

# UPCOMING EVENTS

To see our church calendar with full details and descriptions of all church events, please visit our website: [www.firstlutheranalexandria/events](http://www.firstlutheranalexandria/events).

## MAY EVENTS

- May 2 - Neighborhood Picnic
- May 3 - Prayer Shawl & Lap Robe Ministry Luncheon
- May 3 - Faith and Life Forum
- May 6 - Groundbreaking
- May 8 - Baptism Class
- May 10 - Men's Breakfast
- May 12 - Lifeworks Pre-Marriage Counseling Retreat
- May 12 - Teddy Bear Brunch
- May 13 - Mother's Day Song
- May 21 - BookSeekers
- May 22 - Beer & Hymns
- May 27 - Outdoor Worship Begins

## JUNE EVENTS

- June 11-15 - VBS
- June 16-17 - Father's Day & Crazy Socks
- June 18 - Wesley Bell Ringers
- June 18 - BookSeekers
- June 20 - Youth Day at the Lake
- June 20 - Mystery Trip
- June 30 - Worship on the Lawn

## JULY EVENTS

- July 13-15 - College Student Reunion Weekend
- July 15 - No City Park worship, worship at church
- July 16 - BookSeekers
- July 18 - Youth Day at the Lake
- July 22 - Blessing of the Animals
- July 29 - Church Picnic
- July 29 - No City Park worship, worship at church
- July 31 - Lutheran Night at the Twins



## Groundbreaking Celebration

Sunday, May 6 | 2:00pm | New Church Site

A warm welcome is extended to all to attend this historic event. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Golf Carts will be available to assist with transportation. Plenty of parking will be available with overflow parking at Woodland School.

## Neighborhood Picnic

Wednesday, May 2 | 5:00-7:30pm | FLC

Everyone at FLC is invited to join us as we celebrate with our neighbors. There will be a bounce house, games, live music, and food. 5:00pm: hog roast, 6:15pm: worship, 7:00pm: rootbeer floats. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and come as you are!

## Outdoor Worship

Summertime brings the chance for us to gather together for worship in God's creation. First Lutheran offers two different outdoor worship opportunities on Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

### City Park:

Sundays at 11:00 am

Meet down by the band shell. Bring a lawn chair!

- No City Park worship on 7/15 & 7/29 - worship at church.

### Lake Carlos State Park:

Sundays at 10:30am

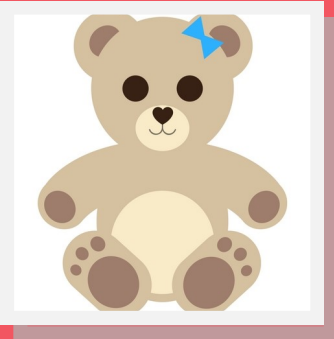
Meet at the amphitheater

## Teddy Bear Brunch

Saturday, May 12 | 10:00-11:30am | Fellowship Hall

Adults \$10.00  
Children (Age 3-9) \$6.00  
Children (2 and under) Free

For mothers, children and friends of all ages. Featuring Kari van Wakeren, pastor and children's author. Catered by Luther Crest Catering. Tickets are available to purchase in the church office during business hours or before and after all worship services through May 6. Bring your teddy bear!





# VBS 2018

June 11-15 | 8:30-11:30am | FLC

Come sail away with us! Kids will discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. First Lutheran VBS is for children age 3 (as of September 1st, 2017 & to be trained) through 5th grade. Registration is now open. To register online go to [www.firstlutheranalexandria.com](http://www.firstlutheranalexandria.com) and click on the VBS banner at the top of the home page or go to the Children's Ministry page. Your help is needed to make this ministry a success. Please contact Randi Rach at [randi.rach@firstlutheranalexandria.com](mailto:randi.rach@firstlutheranalexandria.com) if you are able to help with this fun event for our kids!

## Neighborhood Gatherings

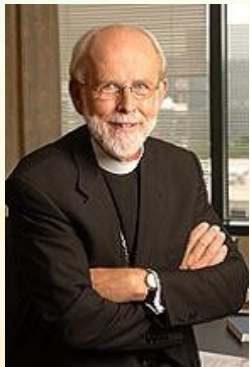
We had hoped to launch our neighborhood gatherings in May but we are going to delay that plan a bit. These gatherings will be opportunities for members and friends of First Lutheran who live near each other to come together in an

informal setting. We are thankful to all who have offered to be hosts. As we move forward we will hold on to your names and also welcome others who would be interested in hosting a gathering. Watch for more details in the next FOCUS!

