

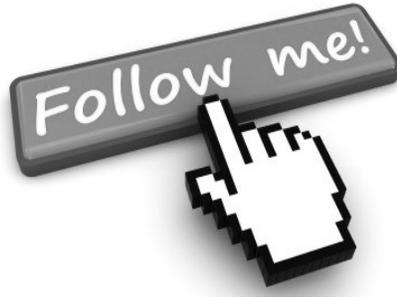
6th Sunday of Easter

love
each other
as I have
loved you.
John 15:12



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

*"Growing God's Family in Christ...
One Step at a Time"*



Welcome to First German!

Today is Confirmation Sunday and we thank God for our eight confirmands who will confess their faith in Jesus. People today click on all sorts of “links” on their computers. God’s Word has “links” imbedded for our spiritual growth and blessing. We are linked to Jesus in an eternal friendship. Today Jesus, the best Friends of sinners, calls us friends. He has given everything for us, his friends, that we might live in his love forever. Thank God for our Friend! The joy of his resurrection continues and because he lives, we too shall live. Christ is risen!

FOLLOW THE LINK...

TODAY: The Ultimate Friend and his friends (Confirmation @ 10:30am)

PRAYER before Worship: *Lord, open now my heart to hear, and through your Word to me draw near, let me your Word e’er pure retain, let me your child and heir remain. Amen.*

GOD BLESS OUR CONFIRMANDS: Richard Anthony Holland *Isaiah 43:1*, Emma Claire Kolar- *Isaiah 41:10*, Adam James Lindemann *Matthew 28:20*, Jonathan Tsimmeej Lor- *Isaiah 43:13*, Christopher Sydney Schultz- *Psalms 23:1*, Katie Renee Ungemach- *Ephesians 2:8-9* Tyler Jordan Winkel -*John 3 :16*, Megan Lee Wittmus *Revelation 2:10*

VISITORS & GUESTS: We consider it a privilege to worship the Lord with you. If you have any questions regarding our services, weekly programs, Lutheran elementary school, or preschool, please talk with an usher, call one of the pastors or contact the church office. We look forward to connecting you to Christ and his Word. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

A Cry Room is located at the back of church for those kids who need a little quiet time. We’re glad you’ve brought children to worship the Lord!

Listening devices are available from an usher for those who might desire some assistance with hearing today.

Friendship Registers are found in each pew. We ask that everyone, sign the friendship register so that we might get to know you better.

SERVING THE LORD TODAY: Pastor Schaefer (preacher and presiding minister), and Mr. Josh Wendt (organist).

The Service of the Word

HYMN # 380

Lord, Tis Not that I Did Choose You

Please stand.

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Absolution

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sings) Amen.

Please be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Acts 9: 36-42

Christian love shows itself in deeds of kindness.

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" ³⁹Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. ⁴⁰Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knee and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

PSALM

Psalm 98 (p. 103 of the Christian Worship hymnal)

The Psalm is sung together in unison.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:1-11

False teaching is dangerous to the soul while God's love in Christ sustains us.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

C: *(sings)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. These words are written, that we may believe,
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord

C: *(sing)* Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY #377

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

On Sunday at 8:00 AM during the singing of the first two verses, children ages 3-11 may come to the front of the sanctuary for a children’s message from the Pastor.

vs.1-2—ALL vs.3—ALL

v.4—Women and girls

v.5—Men and boys

vv.6-7 —ALL

SERMON

John 15:9-17

THEME: Linger in Ultimate Love!

Following the sermon please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

Confession of Faith

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

During this time we ask all worshipers to sign the Friendship Register.

