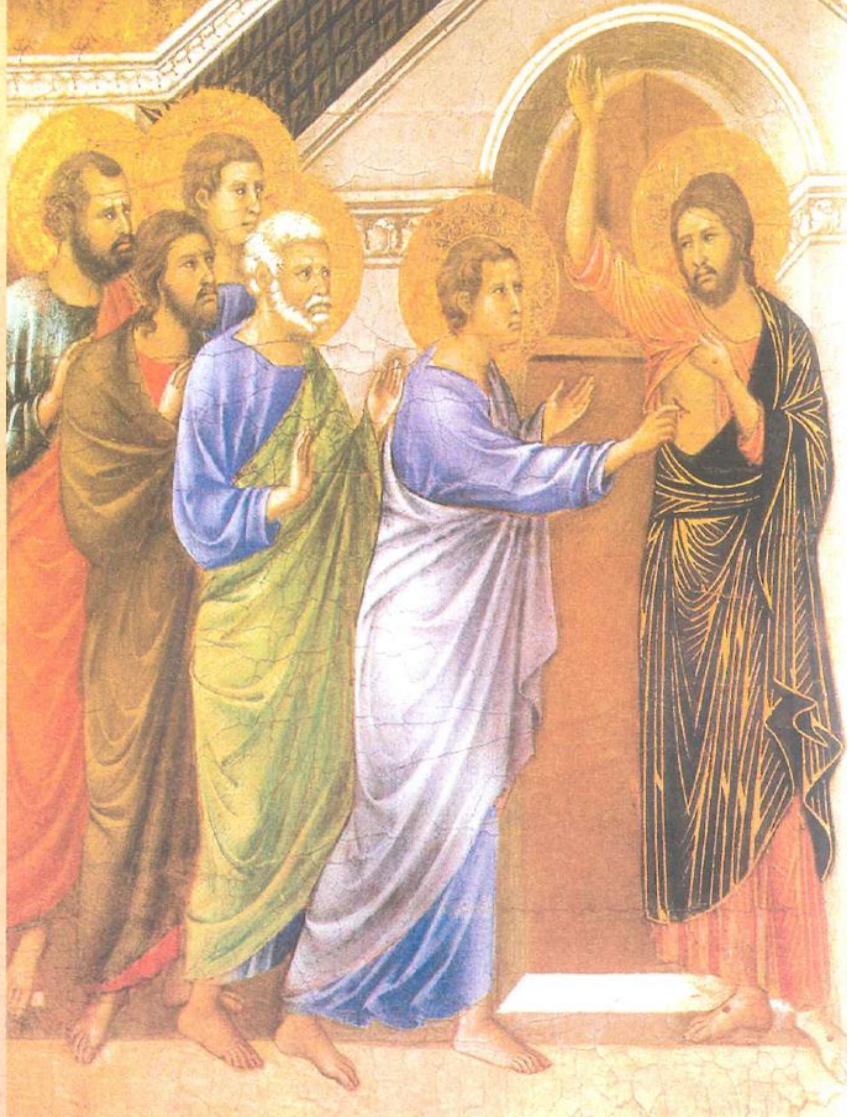


Peace be with you

JOHN 20:19



**Called by the Spirit, we serve Christ, sharing God's love with all.**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WEBSITE: 1stlutherantopeka.org**

**1234 Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604 Church office: (785) 272-5302 CDO office: (785) 272-5999**

*Ministers*

*Senior Pastor*

*Coordinator of Stewardship and Outreach*

*Children's Day Out (CDO) Director*

*Caring for Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Director*

*Organist*

*Director of Music*

*Director of Handbell Choirs*

*Secretary*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Bookkeeper*

*Nursery Attendant*

*Missionaries in Russia*

*Missionaries in Guinea*

*All Members of First*

*Reverend Jennifer Jackson*

*Pastor Bob Dealey*

*Kathy Dale*

*Julie Bradley*

*Jerry Anderson*

*Mark Fuller*

*Linda Anderson*

*LaDonna J. Little*

*Jill Loomans*

*Cindy Crawford*

*Tahira Schmidt*

*Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle*

*Jim & Dawn Anderson*

**WE WELCOME** all who worship with us today! We extend a special greeting to our visitors and invite you to worship with us again soon. Please make yourselves known to our pastor and people.

