



The First Word is a
monthly
publication of:
**First Lutheran
Church**
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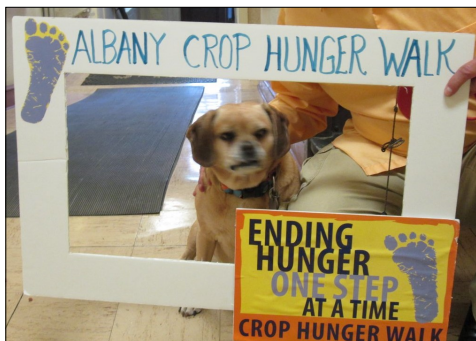
**Rev. Dr. John M.
Medwid,**
Pastor

Josef Markowski,
Council President

Susan B. Hale,
Director of Music

Julie Lind,
Parish Administrator

Kevin Taft,
Property Manager



Albany CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, May 6

Starting and ending at First Lutheran

This year, the Albany CROP Walk was re-named the

**Rev. John U. Miller Memorial CROP
Hunger Walk in Albany, New York**

The current sub-total of donations
collected is now over \$90,000



We are a church that belongs to Christ. There is a place for you here.



My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Can the interpretation of our sacred story be summarized with the phrase, “clean up in aisle 7?” Our sacred story as it is recorded in the Scriptures begins with two very different accounts of creation in the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis. There are divine proclamations of goodness, evolving grandeur, and childlike innocence. Each story is a beautiful portrayal of a sacred universe confidently spinning out into the unknown! Then comes the third chapter of Genesis and the story of the Fall with its talking snake, forbidden tree, and the loss of innocence. In our traditional interpretation of our sacred story, the Fall sets the trajectory of the “rest of the story” as Paul Harvey called it. From this perspective, the entire story of the Bible except for the first two chapters of Genesis can be summarized by the phrase, “clean up in aisle 7.” The way that we have told our sacred story is that it is a rescue mission. Jesus is God’s plan B! Although we have couched it in positive terms, it is basically a negative story about sin management and appeasing an angry God. God’s grace is amazing because it saves a “wretch” like me! That’s not a very positive or healthy self-image (As you can tell “Amazing Grace” is not my favorite hymn!).

Is this essentially negative interpretation of our sacred story one of the reasons that people are not embracing Christianity and why the church alumni organization is one of the fastest growing religious groups today? We as Christians are so embedded in the story as we have always interpreted it, that we may not even be aware that there may be other ways of telling the story. The Bible can be interpreted in a variety of ways on a continuum from totally non-literal at one end to totally literal at the other end and everything else in-between. My approach to the Scriptures is that the events and characters that are portrayed may have historical cores with interpretative stories wrapped around them. Abraham, for example, may represent a historical figure, but as his story was recounted, interpretive stories were added which made him appear to be “larger than life.” Just look at the story in the eighteenth chapter of Genesis where Abraham bargains with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. In this story, Abraham appears to be more merciful than God! Embellishing the stories of folk heroes is not unusual even in the Bible!

Let’s take another look then at the third chapter of Genesis which describes what traditionally has been described as the Fall. It is interesting to note that this book and chapter are an integral part of the Jewish Scriptures and yet the overly negative interpretation complete with a notion of original sin comes from Christianity! What if the third chapter of Genesis is not a Fall story, but a “coming of age” story? Do we all eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and thereby lose our innocence? Is this simply a normal part of human development? Is this story simply an allegorical, mythical tale of human development that conveys the truth about the loss of innocence, our incompleteness, and our lifelong search for wholeness? Would interpreting the story this way take us on a whole new trajectory through the rest of the Bible? Could our sacred story have a different, more positive spin? Perhaps we can do better than “clean up in aisle 7!”

Peace,
Pastor Medwid

April 2018 Council highlights

1. The Council voted to approve funds of up to \$1,000 to be used for the June concert.
2. The Council decided not to purchase a dishwasher at this time and in an effort to be green, FLC will purchase eco-friendly products as much as possible.

