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# April 2022 Newsletter



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## Pastor Carlin's Page

This month we look at the "**Six Marks of Discipleship**." The third mark is that of continued and daily Bible reading. This is one discipline that one would think would be easy to achieve, but according to statistics the contrary is the norm. Pastor Michael Foss has gathered what he calls "sobering statistics" about Bible reading in the United States.

91 percent of households in the United States own a at least one Bible.

The typical household owns three Bibles.

38 percent of adults in the U.S. read the Bible during a typical week-not including when they are at church.

Among Bible readers, the average amount of time spent reading the Bible during an entire week is fifty-two minutes-or, about ten minutes a day.

According to the statistics the Bible is readily accessible to most people in this country, however, it appears most Americans do not make themselves readily accessible to the Bibles they possess. This in and of itself is a travesty. Beyond this, the biblical IQ of most people including Christians is abhorrent. Generalities and platitudes have taken the place of thoughtful and diligent study of God's word. Unfortunately, both laity and clergy have normalized issues, sayings and theologies that have supposedly come through the Bible, but are nowhere to be found among its pages. One example of this is the adage "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." This phrase is not found within the pages of Holy Scripture, but alas, many folks believe it is found in the Bible. This may be harmless, however, other issues that have become "normal theology" may not be as be-

nign. Scripture itself warns us to not add or take away from its message or words. ***"<sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book;" (Revelation 22:18. NRSV).*** These are only some of the dangers of failing to read the Bible on a continued and daily basis.

If we fail to read God's word we not only have a low biblical IQ and miss its true message, but we deny ourselves of one of the greatest tools for living God has given to humanity. God's word stands as an oasis in the desert of life and fills us with its life giving message of hope and love that the Holy Spirit uses to reenergize us for all that life holds. Every time we open the Bible and consume the Good news of Christ it strengthens us and helps us to mature into true disciples of Jesus Christ. When this happens we are energized and equipped to fulfill "The Great Commission of Christ," ***"<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."(Matthew 28:18-20),*** which is the true purpose of the Church.

Becoming true Disciples of Christ requires much work and is very costly; however, Christ as Matthew 28 spells out desires disciples and not just people who call themselves church members to do his work. A

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person can be a member of anything, but only true disciples are members of the true and mystical “Body of Christ.”

Blessings Pastor Carlin

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Foss, Michael W. *Power Surge, Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church*. Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2000. Ibid., 96.

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## Vacation Bible School

June 6-10, 2022

### **Climb aboard the Rocky Railway, the VBS that puts kids on track for trusting Jesus!**

At Rocky Railway VBS, participants will explore Jesus’ power and how we can trust Him to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. We’re looking forward to an exciting week full of faith, discoveries, memorable music, fun games, and yummy treats.

Vacation Bible School is one of the most important outreach ministries we offer here at First Lutheran Church. It’s an opportunity to share the gospel in a fun environment. As we reach out to children to teach them about God’s love, we help them grow in faith. Friendships are developed, and relationships are formed. VBS also fulfills our mission of worshipping Christ and serving our neighbor.

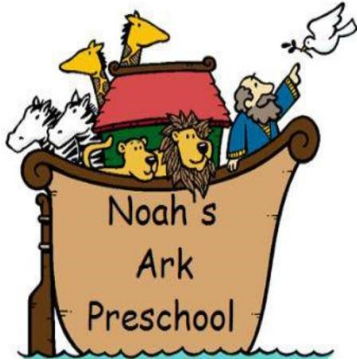
#### **As always, we will need your help!**

- First and foremost, please pray. Ask God for His blessing as we prepare and plan for this mission. Pray that God leads and guides us as we open our hearts and our church to teach children about Jesus. And pray for the children who will attend, and ask God to open their hearts to the Lord.
- Next, it takes many volunteers to run our VBS smoothly. Please prayerfully consider helping out at VBS this year. Workers of all ages are needed! Remember, God has blessed us with gifts and talents. Becoming involved gives you a chance to share your faith and play an important role in our church and community. Of course, we understand not everyone can dedicate 5 days to VBS. However, we would appreciate any amount of time that you can give.
- Planning will begin soon, and clipboards will be sent around with various jobs listed. Please consider signing up for your favorite position.