**COME TO THE FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE AND AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Gather in the Nave Lounge to enjoy refreshments, talk with fellow worshippers, greet people you don't know, make new friends, enjoy your time at First and share the love of Christ.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** Lutheran Christians believe that in the sacrament of Holy Communion, by the power of God's Word and Holy Spirit, we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, along with the bread and wine, for our forgiveness and salvation. If you share in this belief, you are welcome to participate with us. Non-communicating children and adults may come forward to receive a blessing. White grape juice is available, as well as gluten free wafers. If you desire to receive communion at your pew, please alert an usher during the prelude.

**A NOTE TO PARENTS:** First Lutheran Church welcomes children of all ages to be a part of our worship services. Children's Bibles are located in the pews and a number of items are available on a cart in the Nave Lounge to help them (and you) have a pleasant worship experience. We hope you enjoy these activities in church and at home!!

**CHILDCARE:** If you prefer, you may leave your preschool children in our well-equipped, staffed nursery during the service. Or, if you need to take a walk with your child, our speaker system provides audio of the service in the Nave Lounge and Library.

**WHEELCHAIR** available in the north entranceway or in the church office.

**EARPHONES** for the hearing impaired and **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS.**

**PLEASE, NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE MAIN WORSHIP CENTER.**

# THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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HOLY COMMUNION - EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING THREE

5:00 P.M. & 10:00 A.M.

APRIL 27 & 28, 2019

*Before worship, talk to God. During worship, let God talk to you. After worship, talk to your fellow worshipper.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE** “Trumpet Voluntary”

(G. Young)

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

### CHIMES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Youth: The gate stands open, ready for us.

**C: But we are stubborn and fear to enter the gateway.**

Youth: Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

**C: His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.**

Youth: May we follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

**C: Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.**

Youth: Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

**C: Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise! AMEN.**

Youth: Hallelujah!

**C: Hallelujah!**

*Turn and face the back of the church. As the procession passes, turn and face the front of the church.*

### 376 GATHERING SONG “Thine Is the Glory”

### GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*Congregation shall sit.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32**

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ, experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

<sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Congregation shall sit.*

SERMON "THE NEW JERUSALEM"

See Bulletin Page 12

**581** HYMN OF THE DAY "You Are Mine"

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Strengthen the witness of your church in all corners of the world. Make us visible signs of your grace so others see your goodness and come to believe. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Breathe life and peace into your creation. Protect homes, fields, and communities from damaging winds. Bless environmentalists, engineers, and legislators who work to curb pollution and to ensure clean air for us and for future generations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Give to all government leaders a renewed spirit of humility and servanthood, following the example of Christ, our leader, savior, and ruler. Uphold cease-fires, treaties, and all agreements and agencies that further the cause of peace on earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: By the resurrection of the wounded Christ, draw near to those wounded in body or spirit. Liberate all who are bound by grief, abuse, addiction, or pain. Restore faith to the despairing and hope to the suffering (*especially—see bulletin page 11*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*The Assisting Minister offers additional prayers.*

A: Protect and provide for all whom you send out in mission across the world. Empower global mission organizations and partners who provide for the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We give you thanks for all the saints who believed in you and who now enjoy eternal life in your name. Sustain us with your everlasting presence, for you are Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**PEACE** P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*The ministers and the assembly may greet one another with a gesture of Christ's peace, and may say these or similar words: Peace be with you.*

*Congregation shall sit.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*



**OFFERING** *Please place attendance form in the offering plate.*

**Please bring your ELCA WORLD HUNGER BANK and place it on the altar.**

*“This Joyful Eastertide”*

*(arr. D. Schack)*

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

**385 OFFERING SONG** *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”* **Stanzas 1 & 4**





P: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

*Congregation shall sit.*

**COMMUNION SONG** “*Lamb of God*”

page 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY** “*O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*”

(*J. F. Dandrieu*)

**635 COMMUNION HYMN** “*We Walk by Faith*”

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**C: Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BLESSING**

P: The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

**C: Amen.**

*As the cross passes please turn and face the back of the church.*

### **384 SENDING SONG** *“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”*

#### **DISMISSAL**

A: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** *Easter Postlude on “Handel”*

*(arr. J. Correll)*

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** *are given by Martha Donohoe in loving memory of her sister, Natalie and by Lu Heisler in memory of Liz Munns.*

