

First Fruits

Worship Ministry

May 2026
Volume 30, Number 5



ON SUNDAY, MAY 10, FIRST LUTHERAN WILL RECOGNIZE OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE during the 9 AM worship service. A reception will follow in the Fireside Room sponsored by Thrivent. Ava Krutsinger will be graduating from Chariton High School on May 17.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 Pastor Dick's birthday was celebrated with a cake after worship service in Chariton. A cake was shared and Happy Birthday was sang. Thanks to Pastor Dick for all he does for both congregations!!



PASSOVER SEDER was held at First Lutheran on Thursday, April 2. Attendees participated in the retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It involved eating symbolic foods, like matzah and bitter herbs, drinking four cups of wine, listening to the story and singing.



**JUNE 21 – JULY 19 –
AUGUST 16 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 21, a brunch potluck in honor of Father's Day will be held following the service.

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2026 Church Council

Duane Bedford (President)
Allison Krutsinger (Vice-President)
Angie Wilson (Secretary)
Angie Dachenbach (Treasurer)
Kim Francisco
Dave Mason
Brad Sobotta
Kent Storm
Doug Thiel

2026 Task Force (Christ the Servant)

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

Discipleship Ministry



ONE CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY

LEFT!! The youth are raising money for future activities.

The third Sunday of the month cinnamon rolls will be available after church for a free will donation. Buy 1 or 2 or even 6! They will be delicious!

SUNDAY, MAY 17 will be the last one until fall!
Be sure to come and help support our youth with their activities!!

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!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ALL ARE WELCOME! *BRING A FRIEND!*
First Lutheran Church
1004 Curtis Ave
Chariton, IA 50049

JUNE 15-18
9 AM - 1 PM
Scan to sign up or
Call: 641-774-4875
Online: bit.ly/3GptHlz

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 3: Rod & Gayle Bortz

May 10: Rod & Gayle Bortz

May 17: Rod & Gayle Bortz in honor of their granddaughter's graduation

May 24: John & Arta Harman in honor of John's birthday

May 31: LuAnn & Tom Mosbach in honor of their wedding anniversary

ALL BROADCASTS ARE SPONSORED FOR 2026!! Thank you to all who sponsored a broadcast. For those who didn't get a chance to grab one at the end, be sure to watch for the notice of 2027 broadcast signups so you can get your date set!

Stewardship Ministry

MAY IS CANNED VEGGIES AND CANNED FRUITS MONTH for the Ministry Center. Please consider helping with this ministry! Thank you!



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!!

NOW YOU CAN GIVE

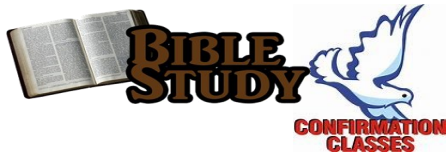
EASILY THROUGH ONLINE GIVING!

Be part of the amazing work God is doing in our church! Instead of writing checks, you can now give to the church's general fund easily by scanning the QR code with your smartphone's camera and following the secure link to make a quick, secure donation **OR** use the link below to reach the same secure link.



<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXZE>

Thank you for your support!



Bible Study and Confirmation classes will **NOT** be held in May. Both will resume in the fall.

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



ON THE VINE



FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, May 5 at 10 AM.

GRADUATION RECOGNITION on Sunday, May 10 at First Lutheran.

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

LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS will meet on Monday, May 11 beginning at 2 PM.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Monday, May 11 at 6:30 PM.

BREAKFAST GALS meet on Tuesday, May 12 at 8 AM at Hardees.

“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING will take place on Tuesday, May 12 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL will meet at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, May 12 at First Lutheran.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP will meet at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, May 13.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, May 14 at 1 PM at First Lutheran.

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY will be on Sunday, May 17 after worship.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, May 17 at 5 PM. Earl & Linda Comstock will host. Please bring a food item to share.

MEMORIAL DAY, Monday, May 25, the office will be closed.

IF YOU WISH TO PROVIDE

ALTAR FLOWERS, let the office know. We will no longer have a flower chart hanging in the hallway.



NOISY OFFERINGS!!



Please consider bringing your loose change to church and “noisily” depositing it in the pot!! Offerings April through July at First Lutheran will go to the Counting Sheep project. Offerings through July at Christ the Servant will go to school lunches.

Pastoral Pondering

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” ([Eccles. 3:1](#))

Well I have finally decided it is safe to put the snowblower away. At this point, I certainly hope we don't see any more of that white stuff for many months! The season has dramatically changed in the last few weeks, and for many of us, it is a most welcome change. The tulips and daffodils are blooming, the salvia is getting ready to bloom, the grass is green and waiting to be mowed. We have purchased plants for the pots and are chomping at the bit to put them in the pots.

The changes in our weather aren't the only seasons that we experience in our life. In fact, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that “for everything there is a season.” I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 3 along with this article. Solomon gives many examples of “changing seasons” in that chapter. Here are a few examples: our life in its entirety is but a season in the greater concept of time. There is a planting season and a harvest season, times of sadness and times of laughter, seasons to save and store, and there are times to spend and give.

For many of us, the warmer weather isn't the only change of season happening right now. Some are getting married in the next few months, and with marriage begins a new season of life! Others are expecting babies, many of you are entering into a time each year that you define as “lake season,” we have graduating seniors in our congregation (Ava from High School and Max from the University of Iowa) who are ending this season of life and heading off to college and law school in the fall. These are just a few of the ways that our lives change over the course of time, and these kinds of things happen all through life!

At the end of his list of seasons in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon says that this is the business God has given to mankind and that He has made everything beautiful in its time. You know, these kinds of changes are often wonderful, but there are also changing seasons that are painful and filled with sorrow. Those seasons can last days or weeks, months or even years! One of the main points of the book of Ecclesiastes is that God is in control through all these seasons of life and that He is good to us. It may not always look like it, but God sees things from a different angle, a better and eternal perspective, and He makes everything beautiful in its time!

Because of that, Solomon says in [Ecclesiastes 3:12-13](#) that the best thing for mankind in whatever we do in any season is to be joyful, “do good” as long as we live, and take pleasure in our toil or work, whatever it is. He says that this is God's gift to man. In other words, He's in control so enjoy yourselves! Isn't that kind of a fun thought?!

Sometimes changes in our life cause fear. By nature, we don't always like change. If that's you, whether you're graduating from high school or college, getting married or having a baby, moving or retiring, remember that God is in control, He's good to you, and He'll take care of you, so enjoy whatever God has in store for your next season of life!

Blessings to All!

Pastor Dick

Re:Newed

May Baptismal Anniversaries



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

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| 5/1 | 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!)

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.



First Lutheran Church, Thank you for your donation to Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Your heart for outdoor ministry shines through your generosity.

Peace & Blessings, Lutheran Lakeside Camp

DIRECTORY UPDATE! Joanne Fletcher has moved. Her new address is Holland Farms, 2800 Sunset Drive, Room 322, Norwalk, IA 50211. Her phone number is now 515-630-6695.

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
- 5/29 Jensen Peters
- 5/30 Diane Lukavsky
- 5/31 Liam Cunningham

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.