

First Chronicles

Volume 33, Issue 5

May 2019



Rooted in Christ. . . Rising to Serve



Room In The Inn

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During the 2018-2019 Room in the Inn season, First Lutheran:

- Provided 169 shelter beds
- Served 338 meals
- Gave 777 volunteer hours
- Drove 21 miles

THANK YOU for serving those who are most vulnerable in our community. The power of one listening ear, one conversation, one warm smile, and one person learning a name and a story has an impact that extends beyond the walls of our congregation.

This transforming work is made possible by those who support Room In The Inn in so many ways -- through the power of kindness in each and every one of you. Your "one" has made a difference. **Thank you!**



Hello Good Friends!

Here at First we have a few “help wanted” positions we could use your help with. Please give some prayerful thought to how you and your gifts may fit in.

“The compensation isn’t much but the benefits are out of this world.”

Altar Guild: many of the folks who prepare the altar for Holy Communion tell me that this is a cherished and holy time for them. The Sundays you would serve are coordinated to accommodate individual schedules. Many set up on Friday and then clear the Table after service on Sunday. No special skills are needed – if you can set the table for company dinner, you can set the Table for Communion. Often, couples do this together. You will get all the training you will need. Call the church office with any questions.

Ushers and Greeters: you are among the first people that visitors and members see when they come to First. And, the visitors I hear from, tell me that these people are among the first who welcome them and help them feel at home and are encouragers for them coming back. Skills needed – able to shake a hand and offer a smile, hand a worship folder, know where the restrooms are. This too is planned on a rotation basis that takes your personal schedule into account. Contact Jean Doster or the church office.

Techies: as we are all living in the 21st century, First could use a team of people to help in a number of ways. – updating our website, posting on our Facebook Page, helping with the information on our monitors. Skills needed – a desire to share the good news about First in a number of digital and online formats. The time requirements are not set and are on an as-needed basis. Please contact the church office.

Those with an idea: whatever the idea is, however it may be used, whatever questions you may have about it, please talk to Pastor Pam or a member of council about it. There is a listing of the council members who liaison to our teams – the team closest to your idea may be a starting point.

Each of us have skills and gifts to serve the Body of Christ. Come and explore and serve!

From the Pastor . . .

My Dear Ones in Christ,

Blessed Easter to you as the joy of this season continues for many more weeks! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! The Great Fifty Days are the epitome of the entire liturgical year for the church and all of Christendom and it has been so since the very early days of the Church. Thank you for your participation in the many joys that are ours because of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

This Season is marked in individual congregations in many ways, many of which draw on ancient practices. It is the custom of the church that Easter is the preferred time to receive new members and catechumenates at the Easter Vigil Service. And we did so with great joy this year as Kevin DeMar, Vivienne Huffman and Abigail Thompson were baptized. Andie and Bennie Rice, Joshua and Kate Lynn, John and Jessie Banks and Jackie Moss were received as members of our community of faith.

It is also the practice of the Church that we do not kneel in worship during the Easter Season – rather we assume the posture of the Risen One. We stand in joy. We stand. As we pray, we stand in confident assurance of Jesus’ hearing our prayers and petitions and intercessions. As the penitence of Lent has passed and the kneeling that embodied it, we stand because – He is Risen!

One of the additions to our worship life here at First, is a Sunday vespers service at 5:00 in the Sudekum Chapel. Please join us for a quiet ending of the weekend and a peaceful start to the week to come. The first Sunday of the month will also be a Service of Holy Communion. This service may be an alternative to your Sunday morning worship or it may be welcome addition.

Finally, we at First are honored to welcome the Bel Canto Singers from Nassau, the Bahamas on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. They will be with us for our worship service and then will offer a concert at 4:00. This musical group of singers and instrumentalists who travel internationally will be in Nashville for the first time. Their director, Eldridge McPhee, has become a personal friend. I have attended some of their performances and have been stirred and inspired by their amazing musical offerings. We are indeed honored that they are with us.

There are many logistical details to be tended to for this wonderful event. Your participation is needed.