**PULPIT FLOWERS** *are given by Lyle Baker with Prayers for First Lutheran Church congregation as we celebrate the Easter season.*

**ETERNAL CANDLE FOR APRIL** *is given by Marvin Wingert in memory of Norma Wingert.*

**PARENTS'** take this bulletin home for a fun game with your kids! Have them search through the bulletin and circle or highlight **this week's word: HEAVEN.**

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:**

Breck Edds (home), Pat Wild (home), Ann Johnson (home), Jeani Anderson (home), Mike Wilson (home), Vera Pearce (home), Ken Sherbert (home), Charlotte Weddle (CDO Teacher), Julie Bradley (Caring for Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Director), Steve Magee (Kim's husband), Rick Watson (Lisa Arndt's father), C.A. Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders' father), Ken Buch (Verla's son), Mary Roesch (Tracy's mother-in-law), Micah Ewing (friend of the Luber's), Betty Fleming (LaDonna Little's aunt), Joan Stahlman (Joyce Koenig's sister-in-law), Lynette Kottas (Eileen Caspers' mother), Pete Godlove (Michelle Black's father), Carolyn Hale (friend of Margaret Stewart), Don Kaphingst (Margaret Stewart's brother), Lewis Crawford (Cindy's husband), Dan Lykins (cousin of Nancy Sherbert), Nancy Isley Wolfe (friend of the Wolgast's), Linda Deines (Karen Papp's sister), Ben Beery (friend of Haden Roark), Jerome Gutierrez (Dolores Ussery's nephew), Heather Roesch (Tracy's sister-in-law), Norm Stahl (friend of Carolyn Olson), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler's great niece), Bob Avery (friend of Carolyn Olson), Robin Michael (daughter of friend of Nancy Vaughn), Mary Lou Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders' mother), Linda Myers (Trudi's daughter-in-law), David Metzenthin (Bud & Lois' son), Annika Lundgren (friend of the Engelhardt's).

**OUR CONDOLENCES** to *Hope Krug* on the death of her mother, Mary Morgan.

# “THE NEW JERUSALEM”

## **Cast: (In order of appearance)**

**Adam Schultz** (Isaac, a graduate student in physics and leader of a team of research assistants at a major university) ~ **Haden Roark** (Brad, another graduate student in physics and Isaac’s best friend) ~ **Nick Roark** (Chase, another graduate student in physics) ~ **Makenzie Liby** (Tory, another graduate student in physics) ~ **Jonathan Black** (Joel, another graduate student in physics. Dr. Fine, a young oncology resident) ~ **Madison Liby** (Dorcas, a nursing student at the university) ~ **Allison Montague** (Cara, another nursing student and Dorcas’ best friend) ~ **Madison Price** (Mariel, a nursing supervisor at the university medical center) ~ **Scott Schultz** (Abraham, Isaac’s father) ~ **Kathy Montague** (Sarah, Isaac’s mother) ~ **Max Roark** (Simon, a Lutheran House student) ~ **Emma Schultz** (Pastor Ruth, a Lutheran campus minister) ~ **Ralph Krumins** (Dr. Howard, an oncologist and researcher) ~ **Brendon Roark** (Noah, Isaac’s grandfather) ~ **Adam Crawford** (Joey Armathea, a hospital orderly) ~ **Dan McCready** (Jake, a new friend of Isaac’s)

**Production:** Kathy Montague (producer, assistant director, stage manager) ~  
John Hanna (writer, director)

**Special Thanks:** Pastor Jenny, Jerry Anderson, Brooke Roark, Austin Jackson, Joe Montague and parents of First Lutheran youth.

## **AUTHOR’S NOTE**

We remember the disciple Thomas because of how today’s reading from the Gospel of St. John relates his reaction to the Resurrection, but all four of the Gospels tell that Jesus’ followers felt doubt after hearing the news of his rising. They had lived with the promise of a New Kingdom – clearly a promise they didn’t fully understand – and were shattered by the Crucifixion. Then, still reeling from that blow, along came a weird, incomprehensible twist that must have sounded like a delusion if you weren’t there like the women at the tomb.

Something like the first part of Thomas’ story happens every day, somewhere, on a scale that feels cosmic to the person living it, doesn’t it? You choose a career path in college that blows up later or at least feels not-so-predestined as it once did. You’re married and then you’re not. A parent anchors your life and then is lost to you. Or, like Isaac in this play, you’re a young adult who’s plotted out a life only to see it go off track quickly.