Finally, we ask that you help us to make this the best Vacation Bible School ever!

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 18TH @ 6:30 PM IN THE MUNSON ROOM**

Questions? See Chris Lauritzen



## April at Noah's Ark

**Registration for the 2022/23 school year** opened to church members on **Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>** and runs through **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**. During this time period, registration forms will be available at Noah's Ark, or from the church office. **Children must turn 3 by September 1<sup>st</sup> to enroll.** In order to receive preferred placement, these forms must be turned in by Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> with the registration fee. **All registration forms turned in after the March 20<sup>th</sup> deadline will go through the lottery process with the general public.** The general public (non-church members) may pre-register on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm. The Lottery for Placement for the general public will be on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Questions may be directed to: **Noah's Ark at 815-842-2625** or feel free to email Mrs. Immke at "pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com"

*Thank you for your support here at Noah's Ark!*

*Breanne Immke  
Director of Noah's Ark Preschool*

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### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

**CARD SHOWER!!** Harley & Marian Mayer will be celebrating their **75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on April 6<sup>th</sup> and their family would like to request cards be sent to Harley & Marian at Evenglow Lodge, 215 E. Washington St, Apt. #414, Pontiac, IL to congratulate them on this great milestone!! Thank you, all.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Nursery through adult meets at 9:15 each Sunday.

**COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES:** meets to "work" downstairs on Thursdays from 9-11 am.

**ANNA CIRCLE:** Will meet on Thursday, April 7, 2022, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our Bible study, Encouraging One Another. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the first Thursday afternoon of each month. Please bring your own drink with you.

**KNITWITS:** Knitwits has resumed their ministry on Tuesdays and meet weekly from 9:30—11 am in the Munson Room. We invite all who knit or crochet to join us as we make prayer shawls, along with hats, mittens, scarves, and baby blankets. If you don't know how, but would like to learn, we will do our best to help you learn.

**JOYFUL WOMEN:** Will resume its Bible study on Sunday, April 24th at 6:30 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue until Memorial Day weekend with the goal of completing our current study book, "Finding God's Goodness" by Lucy Swindoll. Each week is a new lesson and there are books to spare. All Women of First and friends are welcome to attend. There is no fee.

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FLC is searching for a **part-time/on-call outside maintenance** person. Some of the duties include: pick up sticks, cleaning/upkeep of flower beds, mowing, raking leaves, shovel walks/snow removal, and other outdoor maintenance duties as may be needed. Rate of pay will be \$13/hr. For further information, please contact Stewart Alvey at 815/867-7032.

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## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**Maundy Thursday—April 14 @ 7 pm**

**Good Friday—April 15 @ 7 pm**

**Prayer Vigil –Friday, Apr 15 @ 8 pm—Saturday, Apr 16 @ 5 pm**

**Sunday—April 16 @ 8 am & 10:30 am**

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## ATTENTION PARENTS & FAMILIES

Please send the names of your graduates (8th grade, high school, college) to the office (or call the church). Recognition of graduates is currently scheduled for the services of May 21st & 22nd.

Thank you and congratulations to all graduates!!





## The POWER of a Pair of Shoes— providing *short-term relief* and *long-term solutions*

***With your help, we can provide a life-changing solution: a good pair of shoes.***

- **First Lutheran Church is collecting shoes for Soles4Souls until April 10.**
- New and gently-worn shoes—any size and any style—can be placed in designated boxes located around the church. Two years ago, we collected over 800 pairs! Just think of the many lives those shoes impacted!
- For your convenience, collection boxes are located throughout the church. And feel free to spread the word! Wouldn't it be fantastic to collect over 1,000 pairs of shoes this year?
- Look at the many ways your shoes can be repurposed!

