

FIRST EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2018
NEWSLETTER

What is Confirmation?

On May 20, the eighth graders will stand before the congregation and answer questions about what it is they believe. It is a joyous day not just for the confirmands and their families, but also for the congregation as these young people are then able to join with us in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Yet we can't help but reflect on our own confirmation. How could we not think back to the day we stood in front of church answering the same questions? This time of year also causes us to ask that all important question, "What is Confirmation?" If you were to ask fifty people that question, you probably would get a wide variety of answers.

Perhaps let us reflect for a moment on what Confirmation is not before we get into what it is. Confirmation is not a graduation. By standing in front of the congregation and answering questions, these young people are not done with learning God's Word. None of us ever reach the point in our lives when we don't need to grow in God's Word anymore. Confirmation is not completing something that was started already through Holy Baptism. Yes at our confirmations, we are taken back to our baptism, but the forgiveness of sins and the faith worked through those waters was sufficient to work saving faith in our hearts. It does not need to be finished. So if it isn't graduation or completing something, what is confirmation?

Confirmation is confession. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 10:8-10, **"But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."**

Everything about Confirmation is confession of what is in the heart. Examination is not a quiz or test to see if the confirmands have learned anything. It is an opportunity to confess what the Scriptures have taught them. It is also an opportunity for us to confess the same as we answer with them. When the confirmands stand before the congregation on Confirmation Sunday, they are giving a simple confession of faith. They are confessing with their mouths in a verbal way the faith which the Holy Spirit has worked in their hearts, a faith first worked through the waters of baptism. They are also confessing a desire to continue in that Word, grow in his Word, and confess that faith all the days of their lives. At Confirmation, the young people who are being confirmed are publicly confessing their faith and again we confess right along with them. Your confirmation was not the last time you confessed what is in your heart.

Confession still happens all the time. We still confess with our mouths what is believed in our hearts. By keeping the Word near us and growing in it all the time whether through the spoken Word of God in worship, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, study and discussion of his Word with others, family devotions, or even personal time in the Word, the Holy Spirit is at work in our hearts. He strengthens our faith. As a result, it is only natural for us to confess with our mouths and give a reason for the hope that we have in Jesus. Whether it is in a formal way together expressing our unity in faith using one of the Creeds or even the simplest statement of faith to someone we know, we are vocalizing what is in our hearts. Mouth and hearts are working together to proclaim salvation. Faith does not keep silent, but it is confessed all the time among each other and in the world around us.

For many of us confirmation was a day in the past. It was a rite of public confession following instruction in the basic truths of God's Word. After that, you were then able to receive the Sacrament as a result of that confession uniting you with the congregation. What a joyous time that was! What a joyous time this is too! As Confirmation approaches and more young people confess the faith that is in their hearts, may every one of us be led to confess with our mouths faithfully and boldly the Word that is in our hearts.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes

- **Tuesday:** Bible Class – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
Bible Class – 6:00 p.m. (*through May 24th*)
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – *second service changes to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 27th*
Bible Information Hour – 9:15 a.m.
(*Bible Class will conclude May 13th, while youth group and Sunday school will conclude May 20th*)
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Confirmation

On Thursday, May 17th during our regular 7:00 service, we will hold an interactive church service which includes examination of the 8th graders being confirmed. Communion will not be a part of the service (*we will, though, serve Communion Thursday, May 24th*). Confirmation of our 8th graders will be held in the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 20th. Communion will be served in both services. First Lutheran School students in grades 3–7 will sing.

Helping Institutional Ministries

Donate Meditations: Don't throw out – Recycle! WELS Institutional Ministries will accept Meditations booklets that are no more than one year old. Also wanted are hotel/travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These hygiene supplies are given out to returning citizens after incarceration. Please place these donated items in the box marked "Institutional Ministries" in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

Plant/Seed Exchange

There will be a congregational plant/seed exchange on Sat., May 12 at 3 pm. Anyone who wants to bring plants/seeds or who want to get some free ones can meet outside between the school and the gym in the grassy area on the school side of the building. If you bring plants/seeds, put a little note with what they are, how big they grow and if they need sun or shade. You do not have to bring something to take something home. This opportunity is great for people starting out or just wanting to add something new to their gardens. Please direct any questions to Vicki Mueller 262-728-9554 or Pam Hoyord 262-728-5532.

