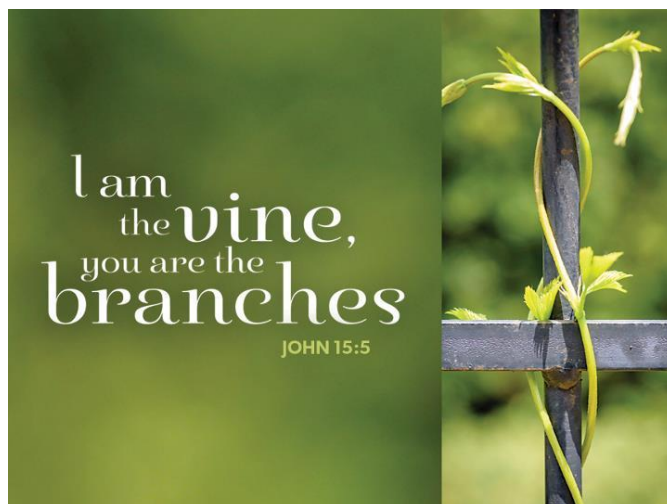


First Lutheran Church

In-person, iHeart Radio 620 am and on Facebook livestream -
<https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheransiouxcity/>



HOLY COMMUNION

Time after Easter

Sunday ☩ April 28, 2024 ☩ 10:00 am

Christ the vine

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table.

We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Earth and All Stars

Michael Burkhardt

OPENING HYMN

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

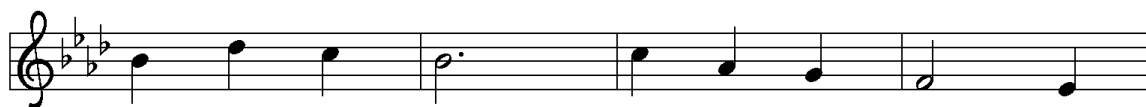
ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

TIME FOR CHILDREN

The children are invited to come forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

WORD

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

READING

Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22

All the ends of the earth shall remember

The reader leads the psalm, the assembly responds by reading the bold print.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the Lord give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

READING

Love in truth and action

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father

has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS, page 34

The assembly stands and sings the refrain.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL

Christ the vine

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him.

Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide

in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.



HYMN OF THE DAY "Now the Green Blade Rises"

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW, page 127

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God,
we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love;
through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our risen Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

“The Tree of Life”

arr. James Biery

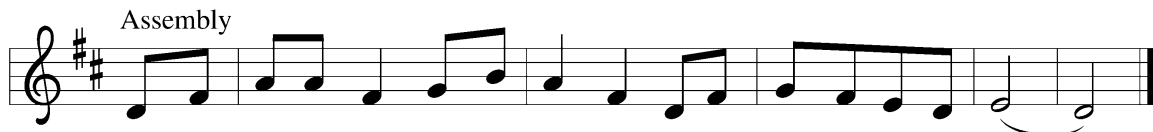
Flute: Catherine Rommel

The offering basket is at the door of the sanctuary, you may place your offering there as you leave.

OFFERTORY “The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus”

The bread and wine are brought forward, the assembly stands and sings as the procession reaches the chancel. The cantor begins and invites the assembly to repeat.

Assembly



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It consists of a sequence of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a final whole note. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Music: Mark Sedio
Music © 1996 Mark Sedio. Used by permission.
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Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