### **Shoes keep people healthy, happy and thriving.**

In many developing nations, walking is the primary mode of transportation. When bare feet are exposed to unsanitary conditions, disease, sickness, or even death can occur. Shoes add a layer of protection helping to break that cycle.

### **Shoes provide hope in times of distress.**

Soles4Souls is a relief organization that acts as second-wave responders by providing footwear during times of disaster such as tornados, hurricanes, and flooding.

### **The shoes you no longer want create opportunities for people in need.**

Using donated shoes, Soles4Souls gives people the ability to start small businesses that allow them to lift- themselves and their families out of poverty.

### **Everyone deserves a good pair of shoes.**

Without shoes children are prevented from attending school and adults are unable to work because walking becomes unbearable. A new pair of shoes provides relief in many developing nations.

In the season of Lent, wouldn't it be a blessing to donate 1,000 pairs of shoes to those in need?

***Questions? Feel free to call Chris Lauritzen @ 815.674.5326.***



# Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to all who have continued to generously donate food and supplies to the

Livingston Area Food Pantry during the coronavirus pandemic. The pantry has remained open with limited hours and drive-through pick ups to ensure the safety of the workers and clients. The mission and social committee continues to monetarily support the pantry, especially during these difficult times when so many are unemployed and money is tight. During the month of **April** we will collect (especially personals) **laundry soap, dish soap, bar soap, female hygiene products (sanitary napkins & tampons), toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, COMPLETE pancake mix, & syrup.** And, as always, any food or “non-essential” item is appreciated. All donated items should be **NON-PERISHABLE & NOT OUTDATED**, please.

I realize the list is long. Please feel free to choose as few or as many items as you wish. Moreover, the pantry encourages us to purchase items inexpensively at Dollar Tree and Dollar General.

The church is open daily (M-F) from 8:00 am-3:30 pm. The grocery carts are located in the fellowship hall & by the ramp door, and I check them weekly to make deliveries to assist in feeding our community members. I truly appreciate the support members of First Lutheran have given to our pantry for so many years. Bless you all for your generous and giving hearts! ~~Chris Lauritzen~~



Questions?? Please contact Jessica Warren for updates.



# April Birthdays

Roberta Harms	4/1	Durelle Pritchard	4/15	Ron Cox	4/28
Conner Johnson	4/2	Jasmine Ray	4/15	Scott Doran	4/28
Steve Rapp	4/4	Hayley Lucas	4/16	Dixie Vogel	4/28
Kathy Weber	4/6	Carlin Ours	4/16		
Deborah Follmer	3/7	Reese Puryear	4/16		
Sharon Carr	4/7	Ashley Branz	4/17		
Weiland Torkelson	4/8	Tisha Harty	4/17		
Annika VonHolten	4/8	Jim Robinson	4/18		
Bobbie Vogel	4/9	Jayden Jones	4/20		
Maddie Myers	4/10	Steve Ray	4/20		
Jim Drengwitz	4/13	Meredith Diemer	4/21		
Abbiegail Rapp	4/14	Peyton VonHolten	4/23		
Blanche Swedlund	4/14	Megan Lawrence	4/24		
Gabriela Krueger	4/15	Serena VonHolten	4/26		



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## 2021/2022 CONFIRMATION CLASS

*Confirmation is scheduled for Palm Sunday—April 10, 2022 @ the 8 am service with a reception in the fellowship hall immediately after service. The 2020 & 2021 classes have been invited to participate in the reception, as well.*

*There are 7 students in the 8th grade class and 4 students in the 7th grade class.*

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## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We would like to remind everyone that you may still submit your offerings via the postal service.

If you would like to submit your offering electronically, we currently have a PayPal account available. For the correct “address”, please contact the church and the information will be provided over the phone.

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## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KNITWITS:** Knitwits has returned on Tuesdays from 9:30—11 am

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. The evening Bible Study has moved to Thursday evenings @ 6:30 pm.

