



FIRST HAND



2023

First Lutheran Church
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Mission Statement:

Sharing God's grace through prayer, witness, and service.

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Welcome JUNE
New month, new chapter,
new page and new wishes.
May the month give you
courage, strength, confidence,
patience, self-love & inner
peace. May every day in
June fill your days with
Hope, love, sunshine and
energy. Let there be joy,
fun and laughter.

Happy
Father's
Day



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the Lutheran Church, as well as the Catholic Church and most mainline Protestant denominations, the church year can be divided into two halves. The first half is the festival time: consisting of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, concluding with Pentecost.

June 4 is the beginning of the Pentecost Season, known in the church as "Ordinary Time". By "ordinary" we do not mean "regular" or "not special". It simply refers to counting—"Ordinal numbers" if you remember that term from your math classes. It simply means that we are counting the weeks after Pentecost. It is a time that traditionally focuses on the miracles and the parables of Jesus. Ordinary time begins with Holy Trinity Sunday. What is the proper way to explain to a non-Christian what the Trinity is, without making it sound like we worship three gods? From a You Tube page called "Lutheran Satire" here is the transcript of a hilarious video titled "St. Patrick's Bad Analogies" (Edited just a bit):

Simple Farmer #1 (SF1): Okay Patrick, tell us a bit more about this Trinity thing.

Simple Farmer #2 (SF2): Yes, Patrick, tell us. But remember that we are simple people without your fancy education in books and learning and we're hearing about all of this for the first time, so try to keep it simple, okay Patrick?

St. Patrick (P): Sure. There are three persons of the Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, yet there is only one God.

SF1: Don't get what you're saying here Patrick.

SF2: Not picking up what you're laying down here, Patrick.

SF1: Could you use an analogy, Patrick?

P: Sure. The Trinity is like water, and how you can find water in three different forms; liquid and ice and vapor.

SF1: That's modalism Patrick!

P: What?

SF1: Modalism, an ancient heresy confessed by teachers such as Noesis and Sibelius which espouses that God is not three distinct persons but that He merely reveals Himself in three different forms. This heresy was clearly condemned in canon 1 at the first council of Constantinople in 381 A.D. and those who confess it cannot rightly be considered a part of the Church Catholic. Come on Patrick.

SF2: Yeah, get it together, Patrick.

P: Okay then, the Trinity is like the sun in the sky where you have the star, and the light and the heat.

SF1: Oh Patrick, that's Arianism.

P: Arianism?

SF1: Yes, Arianism, Patrick, a theology which states that Christ and the Holy Spirit are creations of the Father and not one in nature with him, exactly like how heat and light are not the star itself but are merely creations of the star. That's a bad analogy Patrick.

SF2: You're the worst, Patrick.

P: All right, sorry. The Trinity is like this three leaf-clover here...

SF1: I'm gonna stop you right there Patrick.

SF2: Yeah, hold your horses, Patrick.

SF1: You're about to confess Partialism.

P: Partialism?

SF1: Yes partialism, a heresy which asserts that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not distinct persons of the Godhead, but are different parts of God, each composing one third of the divine.

P: And who confesses the heresy of partialism?

SF1: The first season of the cartoon program, Voltron, where five robot lion cars merge together to form one giant robot samurai, obviously.

P: I've never heard of Voltron.

SF1: Of course you haven't. It's not going to exist for another 1500 years now Patrick.

SF2: Yeah, get with the program Patrick.

P: Right, I'll try again. The Trinity is like how the same man can be a husband, a father, and an employer.

SF1: Modalism again.

P: All right, then it's like the three layers of an apple...

SF1: Partialism revisited.

P: Fine! The Trinity is a mystery which cannot be comprehended by human reason, but is understood only through faith and is best confessed in the words of the Athanasian Creed which states that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance; that we are compelled by the Christian church to confess that each distinct person is God and Lord, and

that the Deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is One, equal in glory, co-equal in majesty!

SF1: (after a long pause)... Well, why didn't you just say that in the first place, Patrick?

Hope that gave you a good laugh for the day! God gives us everything, including the gift of humor. We may never fully understand the Triune God, but we continue to always give God thanks and praise.