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, we live in a world plagued by sinful doubt and skepticism over your Word and salvation. By your Holy Spirit, open our hearts this day to pay attention to what you proclaim to us. Soothe our doubting consciences with the certain knowledge that your Gospel promises are true. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

M: Creator of heaven and earth, abide with all homeless and destitute people. Despite their temporary problems, give them faith to confess that you richly and daily provide everything they need to support their bodies and lives. Stir up generosity in our hearts as we respond to your mercy by sharing your good gifts with those in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord of the nations, bring order where there is instability, peace where there is strife and safety where there is danger. Especially protect those who live and serve in dangerous areas of our cities. Give wisdom to those you place in authority over these locations as they deal with violence and danger. Through residents and authorities, make our neighborhoods safe and lead everyone to work together to promote peace and tranquility. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

M: Eternal God, through your holy Word, you give us a vision of life in the world to come where there will be no crying or pain or sorrow or sin. By this message, sustain those who suffer in any way [*especially ____*]. Use your Word to strengthen their faith, that despite their current afflictions, they may look forward to the glory that will be revealed to them on the Last Day. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

M: Dear Father in heaven, we yearn for the day when all your faithful people will be gathered to eternal unity, the day when you will fully dwell in the midst of your people. Until that day arrives, strengthen the faith of our Confirmands and our faith in your saving promises. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Special prayers or intercessions may be spoken here.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN # 596

Let Me Be Yours Forever

Please stand.

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN # 334

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Please be seated.

God's richest blessings to our Confirmands

Richard Holland
Jonathan Lor
Tyler Winkel

Emma Kolar
Christopher Schultz
Megan Wittmus

Adam Lindemann
Katie Ungemach

Announcements for May 3/6, 2018

Altar Flowers: Given by the Class of 2018 Confirmands in honor of their special day.

Readings: You can prepare for worship next weekend by checking out the readings for next Sunday. They are: Deut 33: 26-29, Ephesians 4: 7-16, Luke 24: 44-53.

Family Bible Hour: Between services on Sunday, please join us in the sanctuary as the students confess their faith and answer questions during EXAMINATION. (No Heritage Hall Bible Class today due to Examination.) There will be **SUNDAY SCHOOL in the school.**

Collections Box: You may have noticed the collections box has moved. It is now permanently in the church lobby hall right by the church entrance door. Thank you for all the donations.

Principal Call: Peter Buege holds our call to serve as principal and teacher. Pray for him!

Martin Lutheran College Host Families Needed for One Night: The MLC Wind Symphony is performing at Manitowoc Lutheran High School on Tuesday, May 15th at 7PM, and **YOU ARE ALL INVITED!** In addition, these MLC students will need a place to stay. MLHS is hoping you could accommodate two students from MLC. It would be greatly appreciated!

Host's Responsibilities:

- Provide the students with a ride home after the 7pm concert on May 15th
- Provide lodging
- Provide breakfast on the 16th of May
- Provide transportation back to MLHS (7:30 a.m. sharp drop off time)

If you are interested in hosting please contact the main office at MLHS, 920-682-0215.

Manitowoc Lutheran will be providing supper Tuesday night before the concert as well. We are going to treat them to a cookout!

Cookbook Project: Hello Everyone! Our classrooms can always use some wish list items that are not part of the budget. I am thinking about putting together a First German Cookbook! I think this would be a great fundraiser and fun to put together, but I could really use some help and would like to form a committee! If you think you can spare some time please drop me a line at ph116@comcast.net Thank you in advance! *Patti Heidorf*

Letter for Members: *An important letter is in your church mailbox.*

Trivia Night is coming: The CPO is sponsoring a night of fun and trivia on May 12th at 6pm. Get your teams of 6-8 members together now. The cost is \$150 per table and the proceeds will be used towards school improvements. Contact Erin Kolar at 920-683-1808 or Mr. Klatt at 920-682-7021 with any questions.

OWLS Meeting: The May OWLS meeting will be at St. Johns School, 3607 45th ST on VV, May 8th at 1:30, Two Rivers. Guest speaker will be Pastor Norval Koch President at MLHS. Lunch will follow the meeting. Anyone retired or 55 years old is welcome to attend.