## Faith and Life Forum

Thursday, May 3 | 2:00-4:00pm  
Sanctuary

Transitions are often challenging whether it be moving into retirement, aging, moving to a different home or grieving the loss of a loved one. On Thursday, May 3, former presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Hanson, will be our presenter for our First Faith and Life Forum. Bishop Hanson's theme will



be *Making our Way Through Transitions*. The forum is free and open to the public so please invite a friend.

# Houston Youth Trip

Every three years, Lutheran students in the ELCA gather for worship, to volunteer and to build homes, paint walls, clear debris and other efforts. This summer, our youth and adult leaders will be heading to Houston, TX for this gathering. There could not be a better time for our youth to head to Houston. After being hit hard by hurricane Harvey, our youth will have a positive impact on this community.

TRIP DATES - June 25-July 3, 2018

JUNE 25 - Depart Alexandria and travel to Emporia, KS

JUNE 26 - Travel to Waco, TX (Magnolia Market)

JUNE 27 - JUNE 30 - Gathering

JULY 1 - Depart Houston, TX and travel to Arlington, TX (Six Flags Amusement Park )

JULY 2 -Travel to Liberty/Kearney, MO (Kansas City Royals Game )

JULY 3 - Home

Please join us in praying for safety over this group as they travel and for the lives they will be positively impacting.



## Gifts & Memorials

Memorial gifts are a meaningful way to convey sympathy to the bereaved and acknowledge the loss of a loved one. They are another way that we give thanks to God for the ways we have been blessed. Gifts may be designated to a particular fund or left undesignated, which allows them to be used for special projects and areas of greatest need.

### Alleluia Ringers

In memory of Eleanor Hagstrom, given by Jean Erickson, Glenda Seela, Junnell Widmark, Mike & Jan Pray

In memory of Judy Janke, given by Mike & Jan Pray

### Building Fund

In memory of Marian Barr, given by Corinne Ehlke, Gracie Lewis, Stan & Mary Norlien, Jerry & Dianne Schoeneck, John & Margaret Schroeder, Junnell Widmark, Beverly Reque

In memory of Palmer Bergner, given by Maureen Geris

In memory of Roger Cole, given by Leroy & Wanda Karrow

In memory of friend Katy, given by Rod & Liz Engfer

In memory of Eleanor Hagstrom, given by Gene & Carol Westphal, Orin & Lois Lundberg, Beverly Reque, Joan Suckow, Dianna Anderson, Greg & Val Trumm, Ivan & Lois Wambheim, Ruth Amundson, Dave & Evie Harris, Paul & Linda Engebretson, Jenny Trumm, Glee Domschot, Gracie Lewis, Sonia Bale, Jeanne Gronli, Stan & Mary Norlien, Roger & Barbara Riley

In memory of Eileen Wolkow, given by Lisa Colen, Nolan & Leah Wolkow

In memory of Eleanor Brekke, given by Don Kraska

In memory of Wencil Pronek, given by Don Kraska

In memory of Judy Janke, given by Doug & Pat Kuiper

In memory of John Lundy, given by Dave & Teri Henrichs

In memory of Howard Christensen, given by Elizabeth Hiebel, Bernita Darveaux

In memory of Sheldon Scheu, given by Bill & Marilyn Grover, Ruth Stob

In memory of Evelyn Myrin, given by Lillian Anderson, Marlene Murtonen, Evelyn Myrin Trust, Bradley Struck

In memory of John Lundy, given by Stan & Mary Norlien

In memory of Allen Johnson, given by Dan & Linda Zismer, Greg & Val Trumm, Richard & Audrey Johnson, Dave & Alice Anderson, Jola Amundsen, Donald Leland, Janet Holm, Jenny Trumm, John & Carolyn Loken, Junnell Widmark, Ruth Amundson, Darlene Bartelt, Friends and Family of Allen

In memory of Uncle Jim, given by Rodney & Elizabeth Engfer

In memory of James Hanny, given by Rodney & Elizabeth Engfer

In memory of Janie Johnson Huhn, given by Doug & Patricia Kuiper, Stan & Mary Norlien