February Financials:

Weekly Contributions:

Actual	Budget	Difference
\$7,290.85	\$9,583.33	\$-2,292.48

Holy Day/ Special Contributions:

\$0.00	416.67	\$-416.67
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Total Assets: \$645,268.69



Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, June 3rd

Immediately following worship

Review and voting on the Annual Brochure of Reports for 2017 and Election of New Council Members

**pentecost is
May 20
Remember to
wear RED!**

Sunday Morning Discussion Group

Our Sunday morning adult discussion group (in the library at 9 a.m.) will concentrate on a study entitled *"The Challenge of Paul."*

This is a 10 session DVD series that looks at the life and writings of Paul and his profound influence on the development of Christianity.

- Who was this persecutor turned apostle?
- Can we begin to look at Paul and his writings in a new way?

Please join the discussion! All are welcome!

On Sunday, May 20th, Maggie Siegenthaler will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. We ask that you keep Maggie in your prayers as she continues to grow in faith and grace.



Festival Celebration Choir Presents:



High Notes from Opera to Broadway May 20th at 3pm—First Lutheran Church

- 🎵 Habanera from *Carmen*
- 🎵 Chorus of Wedding Guests from *Lucia di Lammermoor*
- 🎵 Voyagers' Chorus from *Ideomeno*
- 🎵 Spinning Chorus from *Der fliegende Holländer*
- 🎵 Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from *Nabucco*
- 🎵 Brindisi from *Traviata*
- 🎵 Almost Like Being in Love from *Brigadoon*
- 🎵 Can't Help Lovin that Man from *Showboat*
- 🎵 Circle of Life from *Lion King*
- 🎵 We Sail the Ocean Blue from *H.M.S. Pinafore*
- 🎵 I Got the Sun in the Morning from *Annie Get Your Gun*
- 🎵 *Phantom of the Opera*
- 🎵 All Good Gifts from *Godspell*
- 🎵 If I were a Bell from *Guys and Dolls*

Homeless Shelter Dinner

Thank you, Lisa Rittberger, for providing a delicious dinner for the homeless shelter in April. The shelter closing dinner was held on April 23, and the season ended on April 30. From monetary donations and contributions of necessary items, to participation in fundraising events and making dinners for the evening shelter meal, all of your support for the shelter is deeply appreciated.

CROP Walk

This annual event is sponsored by Church World Service to aid local and global efforts to end hunger. This year's walk will take place on May 6th, beginning at First Lutheran Church. If you would like to participate in this year's walk or donate money to support the walkers, please contact Doug Siegenthaler or Kevin Taft. There is a sign-up sheet to walk on the bulletin board. Thank you in advance for your support.

Community Dinner

The May Community Dinner will be held on Monday, May 21st, at 6:00 PM in Wittenberg Hall. This will be the final community dinner until September. The dinner includes hot dogs and homemade pasta salad. Our guests may take home free clothes and non-perishable food, as well as fresh vegetables or fruits the Regional Food Bank has in stock. It would be wonderful to have many of you attend this dinner! We also can use as many people as possible to help set-up, cook, distribute food to take home and clean up. Please see Janice Logan or Liz Peters for more information, if you would like to help and haven't done so in the past.

Thank You

I would like to express my gratitude to Liz Peters for taking over the major responsibilities of Social Ministry chairperson during the last several months of my recuperation. Due to her leadership, resourcefulness and can-do spirit, our numerous outreach programs have continued uninterrupted. Many of our wonderful congregation members have also stepped up to the plate during my absence, and I am also grateful to them.

Janice Logan



Cluster Outreach Collection May/June 2018

Throughout May and June the Luther Cluster congregations will gather items for "Things of My Very Own" (TOMVO), a non-profit organization located in Schenectady, that provides crisis intervention services to children who have been impacted by extensive abuse and/or neglect.

They also provide services to children at-risk of a Child Protective Services intervention where families don't have items necessary for sustainability. The organization works to keep children with their non-abusive family members and out of the foster care system whenever possible.