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## Prayer Works



## Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Sharon Carr, Deb Follmer, Kerry Foster, Kori Harder, Carol Jones, Jim Jones, Mike Muzzarelli, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Jonathan Becker, Charoletta Bergin, Windy Birch, Larry Blair, Roy Bracy, Sam Carlson, Katherine Harding, Wolf Knappe, Carole Linsner, Owen & Pat Lyons, Jakob Miller, Rick Ours, David Robinson, Judi Rodriguez, Carl & Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Francis Schumacher, Jr., Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Linda Zick & Pat & Jerry.

**CHILDREN:** Roy Alvey, Finn Bennett, Elliot Buchheit, Jonah Henkel, Parker Krominga, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford.

### **Let us pray for the following members who are homebound or nursing home**

*Evenglow Lodge: Helen Rigg, Blanche Swedlund, Harley & Marian Mayer*

*Evenglow Inn: Avis Schulz & Delores Schultz*

*The Pointe: Judy L Sykes & Maurine Kalkwarf*

*Homebound: Phyllis Bradley, Stephen Weber, & Jim Jones*

### Meetings in April

Tuesdays @ 9:30 am  
Knitwits

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am  
Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 6 pm  
Choir

Thursdays @ 9 am  
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study

Mondays, April 4 & 18 @ 9:15 am  
Pastor-Bible Study @ The Pointe

Mondays, April 4 & 18 @ 6:30 pm  
Euchre

Thursday, April 7 @ 1 pm  
Anna Circle

Sunday, April 10 @ 8 am  
Rite of Confirmation (& Palm Sunday)

Tuesday, April 12 @ 6 pm  
Seder Meal Re-enactment

Thursday, April 14 @ 7:00 pm  
Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 15 @ 7 pm  
Good Friday Service

Friday, April 15-Saturday, April 16  
Prayer Vigil @ 8 pm—5 pm

Monday, April 18  
Easter Monday—OFFICE CLOSED  
VBS Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 19 @ 7 pm  
Church Council

Sunday, April 24 @ 9:15 am  
Property Meeting

Monday, April 25 @ NOON  
Newsletter Deadline

Friday, April 29 @ 9:00 am  
Newsletter Assembly

**HIPAA Laws**...Because of the HIPAA Laws, if you would like the Pastor to visit you in the hospital, **you must call the church office** (or have the Chaplain at the hospital call the office).



## ANNA CIRCLE

Anna Circle will meet on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our Bible study entitled, Encouraging One Another. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the first Thursday afternoon of each month.

Please bring your own drink with you.

If you have any questions, please call Lynnette at (815) 796-3216.

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## Comforting (Quilting) Ladies

The Comforting (Quilting) Ladies continue to meet in the large Sunday School room on Thursday mornings from 9-11 am. Anyone is welcome to join us on any Thursday. You don't have to come every week. If you enjoy cutting squares, laying out squares for tops, sewing squares, knotting or pinning hems — come whenever you wish.

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## JOYFUL WOMEN OF FIRST

Joyful Women will resume its Bible study on Sunday, April 24th at 6:30 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue until Memorial Day weekend with the goal of completing our current study book, "Finding God's Goodness" by Lucy Swindoll. Each week is a new lesson and there are books to spare. All Women of First and friends are welcome to attend. We would welcome any new faces to our group. There is no fee to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 815/674-5420.

~~Vicki Day~~

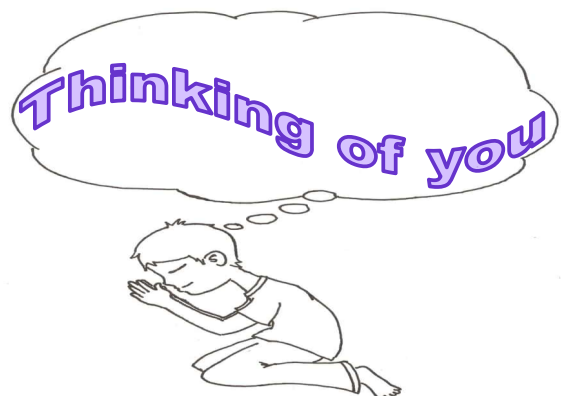
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### Please Note:

If you have submitted a name for the prayer list & would like them to receive a "Thinking of You" card, please provide the church office with a good address so that the volunteer coordinator can mail the card to the proper address. Also, please update the office if/when the name on the prayer list can be removed.