Publicity – talk to Brenda Lewis

Transportation – talk to Carl Stasiunas

Sunday Dinner after worship and before the concert – talk to Kristen or a choir member

Greeting and ushering for the concert -- need someone to help

Misc – you know, all those things that no one thinks of – text Pastor

AND – if there is one among us who would like to help coordinate these many things, please let me know. All will end on June 10.

Peace and grace to you all as we live into the resurrection life of Christ.

In Christ’s love, *Pastor Pam*

From the Organ Bench . . .

So many warm thanks and appreciation to all the musicians who labored with love for Holy Week and Easter--it was such a moving experience to hear you sing, chant, and play. Just as a note, the choir sang their Maundy Thursday "Ave Verum" anthem not only as a part of the Holy Week triad but also in honor of the choir of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

We have some exciting things coming in the next few weeks. The choir will sing in the service on May 12. On May 19, we'll have the Children's musical program during the service. (Parents, there will be a rehearsal after church on May 5 in the choir room, and again on Sunday May 19 at 8:30 before worship, in the sanctuary). We need all the children present who possibly can be, to get ready for our music program.

The Bel Canto Singers from Nassau, Bahamas, will present a wonderful choral program (including excerpts from Carmina Burana!) on **Sunday June 9 at 4:00 pm**, so please make a note for that and bring friends! Choir folks, I'll be asking you to help me host an easy potluck for them, more info from me soon. They will also participate in our worship service that day which is Pentecost Sunday.

We are often contacted by visiting choirs who wish to sing in our beautiful space. The University of the Ozarks has asked us instead if we could find a few families who might be able to host pairs of students, overnight. We weren't able to accommodate the choir at First with a concert space but I do hope we can help them find some housing. I did this all through college at St. Olaf College, and there is nothing so wonderful as staying with a welcoming host family! They will need host homes for Friday May 24 for that one night. If you are able and interested to have some college students stay with you, please email, phone, or visit me at the organ. It's easy to be a host to a traveling college student--feed them and ask them where they're from and what their major is, and it's a wonderful time all round!

The choir will take a summer holiday in June and July. If you are a singer of any sort or play an instrument of any sort and would like to join me in adding music to our summer services, please email, phone, or visit me at the end of any service at the organ bench. There are many talents given to us and we should share them!

In Christ,

Kristen Hansen



Financial Update

	March 2019	Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
Income		
Giving Income	22,946	60,394
Other Income	3,125	9,375
Total Income	25,071	69,769
Expenses		
Worship & Music	3,794	11,053
Christian Ed & Youth	1,690	5,079
STEP	252	365
Outreach	511	3,255
Property	12,981	43,425
Support	20,690	62,573
Council/Denom. Support	712	4,201
Total Expenses	40,630	129,951
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-14,559	-60,182

- We have a **deficit** for the month of \$14,559 and for the year-to-date of \$60,182.
- Our giving continues to **NOT** cover our expenses.
- The funds to cover the deficit are coming from our reserve account which is about to be depleted due to deficits for the last **5** years.

Children & Youth Activities

- **Sunday, May 19th** please plan to stay after the service, from 11:00-1:00, to join us for an inter-generational event called, "Come To the Table— A Place for You." This is not a First Communion class but is for all ages to learn and deepen our appreciation for this Holy Meal. We will explore the sacrament of communion and all that goes with it. What age should my child begin? Do they need to understand? Do I understand? Why is it important? We will cover it all. Lunch will be served and we will have great activities for all ages. Questions or interested in helping? Email Pastor Pam or Corrie Maxwell.
- **Sunday, May 19th the children's Alpha choir** will present their Easter program for the congregation. Parents - please plan to have your children at the church to practice at 8:30 during the adult Sunday School hour in the sanctuary. We will also practice after church on May 5th downstairs in the Choir Room.
- **There will be no Wednesday night "Church Nite"** activities again until September.
- **This Memorial Day, May 27, from 11:00-2:00**, children and youth families (or anyone who wants to celebrate with us) are welcome to Corrie Maxwell's house for a potluck cookout. We will take a moment to remember those lost and then celebrate life by saying goodbye to Spring and welcome to Summer. Meat will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- **SAVE THE DATE - July 12th-13th** for this summer's inter-generational VBS weekend. We will gather for dinner at 6:00pm Friday night, July 12th, followed by group worship and then lessons for both children and adults. Saturday, July 13th, we will have a light continental breakfast available beginning at 8:30am, followed by lessons and activities, lunch, some more lessons and activities, and ending in a final group worship around 3:00pm. If you are available to help with any part of VBS this year - food organization and preparation, activities or crafts, lessons... - please email Corrie at youth@first-lutheran-nashville.org.



