

## **MAY 2024**

Beginning ... and beginning again

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

"God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements," writes Bernie Siegel. "Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease."

Of course, we can "create a perfect world" only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!

# **PARISH NEWS:**



First Lutheran will honor Bryson Sime on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be a luncheon served after worship in his honor. All are welcome to celebrate with us.



Trinity Lutheran in Wibaux will honor their graduates on Sunday, May 12 with rolls after church. Trinity's seniors are Birch Obrigewitch and Sam Brayden.

May God Bless the Class of 2024

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

# First Lutheran News:

Ushers are for May are Dave & Tammy Wegner.

### Reminder from the First Lutheran Council:

If you have an event or project that you or a group are doing in the fellowship hall and kitchen area, please clean the area when you are done. The janitor cleans the sanctuary, entries, and bathrooms. Since the fellowship hall and kitchen are not used on a regular basis there is no need for janitorial service for this area. Thank you.

There will be a National Day of Prayer program at the Community Center on May  $2^{nd}$ . 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. All are Welcome to come and go as you wish.

St. Luke's Home Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 11:30 am. Lunch will be served. St. Luke's Chapel – 242 10th St. West – Dickinson, ND for anyone interested in attending. Please RSVP Amy at 701-483-5000 by May 11.



5/2 Kelly Newell 5/12 Breanne Bakken 5/15 Samuel Stoveland 5/4 Megan Benes Melissa Schillo 5/19 Cole Olson 5/5 Barb Bacon 5/20 Gary Farstveet Julie Franz 5/23 Sue Branden Marguerite Parker 5/24 Vicki Erickson 5/6 Dawn Egan 5/26 Sunnie Beeler 5/9 Roger Seward 5/29 Debra Stedman 5/10 Ty Smith 5/30 Kayla Skaley 5/31 Shana Brophy 5/11 Viki VanHorn



**Kevin Schmeling** Demi Kae Nellermoe Claudia Bakken Robyn Egan John Kouba

Norrine Lunde Gene Schmeling Kelli Malhum LeAnne Sarver Our Troops & Country Our Farmers & Ranchers

Cheryl Justesen

Local Businesses

## **Bible Quiz**



What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

A. Nile

B. Yangtze

C. Jordan

D. Tigris

E. Ganges

F. Euphrates

Answer: See Genesis 2:10-14



#### Mother — and more

Though I've primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- "For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant" (Isaiah 42:14).
- "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13).
- "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them" (Hosea 13:8).
- In others, God is pictured doing traditional "women's work": making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama's care: "It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them" (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good. —Heidi Hyland Man



From the Beach Lutheran Parish

#### **Aflame with Faith**



In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."

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## **A Prayer for Roots**

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do, until he comes again. Amen.

### **First-team Followers**

Jesus' ascension into heaven shortly after his resurrection was "one of God's most audacious ploys," according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. "Jesus, resurrected, is Master of space and time, yet he passes on the work of spreading the Good News to his imperfect disciples, who ultimately pass it on to us (who are also imperfect disciples)."

By contrast, most Old Testament patriarchs often stayed on the throne until they died. Many of them could have benefited from a timely "exit strategy," Ramirez notes.

"As a child, I always felt that the world would have been a better place if the resurrected Lord had just taken over everything," Ramirez continues. "But though Jesus is active with us ('For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' — Matthew 18:20, NRSV), we're part of the first team now."

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### A Prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.