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,
Pastor Larry



Report of Director of Music

We celebrate that the chancel choir has continued to excel in their musical contributions. June now starts our special music contributions.

**music is
the glue
that holds
us together
when we're
falling apart.**

Father's Day is celebrated in June. Special men can be the glue to hold a family together. Dads are extraordinary humans who've got the strength of a mountain, an infinite amount of love, and the patience of eternity.

Happy Father's Day to all dads!

The Bell Choir director, Stephanie Oaks, is holding two bell seminars this summer. They are on Wednesday, July 19th at 6:00 pm and/or Saturday, August 19th at 2:00 pm.

This is for anyone who has ever wanted to ring one of the bells. It is meant to be a fun session to enjoy the experience.

More details from Stephanie upcoming.

From the Financial Secretary

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' 14But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' 15And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' 16Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" 18Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." 20But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" 21So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' (Luke 12:13-21; NRSV)

In Jesus' parable, a man that society would typically laud as an agricultural genius was labeled by God as a fool. Why? Because the man's focus was inward toward himself instead of upward toward God.

As we move through this year, please remember our stewardship commitment of giving our resources and ourselves to Christ. For as taught by this text – God sends His blessings to us, so that others may be blessed through us.





TUESDAY LUNCH

“LUNCH IN THE PARK”!

Lunch in Oakland Square Park will meet at noon on Tuesdays, June 6th and 20th.

Bring your lunch & a lawn chair and join us for fellowship and fun.

(In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the courtyard)

Fellowship and Christian Service & Mission Ministry Teams

will meet on Monday, June 12th at 7:00 pm in the lounge.

We will be discussing and planning summer and fall activities.

Come Join Us!



We will be serving at Daily Bread on June 19th. Please arrive by 4:15 pm to help serve.

Donations of cupcakes, cookies, or brownies are needed for the meal. You can take to Daily Bread or leave in the church and we will make sure your baked goods get to Daily Bread.



**Oakland Square Park Cleanup
Saturday, June 10th
@ 11:00 am.**

**Come and help clean up the
park for our first park
service on June 11th.**



Our first service in the park will be on June 11th.

Fellowship Time will begin at 9:00 am

Worship Service will begin at 10:00 am

Bring a lawn chair.

The deadline for the
July newsletter articles
is June 21st

Father

The corner stone of the family.
A tower of respect and admiration.
His wife at his side.
His children before him.
Lovingly cherished by his family.
Through his words of wisdom and encouragement,
his children grow in knowledge and are blessed to have him.
Exercising his right of authority to maintain peace, balance and harmony.
Guiding and instructing his little ones.
Sacrificing his life for family.
Providing shelter and sustenance so that all may survive.
He contemplates and marvels at his greatest achievement,
a family, the monument to his life.
A great treasure without measure.
Protecting, caring and nurturing his greatest asset for the benefit of his lineage.
Making sure that all is safe.
Till, he takes his last breath.
Our friend,
Our father,
He is our Dad

Poem written on October 24 2004

By Armand Dunk



June Ministry Team Meeting Date:

06/05— 7:00pm Church Council Meeting & NLCF

06/12— 7:00pm Fellowship & Christian Service & Mission Meeting

06/26—7:00pm Worship Meeting



Highlights

Faith Circle

- “Lunch in the Park”
- Summer projects

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Fellowship and Christian Service and Mission Ministry Team

- Fellowship in the Park

Finance Ministry Team

- Monitor church finances

FLIRT

- Ongoing security

Outreach Ministry Team

- Continue program to reach out to those unable to attend services

Property Ministry Team

- Outside repairs
- Building maintenance

Worship Ministry Team

- Summer Services
- Favorite song ballots
- Contemporary Services

Copies of reports from the monthly meetings of each ministry team is available for you to view in the Partners In Ministry Book located in the upper narthex.