Then, someone tells you about the Resurrection. Maybe it’s a reminder that brings something you learned long ago to the front of your brain. Maybe it’s an idea that you’ve ignored or pushed away but can’t any more. Maybe you hear about it and God’s grace for the first time.

What happens then? You wrestle with it, just like Thomas did.

And God’s grace keeps flowing, through other people and over you. You receive grace and you show it to others and receive it again. You grasp the promise, as Thomas does.

**LAY MINISTERS TODAY****10:00 am**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Assisting Minister</b>                 | Joyce Mark                                 |
| <b>Lector</b>                             | Kathy Koch                                 |
| <b>Candlelighter / Crucifer</b>           | Adam Schultz / Emma Schultz                |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b>               | Ruth Denno, Karen Wollin                   |
| <b>Presenting the Gifts</b>               | Bill & Phyllis Buch                        |
| <b>Council Member Team</b>                | Allison Hitch / Bob Wollin                 |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>                        | Elna Ensley, Jeanie Schuler                |
| <b>Ushers</b>                             | Ted & Elna Ensley                          |
| <b>North Door / South Door Greeters</b>   | Robert Hanna / Richard & Judy Price        |
| <b>Coffee Host</b>                        | Nancy Besta                                |
| <b>Bus Driver &amp; Host/Hostess</b>      | Leon & Lisa Arndt                          |
| <b>Saturday Lector / Altar Guild / CA</b> | Ron Bessler / Nancy Sherbert / Ron Bessler |
| <b>Stephen Minister 4/29-5/5/2019</b>     | Evelyn Wilson                              |

**LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK****May 5<sup>th</sup> – THIRD EASTER****10:00 am**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Assisting Minister</b>                 | Connor Montague                          |
| <b>Lector</b>                             | John Hanna                               |
| <b>Candlelighter / Crucifer</b>           | Adam Crawford / Haden Roark              |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b>               | Ted Ensley, Jeff Montague                |
| <b>Presenting the Gifts</b>               | Chris & Cindy Lear                       |
| <b>Council Member Team</b>                | Anita Wolgast / Joe Montague             |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>                        | Nancy Besta, Mary Fobes, Maureen Krumins |
| <b>Ushers</b>                             | David & Patricia Drake                   |
| <b>North Door / South Door Greeters</b>   | Bill & Phyllis Buch / Dru & Kori Finney  |
| <b>Coffee Hosts</b>                       | John & Kim Rasmussen                     |
| <b>Bus Driver &amp; Host/Hostess</b>      | Bryce & Judy Cripps                      |
| <b>Saturday Lector / Altar Guild / CA</b> | Dick Nelson / Dawn Graham / Tina Lewis   |
| <b>Stephen Minister 5/6-12/2019</b>       | JoAnn Stanley                            |



## ✠ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK ✠

**CDO (Children's Day Out) Preschool Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9a-3p Thursday 9-11:30 a**

**TODAY SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**HUNGER BANK INGATHERING**

8:40 a.m. – Adult Education

9:00 a.m. – Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. – Children's Choir Rehearsal

9:40 a.m. – Senior Choir Warm-up

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion and Youth Play

11:15 a.m. – Sunday School PreK-HS, Adult

12:00 p.m. – New Member Class (PJ's office)

4:00 p.m. – Richetta Manager Concert –  
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**Monday, April 29**

10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Commentary with PJ

12:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. – FLC Book Group (Library)

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Troop 175 (PH)

**Tuesday, April 30**

**HAPPY TUESDAY**

**Wednesday, May 1 MAY DAY**

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

Noon – Area Ministry Pastor's Lunch Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Worship in the Parish Hall

7:00 p.m. – New Member Class (Library)

**Thursday, May 2**

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

CDO All Staff Luncheon (PH)

Noon – Pray with PJ at Dialogue Coffee House –  
29<sup>th</sup> & Gage

6:30 p.m. – Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. – Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, May 3**

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

**Saturday, May 4**

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Parish Hall in Use

5:00 p.m. – Holy Communion &

**Congregational Meeting**

6:00 p.m. – New Member Dinner

**Sunday, May 5**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8:40 a.m. – Adult Education

9:00 a.m. – Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. – Children's Choir Rehearsal

