



FIRST THINGS

First Lutheran Church of Brookings, SD
...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.
 Volume 24 Issue 2 April - May 2023

Dear Teammates,

Through the season of Lent we've been holding practice and running through the fundamentals of faith. We called a time out and huddled together to learn how to better repent, give sacrificially, fast, examine ourselves, pray, and share acts of love. We have been called back to the game plan that Jesus has given us that can be drawn simply in the shape of the cross $\+$: to love God and love each other.

Easter morning we will rise and receive again the glorious Good News that God's game plan has been fully carried out. By his death, and resurrection, Jesus has connected us unbreakably in the shape of the cross $\+$. The vertical line has been repaired and we are *connected* to God as siblings and heirs forever in Christ. The horizontal line has been traced over so that we belong to each other as much as we belong to God, *connected* for the sake of life and invested in each other's thriving because of God's love for us.

This Easter season we gather around one word that is central to the game plan: *Connection*. As you hear the cry, "He is risen!" imagine the rest of this truth added to the resurrection proclamation: He is risen to connect you and every created-good human in this world to the Source of life!

Every single person is longing for connection that matters and reaches soul depth. We've been given the gift of this connection, along with the grace to reconnect again and again when we become disjointed. This is a gift meant to share. What form of connection would be glorious Good News for your neighbor, your coworker, your children, grandchildren, friends and strangers here in Brookings struggling to hold it together or make ends meet, or our siblings across the globe? With whom is God calling you to connect or reconnect?

With those questions in our minds, this year we'll hear stories from congregation friends and members who have experienced connection to God and others through our community of faith. I ask you to share your stories of connection. I hope, as we see the ways we already connect, the Spirit will draw arrows to new pathways of greater connection to God and each other and arrows to those who long to become connected. Bring your ideas for new ways of connection and pray for willingness to be one who joins in and carries them out.

Peace be with you and may connectedness entangle you in love,
 Pastor Jess





THIS YEAR:

BE A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

52 WEEKS OF CONNECTION
THROUGH FIRST LUTHERAN

ALL YEAR LONG WE WILL SHARE AND CELEBRATE THE MANY WAYS
WE ARE CONNECTED TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER
THROUGH FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH.
NEW WAYS OF CONNECTING ARE SURE TO SPROUT UP!

Pay attention to the "Connection Corner" in every newsletter to
hear stories of connection and the latest updates on how to
share your story and connect in new ways. We will also keep you
in the loop through Facebook and weekly bulletins.

We want to know... "How have you connected with God or others
because of First Lutheran Church?"

There are many ways you can share a story, and we hope you will!
Visit our easy form at <https://forms.gle/QowkPmsh9GNFnxGB6>
or email council@firstlutheranbrookings.org or call the church office
to arrange to tell your story to a Council member in person.

**To equip all people to live a life
connected with God and others.**

FIRST] LUTHERAN
BROOKINGS

CONNECTION CORNER



Kris and members of the FLC Council past and present are pictured above outside the new United Way Food Security Building they helped dream into reality. The beautiful facility was recently built and is now operating on land gifted by our congregation through a 99 year lease for \$1 to the organizations that are now housed there. The Brookings Area Food Pantry, The Backpack Project, Senior Commodity Boxes, and United Way all share in working toward elimination of hunger in our community and area.

STORY OF CONNECTION:

**KRIS SEAS,
FLC COUNCIL
PRESIDENT**



So many connections in my life began at church. As council president, I was invited to talk at a new members event about a year ago. I met a wonderful group of new members there, but one person in particular stood out. Diane introduced herself to me, and we quickly realized her brother was a dear friend of mine. I also learned her husband was from my hometown and knew many of the same people I did. Diane quickly became a friend I didn't realize I needed, and I have First Lutheran to thank for the connection. I think this shows that God doesn't want us to live a lonely life—he wants us in relationship with each other.



*connection through
laughter*

Connection Ministry Highlights of the Month:

April - FLC Congregational Council

May - Music Ministries



SPRING NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL



2023/2024 REGISTRATION

We are now accepting student registrations for the 2023/2024 school year. We offer two, or five half-day a week classes for 3-4-year-olds. We offer three, and five half day a week classes or an all-day class for 4-5-year olds. We also offer a Jr K class. If you have questions, or if you would like more information, please call the Preschool Office at 605 697-2756 or email me sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org. Some of our classes fill up very quickly so don't wait!!