2023 Church Council

President- Chris Hildreth Blair

Vice-President- John Bodin

Secretary- Carolyn Novak

Treasurer – John Belser

Financial Secretary – Judy Vassar

Members- Ray Kramer, Judy Lunz, Brittanny Porter, Liz Rose, Kris Shannon, Brenda Shively, Ray Swisher



Sunday Attendance for April

	On site	Online
April 2	68	42
April 9 (Easter)	114	83
April 16	73	70
April 23	62	35
April 30	65	41
Average	76	54

Remember In Prayer



During the past month we have remembered in prayer all who are in need of God's presence and care ... especially:

Health Issues:

Jordan Banks

Char King

Bill Jenkins

Mindy Munz

Ed Hildreth

Karen Wagner

Carolyn Hoy

Surgery:

Gloria Kipker

Rachel Gillespie

Entered the Church Triumphant:

Charles Lewis

Bev Henry



06/02 Wellington Wickersham
06/04 Rosalee Horn
06/06 Jennifer Miller
06/09 Chris Tillman
06/09 April Jameson
06/09 Jenna Carman
06/10 Larry Walker
06/14 Ron Hadley
06/16 Tom Secrist
06/17 T.J. Weikart
06/19 Emma Heath
06/21 Jim Donnelly
06/21 Carolyn Novak
06/24 Bill Keck
06/24 Ellen Keck
06/24 Tyler Jones
06/24 Morgan Fultz
06/24 Zach Swisher
06/26 Charlotte Belser
06/26 Gloria Kipker
06/26 Diane Smith
06/29 Cindy Weikart



06/29/2013 Heath & Jaclyn Allen
06/06/1964 Max & Marjorie Bixler
06/01/1983 Scott & Cheryl Chamberlain
06/28/1996 John & April Fultz
06/21/1959 Ted & Carolyn Hoy
06/28/1986 Bill & Gail Keck
06/30/1979 Terry & Judy Lunz
06/10/1967 Phil & Pam Pulfer
06/02/1990 Ray & Kris Swisher
06/25/1972 Tom & Cindy Weikart
06/02/2012 Jenna & Dustin Wickersham
06/15/1996 Gary & Susan Wyckoff



Worship Assistant:

June 4 Lucas McKenrick
June 11 Kris Swisher (Park Service)
June 18 Kris Shannon
June 25 Sherri Hodies

Communion Assistant:

June 4 Dave Vassar
June 18 Sue Neer

Usher for June:

Kevin Miller

Reader:

June 4 Margie Bixler
June 11 Chris Tillman
June 18 John Gensemer
June 25 Bodin

Greeter(s):

June 4 Terry & Judy Lunz
June 11 Walt & Sally Stephan
June 18 Don & Georgia Voorhies
June 25 Ed & Deb Pulfer

Acolyte:

June 4 Winnie Bodin
June 18 Misty Kipker
June 25 Lottie Bodin

Altar Guild for June:

Diane Anderson & Brittany Porter

Communion Bread for June:

Cheri Comstock

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
28	Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	29	Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day 12:00pm AA (RH)	30	9:00am Quilters	31	12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Holland Practice	1	12:00pm NA 6:00pm Holland Practice 7:00pm Choir Practice	2	Office Closed	3	Office Closed Synod Assembly 10:00am Extending the Branch Meeting
4	9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 2:00pm Green Hills Service	5	10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting & NLCF 7:00pm Dulcimers	6	9:00am Quilters 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	7	11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm NA (RH)	8	8:30am Coalition Meeting 11:00am Chaplain (MRH) 12:00pm NA (RH)	9	Office Closed 11:00am Chaplain (MRH)	10	Office Closed 10:00am Extending the Branch Meeting 11:00am Park Cleanup 11:30am Extending the Branch Meeting
11	9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Park Service 2:00pm Unclobber Book Study 4:00pm Extending the Branch Meeting	12	10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 7:00pm Fellowship & Christian Service & Mission Ministry Meeting	13	9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	14	12:00pm NA (RH)	15	12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Outreach Meeting	16	Office Closed	17	Office Closed 7:00pm Dulcimers
18	10:00am Communion Worship Service 2:00pm Unclobber Book Study	19	10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 4:15pm Our Daily Bread	20	9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	21	12:00pm NA (RH)	22	12:00pm NA (RH)	23	Office Closed	24	Office Closed 1:00pm Extending the Branch Meeting
25	9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Unclobber Book Study	26	10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	27	9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	28	12:00pm NA (RH)	29	12:00pm NA (RH)	30	Office Closed	1	