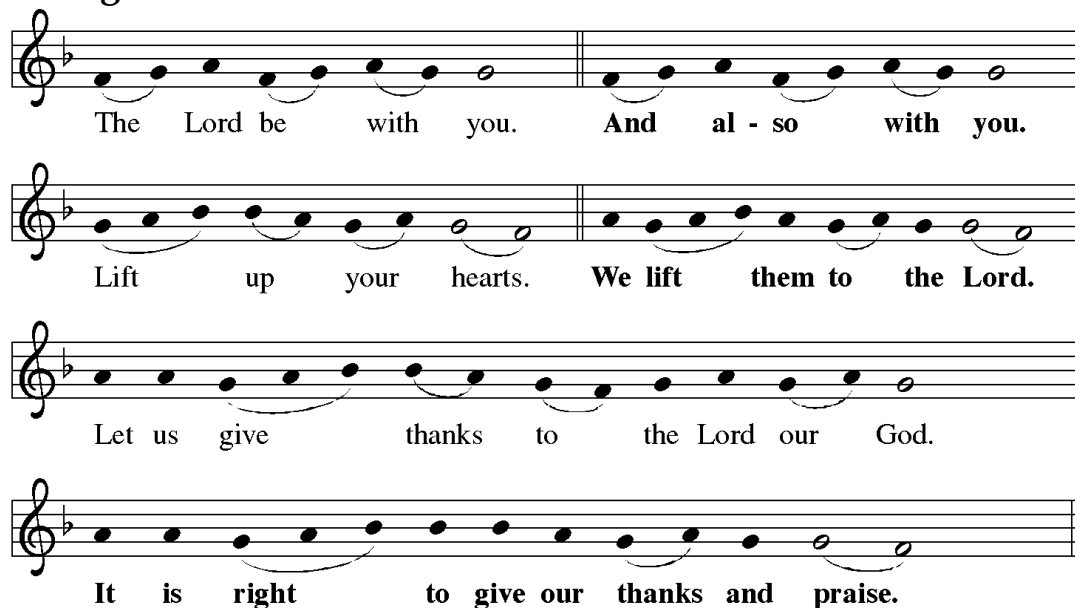
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

setting two, page 129

Dialogue and Preface



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. Each staff contains a sequence of notes with lyrics written below. The first staff has two phrases, the second and third have one phrase each, and the fourth has one phrase.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

We bless you, O God. **We bless you, O God.**

We thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

Words of Institution

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table,
and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Music during Communion

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW 479

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line containing three numbered verses. The second line continues the lyrics, and the third line concludes them.

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,
To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay
not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Post Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

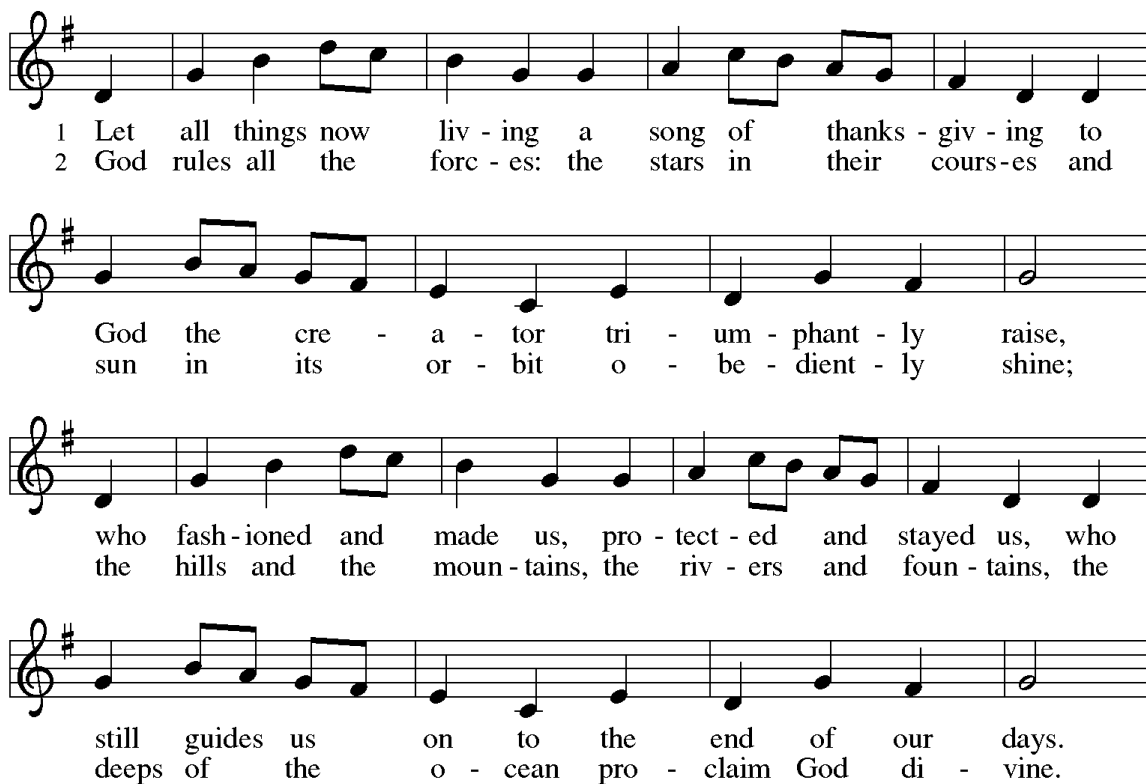
BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Let All Things Now Living” ELW 881

As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance to the sanctuary for the dismissal.



