

Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

2023

May Banner

**763.537.4523 | Faithlilacway.org
5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422**

Pastor Article

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

I was reminded of this verse from Hebrews when I received a call from the Red Cross on the evening of Palm Sunday. They asked, "Would Faith-Lilac Way be willing to open as a shelter? We have some families that might be needing a spot to stay tomorrow because of an apartment fire. They may have pets. Can they come too?"

Holy Week is not a convenient time to host a shelter. But after checking with the council and the Boy Scouts – who graciously agreed to move to a new meeting space-- I was able to call the Red Cross back and say, "YES. Faith-Lilac Way would welcome these strangers, friends we have not yet met." We had just a little prep to do - volunteers moved chairs and tables. The Red Cross came and inspected the space. George cleaned. And then... we waited to see if the Red Cross actually needed the space. They didn't need the space on Monday. But on Tuesday, I got a call that said they were coming. A single Red Cross volunteer showed up at 10 AM and by noon a team of volunteers arrived and they were prepared to open a shelter for up to twenty people, four cats and a dog. They worked quickly.

I talked for a bit with the Red Cross Volunteers. They knew that a cot in a church basement was the last choice for most of the potential guests, but that did not deter them from eagerly preparing to make it as welcoming a place as possible. And, even though by 5 p.m. they were pretty certain that no guests were coming, they stayed until 8 p.m. just to make sure. They also vacuumed and cleaned the spaces where they had been – even though the area looked clean to me.

As we waited to see if any guests would come, I realized that the angels who showed up weren't the guests from the burned apartment, but these very gracious Red Cross volunteers who spent their whole day waiting – just in case someone needed their help. They were the angels that we "entertained without knowing it" and I'm glad that we were able to open wide the doors of the church and say, "Welcome. Come on in." They were a blessing to meet.

Thank you church for being open. I'm so glad that FLW, the church on Welcome Avenue, was able to live up to our address.

Pastor Pam

PS In the early morning hours of April 15, I received a call from the Red Cross. There was another apartment fire - this time in New Hope. At least one family was in need of shelter right away - would FLW be available? I was happy to say, yes we can open our doors. So at 5:30 AM on April 15th the Red Cross opened a shelter and two households came and one household stayed overnight. Thank you, FLW, for welcoming our neighbors. Who knows, we may have welcomed angels without knowing it - again!

Vicar Article

Tongues of Fire–Pentecost and the Holy Spirit

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and the Father will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees the Spirit nor knows the Spirit. You know the Spirit, because it abides with you, and the Spirit will be in you.” (John 14:15-17 NRSV)

In John 14, Jesus knew he was headed to the cross and was trying to prepare his disciples for what was to come. He told them that he would soon have to leave them, and they would not be able to follow. The disciples were upset by these words, not yet understanding that Jesus was talking about the cross. The disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus—and now Jesus would be leaving them? I can only imagine the overwhelmed faces of the disciples. How could they possibly continue to follow Jesus if he was not to be physically with them?

But of course, Jesus would not be leaving them alone, he promised them an Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, to be with them and to guide them in all that they did. Jesus kept his promise, and after the resurrection during the Festival of Pentecost, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, was poured upon the disciples.

“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like a rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:2-4 NRSV)

As Christians, we believe that we have also been given the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit does amazing things. While we can not “see” or always understand the Holy Spirit, it is what guides us each day. The Holy Spirit ignites and strengthens the gift of faith within each of us, and it is what inspires us to use our gifts, talents and passions. The Holy Spirit helps us to hear the Word of God and to discern where God might be calling each of us in life. The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and to love and serve our neighbors. Said simply, the Holy Spirit is God’s active and moving presence in our lives and in the world. It is a wonderful and powerful gift, a gift of God’s love, and one that we should always treasure.

On Sunday, May 21st, we enter into the season of Pentecost, the longest season in the church year. During the season of Pentecost we hear stories about Jesus’s ministry and teachings, and we listen to where God calls to us in our own lives.

Where might you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you? Is God calling you to try something new, to use a gift in a new way? Or maybe God is calling you to reach out to someone, or to serve a neighbor. The Holy Spirit is always moving and leading in new ways, so as we enter into the season of Pentecost take time to listen and to pray. God’s presence, the Holy Spirit, is with you always, and this is good news! Thanks be to God, Amen.