Announcements

- **Brown Bag and Bible class is every Wednesday**, at 11:00 am in the corner conference room. Our last meeting will be May 22 and we will resume in the Fall. Join us for an engaging study of Scripture.
- **The 113 Club Lunch will be on Thursday, May 23rd, at 11:15.** We will go to the Loveless Café. The Loveless Café opened over 50 yrs. ago and remains the same in quaint country charm and serves Southern 'homestyle' cooking. Following lunch, we will go to Rau-Wood Retreat Center for a quick tour.
- **Congratulations to our former members, Nick and Erin Baker**, who welcomed their first child, Silas, coming a week early in April and weighing in at just under 6 lbs. All are healthy and living in the Pacific Northwest area while Nick is serving in the Army.
- **For the month of May, the Mary-Martha Circle** project will be to collecting contributions for the ELCA to send farming tools (a rake, a hoe and a shovel) plus training for women in areas where this is badly needed for gardens to supply food for their families and their communities. The cost is \$25 for a woman to have farming tools and training. Over the years, drought resistant seeds have been developed for gardens. This small amount of money can be life changing as women learn how to grow crops.

Prayer Concerns

Members:

Ruth Price, Joan Hooper, Anne House, Reita Stansell, Patti Cutter, Joan Cullum, Emma Jeane Williams, David Tuleen, Vicki Hodnicak, John Marshall.

Family and Friends:

Gloria Kleve (friend of First); **Jolie Westerman & Kelly Simmons** (sister & friend of Corrie Maxwell); **Daryl & Shirley Kennedy, Lee Davis, Family of Bill Rach** (friends of the Balthrops); **Frances Cutter** (mother of Patti Cutter); **Allen Freeman** (friend of Beth Smith); **Bob Graetz** (Suzanne Deutschmann's brother); **Connie Lambert** (niece of Bob & Elaine Fritz); **Nick Rossow, Jr.** (friend of the Sommerfelds); **Art and Lee Ann Dohany** (relatives of John and Carol Page).

Military Personnel: Nicholas Baker, Johan Kinberg, Jason Mitchell, Thomas Schutt, Jay Tully, Kathleen Anderson.

Thank you for remembering our members who are sick, homebound, and serving in the military. We thank God for health, healing, and safety.

***Please let the Church office know if a person listed above may be removed. We pray healing and health have been granted. Names may be removed from list after 4 weeks unless you request continued prayers.**

Council Highlights – April 2019

Your Council would like to share a few highlights from April:

Communication:

First Lutheran has moved into the 21st Century with our new Digital Signage and the response from our congregation has been very positive!

Please note that this is just the beginning for our church communication plan as we are fine tuning not only the website but our Facebook page. A special thank you to David Baulch for bringing this dream into reality.

Time, Talents and Treasure:

We are pleased to announce our new electronic giving program that will make easy to give your offerings even if you are not carrying cash or your checkbook.

How to become an electronic giver:

go to our website (first-lutheran-nashville.org) and click the GIVE button (on your phone, the menu is found in the black band beneath the "Worship Schedule"), or

download the Tithe.ly app on your phone and find First Evangelical Lutheran Church (it's a common name so be sure you select the one in Nashville); then pick an easy PIN. When you log on again, there will be a "Give Now" button. Once entered, your credit/debit card or checking account information will be saved. Simple as a push of the button!

