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*The next
Property
meeting will be
June 4th
6:30 Pm.*



Our Nicodemus moments or seasons:

We all have Nicodemus moments or seasons marked by pleading, "God help us", and He does! By the Holy Spirit a Kingdom of God perspective shines light through the cracks in our earthbound viewpoint, sustaining hope and inspiring us to draw closer to Jesus. Take time for more prayer and conversation with faith friends (developing more), and time for devotional reading and reflection integrated with your summertime activities.

Throughout Israel's history there were seasons of waiting on the Lord: waiting and trusting. Times were very difficult due to unfaithfulness. Faithfulness is one thing we personally engage with heart, mind, and activities which help us listen and draw closer to the giver of all good gifts.

Nicodemus came to Jesus after business hours, not wanting his action judged by those who would reject him if he became a serious follower of Jesus. He feared those who didn't see it as a step deeper into faith and life with God, rather foreign to their human practice of religion. Nicodemus came to Jesus making a statement with an implied request attached.

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." John 3:2

"How do I get the benefits You give?" seems to be implied. Maybe he didn't know what he was asking for, wasn't open to more of the presence of God empowering his life. Yet this is what Jesus taught as well as demonstrated. The Kingdom of God has come near: God's will on earth as in heaven, we get to be a part of. In John's Gospel the kingdom comes near, in and through us, by the work of the Holy Spirit. We are among the generations living in the age between the Holy Spirit being sent to work in believer's hearts faith and salvation, and the end of the age when Jesus comes again to gather the church into their glory.

Accepting and aligning with the work and power of the Holy Spirit is the step Nicodemus stopped short of that night he came to visit Jesus. The Holy Spirit itself helps prepare you to take that step, to embrace God's active presence even more, as it equips us to see the world and one another as Jesus does.

Nicodemus, in the moment he makes his inquire of Jesus, didn't seem to have ears to hear the news about the Holy Spirit. That is what makes a "Nicodemus moment" or "season": not ready – yet the Spirit stirring dissatisfaction.

We know Nicodemus later moves beyond his fear and publicly honors Jesus, seeing that he received a proper Jewish burial (John 20:38-42). I would like to believe he is among the witnesses of the resurrection – encountering Jesus risen and alive, instructing his followers to continue the mission He began. It is a viewpoint which bridges heaven and earth, death and life anew.

May God's Holy Spirit enable each of us to see, and our hearts to be equipped, to continue in the work Jesus has entrusted to each according to our gifts, and our churches for the times we live. We have made adjustments throughout our years as we struggled with faith the Lord will provide for what we need, even if not a return to what was. Just as the glory and devotion of Israel increased and diminished, we too long for the best of times, yet in these challenging times God is still calling us to themselves and providing for an eternal glory.

4:1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as here to serve and provide for others for Jesus's sake. 6 For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

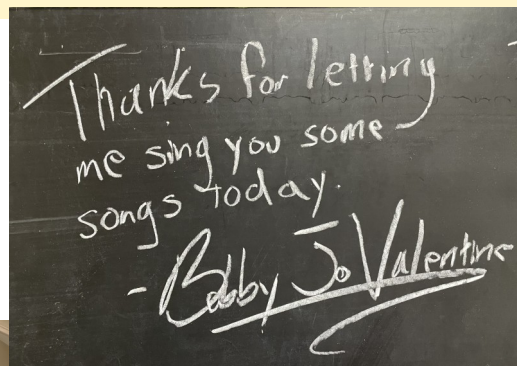
7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, 9 persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed,

(2nd Corinthians 4:1, 5-9b)

Pastor Kurt

Thank you to everyone who attended the concert of Bobby Jo Valentine we had May 4th.

Thank you to everyone who gave a free will donation! We raised \$344.00 for The Salvation Army Food Pantry. Also thank you to those who volunteered and participated in the helping make this concert happen.



Chihoni News!!

Last month, Selemani's crew at Chihoni was ready to start Construction Phase Two of the Outpatient Department (OPD) and the Guesthouse. Today, Phase Two is 89% complete. Building upon Phase One, the foundations, the OPD walls are now up to the roof level, and the first floor walls of the Guesthouse are in place. Eventually, the Guesthouse will be a two-story building, but only the first floor will be completed at this time.

While the buildings are going up, detailed planning for medical center operations is taking place. When the OPD opens on September 5, the required equipment, medications, and personnel will be on deck, ready to provide sorely needed medical care.



The OPD walls are going up around the central courtyard



A closer look at the new construction

As Dr. Charles Powell comments in the online May Chihoni Update on ihptz.org: "One thinks of things happening in Tanzania polepole (poe-leh-POE-leh), very slowly, but with this project everything is happening sasa hivi (SAH-sah HEE-vee), right away." Or at least that's what it feels like now! (No charge for the Swahili lesson! J)

IHP board member Dr. Christine Petersen and the Marlon Foundation are double matching gifts to IHP through July 31, to equip the outpatient department of the Chihoni Medical Center. We continue to lift the project up in our prayers and with our gifts, as we are able.

Special dates

- Day of Pentecost,
June 8, 2025
- Flag Day,
June 14, 2025
- Trinity Sunday,
June 15, 2025
- Father's Day,
June 15, 2025
- Juneteenth,
June 19, 2025
- First day of summer,
June 20, 2025

Food Pantry Donations

The Food Pantry would like us to emphasize a specific item each month.