ART MUSEUM and PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

You are cordially invited to our Jr Kindergarten's Art Museum, Silent Auction Fundraiser, and Preschool Open House. You will get the opportunity to view all the BEAUTIFUL and CREATIVE ART created by our Junior Kindergartners. You will also be able to order T-Shirts designed by our Jr K, and bid on Silent Auction Pieces, all created by our preschoolers. We will be converting our gymnasium into a "Museum" for the day. Our Museum and the Preschool classrooms will be open to the public Wednesday, April 5 from 3:30—5:30PM. You will also be able to see and bid on the Silent Auction art pieces on Sunday, April 2 during the Palm Sunday Brunch.

NO MORE HYVEE RECEIPTS

First Lutheran Preschool is NO LONGER COLLECTING HyVee receipts. HyVee has changed the requirements for adding and recording the receipts and it has increased the total amount needed to collect. It is no longer a feasible job for volunteers, so it defeats the purpose of fundraising. THANK YOU to EVERYONE who has collected and turned in receipts over the years! You truly made a difference!

EASTER EGG HUNT

This month we will be learning about and celebrating Easter. One of the children's favorite activities is our annual Easter egg hunt! There will be no school April 6-10 due to Easter vacation.

GRADUATION

We are also planning for Our Preschool Graduation Ceremonies that will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, May 24th at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm.

Have a Super Spring!
SueAnn





Music
News

*“I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy
down in my heart, down in
my heart, down in my
heart. I’ve got the joy, joy,
joy, joy down in my heart,
down in my heart to stay.”*

The lyrics of this song, from my childhood, have been running through my head as I contemplate Jesus’ death and Resurrection.

As I write this article, our inspiring Easter services with the brass, choirs, and music will be behind us. As glorious as the services were, how can we keep that feeling throughout the rest of the season? Did you know that there are seven Sundays of Easter that culminate in Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit? We call ourselves an “Easter people” so let’s continue celebrating Easter every Sunday in our worship.

In May there are many activities happening as the hand bells and choir wind down their year. The Sanctuary Choir’s last music offering will be May 7th but special music will be offered throughout May. The hand bell choir’s last music offering will be April 30.

Thank you to all musicians who gave of their time to enhance our worship services. **A special thank you, good luck, and Godspeed to Matthew Dulas, our scholarship choir student. He has been such a gift to us.**

With much joy, Pat Anderson,
Music Coordinator for 8:30
services

A NOTE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy Spring everyone! I know after our season of taking a Time-out for God, I am feeling rejuvenated and look forward to breathing in that fresh air and finding ways to be connected. I hope you are all as excited about our year ahead of connection as I am. Watch for images to appear in the Narthex and the Mission Coffee House hall sharing the story of FLC Connections. I can't wait to hear and see all the ways we can connect with each other, our neighbors, and even across the miles. Let's connect.

Be a piece of the puzzle!

Kris Seas

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

- 8:30 a.m. Festival Worship with palm procession
- 10:30 a.m. Praise Worship with palm procession
- 9:30 – 12:00 Sunday brunch freewill offering fundraiser in Mission Coffeeshouse

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

- 7:00 p.m. Worship

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

- 7:00 p.m. Worship

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

- 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
- 8:30 a.m. Festival Traditional Service
- 10:30 a.m. Praise Contemporary Service



Summer Worship

Summer worship will begin on
May 28th with one service at
9:00 a.m.. Services will remain
at 9:00 a.m. through
Labor Day.



March kept us moving as fast as we could go. On Wednesdays we hosted the Lenten Lunches again and I had a **great** group of volunteers on board. We had great turnouts for each luncheon. This special time of year is a great opportunity to come together in fellowship.

The coffeehouse continues to be a special place of gathering for small or large groups. On Tuesdays we had to add 2 more pans of rolls, for a total of 8, and we almost always sell out. On Thursdays we had to add 1 more pan, for a total of 5. It is amazing that so many people love caramel rolls!!