In memory of Janette Pappenfus White, given by Larry & Beth Pappenfus

In memory of Jodi Gandrud Ballandby, given by Stan & Mary Norlien

In memory of Florence Pomeranz, given by Leroy & Wanda Karrow

### Chancel Choir

In memory of John Lundy, given by Randy & Mary Morken

### Discovery Food Shelf

In memory of Howard Christensen, given by Richard & Kathy Moen

### Community Preschool

In memory of Eleanor Hagstrom, given by Kathy & Vinal Franson

### Feed My Sheep

In memory of Janet Pappenfus White, given by Steve & Kathy Haug

In memory of John Lundy, given by Steve & Kathy Haug

### Food Shelf

In memory of Patrick, given by John & Marie Stellner

### Radio Sponsorship

In memory of H. Dan Ness, given by DiAnn Ness and Family

In memory of Evelyn Myrin, given by Luella Vendell, Curt & Bonnie Thorfinnson

In memory of Arlene Carlson, given by Mike & Jan Pray

In memory of Peter Reque, given by Beverly Reque and Family

In memory of Agnes Josephs, given by LaVina Larson, Violet Bjelland

In memory of Allen Johnson, given by Cortlan & Joanne Krogstad

In memory of Eleanor Brekke, given by Paul & Joan Thompson

In memory of Marian Barr, given by Tom & Linda Akenson, David & Lola Anderson, Cheryl Doose, Ruth Stob, Jenny Trumm

In memory of Betty Ranum, given by Harold Ranum & Family

In memory of Eleanor Hagstrom, given by Sue Johnson, Pat Johnson, LaVina Larson, Robert & Sonja Loucks, Cortlan & JoAnne Krogstad, Lillian Schuneman, Ruth Stob

In memory of Ron Domschot, given by Glee Domschot & Family

In memory of Milton Moen, given by Richard & Kathy Moen

In honor of Ted Lohrman's 91st Birthday, given by Marlien Lohrman, Pam, Joe & Paula & Family

With thanks for the radio ministry and bulletins, given by Norm & Connie Anderson

### Undesignated Fund

In memory of Eleanor Hagstrom, given by Harlan & Sandra Block, David & Cheryl Larson, Addy Jones, Thomas & Linda Akenson, Marv & Judy Trana, Darrell & Janet Halverson, David & Alice Anderson, Corinne Ehlke, Lois Lubeck, John & Joan Hueth

In memory of Allen Johnson, given by Ruth Irgens

In memory of Eleanor Brekke, given by Sandi Benson, Linda Salkowicz, Linda Atkins, Jane Schamber, Robert & Glennis Vipond, Linda Akenson, Penny Freeman, Bill & Barb Flaig, Gary & Karen Tuil, Jason & Danielle Lybeck, Gary & Nancy Ekdahl, Stefan & Michele Freeman, David & Kathy Janke, Irene Schunemann-Tvrđik, Sharon Platto, Tom Harris, Pat Heldt, Gary & Cindy Anderson, David & Ingrid Ingle, Carolyn Carlquist, Janet Roberts, Karen Westby, Dick & Diane Trisko, Joanie Pray, Majel Freeman

In memory of Evelyn Myrin, given by Timothy & Julie Tello

In honor of Wencil Pronek, given by Darrel & Margaret Kalina



# Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, July 22 | 11:00am | City Park

Bring your friendly furry (and maybe not so furry) family members to receive a blessing during worship. We will thank God for the blessing our pets are in our lives and celebrate their important role in our families.

# Father's Day & Crazy Socks!

Saturday, June 16 & Sunday June 17

We will honor the fathers and important father figures in our lives the weekend of June 16-17. Join us in worship as we give thanks for the men who have led us and taught us so much about life and faith. Prizes will be awarded for the dad with the wildest and craziest socks! We will also be collecting sock donations for our middle schoolers to bring to Churches United in Ministry in Duluth.

# The Wesley Bell Ringers

Monday, June 18 | 7:30-8:30pm | Sanctuary

The Wesley Bell Ringers are a group of 15 high school students and college freshmen. This group strives to present a fun, fast moving, inspirational program, high in musical quality that demonstrates the full range of techniques and musical styles possible with handbells. They glorify God and the sponsoring congregation by their music, appearance, behavior and attitude. It is their mission to leave all who encounter them with a greater hope for the future by demonstrating what youth can accomplish. Please join us for this extraordinary musical event!

