



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE APRIL

The Bible memory verse for April is a great verse that teaches us how we are saved from eternal punishment and how we are not saved..

Ephesians 2:8-9

**It is by grace you have been saved,
through faith -- and this not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God -- not by works,
so that no one can boast.**

WORSHIP WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES SUNDAYS

8:00 am — a more non-traditional form
10:30 am — a more blended form

Wednesdays
Mid-Week Lenten Services
6:30 pm on April 3 and 10

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

- Pray for wisdom and insight for the whole congregation and our leaders.
- Pray for individual and collective zeal around our God-given mission — making disciples.
- Pray also that we would be zealous, energized, and eager to do God's will individually and collectively.
- Pray for our unity and zeal as a congregation as we seek God's specific will for us at First Lutheran.

Experience the Power!

Jesus Is Victorious.

Experience the Difference at Faith Lutheran Church!

Ever wish you could change things? Change your outlook? Your attitude? Your life? But how? Jesus and His victory over sin and death give us the power for life-renewal -- which is God's specialty! Celebrate with us at First and meet people just like yourself who couldn't change things, but know that God did -- and does! Experience a real difference from the inside out.

**Jesus died and rose again so that we would have eternal life with the one true God!
Just as Jesus was raised from death, we can live in that victory now and forever!**



INTERIM PREPARATION PROCESS

The whole interim process is designed to work through several tasks . . . and in the end to have the congregation ready to call a settled pastor and ready with a clear vision of what it wants to be as a congregation.

PEOPLE OF FIRST ARE ON THE MISSION OF OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

TASK 1

Coming to Terms with Our Past

The report on Task one is available on paper on the credenza in the narthex.

TASK 2

RESEARCH —STUDYING OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR COMMUNITY (Cultural Context)

In this task we want to find out more precise information about who we are and what are we doing as members of Faith and as a congregation. We also want more precise information about our community or cultural context.

Ultimately, in our third and last task, we want to use what we learn in Task 1 and 2 to determine a ministry and mission direction for our congregation for the future. Knowing what we want to be and do in ministry and mission will help us mobilize as a congregation and also help us call the most fitting settled pastor.

We are also studying our community or cultural context, asking questions about needs and who is meeting needs. We want to explore what kind of ministries attract people and we want to determine a ministry and mission direction for First LC. .

Please keep this Interim Preparation Process, the Interim Task Force, and Pastor Jim in your prayers. We want God to guide the outcome.

A LESSON TO BE LEARNED

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42 NIV)

Wake up every morning and say:
"God, I am so thankful You love me."
You will be off to a great start.

INVEST
in the spiritual growth of our kids!
There are multiple opportunities to work with our spiritual growth ministries.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Maundy Thursday, April 18 — With great humility and reverence communing as Jesus did with His disciples on the night He was betrayed — the night before His death.

Worship at 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 19 — Meditating on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us.

Worship at 1:00 and 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 21 — Celebrating the victory of Jesus' resurrection and its impact on us, including our own resurrections at Jesus' second coming.

What hope and expectation Easter brings!

Worship Celebrations at 7:00 and 10:00 am

(The two services will be the same festival services.)

We are celebrating the RESURRECTION OF JESUS, by which God again declares Jesus to be God, shows us that Jesus' sacrifice for our sins is accepted, and declares that we too will be raised to life by Him so that we will live forever with Him in glorified bodies and spotless souls — totally free from sin.

Easter is one of those times when people who are not regular church attenders go to church. Please pray about people you could invite. Invite and bring those whose names the Lord puts into your mind and heart. Pray for them.

