

The West Wind



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 5th. 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



Thanks, Mom!

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 2nd. 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.



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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 5/2 Kelly Newell | 5/12 Breanne Bakken |
| 5/4 Megan Benes | 5/15 Samuel Stoveland |
| 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 |
| 5/11 Viki VanHorn | 5/31 Shana Brophy |



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|----------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin Schmeling | Cheryl Justesen |
| Demi Kae Nellerhoe | Norraine Lunde |
| Claudia Bakken | Gene Schmeling |
| Robyn Egan | Kelli Malhum |
| John Kouba | LeAnne Sarver |
| Our Troops & Country | Our Farmers & Ranchers |
| 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