The OLLI classes have started so we add extra activity in our meeting room and activity center. We have also added two more special groups scheduled for monthly gatherings. We have the perfect spacious facility and great food and coffee for sharing time with each other.

In April, we celebrate Easter. In May, we see an increase in people scheduling activities and private parties. Hopefully, the snow will be melted by then!!

Thank you to all the volunteers who make this all possible and thank you FLC for all your support.

MISSION COFFEE HOUSE TIP JAR DONATIONS



Pictured is Jeanne (left) from MCH presenting a donation check for \$1,517.17 to Vonda Kirkham from Harvest Table from our January Tip Jar.



Pictured is Jeanne (left) from MCH presenting a donation check for \$1,182.93 to Heidi Bresno from the Brookings MultiCultural Center from our February Tip Jar.



First Lutheran Church Children's Ministry Newsletter

April – May 2023

As we continue with the season of Lent, the period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter, we will continue to lean into our theme:

"Take a TIME OUT."

What comes to mind when you hear "time out?" Maybe you think of a behavior management technique of removing a child from a situation that reinforces an unwanted response. Maybe you are thinking of a sport where a time out is used to regroup or plan a strategy.

What comes to mind when you hear **Lent**? Sacrifice? Fasting? Praying? Easter, the Last Supper, Palm Sunday? When we talk about "Time Out" we are reminded to take some time to grow in and strengthen our faith.

When hearing our Lenten theme & looking at my calendar I think, "How do I do that? This is such a busy time of year in the church & beyond, where do I find time to stop?" As a church community we are learning how to take a time out, sometimes without even missing a beat, coming out on the other side, calmer, more aware of our blessings, & closer to God. It is my hope that you find ways to take time out alone or with your family & experience Lent in a new way.



Think about.....

FLC will hold an evening VBS June 26-29 for Journey to Discipleship age children. (Yes, this year's 5th graders are included) Anyone 6th grade to adult is invited to help with VBS. Tell your friends & neighbors.



Lutheran Outdoors South Dakota camp registration is open now.

<https://www.losd.org/congregations2023>

Cut and keep this section for reference.

➤ **Journey to Discipleship in April**
Sundays: April 2 Journey
April 9 NO CLASS
April 16 Journey
April 23 LAST CLASS

Wednesday: April 5 NO CLASS
April 12 Journey
April 19 LAST CLASS

Steppingstones

April 23 Kindergarten Bible Gifting & Blessings (for those with & without the Spark Story Bible) *Please RSVP per the link <https://forms.office.com/r/ai7p9Y7kTq>

April 26 6:00-7:00 5th Graders Welcome to Confirmation Class. This class will introduce 5th graders and their families to what moving on to confirmation looks like in our church these days and answer questions. Watch for more info.

April 30 8:30 & 10:30 5th Graders Steppingstone class blessing for 5th Graders. During services, our church family will join in blessing our students as they move on to confirmation.

April 30 8:30 & 10:30 All who work with Children/Youth will be blessed during service.

May 14 8:30 & 10:30 Mother's Day Blessing during service.

May 21 10:30 Senior Quilt Blessing. This is an important blessing for our High School Seniors. Our quilters have been working all year to create special quilts for each Senior. **Please plan to bring your family to service. Support our Seniors, show appreciation for our quilters, and show your child how the church community supports our youth.**

The 2023-2024 Journey to Discipleship Registration is live. PLEASE strive to have your child signed up before the last day of Journey.

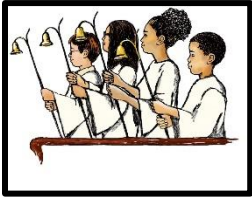
Interested in volunteering with Journey?
Contact Kari York. THANKS

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Happy Spring!
What is new in the world of
First Lutheran Youth
amid all of our snow days
and Lenten services?!

6-8th Grade Confirmation:



During Lent confirmation students attended and served during the evening worship services where we have focused on the practices we are called as Lutherans to take part in: Sacrificial Giving, Fasting, Self-Examination, Prayer, and acts of love. In small groups, after the service, they unpack the lesson from the evening and relate it more to their lives.