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -
 fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise
 till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To
 for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Recessional on "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Mark Sedio

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Joy Gonnerman	<i>presider</i>
Janet Gross	<i>assisting minister</i>
Yvonne Hazlett	<i>organist</i>
Ben and Ellie Hertenstein	<i>sound and media technicians</i>
David Gross	<i>sacristan</i>
Ian Hertenstein	<i>crucifer</i>
Vanessa Bremer	<i>children's teacher</i>
Chris Taylor	<i>reader</i>
Carole Heider	<i>choir director</i>
David Gross	<i>communion minister</i>
Jay Schenzel	<i>usher</i>
Gary and Candy Johnson, Khyren	<i>greeters</i>
Paula Damon, Vanessa Bremer	<i>coffee fellowship</i>

First Lutheran Church

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712-239-3942 www.firstlutheransc.org
Pastor Kristine Stedje, flcpastor3939@gmail.com

WORSHIP. WELCOME. SERVICE.

Announcements

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church. We are a **welcoming** congregation who **worships and serves** the God we love.

Holy Communion will be served today standing in the chancel by intinction. Gluten-wafers are available, simply ask your server. All are welcome at Jesus' banquet feast.

Today following worship Rev. Joy Gonnerman will gather in Fireside Room for a conversation about the "Recovery Café." Join her to learn more about this community opportunity.

WELCA Bakeless Bake Sale

Please consider giving a generous gift to First Lutheran Church Women for worthwhile projects. Through our greeting card sales, we were able to carpet our main hallway, buy a new vacuum, remodel bathrooms and various small needs of our church. Your contributions will be accepted today and Sunday, May 5 at the Lutheran World Relief Table in the narthex, or anytime at the church office or by mail. If you find it

convenient to mail in your donation, please send your check made out to FLCW, in care of Marlus Mammen, 3015 Pierce Street, Sioux City, IA 51104.

WORLD HUNGER...50th Anniversary

Our awareness and fundraising project will run through Sunday, May 5 with a wrap up, and short presentation, during coffee fellowship in Fireside Room. Janet Gross will share information about the World Hunger Gathering in Houston, and the ELCA's 50th anniversary. Also you will be invited to a seed-starting hands-on activity!

Check out the bulletin board envelope fundraising campaign, there are still more envelopes to be picked up. Many of you have already donated...thank you! A collection envelope is in the office for donations, or your donation can be placed in the offering. Donations may be cash or checks and they can be for more than the amount requested in the numbered envelope. Following next **Sunday, May 5** we will gather all donations contributed and send the gift to the ELCA. There is potential to raise over \$1000 for this project.

Save The Date.....**Thursday, May 9, 6:00-8:00pm**. Bed Building opportunity with **Sleep In Heavenly Peace**. No previous experience required! Please contact Brian Thiele at [253-1111](tel:253-1111) for more information. We will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers. In addition, donations will be accepted for new twin size bedsheets, comforters, blankets, and pillows for the beds. This is a Congregational Life sponsored event.

Weekly Schedule, First Lutheran Meetings and Activities

Today, April 28

Coffee fellowship following worship, Fireside Room
Conversation about the "Recovery Café," Fireside Room

Wednesday, May 1

9a-11:30a Food Pantry, Volunteers: Chris Taylor, Jeanne Hanna
6p Handbells, Choir Room
7p Choir, Choir Room
7p Youth Gathering, Fireside Room

Thursday, May 2

1p Adult Bible Study, Fireside Room

Friday, May 3

9a Quilters, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 5

10a Worship in-person, livestream and radio
11a Coffee fellowship, World Hunger presentation, Fireside Room