

Weekly Word – For Sunday, April 30, 2023

Worship this Week:

I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly. These are the words from Jesus in this week's gospel lesson from John 10. In a way, they are his mission statement, his reason for coming among us—to show us an abundant way of living. Join us this Sunday at the 10am worship service and enjoy Congregational Croissants during Coffee Fellowship.

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/IOQ5-qmTnUk>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Apr 30	9:00-9:45 am	Special Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Tues., May 2	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
Wed., May 3	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	6:30-7:30 pm	Last Confirmation – Bowling – Meet at St. Croix Lanes
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., May 4	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
Sun., May 7		Confirmation Sunday
	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM	

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Steve Koecher
Deacons:	Linn Lawrence, Jena Most, Marshall Skule
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Ryan Luedtke
Trustee:	Jon Paul Okal
Welcomers:	Callie Trautmiller, JoAnn Lentz
Coffee Fellowship:	Congregational Croissants
Counters:	Marie Roe, Janice Healy

Altar flowers are given by Barb & Larry Peterson and Vicki Hoffman & Brad Williams in memory of Maynard (Spike) and Marguerite Hoffman.

Loving God

Sunday Morning Text Study: Sunday morning Bible text study is held at **9:00 am on Sundays**. Please join us for an engaging discussion of the texts. All are welcome!

Adult Bible Study: Adult Bible Study is held on **Wednesday afternoons 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Youth Room. For more information, talk with Pastor Stacy.

Confirmation Sunday: Confirmation Sunday is always celebrated on the first Sunday in May. Join us on **Sunday, May 7**, as we welcome into the Christian faith our third-year confirmation students.

Loving Neighbor

Spring Clean-Up, Saturday, April 29, 9:00 am: Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Back-up date is Saturday, May 13. Please sign up and join us!

Relay for Life 2023 Follow Up: Thank you to everyone for supporting our Relay for Life team through your donations and participation at our annual soup night. Our team raised \$1,684 and was listed as one of the Rising Star teams. The Community total as of April 16 was over \$77,850 and funds are still coming in. Money raised by the Relay for Life event goes to American Cancer Society and the research to find ways to cure cancer. Thank you also to the very dedicated team and their wonderful support of a good cause. Your soups were awesome and it's a pleasure working with all of you. For questions about joining the team, next year's fundraisers (soup & hopefully plant sale again) and/or participating at the event, please contact: debhoffman234b@gmail.com or 612-308-4945.

Family Fresh has discontinued their program of collecting receipts. You have been so wonderful in collecting the receipts in support of ARC. Thank you for your support!

Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. For more information, contact them at (715) 293-2561. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays 9am to 3pm**.

Loving Self

Chocolate Boutique: A Relational Bible Experience for Women. **Tuesdays May 2, and May 9 at 6:30 pm.** Join Deb Meyer to renew your spirit with a three-session series on Grace: May 2 - God's Grace is Rich and Extravagant; May 9 - God's Grace is Transforming. A chocolate dessert will be served at each session. Come to one or all. Please sign up at church.

Men's Group: The church Men's Group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** for coffee, treats and conversation. Pastor Chris leads us with a brief devotion and gives us a topic to discuss. We will meet again on **May 2 and 16**. All men are welcome!

Cribbage Night: The group meets on the second Monday at the church. Players are asked to donate \$2 which is given to a charity. Playing time starts at **7:00 pm**. All players welcome. The next game will be **May 8**.

Merry Widows: The Merry Widows will meet **Wed., May 17 at 1:00 pm at Kingdom Buffet in Hudson**. All widows are welcome to join us for lunch and conversation! See JoAnn Lentz for more information.

Church Yoga: The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Past & present yoga participants are invited to a **brunch** honoring Jan for her 20+ years of yoga instruction on **Tuesday, May 9, about 10:15 am**. Jackie Ross is the new instructor and is carrying on in Jan's tradition.

Softball News: Hello to all you softball players & fans, we have our first game scheduled. The season begins on Monday, June 5 and continues on Mondays until mid-August. Practices begin Monday, May 1 at 6:30 pm at the Greenwood School ballfield area. Unfortunately, we cannot claim a field in advance, so come and search the fields. I will have someone in the parking lot with directions to where we are practicing. Our new co-manager is Sarah Plum. She played in high school and has been on our team the last two years. Thank you to Matthew Thurston for his dedication to co-managing the team and have a great summer spending time with your daughter before she's off to college. If you have questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com or Sarah Plum at (715)-418-9393, sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com. If you are interested in playing, please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-church3>

HealthPartners Class: HealthPartners is offering an online class on Dementia and Family Communication. Home and hospice social worker Janelle Johnson, BSW, will cover eight helpful strategies to navigate difficult conversations and communicate with your loved ones who have dementia. The class will meet **Thursday, May 18, from 4:00-5:00 pm, online**. The class is free, but registration is required in advance. Visit healthpartners.com/classes-events to register.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage: Our church has a history of pilgrimage trips. This fall we will add a new experience - A Civil Rights Pilgrimage. This 5-day pilgrimage will include stops in Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma & Montgomery. We will literally be walking in the steps of history to learn more about our country and our Christian faith. There will also be time to enjoy southern cuisine! **The trip will take place October 25-29, 2023**. Please contact Pastor Chris for info. Space is limited to 14 people.