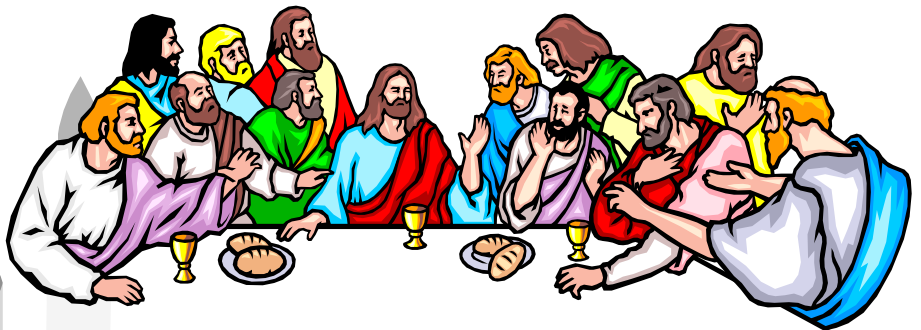
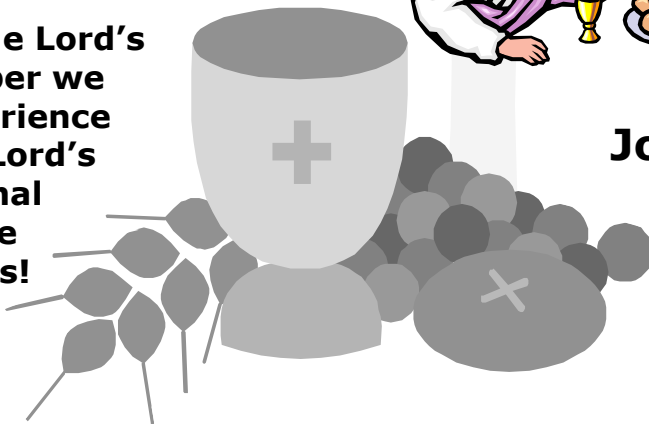


MAUNDY THURSDAY CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

We are children of our heavenly Father through Jesus — our Savior.

Let's participate as a family in this sacred meal.

In the Lord's Supper we experience our Lord's Eternal Grace for us!



Join the family of God in remembering Jesus' crucifixion to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

GOD'S EXTREME LOVE!

Imagine two kids on the floor fighting. You didn't see the start of this, but it's hardly a fight. The one on his back is totally passive. The other is totally beating up on the other. One is on his back . . . and the other is punching, beating the kid who seems defenseless. Finally he stops and gets off the other . . . and gets up.

You can imagine that the beaten one would "hate" the one beating him. You've probably seen it or done it yourself. The beaten person gets up from the floor and says with a great amount of venom: "I hate you!" But you can probably also readily imagine that the beaten kid might get up and attack the other . . . retaliating.

Those are two possible reactions which you can no doubt readily imagine. But is there a third? What if the person who has been beaten got up and hugged the person who just beat him. Now that would be a surprise, wouldn't it? That would be totally unexpected. It would probably be an even bigger surprise to the one who did the beating.

I want you to think about something. When we sin against God, which we do continually, it is like us beating on God. We are sinning against Him. It hurts Him. I grieves Him. Yes, our sin makes Him angry.

But what does God do? He gets up . . . and loves us. Instead of smashing us, He forgives us. That is so uncharacteristic. That is so unlike what we people feel like doing . . . and so unlike what we often do.

God speaks to that issue in Hosea 11:9: "I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate . . . For I am God, and not man -- the Holy One among you." God is certainly different from us. He is holy -- perfect. God is not like us. God's love is extreme. Thank Him for that!

And then, knowing His extreme love (not striking us down in wrath . . . but instead loving us and forgiving us), love Him in return. His extreme love compels an extravagant love in return. Love Him extravagantly . . . and love others with His kind of extreme love. Love and forgive all who sin against you. Love with His extreme love. Above all, love Him extravagantly with all your heart and mind and strength.

Pastor Jim Eggert

Thank You
for inviting others
to worship with you.

We are the messengers of God and His love.

**Something to
think about**

The ONE
who is in you
is greater than
the one who is in the
world.

(1 John 4:4)