# Mother's Day Song Performance

Sunday, May 13 | 8:30 & 9:45am Worship

Kids of all ages, moms and grandmas are welcome to join us as we sing *Thank You* during the Call to Worship. Rehearsals will be:

Thursday, May 3 | 5:00pm | Choir Room

Wednesday, May 9 | 5:00pm | Sanctuary

Email Paula Odland with questions: paula.odland@firstlutheranalexandria.com.

# Community Preschool

At Community Preschool we paint with many things including MICE. After reading *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh the children enjoyed mixing paint colors and using stuffed mice to paint. We love to remind people that when a child is painting it is so much more than just making a mess. Anita Wadley is quoted saying: "When you see me up to my elbows in paint, or standing at an easel, or molding and shaping clay, please don't let me hear you say, "He is just playing." For, you see, I'm learning to play. I'm expressing myself and being creative. I may be an artist or an inventor someday."



# Senior Recognition

Sunday, June 10 | 9:45am Worship

List of 2018 Graduates:

Alison Amundson	Jackson Grove
Brock Anderson	Summer Hanson
Carissa Bautz	Amos Hedstrom
Jason Bergerson	Jack Hilbrands
Jackson Boline	Jacob Jahnke
Aubrey Born	Jonathan Jahnke
Kelsey Brown	Blake Johnston
McKenzie Carlson	Katie Kent
Mikayla Carver	Allison O'Kane
Nolan Christenson	Cameron Rice
Austin Clayton	Tanner Saxton
Ellen Dee	Ryan Schaffer
Benjamin Dirck	Taryn Schmidt
Zachary Dummer	Evan Schroeder
Dylan Eddy	Kyli Staples
Cody Faber	Ryan Swanberg
Jared Fridgen	Daniel Thompson
Courtney Gould	

# VBS Servant Spotlight



**Name:** Dennis Stark

**How long have you attended/been a member of FLC?** 54 years

**Tell us about yourself:** I am retired from the Alex Fire Service (38 years - 21 years as Fire Marshal). I went to country school in Garfield and graduated from Jefferson High in 1968. I am a Moorhead State graduate and love to hunt, fish and golf.

**Tell us about your family:** My wife, Corliss, and I have been married for 50 years. Our son's name is Durk and we have one granddaughter, Karolina. We also have a pet dog named Gunnar.

**What is your dream vacation?** Alaska - I went there in 2016!

**What is your favorite sports team?** Alex high school teams and the Vikings.

**What is your favorite book?** Bible

**What is your favorite movie?** *I Can Only Imagine*

**What is your favorite Bible verse?** John 3:16

**What is your favorite thing about volunteering for VBS?** Working with the young students.

**Why is it important to be part of the VBS ministry?** The youth are the FUTURE of our community and church. We ALL should invest at some point with young Christians.

**If you could encourage someone else to serve during VBS, what would you say?** Give it a try if you love kids! I learn as much as the students.



# Pastor's Pen

We've waited a long time for spring this year! Now as May gets underway, plans for the summer are in full swing. If you are a person or family who travels during the summer, we pray God's blessings on your journeys, and we hope you will join us for worship when you are home.

If you are someone who stays closer to home, I hope you will consider what you can do to help families with (sometimes restless) kids and visitors who come to worship this summer feel welcome. Anything you do to be hospitable will not go unnoticed.

Whether you are a family who travels or a person who never misses a Sunday, here are a few things we invite you to keep in mind as you plan for your summer:

- For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world. Not only are we strengthened personally when we worship, our presence in worship encourages and strengthens our brothers and sisters in Christ as well.
- If you are traveling, we would love to help you find a congregation to worship at while you are gone. We'd also love to hear about the great experiences in the congregations you visit.
- If you've never joined us for worship at City Park or Carlos State Park, let this be the year you put doing so on your list! These worship services are a wonderful opportunity to introduce a neighbor or friend to First Lutheran and our vibrant ministry.

No matter where you find yourself this summer, God bless you!

In Christ,  
Pastor Kari



## Worship on the Lawn

Saturday, June 30 | 5:00pm | FLC Front Lawn

Our annual worship on the lawn will be held on Douglas Street. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket.

## Beer & Hymns

May 22 | 6:00pm | Copper Trail Brewing

Don't miss our next Beer and Hymns. Grab a group of friends and come and go as you are able. Music will be led by musicians from our congregation. See you there!