Remember, you may bring any item you wish, but spreading this among the contributing congregations keeps a steady supply of their most basic needs coming each month.

For the month of June

Spaghetti Oh's, Raviolis, and Canned Soups
(things easy for youth to make for lunch)
are requested.

There is a basket located in the Narthex for you to place your donations in.

June Prayer

Let us pray:
Lord, before your death, You prayed for all your followers to "be one" (John 17). We ask for Your help as we gather and love as one body in Christ, united in worship and growth.
As we approach Pentecost, we celebrate the formation of the church by God the Father and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May we feel the Spirit's fire and breath guiding us always.
With Father's Day drawing near, we pray for remembrance that regardless of our earthly relationships with parents, children, and others, our heavenly Father's love and care for us remain steadfast.
Gracious Lord, empower us to be examples and to lead others through the way we live — in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



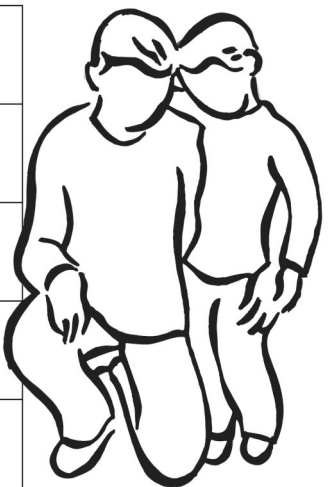
FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 The | 2 as | 3 tell | 1 living |
| 2 I | 3 their | 1 the | 2 am |
| 3 children | 1 living | 2 doing | 3 about |
| 1 they | 2 today | 3 your | 1 praise |
| 2 parents | 3 faithfulness | 1 you | |



_____, _____, _____,
_____; _____
_____.

Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Bible Quiz

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king

Answer on pg. 2





*First Lutheran Church will be holding
Vacation Bible School from*

June 30th to July 3rd this year, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Our theme is Stepping Out in Faith. We are currently looking for volunteers to help make this event a success! If you are interested in serving as a teacher or helper please reach out to Allison Bartholmey or the church office. Watch for a list of items we may need for craft supplies if you would like to help in that way. Also, we will be holding a shoe drive as a service project, so keep us in mind as you're spring cleaning- we will take unwanted shoes in any condition to distribute locally, globally with Soles for Souls, or recycle as needed.

*Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our
Vacation Bible School.*

(Sign-up forms are in the narthex)



Audrey Lucas 06/02
Hailey Sumpter 06/02
Bruce Coyle 06/04
Dotty Mittelstadt 06/05
Frances Lucas 06/07
Robert Floss 06/10
Easton Kremer 06/10
Henry Obersteller 06/10
Corinne Coyle 06/11
Neal Hayden 06/14
Donald Monroe 06/17
Eric Karsten 06/19
Judy Swenson 06/21
Sue Bauer 06/22
Anna Coyle 06/26

The joy of generosity

He who has received much should also give much. It is essential to give a goodly part of what God has allowed us to accumulate. Otherwise greed and miserliness will seize our hearts and minds. Furthermore, by not giving generously, we will miss the many joys that generosity brings to us. Let us not cheat ourselves of those blessings.

*Our Sunday worship time will be changing
for the summer to*

*9:00Am. From
June 8th–*

September 7th,

*For more information
please call the
church office.*



Update and a Thank you!

The west oven on the church's big commercial gas range has flames shooting up between the inner and outer oven wall, making that oven unusable. It is also a safety hazard. The property committee plans to replace this big range with two household gas ranges. At the same time they plan to replace the commercial dishwasher with a household dishwasher.

Thank you to the three members have offered to cover the cost of these replacements.

You can hear more details and share your concerns during coffee hour on Sunday.

Thoughts for Father's Day



A careful man I ought to be; a little fellow follows me; I do not dare to go astray, for fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes; whate'er he sees me do, he tries —

Like me, he says, he's going to be, the little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine, believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see, the little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go, through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be, for a little fellow follows me.

—Author unknown

IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

What you do:

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same side) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.



Christian symbol

RIVER — In the Bible, rivers (and other bodies of water) often represent deliverance, salvation, freedom and cleansing. The Jordan River is especially prominent: The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land after God delivered them from slavery, and John baptized Jesus (and many other people) there. The image of crossing the Jordan River has long been a metaphor for death — crossing from earthly to heavenly life, from worldly struggles to the bliss of God's kingdom, from physical ailments to the wholeness of a resurrection body.



Join us for VBS June 30-July 3

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Property Meeting 6:30PM | 5 Dorcas 9:00 am | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Worship Service 9:00 am | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 HAPPY Father's Day! Worship Service 9:00 am | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Council Meeting 7:00 pm | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Worship Service 9:00 am | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Church office is closed. | 27 Church office is closed. | 28 |
| 29 Joint Worship Service On the Lawn | 30 VBS 6/30-7/3 Afternoons | | | | | |

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Pastor Hoover's Hours:
Monday & Tuesday
9:00Am- - 12:00 pm

Meetings with Pastor Hoover by Appointment.



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FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**Watch Past and Live
services !**

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Newton**

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**New Summer
Sunday Morning
Worship
9:00am.
Coffee Hour
10:00am**

GOD USES
every
SMALL ACT
of love
FOR LARGER
PURPOSES.