Thank you.

~Beth Ray~



## CARING MINISTRY PROGRAM

Are you in need of someone to support you in good or difficult times? Your Caring Ministers at First Lutheran are available to pray with you and support and encourage you. If you would like a Caring Minister to call upon you, please contact one of the Caring Minister coordinators or the church office to set up a visit.

The Caring Ministry team is also in need of additional ministers. If you are interested in becoming a Caring Minister, please contact Keith Tribley @ 674-7486, Kathy Weber @ 842-2433 or Pastor Ours for more information.

The next training meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 1 at noon**. We look forward to seeing you there!!

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## WOMEN OF FIRST

Deb Crull has made me (Vicki Day) aware of a weekend retreat for women that will be held in Itasca, IL on April 22-24, 2022. It is sponsored by the organization "Christian Working Women", an organization formed by Mary Lowman in 1984. Mary is from Wheaton. The conference is titled "Unwavering Confidence". The following link will connect you with the program and information:

["https://christianworkingwoman.org/event/unwavering/"](https://christianworkingwoman.org/event/unwavering/)

The retreat begins Friday evening (April 22) and runs until mid-morning Sunday (April 24). The fee is \$175 and covers all sessions plus lunch & dinner on Saturday. There is no discount for group registration and you must make your own hotel reservations. Consider finding yourself a roommate and making this a "girls' weekend away".

## Come join the fun every other Monday night



We can get together again to play, so mark your calendars for the first and third Mondays of the month. Spread the word. We have waterproof cards and plastic cards that will be cleaned before the night starts and after we are done for the evening. Hand sanitizer will be available for each table. Each table will be sanitized for the evening and after we are done. At this time, we ask that you do NOT bring any snacks. Please bring your own drink for the evening.

We will open doors at 6 pm, play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$4/person

We want everyone who attends to feel safe and comfortable. Please do not attend if you do not feel well or if you are uncomfortable in playing at this time. If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley.

April 4 & 18    May 2 & 16    June 6 & 20

### HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

**YOUTUBE:** [www.firstlutheranyoutube.org](http://www.firstlutheranyoutube.org)

*You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by going to YouTube and searching for "Pontiac First Lutheran"*

**OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:** <https://firstlutheranpontiac.org/live-stream/>

**APPLE TV & ROKU:** *Download an app called "Box Cast" and search for a channel called "Pontiac First Lutheran" Once you find it, make it one of your favorites and you can watch from your tv or phone!*

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pontiacfirstlutheran/>

*Go to this link and request to be added to the group. Once you are added you will get notifications of our next service and see past services!*

**TWITTER:** <https://twitter.com/FirstPontiac>

*If you have the twitter app, search for "First Pontiac" and you can 'follow' us on Twitter!*



**First Lutheran Church**  
Worshiping Christ - Serving Our Neighbor



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*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*



**APRIL  
2022**

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**“Worshiping Christ, Serving Our Neighbor”**

**Weekend Worship Schedule**

**Sat. 5:30 pm**

**Sun. 8:00 am**

**Sun. 10:30 am**

**Sunday School 9:15 am**

**Our Staff**

**Pastor: Carlin Ours**  
**Office Admin: Beth Ray**  
**Acct: Angel Hall**  
**Custodian: DeAnn Dennis**  
**Vol. Coord: Beth Ray**  
**Choir Dir: Joseph Durbin**

**2022 Congregational Council:**

<b>Stewart Alvey, President</b>	<b>Jim Drengwittz</b>
<b>Michael Carlson, V. President</b>	<b>Brian Friedman</b>
<b>Jane Yate, Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Ann Johnson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kori Mehrkens</b>
<b>Michelle Janssen, Fin. Secretary</b>	<b>Julie Rapp</b>
<b>Jeff Bressner</b>	<b>Cathy Robinson</b>
	<b>Fred Shirley</b>