

"RELEASING THE BURDENS YOU WERE
NEVER INTENDED TO BEAR."

Traveling Light

JUNE 10-11: THE LUGGAGE OF LIFE
JUNE 17-18: THE BURDEN OF DISCONTENT
JUNE 24-25: THE BURDEN OF WEARINESS
JULY 1-2: THE BURDEN OF WORRY

First  Lutheran
CHURCH

Welcome

Visitors: Welcome to First Lutheran, we are glad you are here! We would appreciate you taking the time to fill out the blue welcome card located in each pew, and placing it in the offering plate, or turning it in at the Welcome Center. We also invite you to stop by the Welcome Center and pick up a *Welcome Gift Bag*. Thank you for worshipping with us and we look forward to seeing you again!

My Offering Pew Envelopes: *My Offering* pew envelopes are located in each pew. Place your cash or check in the envelope, then place it in the offering plate during worship. If you would like your offering recorded on your member record, please include your name on the pew envelope.

Nursery: Our nursery is open during the 8:30am and 9:45am worship. The nursery is located on the preschool level of the building. Please note, it is not staffed during the summer.

Large Print bulletin and Hearing Assists are available for worship. An usher can help you locate these.

Check out the Children and Youth area in the back of the church.

Busy Bags and Children's Bulletins are available for children to use during worship and are located at the back of the sanctuary. An usher can assist you in finding these if necessary.

FLY Sermon Notes and KICK Worship Notes are available on the shelves for easy access.

Lost and Found: Misplaced something? Please check the box and coat rack near the elevator.

Radio: Every Sunday the 9:45 AM worship service of First Lutheran is broadcast on station KXRA 1490 AM (100.3 FM within 15 mile radius of Alex). OR go to www.KXRA.com for live streaming of the 9:45 AM worship service, in the upper RIGHT hand corner located just above the menu bar click on "Listen Live". For weather-related announcements—"LIKE" us on our Facebook page or sign up for text alerts at www.facebook.com/firstlutheranalexandria

E-news: If you have not yet signed up for our e-news but are interested in receiving it, please email kari.vanwakeren@firstlutheranalexandria.com so that you can be added to our e-news e-mail group. This e-news is different from the Focus in that it offers just a snapshot of the upcoming week's activities.

Summer Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. **Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. & 9:45 a.m.

Lake Carlos State Park Worship: Sunday, 10:30am **City Park Worship:** Sunday, 11:00am

**In the case of inclement weather, please listen to KXRA 1490 AM for any announcements.

All weekend bulletin announcements are due to Ruth Nelson, Administrative Assistant, by 12 noon on Friday, one week prior to the bulletin. (8 days before the bulletin date) Please send to admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com

If you have any sign-up sheets, information, or posters/flyers you would like added to the Welcome Center Happenings, please email Steve Heseltine, Shared Ministry Coordinator, at steve.heseltine@firstlutheranalexandria.com or visit him in the Church Office.



July 1-2, 2017

5:00 P.M., 8:30 & 9:45 A.M. Worship

Mission Statement: First Lutheran is a vibrant Christian community committed to connecting faith and life for people of all ages through worship, learning, and serving in Jesus' name.

Congregation (☑) responses are shown in **BOLD** print...

When response is needed for specific services it will be indicated as 5=5:00, 8= 8:30, 9=9:45.

We ask that you please silence your cell phone during the worship service. Thank you.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Randy Morken

BELL

WELCOME

Pastor Greg Billberg

GATHERING SONG WOV #783

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Verse One: **Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

Verse Two: **Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

Verse Three: **We do not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection...

- P** Gracious God,
C we confess to you that we are weighed down. We have fallen short. We have messed up. Life is heavy. We cannot carry the load. Our burdens cause us to stumble and fall. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, restore us, and lead us so that we may travel the path of righteousness, free to live and love.
- P** People of God, know this: Our God is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, and filled with unfailing love. When we stumble, God is there to catch us; when we are weighed down, God is there to lift us up. So be at peace: Your burdens are lifted. Your sins are forgiven.
- C** Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** God of Grace,
C we rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters and restores our souls. We give thanks for the one who lifts our burdens and frees us to truly live. Lord, take from us those things that weigh us down and teach us to trust and follow you. In the name of Jesus, our Shepherd, Amen.

As children come forward, we sing Jesus Loves Me...

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Ben

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5) Randy Morken, Roger Riley, Craig Schlangen, & Glenda Seela
 (8/9) Caroline and Alyssa Petefish

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:33-34

- L** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter, verses 33-34.
L ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.
L The Gospel of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.



SERMON

Pastor Ben Jacobson

Verse One: **Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
evermore, feed me now and evermore.**

Verse Two: **Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.**

Verse Three: **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises I will raise forevermore,
Evermore, I will raise forevermore.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

- ☒ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
- I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An option we now provide is to give by text: 320.500.6014



OFFERING PRAYER

- ☒ God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(8/9) WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

- ☒ Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The table is prepared. All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. As a follower of Jesus Christ, this meal is for you. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available at your request...