Vicar Joanna

Announcements

Join us for Treats and Talk on Sunday Mornings!

Join us in the library after worship on Sunday mornings for treats and conversation. All are welcome!

Join us for Contemplative Prayer and Bible Study on Wednesdays in May!

All are invited to join us on Wednesdays for a time of conversation, prayer and Bible Study.

10:00 AM–Contemplative Prayer in the Chapel

10:30 AM–Bible Study on the 10 Commandments

Join us at “The Gathering Place” This Summer!

Where is the gathering place? Faith-Lilac Way’s beautiful lawn! This summer on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, we will be gathering on the lawn at 6:30pm for a bonfire, smores and hotdogs! Come as you are and bring your family and friends because all are welcome to join us for some fun, games, conversation and fellowship! Find the dates below!

Wednesday May 24th at 6:30 PM

Wednesdays June 14th & 28th at 6:30 PM

Wednesdays July 12th & 26th at 6:30 PM

Wednesday August 9th at 6:30 PM

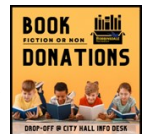
May Book Club! This month the book club will be reading *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sunberg. Join us on May 24th at 10:30am to discuss the book. All are welcome! Details for the evening book club reading selection and dates are to be determined.

Pictures from Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, April 16, 2023.



Robbinsdale City Hall needs YOUR help!

Pickings are looking a little slim at our Kid's Reading Corner here in City Hall. The corner was originally created as a way to entertain children, of all ages, who came into City Hall or the DMV with their families. It has been a huge success and we are happy to see that the books have been so well received that they go home to be well loved by the kids who picked them out.



However, we are running low on our backstock of books and hope with your help we can build it back up! Drop-off any used children and young adult books you are willing to part with at the City Hall Information Desk and get your name on a book for our wall of donors!

Events

All-Synod Worship Service

A Festive All-Synod Worship Service will be held 7:00pm, Friday, April 28. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will be preaching and Dr. Phillip Schoultz, associate artistic director of VocalEssence and cantor at Westwood Lutheran, will lead the music for worship, as well as conduct the Synod-Wide Volunteer Choir.



A light reception will follow the worship service which will be held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 13600 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie.

You may sign up to sing in the Synod Assembly Choir at <https://mplsareasynod.regfox.com/synod-assembly-choir>

There will be a rehearsal Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8:00pm at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park. This rehearsal is suggested but not required to sing on Friday.

Save the Date!

Faith-Lilac Way Hosts Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic Saturday, May 13

Fix-It Clinics offer free, guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot, and (hopefully) fix small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more. Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections and reduce the number of repairable items that are thrown in the trash. Clinics are held once a month from noon to 4:00 p.m., with the last items accepted at 3:30 p.m. Events are first come, first served. No pre-registration required. Here's the link for more information:

<https://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic>

FLW Hosts needed for this event! Please contact the office for details.

Pastoral Acts

Celebration of Life: Beverley Maas, Saturday, April 22

Prayers

Compassionate Lord Jesus, You hear us when we call to you. Be with those in our congregation with health concerns, including: Lois Anderson, David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Betty Schmidt, Linda St. John, Edith Theilmann, Jackie Woolgar, and Vic Woolgar. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, including the family of Beverley Maas.

Bless our Music Director Ann Marie Skoglund Anderson, the Chancel choir and the Ladies' Ensemble and our instrumentalists who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. We give thanks for their ministry among us this program year.

We give you thanks, dear Lord, for the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Good News of Jesus Christ. You sustain us and fill us with hope and joy. Give us courage to invite friends and neighbors to join us whenever we gather together as a church whether for play, for service or for praise of you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

May’s Spiritual Practice of the Month–The B.L.E.S.S Prayer!

I have found in my own prayer life that I sometimes want to pray for someone I know, but I don’t always know what to pray about for them. For that reason I have found the B.L.E.S.S. prayer, created by Alvin VanderGriend, to be helpful.

It is an easy prayer to do and a great way to think about the people in your life! First start by choosing someone you want to pray for, and then follow the acronym.

B-Body: Pray for good health and wellbeing.

L-Labor: Pray for work or volunteer experiences, or for financial security.