Printed Statements: You may have noticed your general fund statements in your mailbox last week, this week you should also see the Capital Campaign statements. Please take a careful look at them and make sure they are correct. If you have any questions regarding the statements please call the church office.

R.O.C.K. Farewell: R.O.C.K. is having a farewell gathering for the Hoppe family on May 20th at 6pm right here at First German. More information will be sent out next week.

Other Area Ministry Items

PRISM CONCERT & ART SHOW - Saturday, May 19, 2018 in the MLHS Commons & Gym-There will be two shows: Art show opens at 3PM; Concert at 4PM; Art show opens at 6PM; Concert at 7PM.

MLHS GRADUATION – Saturday, May 26, 2018 at 2PM in the MLHS Gymnasium-The senior class picked Isaiah 40:31 as their class verse: “But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Join us in saying farewell and God bless to the Class of 2018.

2018 Vacation Bible School

“First German Science Camp – Celebrating God’s Creation”

- ◇ July 30 – August 3; 9:00 a.m. – noon
- ◇ Preschool – entering 6th grade
- ◇ Science experiments and demonstrations
- ◇ Crafts and music
- ◇ Bible history lessons showing Jesus as the Lord of creation
- ◇ Convenient online registration

Join us for this *exciting new format* of VBS! Please talk it up among friends and coworkers. In the coming weeks, look for ways to help by volunteering or making donations for snacks, supplies, or money. We want to make this a week to remember! If you have any questions, please contact Josh Wendt at jwendt@firstgerman.org.

Our Attendance in God's House: 285
(Thursday: 44 Sunday 8:00: 142 10:30: 54 Hmong: 45)
Offerings to the Lord last week: \$ 9,627.56 Capital Campaign: \$ 2,075.00

Church Calendar

Confirmation Sunday

TODAY 8:00 AM Divine Service
9:20 AM Public Examination in Sanctuary
10:30 AM Confirmation Service
w/Holy Communion
12:00 PM Hmong Divine Service
1:00 PM Hmong Bible Study

MONDAY 6:00 PM Hmong Ladies Bible Class

TUESDAY 1:00PM Ladies Bible Class
6:30 PM Piano Recital

WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM Chapel Service

Ascension Service

THURSDAY 6:30 PM Word & Sacrament
FRIDAY 6:00PM Hmong Bible Study
SATURDAY 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study
6:00PM Trivia Night @ Harrigan Parkside
Gathering Center

Mother's Day

SUNDAY 8:00 AM Word & Sacrament
9:20 AM Family Bible Hour
10:30 AM Word & Sacrament
12:00 PM Hmong Divine Service
1:00 PM Hmong Bible Study

Serving the Lord as Ushers

May 3/6
Thursday at 6:30 PM: Steve Falck

Sunday at 8:00 AM: Jeff Schwede, Jim Tisler
Sunday at 10:30 AM: Larry & Mike Nickels, Ron & Jerry Ronski

May 10/13
Thursday at 6:30 PM: Chris Spencer

Sunday at 8:00 AM: Jeff Schwede, Jim Tisler
Sunday at 10:30 AM: Larry & Mike Nickels, Ron & Jerry Ronski

Our Vision for the Future: *Growing God's Family ... By Connecting to the Means of Grace.*

....By Connecting to Fellow Congregation Members.

....By Connecting to New Faces.

A Member Congregation of WELS

The people of our congregation and the pastors who shepherd us and the teachers who care for the souls of children in our school are eager to serve you with God's Word. Feel free to contact us with your questions or to worship with us again soon. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

www.firstgerman.org

First German Evangelical Lutheran Church & School 1033 South 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220 ~ 684.0101

Pastor Ben Schaefer (629.0628) - Pastor Maurice Hoppe, Visitation Pastor

Mr. Ryan Klatt, Principal - Mr. Jeff Schwede Executive Director (682-0728)