The transition out of an abusive situation is often sudden and unexpected. Rarely is a child able to return home to retrieve belongings prior to the move. TOMVO recognizes the need for children to have "things of their very own," even when they are in an unfamiliar setting.

Urgent Needs

- Coats
- Twin & full-size comforters and sheets
- Men's and women's deodorant
- Girls and woman's undergarments (all sizes-must be new)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Baby wash
- Baby shampoo
- Feminine hygiene products-pads
- School snacks
- Juice boxes
- Volunteers to help sort and distribute incoming donations
- Force Flex garbage bags & contractors bags (for packing aid)



*** Clothing and Bedding in New or Gently Used Condition Please.

Always Needed

- Seasonal Appropriate Clothing
- Pajamas
- Diapers and Wipes
- Hygiene Products
- Shampoo, Body Wash, etc.
- Toilet Paper
- Baby Formula
- Household Cleaning Products

Heroin Awareness Event

Albany County Sheriff's Office and Bethlehem Lutheran Church (along with sponsors The Addictions Care Center of Albany, CVS, Catholic Charities, Hope House and Albany Medical Center) will be hosting a "Heroin Awareness Town Hall Meeting" on Monday, May 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (85 Elm Avenue, Delmar).

Sheriff Craig Apple and Pastor Mark Mueller will present information on:

- ⇒ Status of the heroin epidemic
- ⇒ Lifesaving NARCAN training
- ⇒ Where heroin overdoses are occurring
- ⇒ Preventative tips
- ⇒ How addiction starts
- ⇒ How to get help

If you want more information, have questions or want to explore ways that you can help, this gathering is a great starting place.

Annual Church Picnic—Sunday, June 3rd

Come for good food and fellowship as we kick off the summer months with our Annual Church Picnic.

*Asking for donations of summer salads and desserts of all kinds.
More details coming in the Sunday bulletins!*



"He's Coming Back"

FREE Concert & Art Show

Friday, June 1, 2018

(one of Albany's First Fridays Events)

7:30 p.m.

**First Lutheran Church—181 Western Avenue
(between Lake Ave. and Quail St)**

- Organ music of Purcell, Bach and Widor by Susan Hale
- Marissa Scotti, Daniel Washington and Siddharth Dubey, soloists
- Hymns—classical and gospel music—on the theme of Christ's return
- "Hallelujah Chorus" will end the concert—everyone welcome to join in
- Art show and reception following the concert

For more information see Susan on Sundays or call her at (518) 393-4046



**We continue to
keep in prayer...**

Joyce Aiello, Elga Alksnis, Faith Beebe, Gary Carlson, Peter Christoph, John Clemmer, Jane Culver, Ruth Dyer, Terry Engelhardt, Trudy Fedden, Jan & Bob Frost, Evelyn Gordon, Judy Greenwood, Susan Harper, Beverly Ann Kurtessis, Clara LeBaron, Janice Logan, Ginny MacVittie, Doris Marsh, Barbara McGuinness, Eve Norton, Peter Robbins-Klaus, Laura Shufelt, Tom Salzer, Geri Saulpaugh, Daniel Smith, Ed Vining, and Charlotte Wolfe.

Women of the **ELCA**

The next meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be on Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Loudonville. The program for that meeting is still in the works, but promise it will be one you don't want to miss. Hope to see you there!



Serving in May

Please let Julie know of any schedule changes that you make between yourselves so that the Sunday bulletin will be as accurate as possible. Many thanks.