(8/9) COMMUNION

(8/9) COMMUNION BLESSING

- ☒ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
☒ Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



BENEDICTION

- P** May God lead you to places of rest and renewal;
 May Christ Jesus give you life in abundance;
 and may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness and generosity,
 both now and forevermore.
- C** Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** And all God's Children said,
- C** Amen!

SENDING SONG ELW #888

“O Beautiful For Spacious Skies”

Verse One: **O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:
 America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
 And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

Verse Two: **O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
 Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life:
 America! America! May God thy gold refine,
 Till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.**

Verse Three: **O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
 thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
 America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
 Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

POSTLUDE

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LIVING OUT LOVE RIGHT HERE



Connecting church and home through praying, blessing, sharing, talking, and reading



Connecting people of all ages to do service projects for the community



Connecting with God through prayer both personally and collectively

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: July 1-2, 2017

MINISTRY OF PRAYER AND CELEBRATION...

HOSPITAL VISITS: Hospital policy prevents the pastors and parish nurse from knowing you are a patient unless at the time of admittance you indicate you are a member of First Lutheran and want to be visited. OR call the church office (320.762.2196) to notify us you are/or will be a patient, or have had a child. Your cooperation in this way helps us greatly. Thank you, Greg, Kari, Ben and Val.

Prayers for those with health concerns: Palmer Bergner, Dave Bennett, Arlene Carlson, Corinne Ehlke, Bob Hocum, Don Kanten, Steve Knutson, Irene Larson, Kathy Lind, Ted Lohrman, Lois Lundberg, Keith Lundsetter, Evelyn Myrin, Glenda Nelson, Mary Norlein, Harry Oberg, Tom Riley, Kathleen Rittenour, , Russ Schultz, Rick Swenson, Judy Williams, Lori Zeman

Prayers for the FLC sponsored missionary: Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

Prayers for those who mourn: We express sympathy and God's love to:

- Gracie Lewis on the death of her sister, Margarete
- Dorothy Bisek on the death of her bother
- Jim Winger and family on the death of Doris

Thank You to Those Who Served With Us Today!

**David Barnett, Connie Fields, Jerry & Joyce Hansen, Dick & Sandi Telander, Jan Pray, Lynn Tvrdik,
David Lundy, Corky Krogstad, Rod & Lee Helgenset, Denny Stark, Bruce & Jodi Belseth, Sally
Baumann, Linda Engebretson**

Interested in serving with us next week? The following volunteer positions are available:

Saturday 5:00pm – Greeter (2), Scripture Reader, Communion Assistant (3), Welcome Center Host, Usher (4)

Sunday 8:30am – Greeter (2), Usher (2), Welcome Center Host, Coffee Host

Sunday 9:45am – Greeter (1), Scripture Reader, Usher (3), Welcome Center Host, Coffee Host

Sunday 11:00am City Park – Usher (2), Communion Assistant (1), Coffee Host

Sign up for an available spot in our new Service Opportunities Binder at the Welcome Center; call Steve Heseltine, Shared Ministry Coordinator, at 320-762-2196; or online through the Sign Up Genius.

Attendance Numbers for Worship June 24-25:

(5) 70 (8) 109 (9) 264 (10-Carlos) 24 (11- City Park) 90 -- Total Last Week = 557

Financial Snap Shot



Did You Know?

The Hebrew word for generous also translates as inclined or noble. When we are generous with what we have, we give as God's will inclines us. And we are considered noble by our generosity.

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$22,995

Income Last Week: \$9,095

Expense Last Week: \$33,641

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: July 1-2, 2017

Church Events:

- **Mystery Trip:** We currently have one ticket still available for the Mystery Trip on July 18. If interested, please contact the Church Office.
- **From the Ground Up:** There is still time to return your FTGU pledge. Pledge cards are available at the Welcome Center. Thank you to all who have pledged. Check out the From the Ground Up area by the Welcome Center for the current pledged amount and other information.
- **Church Directory:** ***Three days left to have your photo taken, July 18, 19 and 20.*** Sign up anytime on our website, firstlutheranalexandria.com, by clicking the blue portrait sign-up button and following the prompts to make your appointment. You may also sign up by calling the church office.
 - If you have had your picture taken and did not order any packages, your complimentary portrait is available to pick up at the Welcome Center. Photos will be put out as they arrive.
- **Songs of Faith Sermon Series:** Music has always been at the heart of who we are as a church. For three Sundays in July we are going to lift up some of our beloved hymns and look into how they have encouraged us in our faith. You are invited to turn in your request for a favorite hymn, and even better yet, include why it is meaningful or special to you. Write down your requests and turn them in with the offering or by dropping them off at the office.
- **Ordination of Megan (Strand) Preston:** We invite you to join us on Saturday, July 8 at 2:00pm for the ordination of Megan (Strand) Preston, daughter of John and Darlene Strand, here at First Lutheran. Please join us for cake and coffee after the service. You are also invited to join us for a meal hosted by Megan's parents at their home (13200 Maple Island Dr. SE, Glenwood, MN 56334). Come as you are able after 4:30pm.
- **Congregational Picnic:** Join us *Sunday, July 9 following 11:00am worship at City Park*. All you need to bring is yourself, we will provide everything else. The menu will include brats, hot dogs, chips, coleslaw, and Luther Crest cookies. In case of rain we will be back at church and the picnic will be in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Family Picnic and Service Project:** Join others from FLC on Tuesday, July 18 at Luther Crest for a summer picnic-style meal and service project. This is a great event for all ages. We will be putting together Teacher Resource Kits for Discovery Middle School; we invite you to bring items to donate for the kits. You may find the list of items in the July Focus, or on the informational cards located at the Welcome Center.
- **Book Signing:** To celebrate the publication of Pastor Kari's new children's book, *Bubble Wrap Girl*, the Children's and Family Ministry boards will be hosting a table in the East entry on Sunday, July 23rd from 9-11am where Pastor Kari will be available to sign copies of the book. Books will be available for purchase. The cost of the book is \$17.95. Pastor Kari will also be available at the City Park after the 11am Worship.
- **MN Twins Lutheran Night:** A fun evening at a Twins game is planned on Tuesday, August 8. Cost is \$55/person which includes the ticket and bus. Sign up at the Welcome Center if interested! **Deadline to sign-up is Monday, July 17.**
- **New E-Newsletter:** Do you know someone in the congregation who serves in the community and/or makes a significant impact in some way? We will soon be starting a Bi-monthly E-newsletter that will highlight a particular person or ministry at First and would love to hear your nominations. Please submit his/her name to the office or by emailing admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com. Once we receive a name, we will be following up with that person to develop the story. Thank you!
- **Communications Coordinator:** We are excited to announce that Chelsey Strickler our Communications Coordinator has applied for and has been accepted to a Mission Training Program called SEND based in Indiana. Unfortunately, this opens up the staff position of Communications Coordinator. If you or someone you know has interest in Communications and Graphic Design please contact Greg Tvrdik in the Church Office. Applications and Job Descriptions are available at the Welcome Center.

Area Events

- **Relay For Life:** You have probably been touched by cancer in some way or another. Team First Lutheran plans to have a presence at the Relay for Life event which will take place at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Friday, July 14 beginning at 5:00pm and ending at 1:00am. Luminarias are available at the Welcome Center and will also be available at City Park on July 2 before the service, and July 9 before and after the service. Each luminaria displayed at the Relay honors individuals who are survivors and the memory of those lost to cancer. You may purchase a pre-decorated Luminaria on which to simply write a person's name, or a blank Luminaria can be purchased to decorate, for a suggested donation of \$10.



GIVE BY TEXT

- 1) Open new text message.
- 2) Enter the number 320.500.6014.
- 3) Input dollar amount in text body.
- 4) Hit send.
- 5) Click on the link received to complete donation.

Congregational Picnic
Sunday, July 9 @ City Park
following 11:00am worship

Join us for brats, hot dogs, coleslaw,
chips, and Luther Crest cookies!



Saturday, July 8
Ordination of Megan (Strand) Preston
Daughter of
John and Darlene Strand
2:00pm Service followed by
refreshments served in the
Fellowship Hall



WEEK AHEAD : July 2 - July 9, 2017 CALENDAR

Day/Date	Time	Activity	Room/Location
Sunday, July 2	8:30 am	Worship w/Communion	Sanctuary
	9:45 am	Worship w/Communion	Sanctuary
	10:30 am	Outdoor Worship	@Lake Carlos State Park
	11:00 am	Outdoor Worship w/Communion	@City Park
Monday, July 3	8:30 am	Offering Team (LDM)	Meeting Place
	4:00 pm	Make A Joyful Noise	Choir Room
Tuesday, July 4	Independence Day Staff Holiday - Closed today		Church Building
Wednesday, July 5	9:30 am	Parents Share	Family Room
	10:30 am	Staff Meeting	Meeting Place
	1:30 pm	Communion	@Arabella Manor
	6:30 pm	Worship Art Team Meeting	Family Room
Thursday, July 6	7:00 am	Women's Bible Study	Family Room
	8:45 am	Staff Prayer Time	Meeting Place
	1:30 pm	Care Team Meeting	Meeting Place
Friday, July 7	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study	@The Depot
	12:00 pm	Bulletin Announcements Due	Office
Saturday, July 8	2:00-4:00 pm	Ordination-Megan (Strand) Preston	Sanctuary
	5:00 pm	Worship w/Communion	Sanctuary
Sunday, July 9	8:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	9:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:30 am	Outdoor Worship	@Lake Carlos State Park
	11:00 am	Outdoor Worship w/Communion	@City Park
	12:00 pm	Congregational Picnic	@City Park
	6:00 pm	4H Meeting	Offsite

WEEK AHEAD : July 2 - July 9, 2017 CALENDAR