Congregational Meeting – Crossroads Consulting

All members of First Lutheran Church are invited and encouraged to attend a discussion regarding contracting with Crossroads Consulting for assistance in preparing planning goals for First Evangelical Lutheran Church. This seminar lays a biblical and conception foundation for ministry planning in the rapidly changing and challenging 21st century. We will serve refreshments at 8:30 a.m. and begin with a Devotion at 8:45 a.m. *Please register for the meeting on the brown door.* The meeting will conclude at 12:30 p.m., and then a light lunch will be served. Please contact our Council President Mike Schwark, Pastor Heuer, or Principal Ben Schramm with any questions. A meeting will then be held on a different day to vote on the proposal laid out during the seminar to contract with Crossroads Consulting to continue with area analysis, Mission/Vision Setting and Strategic Implementation.

Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School – “Splash Canyon” – that will be held July 15th – 19th. Registration forms will be available by the end of May.

Congregational Rummage Sale

We will be having a congregational rummage sale in the gym on Saturday, June 16th from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. All members are welcome to bring in items and have a “booth” at the sale. Set up will be on Friday evening, June 15th. Please direct any questions to Vickie Mueller – 728-9554.

Old school desks

First Lutheran School is disposing of about 20 old school desks that are no longer needed. One is sitting in the narthex. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Schramm.

WELS Night at Miller Park

This year's WELS Night at Miller Park will be held on Friday, August 3rd. Game time is 7:10 p.m. If you would like to sit with other congregational members, tickets will be ordered for the group. There will be a sign up posted in early May. If you would like to order tickets on your own and/or order a special “WELS Night at Miller Park” T-shirt, please go to the WELS website – wels.net/brewers2018.

Summer Celebration

We will hold this year's Summer Celebration on Friday, June 29th, in conjunction with Elkhorn's Star Spangled Celebration. If you have any ideas for the event, please contact a member of the Stewardship/Evangelism Committee - Tom Stech, Wayne Meier, Ray Manthe, Wally Holder, Joe Kuehl, or Josh Voigt.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If *you* have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the “church” box near the tract rack. *“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”* James 5:16

Toddler Open Gym

This program is intended for children ages 0-5 along with their parent/caregiver and will be held from 9:30-10:30 am in the school gym on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, October through May. The program will be open to our members as well as our community. We will have open play in the gym with various toys, as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies and more! We will also have a devotion and a snack. Share this information with others – by word of mouth or sharing/liking our Toddler Open Gym posts on our Facebook page.

Meals on Wheels

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

Christian Assistance Fund

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ's directive to “love one another”. Contributions to this account are appreciated. Designated Gift Envelopes are available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, application forms are available from pastor. Any requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

ACH Offerings

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. As always, personal contributions are kept in the strictest confidence. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please see Mr. Schramm. Gifts can be given at any time. *We have a number of families who have requested aid this year. Contributions to the Assistance Fund are needed and appreciated! If you are able to help provide a quality Christian Education, please see Mr. Schramm or Mrs. Papenfus.*

WELS Radio and TV Ministry

Music for The Master followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM "JOY 1340" WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRS – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider's channel listing for more information.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is being able to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you for this program. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. You may go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization with this member benefit.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street. Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Elkhorn Food Pantry annual meeting was held Thursday, April 5. A thank you was given to all of the volunteers, the board of directors and the many contributors to the Food Pantry who maintain the operation of the Food Pantry. In 2017, 1,909 households were served for a total number of 4,572 people (adults and children). This number has decreased from the high of 5,708 people/2,245 households in 2014. We are thankful that we are experiencing a better economy with a low unemployment rate in this area. With the closure of Sentry, more food items were purchased from Frank's, Aldi's and Dollar Tree in 2017. Kwik Trip has the best price for ground beef and butter. A new freezer and new roof on the building were major expenditures for last year. The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Wed., May 2	Forensics meet @ SLHS - 4:00 p.m.
Fri., May 4	Entertainment Night – 6:30 p.m.
Sun., May 6	Piano Recital – 6:00 p.m.
Mon., May 7	Grades 5-8 Track Meet in Janesville
Thurs, May 10	Ascension Service – grades 4K – 8 sing in 7:00 service
Fri.-Sat., May 18-19	Read In
Sun., May 20	Grades 3-7 sing in 10:30 Confirmation service
Mon., May 21	Board of Education – 6:00 p.m.
Mon., May 28	No School – Memorial Day
Thurs., May 31	Awards Presentation – 1:30 p.m. Graduation Service – 7:00 p.m. ~ <i>Grades 4K-7 sing</i>

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstatthecross.com. – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.

Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.

Shoreland Academic Fair

Congratulations to our 7-8th grade team of Kaylee Y., Katie D., Evan M., and Emma H. They competed in the knowledge bowl against 17 other teams. They finished in a very respectable 9th place! They were in 1st place through the first 12 questions, then they ran into some hard ones! Well done!

Forensics Meet

The Forensics Meet is Wednesday, May 2nd at Shoreland Lutheran High School.

Piano Recital

First Lutheran School students that take piano lessons with Mrs. Barker will have a piano recital on Sunday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Entertainment Night

FLS students are working hard on the musical “How the West was *Really* Won.’ All are welcome to join the fun at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4th.

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school’s non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, Scholastic magazine, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in Kwik Trip milk caps and bag tops, General Mills Boxtops, and Frank’s Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also are a part of SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchasing. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact Mr. Schramm or the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*

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The April 4, 2018 Ladies Aid Minutes

Our meeting began with the table prayer. Beverly Freitag served dessert to 13 members, and Pastor Heuer. We welcomed a visitor, Pam Hoyard.

Pastor Heuer read from Mark 16. The gospel speaks to us all personally, just as the angel spoke to the disciples and Peter telling them that Jesus was no longer in the tomb but had risen.

Doris Salem gave the treasures report. She also handed each one of us a copy of last years expenses (\$1416.45) and Christmas donations (\$440). Our income last month was \$241 and expenses \$322. Together with the savings account and check book we now have \$2478.35.

Vickie Mueller reported about the Lenten Meal served by the Aid and suggested we continue again next year. They had 14 different casseroles and suggested a few changes for next year. Could use less coffee, more juice less bread and butter.

Vickie also reminded us to get ready for the "rummage sale" June 16th from 8:30 - 2:30. This is for the entire congregation. A sign up sheet will be put on the brown door so there will be enough tables set up. Beverly will put the ad in the Shopper, and Morena will make posters. It was agreed to put up a "Ladies Aid" table so people could donate an item without having a table. Beverly said she would take care of this table. All proceeds from the rummage sale will be up to the person whether they want to keep the money earned, or where they would donate money earned. All rummage not sold must be removed from the gym.

May 12th at 3 o'clock a flower/seed exchange will be held in the hall between the gym and church. Plants could be split and exchanged, but be sure they are healthy, no bugs!!!

A reminder that Pastor Heuer is now teaching an Informational Bible group open to everyone and also to all friends. This will run for about 15 weeks.

The 3rd annual Easter Egg hunt had 150 or more children. People stayed till 11:30. Eggs and food were gone. Children attending enjoyed it and also parents were heard saying they had no idea we had a school and thought it was great. It was a good outreach program.

Carla Baudais thanked everyone who brought food and helped with the LWMS Rally. She brought a birthday card for us to sign to send to our new befriend a missionary, Peter Janke who is serving in the Asian Lutheran Seminary, Hong Kong." Carla also said to collect old Meditations less than 1 year old, shampoo, deodorant etc. from motels for use by Institutional Ministries. Mark Hoyard is on the board and would bring items to them. Carla also asked if anyone knew of or had a treadmill sewing machine to send to Haiti.

Wendy wants to talk with Pastor and teachers about buying books for the library. Otherwise money will be put into the Aid's savings account labeled "Library". This summer, Laura Kuehl, Nancy Haak, Deborah Buelow will go through the entire library deciding what books to keep and what to maybe sell, possibly at the rummage sale.

The May meeting will be a "Tea Party" with Kathy Meier and Morena Rote serving. Also everyone is to bring items to place into May Baskets for 21 of our shut-ins.

Beverly sent out 4 cards and received 4 thank you cards. We sang Happy Birthday to Doris Salem and Kris Rome. We wish Laura Kuehl a Happy Birthday, too.