## Prayer Shawl & Lap Robe Ministry

Thurs, May 3 | 11:30-12:30pm | Family Room

In thankfulness and in appreciation to those that so faithfully and prayerfully knit or crochet the shawls, lap robes and baby afghans, there will be a lunch served at 11:30 a.m. We will resume again next fall.

## Living Out Our Mission

### Impacting Our Community, Neighbors and Church

The Feed My Sheep Mission: *“To be sensitive to the needs of all God’s children, by extending a caring and welcoming presence, through food, fellowship and friendship.”*

**Community:** First Lutheran’s Feed My Sheep group has developed an ongoing relationship with residents at Viking Towers. Four special experience events for residents were hosted in 2017. In December we celebrated the Christmas season together.

**Neighbors:** The Feed My Sheep ministry has befriended an Alexandria family who adopted four young international children. FMS members have offered educational support, respite time for mom and dad to be with their four young adult biological children and a few new Minnesota experiences for the four adoptees.

**Church:** We hosted the Raising the Roof fundraiser in April. This event is highlighted in the next column.

## Raising the Roof Fundraiser

Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising: Those words easily paint a picture of the April 6 Raise the Roof Dinner, Auction and Raffle to benefit the First Lutheran Building Fund. This event was hosted by Feed My Sheep and the Mission Board.

Master of Ceremonies, Rich Moen, and his “fun factor” team consisting of Tim Urness, and Ben and Will Miller, showered us with fun, puns and runs of laughter.

First Lutheran chefs and wait staff served a delicious four-course meal to 151 guests who enjoyed the company and fellowship of others at their dinner table. Ticket sales totaled \$6040.00

A huge thank you to Gary Ekdahl, auctioneer, and all the auction and raffle item donors. What a tremendous act of generosity on the part of the auction bidders who made it possible to raise \$6,370.00 at the live auction.

Thrivent Financial Action Plans helped defray some of the evening’s expenses, allowing all proceeds to go to the Building Fund. The remaining expenses were paid by the Feed My Sheep Committee.

Generosity can’t be measured by the money or things we give, but by the thoughts and feelings we create. This Raise the Roof event created another example of how “Faith and Life Meet” at First Lutheran Church and we are grateful to be a part of it!



Will Miller drawing the lucky winners!

## Parish Health

### Home Visits with Communion

As part of our caring ministry, the pastors and Parish Nurse provide home visits with communion to members who are homebound or find it very difficult to attend church. Some months it is more difficult to get these requested visits completed! For that reason, the Care Team now has trained several lay people, members of First Lutheran, who have expressed an interest in getting involved in this way. Some of the Friendly Visitors have been bringing communion to the people they visit as well.

We want you to know that this is happening and is available to you and your family as life circumstances present themselves. If you would like to be trained to bring communion to members in their home, please contact the church office 320.762.2196, and we will make arrangements with you for a brief training session with Pastor Ben.

If you are unable to attend worship to receive communion and would like to have communion brought to you in your home, please call the church office and let us know.

Pastor Ben and Val Trumm, Parish Nurse

## Church Picnic

Sunday, July 29 | 12:00pm | Fellowship Hall

Please join us following the 11:00am worship service for our annual all church picnic. (This is one of the Sundays we are back at church

because of an event at the park.) We will be grilling and providing all the fixings. A free will offering will be received.

## Lutheran Night at the Twins

Tuesday, July 31 | 3:00pm

Join us as we watch the Twins take on the Cleveland Indians! The bus will depart from the church at

3:00pm. The cost is \$55 per person. Sign up deadline is Sunday, July 1 at the Welcome Center.

## Roy Prigge named 2018 Minnesotan Veterans Hospice Volunteer of the Year



Congratulations to Roy Prigge for being recognized by the State Hospice Association for his work with the Knute Nelson Hospice program. Roy was one of the first volunteers trained to serve hospice patients and families beginning back in 2013. Roy and his wife, Faith, have been members at First Lutheran since 2015.

Roy provides supportive spiritual care to both the patients and their families as they make their way through what can be a very difficult time. He lives out the Knute Nelson Hospice philosophy, to make every day matter, make every day comfortable, and make every day as joyful as possible for those living with a life limiting illness.

There are countless ways we can all have an impact in our community. Today we thank and recognize Roy for the investment of his presence and caring heart with those in hospice.

## Mystery Trip

Wednesday, June 20

Sign up begins 5/21 at the Welcome Center. You won't want to miss this one. Keep your eyes open for further details to come.