



Sharing *First*

monthly newsletter of Galesburg
First Lutheran Church

May 2024

CONTACT US:

First Lutheran Church
364 E. Water Street
Galesburg, Illinois
309-343-3176

**Sunday Worship at
9:30 am**

**Office hours:
Monday- Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Email:

Info@
galesburgfirstlutheran.org

Website:

galesburgfirstlutheran.org



**SUBSCRIBE to instant
FLC News!**

Email *communications@
galesburgfirstlutheran.org*
or call the church office to
sign up for email
notifications.

**Let us know how to
connect with you!**

Please inform the church
office of any changes in
contact information, such
as: email, phone number,
address. *This will be
helpful for FLC to stay
current with you.*



Online Sunday Service:



<https://bit.ly/FLCGB>

*Thank you, Sarah Davis, &
Sam Carrington for your
videography & Vince
Marolla for video edits.*

*Please support the
ministries of FLC!
You may use the
QR Code to give
digitally.*

**STAFF****Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Pamela Marolla

Email: *pastorpam@galesburgfirstlutheran.org*

Office Manager/Communications Coordinator:

Izzy Garcia Mon thru Fri: 9am to 4pm
(lunch around 1pm)

Email: *info@galesburgfirstlutheran.org*

⇒ *Communications@galesburgfirstlutheran.org*

Director of Music Ministries: Bob Fornander

Email: *music@galesburgfirstlutheran.org*

Organist/Pianist: Amber Clark

Building & Grounds Steward: Mike Malmrose (9am-
2pm)

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2024

Phil Chadderdon, *President*

Dave Johnson, *Vice President*

Bob Clark, *Secretary*

Sarah Davis, *Treasurer*

Myrna Andersen

Greg Bacon

Samuel Carrington

Rose Chadderdon

Christina King

Dominic Michael

Jim Riley

Pastor Pam Marolla

FLC



Pamela M. Marolla

Next time you read through the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) try to observe how many times Jesus asks a question. By some estimates, he asks questions more than 300 times, and those are just questions that are recorded! It reminds me of those times when my own children were very young and would ask endless questions. It's how they learned. It's how Jesus taught.

I think sometimes we get so comfortable with our faith habits that we forget to ask ourselves questions. Here are just *some* of the “Jesus Questions” that I find most thought provoking. They are in Biblical order so you can easily look them up in context if you like.

- If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? (Matthew 5:46)
- Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (Matthew 6:27)
- Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Matthew 7:3)
- Why are you so afraid? (Matthew 8:26)
- Do you believe that I am able to do this? (Matthew 9:28)
- Why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:31)
- Who do people say the Son of Man is? (Matthew 16:13)
- Who do you say I am? (Matthew 16:15)
- What is it you want? (Matthew 20:21)
- What do you want me to do for you? (Matthew 20:32)
- Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? (Mark 4:21)
- Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith? (Mark 4:40)
- Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him “unclean?” (Mark 7:18)
- Do you still not see or understand? (Mark 8:17)
- Are your hearts hardened? (Mark 8:17)
- Do you have eyes but fail to see and ears but fail to hear? (Mark 8:18)
- When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up? (Mark 8:19)
- When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up? (Mark 8:20)
- What do you want me to do for you? (Mark 10:51)
- Are you asleep? (Mark 14:37)
- Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46)
- Where is your faith? (Luke 8:25)
- Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (Luke 12:25)
- So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (Luke 16:11)
- And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? (Luke 18:7)
- However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8)
- Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? (Luke 24:38)
- What do you want? (John 1:38)
- Do you want to get well? (John 5:6)
- How can you believe if you accept praise from one another yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God? (John 5:44)
- Does this offend you? (John 6:61)
- You do not want to leave too, do you? (John 6:67)
- Have I not chosen you? (John 6:70)
- If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? (John 8:46)
- Do you believe this? (John 11:26)
- Do you understand what I have done for you? (John 13:12)
- Don't you know me, even after I have been among you such a long time? (John 14:9)
- Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? (John 20:15)
- Do you love me? (John 21:17)

- **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who offered their love and care upon hearing of the death of Elizabeth Marolla, Pastor Vince Marolla's mother. Many good memories, the hope of the resurrection, and the comfort of God's people have carried us through this time.