9:40 a.m. – Senior Choir Warm-up

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion &

**Congregational Meeting**

11:15 a.m. – ALPHA Worship &

Sunday School & Adult Ed

12:15 p.m. – Youth & Family Ministry

12:30 p.m. – New Member Luncheon

1:00-5:00 p.m. – Nave & Lounge in Use

4:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Committee (115)

**LESSONS MAY 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

# PARISH NOTICES

**GRADUATION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

Will you please help us out? If any of our **FIRST LUTHERAN MEMBERS** are graduating from high school, college or grad school this spring or has received a degree from a university, college or technical school – we would like to celebrate with them. As is our tradition, we would like to print something about their future plans in the bulletin and recognize them in the **10:00 a.m. service on May 12<sup>th</sup>**. **PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR INFORMATION** – school attended, school or work plans for the future and any other fun stuff you might like to add.

## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

**ALL ARE INVITED** to come for **sandwiches at 5:30 p.m.** (*PB&J are provided or you can bring your own food*) and then gather in the **parish hall at 6:00 p.m. for worship.** This worship is a wonderful service for folks busy on the weekends, for folks wanting to bring friends to church for the first time, for families with wiggly kids, and for all who need to stop mid-week to pray, worship, and be renewed by God's promises and community. Invite your friends and we look forward to this new opportunity to reach more in our community.

## GERANIUM PICKUP

Your GERANIUM orders may be picked up at **725 SW Morningside on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> between 4:30 and 6:00 PM or Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 and 11:00 AM.** If these times do not work for you, please contact **Cindy Lear** at 271-0140 to make other arrangements. Thank you for supporting the Bethany College Scholarship Fund.



## FIRST LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endowment Fund is pleased to announce that up to two \$500 scholarships will be available for the 2019 academic year, and will be awarded to qualified applicants.

These scholarships will come from income generated by the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, for members of First Lutheran for the purpose of attending college, seminary, nursing, or medical school, or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people.

**Application deadline is May 5, 2019,** and application information is available from the Church Office or from any member of the Endowment Committee: Bill Barker, Ted Ensley, Char Taggart, or Ralph Krumins.

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING BANQUET

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019 6:00 p.m.**

**Parish Hall, First Lutheran Church, 1234 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka**

**Come learn from Kris Luber how she developed her *Textile Art Skills*.** In recent years, she's been exhibiting and selling her fabric artwork, winning awards, and raising thousands for Camp Tomah Shinga and other non-profits with her art donations. After she entered two art quilts in the 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Quilt Challenge, Kris was asked to write an article about her God-given creative inspiration for *Gather* magazine.

Kris will be showing some of her artwork, talking about where she finds her creative spark, and giving an overview of her materials, including answering the question people ask most often, "How did you get those photos into your quilt?"

**Tickets are \$12.00 per person** and will be available at W-ELCA and following services on May 4-5 and May 11-12. Get an extra ticket and bring along your family and friends. Everyone is welcome. Join us for a time of fellowship and learning!



**Vacation Bible School**  
**SAVE THE DATE Evenings of June 17-21**  
**5:30-7:30 PM**

## Sharing a Precious Peace

Take a moment to consider what is most precious to you. Most of us will be reminded of the people close to us. We may even think of our most treasured possessions, which bring to mind moments in our lives we can never forget. These are not merely our favorite things; the things we cherish say a lot about what has helped us become who we really are.

Easter is a season filled with gifts that show us the many ways people can encounter the risen Christ. As we gather in worship today, Jesus stands among us, reminding us that we are precious in his sight. He has promised that the priceless gifts of the Holy Spirit will continue to appear. As we sing and pray, as we hear God's saving word, as we baptize, and as we share the bread and cup, we are celebrating what God has done to remind us who we really are.

These holy gifts come alive as well through the peace that Jesus offers us as he stands in our midst and as we share that peace with one another. Peace be with you! Receive this sign of God's amazing grace. This peace is meant to comfort, heal, encourage, and protect us as we engage in ministries that make known the power of the holy gospel. Although we can never fully understand everything that this kind of peace makes possible, we continue to turn to one another and speak these words: "Peace be with you!"

We can trust in the gifts we receive because Jesus lives. We are called to share this peace in all the ways God makes possible for us. Living in this precious peace, we discover who we really are.