks to Pastor Adam and Pastor Phil for the meaningful Lenton services.
  - \*Lori suggested having church out in the courtyard this summer. This has been done in the past. We will look into this.
- **Evangelism & Outreach:** Met Apr 16th
  - \*Men's Bible Study Group – talked about what they should call it and what it would look like. Greg talked to a couple of people and plans to reach out to the men who have been meeting for coffee Thursday mornings.
- **Property Management:** See New Business for parking lot bids
- **Stewardship:** Discussed the chairs and using donated money for chairs for the chapel as well.
- Youth & Parish Education: Met Apr 13th
  - \*Surveys are available electronically with the link on Facebook and paper copies in the narthex. These are due Apr 22nd. They will be reviewed by the Team as well as the Task Force.
  - \*A 9-12 grade girls bible study led by Kristy, will start in May and meet twice a month.
  - \*Recognition of all the church school leaders during the last day of Sunday and Wednesday Church School. Snacks/breakfast will be provided to them.
  - \*A 6th-12th Grade area wide Mock-In will be held Apr 24th at Trinity Lutheran Church. We are hoping to have a Mock-in at First Lutheran for 9-12th Grade in May.

(continued on page 7)

\*This coming month will be focused on curriculum and schedule for next year's Weds and Sunday Church School, reviewing surveys, and getting all items necessary for Bible School in order.

\*One goal is to have a bible study for men of the congregation. We will work with Evangelism and Outreach Team with their plans.

\*Goal was met with Kristy having completed a volunteer project with her Confirmation group for a community children's center.

**Old Business:**

- Lights on the North side of the church- Lillis was here today working for a 3 hours on them
- New Vision North side cameras – these were installed
- Chapel chairs – Hunter looked at them and they would need quite a bit of work to fix. We will need to start looking at options to replace these.
- New Member orientation with Potluck Apr 26th – Each council member will bring a dish to share

**New Business:**

- Parking lot surface bids- received bids from Lots and Lines for \$23418.90 and Superior Sealing, LLC for \$8930. Superior Sealing was not here in person to give a bid, so it may not be accurate. Travis made a motion to move forward with Lots and Lines minus the concrete work for a total of \$11,418.90. Greg seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Carpet cleaning for steps and narthex and sanctuary. Received two bids. Danmarck carpet care for \$800 for narthex and steps down to the basement and Bar Bee Carpet Cleaning for \$1488.50 to include all available carpet in sanctuary, narthex, stairs and landing. We will wait until next month to make a decision and have it done this summer at some point.
- Felt tips for fellowship hall chairs – Tim left a couple options for Jackie to order from Amazon and once we get them, we will look at both and see what will work best.
- Uniform payment for all music directors and worship accompanists and choir accompanist – discussed if it would be easier to have a uniform payment for all aspects since we have had a fill in substitute accompanist.
- CD renewal – We will have Curtis renew the CD for another 6 months. A motion was made by Cara to renew the CD and add the interest accrued to it. Seconded by Kristy. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Property Spring clean-up – We will organize this through email and pick a date.
- Dakota Fire Station bid – see Jackie's report. Kristy made a motion to have Dakota Fire Station to complete the work. Sue seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Fun Fact: On Saturday, April 18th the church will be 140 years old.

**Next Meeting:** May 21st, 2026

**Lord's Prayer**

**Meeting Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn by Greg. Seconded by Kristy. Meeting Adjourned.