



Issue 5

Volume 33



First Lutheran Church, Plano, IL

# The Anchor



## Pastor's Letter

There, but not yet. This has been the church's phrase to describe the period of time between the resurrection of Jesus and the time when Jesus will come again. This is the time that we live in as Christians. A period of time that we know sometime in the future there will be no more crying and pain and suffering. A period of time when we know the final results, the victory is won. We know that God wins and is triumphant. But we are not there yet. And in the middle of the waiting time, things look about the same, there is still suffering and dying. We live in the hope and expectation of what will be.

If there is any period of time that closely resembles the church's understanding of the there, but not yet in our lives, it is now. We are in that waiting period. Check your emotions, your restlessness, your fears of an unknown and unseen opponent, that can be anywhere. All of these things are part of the churches understanding of the time frame of understanding that the battle is won, but we are not there yet. In our lives today, we know full well what we do in waiting is helping to make things better. We believe, based on the past, that a vaccine or better treatment options are coming. We know that this virus is something that is deadly and dangerous, but humanity will defeat it and that this too will pass and be a memory as other pandemics have.

But sometimes it just stinks to be in the middle. If the resurrection has already been won for us, why can't we just skip to the end. Why can't Jesus just come a second time right now and make all things right. If the we know the virus will be defeated, why can't we just move time along quickly and get there as soon as possible.

If there is one quality of many Americans it is that of impatience. While I don't know all of the answers. In fact most of the time I don't know any answers. I do know and believe that good things come to those who wait. Waiting brings increased joy when the wait is over. The strife is over the battle won, now is the victor's triumph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia! Waiting gives you time to focus on what is important. Waiting gives you the opportunity to connect with people. Waiting lets you stop and just take a look at the world around us.

There is a certain trait in humanity that enjoys living in the moment. In sports we like to watch a good game, especially if our team wins, much more than just seeing the end score. In the light of Easter we have seen the end score. Our task is to live in this light to its fullest, while we wait for the fulfillment of all that is to come.

## May Readings >>>

### May 3 – Church at Thessalonica

- Acts 17:1-9
- 1 Thessolians 1:1-10
- Mark 13:9-11

### May 10 – Church at Corinth

- Acts 18:1-4
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Mark 9:34-35

### May 17 – Faith, Hope and Love

- 1 Corinthians 13:1=3
- Mark 12:28-31

### May 24 – Death Swallowed in Life

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57
- Mark 12:25-27a

### May 31 – Gifts of the Spirit

- Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13
- Mark 1:4-8





### Our Grieving Hearts

We offer our deepest heartfelt sympathies to Shirley Krause. Shirley's husband Gil passed from death to eternal life on Wednesday April 8, 2020. Please keep Shirley and Gil's brother in law, Dale Torkelson and family in your prayers.



### Memorial Day

The bugle echoes shrill and sweet,  
But not of war it sings today.  
The road is rhythmic with the feet  
Of men-at-arms who come to pray.

The rose blossoms white and red  
On tombs where weary soldiers lie;  
Flags wave above the honored dead  
And martial music cleaves the sky.

Above their wreath-strewn graves we  
kneel, they kept the faith and fought the  
fight. Through flying lead and crimson  
steel they plunged for Freedom and the  
Right.

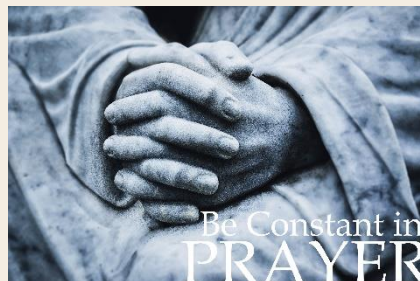
May we, their grateful children, learn  
their strength, who lie beneath this sod,  
who went through fire and death to earn  
at last the accolade of God.

In shining rank on rank arrayed,  
they march, the legions of the Lord;  
He is their Captain unafraid,  
The Prince of Peace. . . who brought a  
sword.

## MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Kathy Meyer
- 3 Bob Pilmer & Todd Boring
- 5 Ben Englehart
- 8 Bev Vilmin
- 9 Virginia Phelps
- 10 Katelyn Vahl & Theresa Jensen
- 11 Elizabeth Agajanian
- 12 Emily Weeks
- 14 Reed Agajanian
- 17 Austi Savitski
- 18 Theresa Papaeliou
- 19 Jaedence Feitl & Jacob Maaske
- 26 Don Sampson & Caleb Colbert
- 28 Dorella Wilson
- 30 Abby Smith

- 20 Billy & Jane Colbert
- 26 Steve & Jahni Thrall



### Please Pray For:

Paul & Cindy Alsup, Sherry Anderson, Lori Black, Alice Crawford, Sue Hyte, Sherry Ill, Linda Landis, Marty Lincoln, Karla Reinbolt, Bev Vilmin and Dan Mytnik's father in law, Ed.

## OFFERING REPORT

### Year to Date Offerings as of 4/12/20

General Fund Income received: 49,306.45

Budget Amount Needed: 57,553.35

Short: (8,246.90)

### Checking Account

Year to Date Expenses: 56,570.01

Balance as of 4/12/20: 11,543.35

*Thank  
You!*



### A NOTE OF THANKS

for your giving during these last four weeks. Thanks to those who mailed in checks and for those that are new to direct deposit. Comparing to the same 4 week period last year, this year the church received donations of about 70% of that of last year. We will have some decreased expenditures, but we will not have any changes to staffing at this time. Again, thank you!

As we look ahead some of us will have the question of what do we do with a stimulus check if we are still fully employed or are retired. I am paying close attention to our food pantry if there are needs, as well as members who are not working at this time. Please continue to keep First Lutheran, its staff, and its members in your prayers and faithfully consider how to support the church's ministry at this time.

Pastor Black

*Just a little note to say hello!*

*And we know that for those who  
love God all things work together  
for good, for those who are called  
according to his purpose.*

*Romans 8:28, ESV*

## Sunday School Activity

*Draw a picture or write a note in  
the flower box and send it to  
someone you can't see right now.*

*Please watch your email and Facebook for songs,  
stories and activities for kids (adults too!).  
Announcements about Easter reschedule and end of  
the Sunday school year celebrations will be shared the  
same way. We miss you! Miss Kathy*





WALKING TOGETHER...

LOVING CHRIST

LOVING ALL  
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD



Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Return Service Requested



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**Pastor**

Reverend Jonathan Black

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**Church Office**

Jerri Lynn Baker

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Mon-Thur. 7AM-1PM –

Not Currently in office due  
to Pandemic, working from  
home.

**Financial Secretary**

Ruth Ann Hoehn

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**Accountant**

Nan Grommes

nangrommes@gmail.com

**Currently NO Worship during  
Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Radio Ministries**

Every Sunday at 10:00AM – a  
partial broadcast of the weekend  
Worship service airs on WSPY  
107.1 FM

Recorded weekly services can also  
currently be found on our website.

[www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com](http://www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com)