And THANK YOU to all of you who joined in celebrating the baptism of our grand daughter Charlotte Elaine Pedigo. The whole church on heaven and earth is connected through the waters of baptism!

In loving service,
Pastors Pam and Vince Marolla and family



Thank You



2024 Synod Assembly

Open God's Story

The **Thirty-Sixth Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 14th and Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.** The theme for this assembly, as well as the theme for all of 2024, is Open God's Story. We will be focusing on God's stories - both in scripture and in our lives - and how these stories change us. The link below is all of the initial information that you will need as you prepare to register for this important event.

Interested in running for a committee or serving on Synod Council? Nominations are now open for various Synod Committees and voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2025.

Housing information can be found on the synod website; don't delay in reserving your room.

Registration is now open. We look forward to seeing you in June!

<https://www.nisynod.org/programs/2024-synod-assembly>

If you have any questions, please email assembly@nisynod.org

NIS Assembly

- **2024 Graduation Cakes**

Calling all bakers!

We are doing graduation cakes again this year after not doing them for a few years. The *Regional Alternative Education Service* (RAES) will have 50 graduates this year and we have funding to make cakes for all the graduates. (Thank you, Thrivent!)

The cakes need to be available for pick up on May 28. Please look for cake pans, cake mixes, cans of frosting, and a sign up sheet in the Hospitality Hall beginning around May 1. Please use the sign up sheet to let us know how many cakes you're willing to make so we can make sure we have a total of 50 on May 28th.

They will pick the cakes up and take them to the graduation ceremony. This has meant so much to these kids and we really appreciate your help! RAES is known as the RAES Rhinos and their colors are purple, gray, and white, if you're interested. You may decorate your cakes however you wish. Thank you so much!

The Outreach Social Ministry Committee



Could you bake a cake?

- **Homebound & Facility Members**

We want our members to know that they are still connected to First Lutheran and so we are asking you to remember them with cards and phone calls.

If you would like to contact home bound members and need addresses, please contact the church office.

- **Pastoral Communications**

We would like to keep in touch with those members who are hospitalized, in nursing homes or home bound.

We appreciate knowing when members are **in the hospital**, and would appreciate knowing when members are **released from hospitals**. For privacy requirements, hospitals do **NOT** contact the church or pastor unless requested.

If you would like Pastor Pam to contact a loved one (or yourself), please inform the church office or reach out to her directly.



- **New Partnership**

Our FLC Food Pantry is now a partner agency with community organization “Hope Initiative” located at the former rescue mission building.

“Our 5,000 sq ft Hope Distribution Center in Galesburg is stocked with products each month from Convoy of Hope, a world-wide nonprofit organization. This product (including food, cleaning supplies, shoes, backpacks, diapers, toys, and more) is available to your church FOR FREE !!”

How it works: Each month we will email a product inventory list to our partners. If there are items on the list that you can use for your organization, we will set up an appointment time for pick up. You can then use the product to meet the needs you see in your community.”

⇒ **Third Thursday on Third Street - Community Distribution Day**

Each month Hope Initiative holds a Community Distribution Day. Individuals will be able to pick up a FREE box or bag of items on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at our warehouse on 3rd Street! First come first serve.

There are no qualifications, no questions asked, and no hidden agenda. *We are distributing HOPE to our community!*

Learn more about Hope Initiative at their website:

<https://hopegalesburg.org/hope-distribution-center/>

- **FLC Food Pantry**

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we were able to serve

117 families (362 people) in April!

We are always grateful for nonperishable food or monetary donations.

First Lutheran Food Pantry serves:

2nd & 4th *Thursdays* from 1:00-2:00 pm.

3rd *Wednesday* from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Midwest Food Bank Help

On May 14 around 2:00 pm we would appreciate help unloading items from the church van that has been brought back from Midwest Food Bank in Peoria.

⇒ **Tuesdays around 10:30 am** we also gather to unload. Helping hands are welcome!

If you can help, just meet by the church kitchen. It won't take long.

Our partnership with MWFB:

We receive **free** food from MWFB several times a month. Members drive the church van to Peoria and MWFB loads the van with foods our members choose from.

