

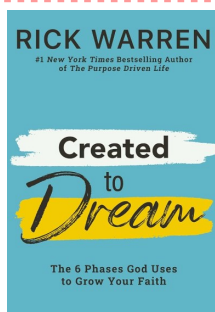
# First Fruits

## Worship Ministry

February 2025  
Volume 29, Number 2

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT FIRST LUTHERAN.** Adult bible study is held on Wednesdays at 10 AM. Now through May, the bible study will be on “Created to Dream” by Rick Warren. There will be no bible study during Lent.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Treats and coffee are provided.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL- FIRST LUTHERAN

There are still spots available to sign up and teach Sunday School this year on the board in the Narthex. All material is provided. Please consider sharing your faith with our Sunday School youth. The last day for Sunday School this year is May 4.

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

You are invited to **Alpha Youth Group** at First Lutheran which will be held from 2-3 PM on the first Wednesday of each month through May and September through December. Snacks and beverages will be provided. The February gathering will be on **February 12**. due to **no school on February 5**. Please bring your friends—everyone is welcome!

Thanks to the 11 youth who attended in January. Let's see how many more we can get in February!!



### 2025 Task Force (Christ the Servant)

Doug Thiel (Chair)	Bill Miller
Dave Mason (V. Chair)	Tom Schilling
Ann Sipma (Secretary)	Brian Sipma
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Doug Thiel (Council Rep)	Cindy Thiel (Treasurer)
Dave Mason (Council Rep)	

**Congratulations to the newly elected Council and Task Force members!**

### 2025 Church Council

Chad Lukavsky (President)	Linda Jurgens
Dave Kuball (Vice-President)	Kim Francisco
Nicki Brown (Secretary)	Kent Storm
Angie Dachenbach (Treasurer)	Dave Mason
Duane Bedford	Doug Thiel

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# Discipleship Ministry

## LUTHERAN LAKESIDE CAMP WANTS YOU!!

It's that time of year again! Early Registration is open for the 2025 camps. Register before March 1 when prices increase. There are camps available for youth, adults, and families.



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

Flyers are available in the Narthex or for more information and registration, visit [www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com).



Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, February 13 at 2:30 p.m. There is a new bible study titled "Faithfulness" and Session 1 will be done at this meeting. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m. All women of First Lutheran and Christ the Servant are welcome to attend.

**LIVING LUTHERAN PRINT EDITION IS RETURNING!** For a group subscription, we must have a minimum of 10 and the cost will be \$17 for four issues a year. If you are interested in a subscription to Living Lutheran, please let Susan know in the office by **February 10**. If we do not have 10, Susan will let you know so you can subscribe individually for \$19.95.

## 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:**

**February 2:** Laura Wilson for the children in their faith journey

**February 9:** Pastor Dick & Carolyn Hutton

**February 16:** Roger & Jean Heston for the blessing of their seven grandchildren

**February 23:** Del & Karen Kray for February family birthdays

***WE ARE NOW FILLING DATES FOR 2025!!*** With two members in care facilities, the broadcast brings our worship to those, plus we have listeners all across southern Iowa. If you would like to sponsor one of these broadcasts, ***please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35. 641-774-4875 Thank you!***

# Stewardship Ministry



**FEBRUARY IS PASTA MONTH for the Ministry Center.** Examples would be pasta, processed cheese, boxed macaroni & cheese, sauces, boxed pasta salads, etc.

Thank you! **Please consider helping with this ministry!**

The Ministry Center also needs volunteers!

**Ministry Center hours:**

**Open M/W/F 9:30-11:30 AM**

**410 S. 7th St.—774-8146**

**Salvation Army Assistance available during open hours. Don't forget the blessing boxes found around town can use donations, too!!**



## **NOISY OFFERINGS!!**

Please bring your loose change to church and “noisily” deposit it in the pot!! Offerings December through March at First Lutheran will go to Salvation Army-Heating Assistance. Offerings December through August at Christ the Servant will go to Wayne School needs.

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

## **ON THE VINE**



**CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet on Monday, February 3 at 11 AM.

**FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 10 AM.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will meet on Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 10 AM.

**LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS** will meet on Monday, February 10 beginning at 2 PM.

**COUNCIL AT FLC** will meet at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 10.

**BREAKFAST GALS** will meet at 8 AM on Tuesday, February 11 at Hardees.

**“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING** will take place on Tuesday, February 11 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

**KNIT & CROCHET GROUP** will meet at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, February 12.

**ALPHA YOUTH GROUP** will be held on Wednesday, February 12, from 2-3 pm for middle school and high school youth and friends. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA** will meet at 2:30 pm on Thursday, February 13 doing Session 1 of the “Faithfulness” study.

**CTS TASK FORCE** will meet on Sunday, February 16 after worship.

**LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP** will meet on Sunday, February 16, at 5 PM. Earl & Linda Comstock will host. Please bring an item to share.

# Pastoral Pondering . . . .

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate."

"When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more."

"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them."

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

"Love is when someone hurts you. And you get so mad but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings."

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

And my favorite one of all: "God could have said magic words to make the nails fall off the cross, but He didn't. That's love."

In the spirit of love St. Paul writes: ***“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”*** (Gal 5:22-25)

And, ***“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.***

***This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.”*** (John 15:9-13)

C.S. Lewis speaks of love as “gift love.” Instead of being born of emptiness or lack, this form of loving is born of fullness. The goal of “gift love” is to enrich and enhance the person whom we love rather than to extract value from them.

“Gift love” moves out to bless and to increase rather than to acquire or to diminish. “Gift love” is more like a bountiful, artesian well that continues to overflow than a vacuum or a black hole. C.S. Lewis concludes that is what God’s love is all about. In other words, God’s love is “gift love.” This, of course, is the meaning of *agape* love – a giving love, putting the other person first.

Are we capable of *agape* love--that is, loving as God loves? To a certain extent we are, but this does not happen naturally for human beings. To love as God loves, we must go to the source of love and the source of all love is God. Jesus said: ***“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you . . .”***

May we celebrate Valentine’s Day with the wondrous love of God as we share our love with one another.

Blessings and Love!

4 ***Pastor Dick***

# Re:Newed

## February Baptismal Anniversaries



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

- 2/15 Leah Goben
- 2/20 Hunter Wilson
- 2/24 Chris Kuball
- 2/24 Chad Mehlert
- 2/26 Madison Bucklalew

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!)*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

### CORYDON

- 2/21 Cynthia Thiel
- 2/28 Troy Trzruc



### CHARITON

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2/1 Kendall Watson     | 2/15 Makala Farrell   |
| 2/1 Dave Thompson      | 2/15 Joe Morrett      |
| 2/2 Trish Sharp        | 2/22 Mya Krutsinger   |
| 2/3 Allison Krutsinger | 2/22 Dave Kuball      |
| 2/4 Barb Vogel         | 2/23 Emma Kempen      |
| 2/4 Logan Newsum       | 2/24 Abby Luehring    |
| 2/5 Logan Mehlert      | 2/24 Angie Dachenbach |
| 2/6 Anna Nayeri        | 2/26 Roger Blunk      |
| 2/6 Clint Smith        | 2/28 Rae Luehring     |
| 2/8 Kate Krutsinger    | 2/28 Chrissy Atwell   |
| 2/9 Vivie Nichols      |                       |

# Thank You

### Dear Members of First Lutheran:

Carolyn and I would like to thank you for the gracious Christmas gift you gave us! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! It's a wonderful joy in our lives to share a journey of faith with you, and I continue to be amazed at the blessings of God that are bestowed upon all of us. This past year has truly been an amazing experience as we shared the grace of God together!

Blessings!

—Pastor Dick & Carolyn

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

### CORYDON

None



### CHARITON

- 2/2 Ryan & Kelsey Dachenbach

Thank you to everyone for the cards, phone calls, and messages we received for our 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Thanks again.

—John & Arta Harman

### Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

We would like to thank you for your generous gifts. Knowing that we have your support and appreciation means a lot to both of us.

Angie & Susan

**IF YOU WISH TO PROVIDE ALTAR FLOWERS,** let the office know. We will no longer have a flower chart hanging in the hallway.



### 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.