When we return after Easter, the confirmation students will be planning and hosting an Easter Vigil for April 19th! The confirmation students will be sharing stories from the Old Testament which led to the Resurrection. All are welcome to come and celebrate with us from 6pm- 8pm with a reception to follow, plan on joining us!



9th Grade Confirmation:

We are still working our way through the Wellness Wheel! In February we hosted Physical Well-being at Miller Wellness Center with two special guests from the SDSU football team! Many thanks to Arron and Randy, y'all were so wonderful to join us! In March, we held a panel discussion about vocation with different First Lutheran folks. It was so neat to listen to our guests share and watch the 9th graders soak in the information! Some of the questions asked were: How long did it take for you to start your business? How is God present in your work? What are the challenges and joys of your vocation? Thank you to Wendy Dailey, Rachel Meyer, Mary Kleinjan, Corey Shelsta, and Randy Richards.



L&R: Taking advantage of the Miller wellness Center facilities by using the climbing wall and the gym. Below, Q&A session with Arron and Randy, SDSU football players.



High School Youth Group:



Spring semester we have focused on mental health and how it relates to our spiritual journey. We are so appreciative of Brooke Rustman, a local play therapist, who has helped facilitate conversation as we navigate a curriculum created by Fuller Youth Institute. In the midst of this curriculum we have talked about Lent, prepped pot pies, hosted a self-care night and had a few snow days. During Lent, Youth Group was pushed back to 7:30 so youth could attend services. Y'all rock my socks off with all you do.



Summer Youth Trip 2023:

Next summer our Youth will be heading to Northwest Montana to go backpacking in God's beautiful creation. Our homebase will be Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. We have 8 youth attending with the adult leaders being Ross Abraham and myself! Our group is beyond excited for this experience (especially the train ride!). Curious about our fundraising progress? The youth are creating an update on the large bulletin board outside the sanctuary at the top of the ramp!

BE SURE TO
JOIN US
FOR
BRUNCH ON
PALM
SUNDAY
FROM 9:30 –
NOON IN
THE
ACTIVITY
CENTER



KEEP YOUR
EYES
PEELED
FOR
UPCOMING
SUNDAY
ROLL
SALES

Thank you to all the folks who purchased pot pies in March.

In peace and prayer,
Madison, Director of Youth Ministries

Save the Date!

The First Lutheran Mission Quilters have issued a challenge to the Brookings Community!

On **Saturday, June 10, 2023, 9AM – 4PM**, we invite anyone who has a heart for mission to join us in making 100 quilts in a day! The event that we are calling



“Tie One On”

intends to engage community members in the communal activity of an old-fashioned sewing bee to make quilts for relief efforts around the world, sponsored by Thrivent Financial Services and through the auspices of Lutheran World Relief.

Now is the time to look through your fabric “stash” for quilting cottons that we can use to make the quilt tops. We also need sheets (of any size!) for fillers and quilt backs. Donations of new fabric, thread, and new (flat, full-sized) sheets, as well as monetary donations are also welcome!

In case you’re thinking, “I don’t sew . . . how can I help?” we want to assure you that we have tasks for all skill levels! We will need helpers to iron fabric, cut squares, sew those squares into quilt tops, lay out the “quilt sandwich,” tie the layers together, and sew the binding around each quilt! We also need folks to “unsew” seams in old sheets, and there will also be a station for ripping and rolling old sheets to make bandages. But don’t worry! We’ll have experienced members of the FLC Quilters at each station to help you complete the various tasks.

This is definitely an event that your whole family can participate in! Quilting isn’t just for older ladies who drink coffee in the church basement! But rest assured there *will* be coffee and treats as well as a lunch provided for all who participate! We’ll even provide babysitting for younger children!

We strongly encourage you to register for this event in the Mission Coffee House so that we can get an accurate idea of how many lunches and treats we’ll need to provide. But if you decide to join us at the last minute, please know that you are welcome!