Second Holy Land Tour: In 2019, 24 people from church participated in a Holy Land Tour to visit important places in our Christian faith like Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Galilee. We also learned about the cultural and political struggle between Jews and Palestinians and how the three great religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam literally converge in Jerusalem. Planning this tour took a long time. Pastor Chris is in the beginning stages of planning another Holy Land Tour. A date has not been announced, but if you want to be kept in the loop about developments and involved in determining the timing of a trip, please sign-up to register your interest.

Youth Group

Scholarships are Due: Just a reminder that both the High School Senior and Continuing Education Scholarships are due in the church office **by Sunday, May 7**. Please remember scholarships may require an essay and/or a letter of recommendation so start early! Forms are on the church website under the 'connect' then 'sign up' tabs. For questions, please talk to Jenny Luedtke, chair of the Scholarship Team.

Wed, May 3, 6:30-7:30 pm @ St Croix Lanes in River Falls – Bowling!: Bring \$5 and the rest is covered!

Boundary Waters Trip: Alex shared an email to everyone who signed up for the Boundary Waters Trip. **There are still four spots available!** If you have not received an email and would like to, please reach out to Alex at rfyouthgroup@gmail.com. **Dates are Sun, July 16–Thurs, July 20.** [Summer Boundary Waters Google Signup](#)

June Service Trip: Select 2-3 mission opportunities in the Twin Cities to serve the community. Trip will be determined on group size and skill set. Hotel stay at the Great Wolf Lodge and will have plenty of time spent in the waterpark. Lunch at Midtown Global Market. \$75 trip deposit and total cost! For youth grades 6 through graduated and will need a few chaperones. Please fill out the Google form: [Summer Service Trip Google Signup](#) - so Alex can find dates and make reservations.

Middle School Retreat to Action City – Fall: Any middle school students interested in a retreat to Action City/Waterpark in the fall, please sign up here. An official date will be selected based on interested students' availability. Please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle10>

Summer Programs

Vacation Bible School 2023: VBS in 2023 will be: “DIG! The World When Jesus Lived.” It will be held **July 31–August 3, 9:00–11:30 am**, and is open to all children age 3 through completed grade 5. As always, we will need many adults and teen volunteers as well as one more cookie baker for Wednesday, August 2. Registration forms for students and sign-up sheets to help are all on the church website under the ‘connect’ button or available at church. Please register and invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to participate.

VBS Design and Builders Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsdesign>

VBS Volunteers Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers2>

VBS Cookie Bakers Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbscookie>

Registration Form: <https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/vacation-bible-school>

Summer Kids’ Musical: Following a several-year hiatus, we will again have a children’s musical in July for children who have completed kindergarten through grade 6. The show is “Oh, Jonah!” and tells the Old Testament story of Jonah and the whale. Rehearsals are **July 17–20, 9:00–noon**. The performance will be July 20 and will include dinner. Registrations are available online or at church. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Musical Volunteers Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-musical>

Registration Form: <https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/vacation-bible-school>

Sign Ups

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed: Please sign up to help host and serve. Everything you need is provided, you just need to get there a little early to get things ready, serve and do a quick clean up. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Liturgists Needed: Please sign up to be a Sunday liturgist. You will lead us in the Call to Worship and a Scripture text. The bulletin will be sent via email to you on Thursday. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Welcomers Needed: Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the worship service. One person is needed for at the bottom of the stairs & one person is needed at the ramp entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

Altar Table Flowers: Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

Church App: The church has a mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab ‘Give Online’

Finances

THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the mission and ministry of our church through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. Your generosity empowers our church! Please be sure to sign up for e-giving or mail/drop off your gifts. There is also now an option to give online via our church website.

	<u>April 23, 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,987	\$ 168,796
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,268	\$ 174,556

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Mortgage Summary – As of April 15, 2023

Original Cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining Amount on Bank Loan	\$192,017.14
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

Current Capital Campaign

Total Pledged	\$596,646.00
Total Received to Date	<u>391,168.42</u>
Remaining Balance	\$205,477.58

People

- As Wednesday School ends for the year, we are thankful for our amazing volunteers: Jen and Erin Syverson, Conor Rude, Kim Swanson, John Sullivan and Christina Krueger, you folks rock!
- For Pastor Deb leading a three-part women's Bible Study on Tuesday nights, may it kindle joy and faith
- For those who served a big, hearty funeral meal last weekend for the family of Alice Hanson, God bless you all
- For Jan Hansen who for many years has led our church yoga group and is retiring from that role, that she bask in her accomplishments at the May 9th brunch in her honor
- For local families benefiting from a diaper drive sponsored by our Mission Team as a way to honor our parents (we collect between Mother's Day and Father's Day)
- For the second successful EarthFest held this past Saturday in which over 2000 people attended
- For the chaperones on the Boston Trip—Kit Luedtke, Jena Most, Callie Trautmiller, Cindy Peterson, you were awesome!

Do you have upcoming news or celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthdays and Anniversary celebrations? Please email them to office@firstchurchrf.org by Wednesday of each week to be included in the Weekly Word which is sent out on Thursdays.

Prayer: Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. Each week in the bulletin there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is also sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the office at office@firstchurchrf.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Friday – 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Minister for Community and Outreach: Deb Meyer – deb@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – rfyouthgroup@gmail.com

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

Music: Jamie Mills - degolierjamie@gmail.com

Choir: Sarah Plum – sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com

Building: Farnum Fuller – farnumfuller@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com