Date of Worship	Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Counters	Altar Guild	Fellowship Hour	Drivers
May 6	Judy Carlson		Judy Greenwood Liz Peters Sydney Mack	Cliff Danielson JoAnne Evans	Sara Carlson Susan Harper	Colin McKnight	Dee Morton	Paul Hyde
May 13	Colin McKnight	Ingrid Colafati	Liz Peters Kim Ryan Amelia Colafati	Ed & Carol Engelhardt	Elizabeth Katagiri Colin McKnight	Clara DeMarco	John Lasher	Cliff Danielson
May 20	Michael Casler		Colin McKnight Karen Lapierre Abby Brousseau	Cliff Danielson Elizabeth Katagiri	Elizabeth Katagiri Sara Carlson	Elizabeth Katagiri	Sandy O'Connor	Paul Hyde
May 27	Judy Greenwood	Beverly Hazzard	Paul Lapierre Paul Hyde John Lasher	Karen Moore Joyce Aiello	Joe Markowski Paul & Karen Lapierre	Judy Carlson	Sara/Judy Carlson	Cliff Danielson
June 3 Annual Meeting & Church Picnic	Judy Carlson		Judy Greenwood Karen Lapierre Megan Brousseau	Roger Minch John Lasher	Elizabeth Katagiri Shawn Brousseau	Sandy O'Connor	Clara DeMarco	Paul Hyde

The Memorial Flowers in May are given to the Glory of God and . . .

- May 6 In loving memory of their parents Ruth and Paul Pickett by their daughters Carol and Linda; and in memory of his parents Raymond and Lois Skuse by Charlie, Judy, Mandi and Katie
- May 13 In loving memory of Herbert and Margaret Harseim by the family; and in honor of the staff at First Lutheran Church by Lisa Rittberger
- May 20 In loving memory of Ted and Laura Beebe by their daughter, Faith; and loving memory of our sister and aunt Birgitta Erling Brodax and our parents and grandparents Bernhard and Marilyn Erling by the Erling/Colafati family
- May 27 In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Logan by Richard, Sandra and Bruce; and in loving memory of his father Hans Andrew Johansen by Larry and Carolyn Johansen

Any new requests, questions or changes call Liz Peters, 869-0387 or email mommy5853@aol.com

Altar vase - \$25.00 Sanctuary vase - \$27.50

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
6 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour 12:30 p.m. Albany CROP Hunger Walk	7 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Judo Instruction 7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Church Council Meeting Judo Instruction 7:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting Judo Instruction	9 6:00 p.m. Albany Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal Judo Instruction 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Albany Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal Judo Instruction	10 1:00 p.m. Council Retreat for St. Timothy's Judo Instruction 6:00 p.m.	11	12
13 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour 	14 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Judo Instruction 7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Judo Instruction	16 6:00 p.m. Albany Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal Judo Instruction 6:00 p.m.	17 9:00 a.m. Albany County Healthy Families Workshop Judo Instruction 6:00 p.m.	18	19 <div> <div> 9:00 a.m. Help Replant Quail Street with Albany Dept. of Water & Water Supply </div> <div> 10:00 a.m. Albany Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal </div> <div> 10:00 a.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal </div> </div>
20 The Day of Pentecost 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Wear Red Today! 10:50 a.m. Last Day of Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour 3:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Concert at FLC	21 <div> <div> 6:00 p.m. FREE Community Dinner Hot Dogs, Pasta Salads & Dessert </div> <div> 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal </div> </div>	22 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Judo Instruction 7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Judo Instruction	23 6:00 p.m. Albany Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal Judo Instruction 6:00 p.m.	24 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	25	26
27 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour 	28  Church Office & Friendship House CLOSED	29 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal Judo Instruction 7:00 p.m.	30 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction 6:00 p.m.	31 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	First Lutheran Church Facebook.com/FirstLutheranAlbany (518) 463-1326	

Come & Help Replant Quail Street!

Every participant gets a FREE First Lutheran Church
T-Shirt! Sign up on the bulletin board in the Friendship House or see Sandy O'Connor for more information.



ALBANY DEPT OF WATER AND WATER SUPPLY



REPLANT QUAIL STREET

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REPLANT VEGETATION ON QUAIL STREET
BETWEEN ELBERON PLACE AND CENTRAL AVENUE.

ALL TOOLS AND MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED. JOIN US:

SATURDAY, MAY 19TH : 9 AM - 4 PM

Visit our Facebook page & "like" us ... <https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranalbany>

First Lutheran Church
The Oldest Lutheran Congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
646 State Street
Albany, NY 12203-1217

Dated Material: Please deliver promptly!

Current Resident or