E-Emotional: Pray for their emotional or mental health, for peace and happiness.

S-Social: Pray for their relationships with family and friends.

S-Spiritual: Pray for their spiritual and faith life.

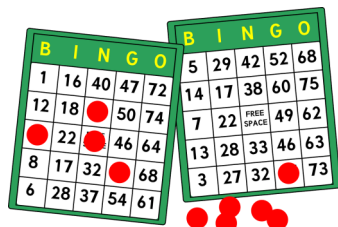
May the B.L.E.S.S. prayer be a blessing to you and your loved ones!



Happy Birthday!

Linda Christensen	1st	Nicholas Kuder	13th
Heather Lane	1st	Sandra Dolence	14th
Lea Hartjen	4th	Wendy Blackman	16th
Paula Lindgren	5th	Gayland Halter	19th
Tommy Thompson	6th	Ella Henkels	21st
Pastor James Anderson	10th	Peter Olson	22nd
Sandy Blackman	11th	Harold Osmundson	27th
Dan Schumacher	11th	Sandy Hanneman	28th
Gina Swanson	12th	Austin Nelson-Wilson	31st

We apologize if your name is missing. Please call the office, we are probably missing your birthday in our system.



You are invited!
Robbins Way Bingo Night
Prizes & Snacks
May 24th at 5:00pm
 Join us for a fun night *and*
 get to know our neighbors next door
 at Robbins Way!

Join an ASSET Based Mapping Event!
 What are YOUR Gifts?
 What are FLW’s Assets?
 Join us for a fun and insightful “Asset Based Mapping Event” on Sunday, May 7 and/ or on an upcoming Wednesday. Watch your e-news and bulletins for more information.

Volunteer for Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, May 6 at 10 AM
(We’ll have coffee and doughnuts!)

Pancake Breakfast and Raffle for the Intern Fund-You are Invited!

Following worship, please join us on April 30th in Fellowship Hall, for a pancake breakfast and raffle to support our internship ministry. Many hands are busy with providing or helping to prepare food, as well as donating to or gifting a basket. (Raffle tickets are available now!) If you are unable to attend the pancake breakfast and would like to support this ongoing ministry, you can donate online or write a check designated to the internship fund. Thank you for your ongoing support!



The Wildfire Community Choir Concert of Theodore Dubois's Seven Last Words at Cross of Glory on Palm Sunday raised \$500 for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Seven congregations were represented in the community choir and the concert was well attended. **Thanks** to everyone who participated, attended, and/or contributed! Consensus was, "Let's do it again!"

From Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. From adoption and foster care to shelter for youth experiencing homelessness to support for people with disabilities to nutritious, home-delivered meals for older adults, LSS impacts 1 of every 65 Minnesotans. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

From the American Red Cross

Thank you so much for allowing Red Cross to use your beautiful church to shelter those in need. We could not do our job without people like you. Thanks to George and your congregation for letting us in your doors. We are so grateful for churches that stand ready to serve their community. Marilyn Birk Volunteer, and Kyle Parkinson, Shelter Manager

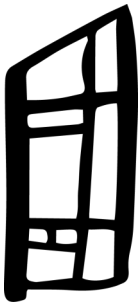
Thank you from the Minneapolis Area Synod ELCA

In 2022, the people of our synod gave nearly \$100 million in offerings to their congregation and over \$2.7 million of those funds were shared as mission support with the synod office. What we do together as the whole church has helped change lives in your neighborhood and beyond. Thank you for your generosity and support of God's work.

May Mission of the Month: Lutheran Disaster Response ELCA

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Rather than start a new program, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies our companions in places of need. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region. Domestically, Lutheran Disaster Response ELCA responds to and provides relief from flooding, hurricanes, severe storms, tornadoes and wildfires. To contribute to FLW's Mission of the Month, write either: May Mission of the Month OR Lutheran Disaster Response on your envelope/check/ give online.





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Special Worship on May 21st
I'm Going to Sing When the Spirit Says Sing
Join us for worship on May 21, 2023
as we celebrate music and Pentecost.

Featuring the Ladies Ensemble and the Chancel Choir. After worship we will have a cake reception as we say thank you to the choir and musicians for their beautiful music this year.



Our newest members!