Our meeting closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

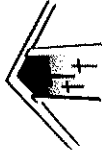
Respectfully Submitted, Jean Willms, Secretary

May 2018

First Ev. Lutheran Church

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Council Hosts:	Ushers:
8:00 May 6 M. & J. Schwark May 13 T. Stech May 20 J. Voigt May 27 B. Brugger	8:00 M. Hoyord S. Beaver R. Mitton C. & R. Collins W. & M. Holder D. Hintz P. Rote C. Greving M. Yunker

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Communion Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. BIH - 9:15 a.m. FLS Piano Recital - 6:00 p.m.	7 MOM Meeting - 9:30 a.m. Altar Committee— 6:30 p.m.	1 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	2 Ladies Aid - 1:30 p.m.	3 Toddler Open Gym - 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bible Study - 9:00 am Bible Class - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	4 FLS Entertainment Night—6:30 p.m.	5
13 Mother's Day 14 Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. ~SS sings - 10:30 BIH - 9:15 a.m.	8 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	8 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	9 Sparks & Flames Year-end event - 6-7 p.m.	10 Bible Study - 9:00 am Bible Class - 6:00 pm Ascension Service - 7:00 p.m. ~gr. 4K-8 sing	11	12 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. Plant/Seed Exchange - 3:00 p.m.
20 Communion Service - 8:00 a.m. Confirmation Communion Service - 10:30 am ~gr. 3-7 sing SS/Youth - 9:15 a.m.	15 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	15 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	16 Ladies Book Club— 7:00 p.m. @	17 Toddler Open Gym - 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bible Study - 9:00 am Bible Class - 6:00 pm Confirmand Examination Service - 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Women's Bible Study—8-9 a.m. Crossroads Consulting Congregational Meeting - 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
27 Worship Services - 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.	21 Board of Ed. -6:00 pm Board Mtgs. -6:30 pm Church Council -7:00 p.m.	22 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	23	24 Bible Study - 9:00 am Bible Class - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	25	26
28 Memorial Day No School	29 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	29 Bible Study - 6:30 pm	30	31 Bible Study - 9:00 am Graduation Service - 7:00 p.m. ~gr. 4K-7 sing	Ascension - Thurs., May 10, 7:00 p.m.: B. Brugger & C. Greving Confirmand Examination - Thurs., May 17, 7:00 p.m.: J. Mueller & D. Hintz Graduation - Thurs. May 31, 7:00 p.m.: M. Papenfus & P. Rote	

May 2018

Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
May 6	M. Schwark	J. Sulik	M. Hoyord/J. Schwark	S. Beaver	
May 13	T. Stech	J. Mueller	R. Mitton/W. & M. Holder	C. & R. Collins	
May 20	J. Voigt	M. Dorn	D. Hintz	P. Rote	
May 27	B. Brugger	M. Papenfus (9:30)	C. Greving	M. Yunker (9:30)	

Ascension Service: Thursday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.: B. Brugger & C. Greving

Confirmand Examination Service, Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.: J. Mueller & D. Hintz

Graduation Service, Thursday May 31 at 7:00 p.m.: M. Papenfus & P. Rote

Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
May 6	Dennis & Terri Carnes	Gordon & Nancy Haak
May 13	Chester & Linda Kreft	Scott & Amy Beaver
May 20	Barbara Schinke	Deb Buelow
May 27	Jim & Vickie Mueller	Matt & Kristy Barker

Birthdays: shut in members are in bold print

2- Seth Voisin	17- Maddie Coletti
Mason Erskine	Gabriel Behling
3- Madeline Schwark	19- Kathryn Duwe
4- Jennifer Hoyord	20- Mindy Bartelt
Marge Smith	Joshua Fink
David Krewal	Ethan Bartelt
Lia Greving	21- Verna LeNoble
5- David Peterson	22- Cassandra Helfvogt
6- Gene Lauderdale	23- Terri Carnes
Alexander Bartelt	Lawrence Basinski
9- Katrina Bearce	24- Cassandra Skogsberg
Kathy Meier	26- William Sekeres Jr.
10- Joshua Voigt	Katie Rudolph
11- Barbara Schinke	28- Masha DuBois
Angela Hartwick	29- James Mueller
Katie Nolte	31- Norman Papcke
13- Dorothy Papenfus	
14- Marilyn Desing	
15- Adam Lambert	

Anniversaries:

Scott & Kenya Johnson, May 8, 2003

Jon & Mary Cucchi, May 11, 1991

Matt & Kristy Barker, May 15, 1993