

Weekly Word – For Sunday, May 21, 2023

Worship this Week:

This Sunday is both Music Sunday and Ascension Sunday. On Music Sunday our choir and bell choir will grace us with some of their favorite pieces from the program year. On Ascension Sunday we remember that after Jesus rose at Easter, he ascended to be in heaven with God but before he left us in bodily form, he gave us, his followers, specific useful instructions for daily living. This is also the last day of Sunday School so we will all celebrate with Root Beer Floats in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Join us for the last 10:00 am worship service before we switch to summer mode next Sunday when worship moves to 9:30 am.

Link to Worship Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/embed/6FRhnP_yT28

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., May 21	9:00-9:45 am	Choir and Bells 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 23	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	6:30-7:30 pm	WISE Team Interest Meeting
Wed., May 24	12:00-3:00 pm	PEO Luncheon
	7:00-8:00 pm	Baccalaureate at River Falls High School
Thurs., May 25	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	4:00-5:00 pm	Scholarship Committee Meeting
Sun., May 28	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream (<i>Note new time!</i>)
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., May 29	11:00am-12:30pm	Veteran's Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
		Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Suzanne Hagen
Deacons:	Natasha and Peter Rayne, Karen Lloyd, Marshall Skule, Suzanne Hagen
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Trustee:	Trish Graves
Welcomers:	Callie Trautmiller, Diane Crist
Coffee Fellowship:	Christian Education
Counters:	Trish Graves, Jane Truesdill

Altar table flowers are given by Lillian Tan in memory of her mother's birthday.

Loving God

Summer Worship: Next Sunday, May 28, we begin the summer season with our summer schedule of Worship at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary and Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Last Day of Sunday School: May 21 is the last day of Sunday School for the current academic year. We will celebrate another successful year with root beer floats and cookies during Coffee Fellowship. Join us!

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! The last Sunday Morning Bible conversation for this academic year will be May 21. It will resume in the fall.

Summer Nursery Help Needed: During the summer months, our church nursery is staffed by volunteers. Please sign up to help in the church nursery. Summer worship time moves to 9:30 am and the nursery is open from 9:15 to 10:45 am. Use the sign-up sheet at church or online. Please contact the church office for more information.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-summer2>

Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 4 during which we will bless our graduating high school seniors and award church scholarships. A reception in their honor will follow during Coffee Fellowship. Seniors, please make sure the office has your post-graduation plans and a senior photo!

Loving Neighbor

WISE Team Interest Meeting: There will be a meeting regarding becoming a WISE church that focuses on mental health and awareness on **Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 pm**. Join us if you are interested in learning more.

Diaper Drive: Mission Education is collecting children's diapers and wipes for United Way as a way to honor the mothers and fathers in our lives. You can take a small card to let the good parents in your life know that you're thinking of them by helping other parents who need some extra assistance. Any and all sizes of disposable diapers are needed, but the most requested sizes are the larger ones, 4, 5 and 6, since children wear them for the longest period of time. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope for Creation Summer Social: Join us on **Thursday, June 8 at 6:00 pm at the East Side Shelter in Glen Park** as Hope For Creation sponsors a summer social with a free meal and refreshments. H4C is an ecumenical group of churches working to grow in our care of God's creation. See Barb Peterson for more info. Join us!

Green Team: Are you interested in learning how to live more sustainably? Are you thankful for the gift of God's good creation and want to help care for it better? Join the Green Team! Register your interest on the sign-up sheet and we will connect to help ourselves & others live better. See Barb Peterson or Pastor Deb for more information.

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

You are all invited to Lou Greub's 90th Community Birthday Party to be held **Saturday, May 20 at the River Falls American Legion Hall, 701 N. Main St., from 1:00-5:00 pm**. Czech Area Concertina Club will be playing from 2:00-4:00 pm. Sandwiches and snacks provided. No gifts please.

Veteran's Lunch-Sunday, May 28 at 11:00 am: The menu will be barbeque rib tips, salad, potato salad, and a dessert. Please sign up at church.

Birthday Celebration: Marge Faulks will be turning 100 on June 14th (Flag Day). Coffee Fellowship on June 10th will be in her honor. Her family is also hosting a party for her on **June 18th from 1-5 pm at St Croix Lanes** in River Falls. Please come and help her celebrate! (No gifts, please.)

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 30**. All men are welcome!

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.

Softball News: The season begins Monday, June 5. Practices are at the Greenwood School ballfield area. 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>

Summer Sunday Driver: From Memorial Day to Labor Day, we have a few seniors who need a ride to church on Sunday mornings. If you would like to be part of a team to help with this ministry, please contact the church office (office@firstchurchrf.org).

Video Team Members Needed: Each week the church livestreams the worship service. This vital ministry is run by volunteers Jeff Hoffman and Ryan Luedtke. We are in need of 2 more adults and 2 youth who want to be part of this team. Training is provided and you will join a rotation to fit your schedule. Contact the office for more details and to sign up.

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: Just a reminder that all those who submitted applications for Senior High School or Continuing Education Scholarships should plan on being in worship to receive their awards on Graduation Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 am. Please see Jenny Luedtke, chair of the Scholarship Team, with any questions.

Summer Programs

Vacation Bible School: VBS in 2023 will be: "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. Registration forms for students and sign-up sheets to help are 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>

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 on 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>

Roberts UCC Vacation Bible School: All are invited to VBS at the Roberts UCC **June 25-28 from 6-8 pm**. Must register by June 11. Cost is \$10 per child or \$25 per family. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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>May 14, 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,054	\$ 221,830
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,268	\$ 205,360

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Mortgage Summary – As of May 15, 2023

Original Cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining Amount on Bank Loan	\$189,955.30
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>395,413.72</u>
Remaining Balance	\$201,232.28

People

- On Music Sunday let us give God thanks for the gift of our choir and bell choir, their leaders Sarah and Jamie, and our church musicians, Marsha and Terry, and all who help us sing a new song unto the Lord!
- For our graduating High School seniors who will be honored at Baccalaureate at RFHS at 7pm this Wednesday, may God continue to send people into your life to guide and direct you
- For Josh Sippel who graduates Friday (May 19) from Northwood Technical College in New Richmond, WI in Welding, we are pleased to see how God's gifts are being lived out in you!
- For those who will benefit from the blood drive held in our Fellowship Hall this past Wednesday, may it give people life
- For Lu Lueck who recently planted our church pots which grace our entryway, they look beautiful
- For Jan Hansen who for 20 years has led our church yoga group and is retiring from that role, that she may bask in her accomplishments
- For local families benefiting from the diaper drive sponsored by our Mission Team as a way to honor our parents (collecting between Mother's Day and Father's Day)

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

Please note: Church office will be closed on Fridays for the summer starting June 2.

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