

First Fruits

Worship Ministry

May 2025
Volume 29, Number 5



ON SUNDAY, MAY 11, FIRST LUTHERAN WILL RECOGNIZE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES during the 9 AM worship service. A reception will follow in the Fireside Room sponsored by Thrivent. Sydney Cain, Addison Peterson, Logan Shore, Taytum Smith, and Kendall Watson will be graduating from Chariton High School on May 18.



**JUNE 15 – JULY 20
– AUGUST 17 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.

On June 15, a brunch potluck in honor of Father's Day will be held following the service.

THANKS TO ANDREW GREVING, grandson of Rod & Gayle Bortz, for making whales on his 3D printer for the Sunday School students at First Lutheran. On Sunday, April 6, the lesson was on Jonah and the whale and each student was given a whale as a reminder of the lesson.



EASTER SUNDAY AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Thanks to all who donated Easter lilies for the sanctuary. Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen indeed!



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Discipleship Ministry



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

First Lutheran Church
1004 Curtis Ave
Chariton, IA 50049

JUNE 16-19
9 AM - 1 PM

Scan to sign up or
Call: 641-774-4875
Online: bit.ly/3GptHlz



ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT FIRST LUTHERAN.

Adult bible study will be held on Wednesdays at 10 AM April 30 through May 10. The bible study is on “Created to Dream” by Rick Warren.

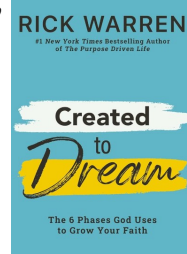
April 30—pages 71-87

May 7—pages 89-101

May 14—pages 103-115

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Treats and coffee are provided.



THANK YOU to everyone who taught Sunday school this year.

We had great kids, great materials, and great adults who were willing to teach and

encourage our youth to explore their faith. There will be a new series in the fall and we welcome back all of our youth and teachers! Thank you!

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—website
(Click on “Listen Live”)

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

Broadcast Sponsors:

May 4: Susan Seuferer

May 11: Deb Clark in honor of Hunter's “golden” birthday

May 18: Joann Narber in honor of her 85th birthday

May 25: John & Arta Harman in honor of Dr. John Harman's 92nd birthday

ONLY 5 SUNDAYS AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR 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 a broadcast for 2024, please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35.
641-774-4875 Thank you!

Stewardship Ministry

2025 CLUSTER 9 WELCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE in the office. An applicant must be a female member associated with a Cluster 9 church and be accepted for enrollment at a post-secondary institution for the 2025-26 school year. Deadline is August 31, 2025. For applications and scholarship procedures, contact Susan at the office.



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUTSIDE CLEANUP AT BOTH CHURCHES! Everything looks great and it was appreciated!!

ON THE VINE



CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, May 5 at 11 AM.

FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, May 6 at 10 AM.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesday, May 7 at 10 AM.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will gather on Thursday, May 8, at 2:30 PM at First Lutheran.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION AT FLC will be held on Sunday, May 11 at 9 AM worship with reception to follow.

LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS will meet on Monday, May 12 beginning at 2 PM.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Monday, May 12 at 6:30 PM at FLC.

BREAKFAST GALS will meet at 8 AM on Tuesday, May 13 at Hardees.

“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING will take place on Tuesday, May 13 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AT FLC at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, May 13.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at 10 AM.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at 1:30 PM at First Lutheran.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, May 18, at 5 PM. Earl & Linda Comstock will host. Please bring a food item to share.

OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 26 for observance of Memorial Day.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES!

Pick up a new directory (orange cover) at First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. They are available now! At First Lutheran, they are located on the table in the Fireside room.



FLC QUARTERLY OFFERING STATEMENTS are available on the table in the Narthex.



NOISY OFFERINGS !

Please bring your loose change to church and “noisily” deposit it in the pot!! Offerings April through July at First Lutheran will go to Lutheran Lakeside Camp equipment. Offerings December through August at Christ the Servant will go to Wayne School needs.



Pastoral Pondering

Pastoral Pondering

“²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Mt.6:25-33)

It seems that Spring might finally have arrived. The signs are all around. Grass is growing and needs to be mowed. More and more bugs are out buzzing around, and dandelions are starting to burst out of the ground. To most people dandelions are weeds. They are botanical pests that are very hard to get rid of, but to most young children they are beautiful flowers that make wonderful bouquets. This reminds me of a profound piece of wisdom I learned long ago: Weeds are just plants that we have not found a use for yet.

A weed is the term we used for unwanted plants. This says a lot about our perspective. Why do we value green grass over yellow fields of dandelions in our yards? Our collective dislike of dandelions says more about us than it does the plant, and I think there is a spiritual lesson hidden somewhere in there.

I am not the first one to notice this. There was a Christian band “Five Iron Frenzy” that sang about this in one of their songs appropriately titled “Dandelions.” The song begins with telling a simple story, that nearly every mother has experienced. A young child picks dandelions to lovingly give as a bouquet to his mother. The mother treasures these flowers, putting them proudly on display in a vase. In the chorus the lead singer crones, “She sees love where anybody else would see weeds.”

In the next verse the song pivots to God. After singing about God’s greatness and mercy the song lyrics question: “Where do I fit in this puzzle, what good are these gifts? Not a martyr or a saint - Scarcely can I struggle through - All that I have ever wanted, was to give my best to you.” The song concludes: “Lord, search my heart — Dandelions_ - You see flowers in these weeds.”

When it comes to putting our faith into action, one of the reasons why we do not is because we are left wondering what kind of difference will we actually make. We see only limited results, we see inconsequential drops in a bucket, and we see what we think amounts to nothing more than weeds. However, dandelions are a reminder that not all weeds are useless. I know it is an obscure and unknown song, but “Five Iron Frenzy” was onto something. When we seek to make a difference in our relationships, nurture others, transform the world, and serve God in love then God sees beautiful flowers. God sees love and obedience where others might see weeds.

in the kingdom of God there are no weeds, there are just people that have not found their purpose yet. There are so many ways that you can use unique passions, talents, and gifts to make the world a more loving, peaceful, and kind place. May you do that. May you not be afraid of failure, of being called out, or of not getting earth shattering results. I feel assured that whenever we humbly and earnestly seek to serve God, then God does see flowers in the weeds.

Blessings!

Re:Newed



May Baptismal Anniversaries

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

5/	Gayle Bortz	5/22	Deb Carlton
5/4	Logan Shore	5/22	Trish Sharp
5/5	Marleen Oxenreider	5/22	Mya Krutsinger
5/8	Coleton Atwell	5/23	Bob Schmitt
5/8	Kelsey Seuferer	5/24	Karen Kray
5/10	Kay Tighe	5/24	Keara Storm
5/10	Jodi Draper	5/26	Bob Prather
5/13	Gert Patterson	5/29	Beckett Dachenbach
5/19	Layton Smith	5/29	Grace Helbing
5/20	Scott Luehring	5/29	Josie Helbing

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!)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

CORYDON

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



CHARITON

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
5/20	Joann Narber
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

MAY IS CANNED VEGGIES AND CANNED FRUITS MONTH for the Ministry Center. 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!!

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.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

CORYDON

5/23	Jude & Anne Kruse
5/25	Wade & Angela Harman

CHARITON

5/28	Scott & Rae Luehring
5/28	Angela & Mike Wilson
5/30	Julie & Eli Horstmeier
5/31	Maggie & Moe Nichols

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.