- **Hope House (Galesburg Downtown Depot) Outreach Ministries**

- ◇ Monday Meals, 5:00-6:00 pm

- ◇ Food Pantry Distribution, Saturdays at 3:00 pm

- **Thank you, Smithfield!**

Our food pantry got a donation of 612.52 pounds of seasoned meat from Smithfield on 4/16/24.

Thank you, Smithfield!

Caring for our Neighbors

A big *Thank You* to all the people who help with our food

pantry! Our wonderful volunteers shop for food, drive to **Midwest Food Bank** in Peoria to get food, unload the food from the van, repack and put away the food. They also bag the food for Wednesday and Thursday pantry distributions, take the food to our guests' vehicles, and check the people in. It takes a congregation to make this mission work and all of the folks who help out are truly blessings!



FOOD PANTRY NOTE:

The food pantry thanks everyone for the donations of plastic grocery bags. We've discovered that *Target & Menards* bags are the ones that work best for packing food. We'd love to keep getting Target and Menard's bags, but please recycle the bags from other places. Your generosity was overwhelming.

On the back of our blue "**God's Work, Our Hands**" shirts is a quote from Matthew 25 that reads in part, "*For I was hungry and you gave me food.*" All year long our church seeks to follow Christ's command with our food pantry. As the virus numbers grow we've seen people lose their source of income so they need food assistance. At the food pantry distributions we've watched the number of people who come rise also.



If you'd like to volunteer we would appreciate your help. Our evening **Wednesday** food pantry distribution is from 5:30 – 6:30 on the third Wednesday of each month. Our **Thursday** distributions are from 1-2pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

We are always in need of people to help unload the van after our trips to Midwest Food Bank. If you are able to help out with any of these things and would like to be part of this mission please call: the church office, **Kelly Cheesman, or Judy Taylor**. Our church has a very special mission to feed souls and bodies of those in need. We share Christ's love by sharing our time, talents, and food.

Food Pantry

8th	Gwen Perrin
10th	Sandra Anderson
12th	Megan Brackett
14th	Jerry Albright
14th	Tamara Diefendorf
19th	Brian Anderson
20th	Sammy Diefendorf
20th	Sherri Anderson
23rd	Link Crump
26th	Anders Nelson
26th	Robert Richardson
29th	Kimberly Brackett
31st	Chris Allison

Meetings & Gatherings

Weekly gatherings, unless otherwise announced:

Weekly Worship, Sundays @ 9:30

Zoom Adult Faith Formation - Wednesdays @ 10:30

Staff Meeting, Wednesdays at 1:00

Monthly Meetings

Outreach/Social Ministry - First Tuesday at 4

Buildings and Grounds - First Tuesday at 5:30

Finance Committee - First Thursday at 5:30

Executive Committee and Council - Second

Tuesday 6:30 and 7:00 pm

Worship and Music Committee—First

Tuesday at 1 pm

Last Sundays of the month we will have a Church Potluck. All are welcome!

There will be ONE newsletter for June/July. Please submit any July announcements to the church by MAY 24TH.



- **FLC Office Closed**

The church office will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

To cover the cost of postage, we ask for a \$5.00 donation from those who receive the Sharing First Newsletter for 2024. Thank you!

May Dates

May Worship Schedule**May 5**

9:30 am Communion Service;
Noisy Offering
10:30 am Fellowship

May 12 Mother's Day

9:30 am Communion Service
10:30 am Fellowship

May 19 Pentecost Sunday

9:30 am Communion Service
10:30 am Fellowship

May 26 Trinity Sunday

9:30 am Communion Service
10:30 am Monthly Church Potluck

May Altar Care**May Worship Assistants****Assisting Ministers**

May 5 Phil Chadderdon
May 12 Vince Marolla
May 19 Carole Buebe
May 26 Steve Cheesman

May Ushers

Phil Chadderdon **(Captain)**
Dominic Michael
L.A. "Pudd" Nelson

Dave Howland **(Early Bird)**

Communion Responsibilities

May 5 Christina King,
Kelly Cheesman

May 12 Phil Chadderdon,
Rose Chadderdon

May 19 Dominic Michael,
Greg Bacon

May 26 Bob Clark,
Myrna Andersen

Sharing First

newsletter

We are children of God, called to serve and share the Good News

www.galesburgfirstlutheran.org