Alternative Worship Service: We now have a second Sunday service at 5PM in the chapel. The first evening service began on April 28th.

Congregational Reminder: On Sunday, May 5th during fellowship time, the Council will be holding a Workshop to discuss with the congregation for input on the direction of Ministry for our children and young people.

Again, thank you for your support and continued prayers as we all work together to build a stronger presence in the heart of Downtown Nashville.

Peace and love to you all,

Karen Johnson, Council President

April Birthdays

Sue Atkin	May 4
Linda Bengson	May 7
Claudine Slankard	May 8
Jeff Leake	May 8
Sophie Stricker	May 8
Nora Smith	May 8
Keith Hood	May 9
Chad Lutt	May 9
John Pumbo	May 10
Pastor Pam Smith	May 10
Talan Jackson	May 11
Lynn Kohl	May 12
Tom Eddlemon	May 13
Preston Brace	May 18
Michael Ignatz	May 18
Rachael Sullivan	May 18
Kent Lewis	May 18
Dustin Gordon	May 19
Jack Zipperer	May 21
Sarah Kafader	May 21
Cara Schornak	May 21
Marie Harper	May 23
Inge Coleman	May 29
Lisa Kafader	May 30



Happy Birthday!

April Anniversaries

Robert & Ramona Baulch	May 4
Steve & Cathy Hoff	May 24
Paul & Jean Doster	May 29



If we have inadvertently left your name off the birthday or anniversary list, we apologize. Please write on the attendance card the date of your special event and place it in the offering plate. We will add the information in our database. Thank you!

About First Lutheran

Staff

The Rev. Pam Smith	<i>Pastor</i>
The Rev. Brian Hooper	<i>Minister of Pastoral Care</i>
Dr. Kristen Hansen	<i>Minister in Music</i>
Jackie Harris	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Rhonda Tully	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Jeff Binkley	<i>Facilities Manager</i>
Ruth Price	<i>Membership Coordinator</i>
Corrie Maxwell	<i>Youth Coordinator</i>
Rhonda Tully	<i>Wedding Coordinator</i>
Audrey Kallus	<i>Nursery Attendant</i>

Council

Karen Johnson, <i>President</i>
Laura Hood, <i>Vice-president</i>
Maria Smith, <i>Secretary</i>
Luke Smith, <i>Treasurer</i>
Jenny Yoder
Sharon Kirubakar
Amy Gideon
David Baulch

2019 Council Team Liaisons

Pray & Celebrate	Pastor Pam Smith
Serve Boldly	Maria Smith & Sharon Kirubakar
Grow Disciples	Laura Hood & Jenny Yoder
Give Generously	Karen Johnson & Luke Smith
Welcome All	Amy Gideon

Core Values

- To share the good news of Christ's grace, forgiveness, love and peace through our Lutheran tradition
- To love the Lord with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind; to love our neighbors as ourselves; and to be disciples of Christ who serve the poor, captive, blind and oppressed
- To enable all to share their time and talents through worship, leadership, fellowship, and ministry
- To live through faith, love through action, and seek justice for our neighbors
- To nurture the children in our congregation and community, providing faith formation and fellowship throughout their youth
- To be a place for families of all kinds to worship and thrive together in faith and fellowship
- To welcome all God's children, whatever their age, the color of their skin, the contents of their wallet, no matter whom they love, how they speak, and whatever their abilities or disabilities: For in Christ Jesus all are reconciled to God.

Vision

Seeking to embody God's loving grace, the people of First Evangelical Lutheran Church are called by the Holy Spirit to:

- Welcome and nurture all people.
- Reach out and respond to the needs of our downtown Nashville community and the world.
- Grow in faith through Lutheran worship and fellowship.
- Develop, care for, and share our gifts and resources.

Mission

As a faith community empowered by God's grace to live in and act through Christ, we share love through worship, service, ministry, and fellowship.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
113 Eighth Avenue South
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Downtown Nashville

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