So save the date—**Saturday, June 10**—grab your friends, clean out your stash, and get ready to **“Tie One On”** at FLC in a fun-filled old-fashioned quilting bee!



belize

MISSION TRIP 2023

After three years of waiting for the pandemic to ease travel restrictions, volunteers Debbie Pederson, Jim and Nancy Schade, Dee Herring, Kathy Greenlee, Brooke and Kya Sherard, and Channing Oien left on Saturday, March 4 to continue the church's annual mission work on site. Their goal of sharing God's love and gifts in Belize brings them to develop supportive relationships with school children, some of whom have special needs, as well as their families. The support includes school tuition scholarships and funds for improving the facilities. As a developing country, Belize is heavily impacted by the recent loss of tourism and hurricanes. In addition, tuition, transportation and school lunch and uniform costs make it difficult for many to complete their high school education. The main group returned March 14. On March 21st Jean Gentry joined Dee Shanley in First Lutheran's ministry call to offer hope in changing lives of those in need. Below are some photos from their trip.



**Hang me on your
fridge - look at
me all month
long - then flip
me over!!**



APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Palm Sunday 8:30am Festival Service w/HC 9:30-12 Brunch 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	3 9:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	4 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	5 1:30pm Edgewood Communion 3:30-5:30pm Preschool Open House & Art Show 5:45pm Hand Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir NO WED. NIGHT YOUTH ACTIVITIES	6 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service with HC NO PRESCHOOL	7 7:00pm Good Friday Service NO PRESCHOOL	8
9 Easter 7:00am Sunrise Service w/HC 8:30am Festival Service w/HC 10:30am Praise Service w/HC NO JOURNEY	10 2:00pm ULC Communion 5:30pm "Sew What" FLC, MCH & PRESCHOOL CLOSED	11 9:00am Staff Meeting 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	12 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Hand Bell Choir 6:00pm Journey 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm 6-7-8 Confirmation 7:15pm Youth Group	13 6:30pm Church Council in Parlor	14	15
16 8:30am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	17 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	18 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	19 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Hand Bell Choir 6:00pm Journey (LAST SESSION) 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm 6-7-8 Confirmation 7:15pm Youth Group	20 8:00pm Pub Theology at Wooden Legs	21	22
23 8:30am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey (LAST SESSION) 10:30 am Praise Service	24 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	25 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	26 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Hand Bell Choir 6:00pm 5 th Grade SteppingStone 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm 6-7-8 Confirmation (LAST SESSION) 7:15pm Youth Group (LAST SESSION)	27	28	29
30 8:30am Festival Service 10:30am Praise Service *CONFIRMATION BLESSING/ TEACHERS AT BOTH SERVICES	<p>Only church activities are included in this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion</p>					



MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	2 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	3 1:30pm Edgewood Communion 5:45pm Hand Bell Choir 6:00pm Mentor and Journey volunteer party 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	4	5	6
7 8:30am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	8 9:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	9 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	10 5:45pm Hand Bell Choir 7:00pm 9 th grade Faith Expressions meeting 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	11 6:30pm Church Council in Parlor June/July Newsletter items due in office	12	13
14 8:30am Festival Service 10:30 am Praise Service MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING	15 9:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	16 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 5:30pm CYF Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	17 5:30pm Senior SteppingStone class	18 8:00pm Pub Theology at Wooden Legs	19	20
21 8:30am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC SENIOR QUILT BLESSING	22 9:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	23 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	24 10:30am and 2:30pm Preschool Graduation	25	26	27
28 Start 9:00am Summer Worship Service Schedule	29 5:30pm "Sew What" FLC, MCH & PRESCHOOL CLOSED	30 8:30am Quilters 9:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study in parlor 7:00pm Bible Study in MCH	31	<p>Only church activities are included on this calendar.</p> <p>Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled.</p> <p>(Calendar subject to change.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion</p>		



First Lutheran Church
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X

Want to get this newsletter in your inbox? Provide the church office with your email address. Email: office@firstlutheranbrookings.org

If you have an article or information for the June/July Newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm May 11.

If you would like information put in the Sunday announcements, please have it in the church office by the **Monday** before. Thank you!

Mission *quilters*
 First Lutheran Brookings

Spring Quilt Raffle

Donation \$5.00 Drawing held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023
 Proceeds to cover 2023 shipping costs for 400 mission quilts

X

X

X