



The Fisherman

April/May 2023

Volume 17 Issue 2

HE
IS
RISEN

The graphic features a background of colorful rays in shades of blue, orange, and green. A white dove is shown in flight on the right side, and a white cross is visible at the bottom center. The text 'HE IS RISEN' is written in a large, white, serif font across the center.

*The Florence Parish is a partnership in Christian Ministry of:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA & First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)
P.O. Box 47 * Florence, WI 54121 * florpar@borderlandnet.net * (715) 528-4851
First Website: www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org
Bethlehem Website: www.bethlehmlutheranflorence.org
The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we near the end of our Lenten journey with Jesus and enter the Three Days, we will soon join together again in shouts of joy. On Easter Sunday, we will proclaim--"Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!"

When Easter arrives, we will celebrate with Christians throughout the world in Jesus Christ's resurrection and promise of eternal life! We will also give thanks for our baptism, when we became children of God.

On the Sunday after Easter, Deacon Lori Ward will be leading worship at both churches. I will be participating in continuing education, by attending two conferences being held concurrently from April 16-19, in Dubuque, Iowa. In addition to attending the Rural Ministry Conference (which has a focus on small churches), I will also be attending the Quadrennial International Rural Association Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the Rural Ministry Conference, but with an additional day-and-a-half of learning sessions, worship services, and events.

On Sunday, April 23, I will return to worshipping with you. This is the day after Earth Day, so we will give thanks for God's creation. At both services, we will celebrate with all living things. We will see (or envision) green grass, budding daffodils, other spring flowers, robins, and further examples of renewal and new life. For this special Sunday, we will be drawing from a "Lutherans Restoring Creation" service that includes a sermon written by Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin.

In this time of new beginnings, let us be persistent in praying for "the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all." When we hear of sad and painful events throughout the world, let us recall our Lenten journey with Jesus, and the ways in which he lifted up the broken-hearted and supported the weak. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to pray for all in need; persons whom we know, as well as persons whom we do not know.

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PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office is in the new wing of the First Presbyterian Church at 409 Lake Avenue. The office phone number is (715) 528-4851 and our email address is florpar@borderlandnet.net.

Barb Marden, our administrative assistant, will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and from 1:00 - 3:30 pm.

CONTACTING PASTOR CATHY

Pastor Cathy is normally in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you need her at other times, please text her or knock on the door at the pastor's residence.

The best way to contact her is by texting her cell phone at 608-865-1074 or emailing her at cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu.

Save the Date! NGL Synod-Wide Family Hike May 13, 2023

Contact Stefanie Ehle (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) if you would like a Zoom link for our upcoming planning meeting.

CHURCH ACTS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the Life"

None

BAPTISMS

"Go therefore and make disciples.."

None

WEDDINGS

"The Two Shall Become One Flesh"

None

Thursday, April 6

6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service at Bethlehem

Friday, April 7

6:30 pm - Good Friday Service at First

Sunday, April 9

8:00 am - Easter Day Service at First

9:15 am - Easter Day Service at Bethlehem

Wednesday, April 12, 6:00 pm

Parish Board Meeting at First

Thursday, April 13, 6:00 pm

Church Council Meeting at Bethlehem

April 16 through 20

Pastor Cathy at Rural Ministry Conference

Wednesday, April 19, 5:30 pm

Deacons' Meeting at First

Friday, April 21, 10:00 am

Pastor Cathy leads worship at Florence Health Services

Wednesday, April 26, 3:00 pm

Session Meeting at First

Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 pm

Church Council Meeting at Bethlehem

Wednesday, May 24, 3:00 pm

Session Meeting at First



BRENT VERNON PERFORMS AT BETHLEHEM



Florence Parish has invited Brent Vernon, a singer-songwriter, ventriloquist, and children's author-illustrator from South Florida, to perform at Bethlehem on **Thursday, April 27, at 6:00 pm.**

In high school, Brent became interested in sharing his faith through the vehicle of music. He assembled a small vocal group and started writing and arranging music to sing with them at church and school functions. In the 11th grade, Brent and the group recorded their first album *Anywhere*. The group, known as Vision, went on to release three more albums together.

A year after graduating from high school, Brent and Vision hit the road full time, sharing over 200 concerts a year in the mid to late 1990's. Along the way, Brent was encouraged to incorporate his ventriloquism into the program. Reluctantly, he agreed. His puppet Will was an immediate hit and went on to become an integral part of Vision's concerts. The following summer, Will was retired and Sam took over. Brent and Sam are still a team.

With growing families and geographic challenges, Vision's tour schedule eventually came to a halt. Despite the sadness of losing the daily camaraderie of dear friends, Brent and Sam continued to travel on their own. In 2001, Brent recorded his first solo album *A Thousand Pictures*, produced by renowned songwriter Dave Clark.

In 2015, after nearly twenty years on the road, Brent decided to record again. But this time, he wanted the project to better reflect his personal journey and musical sensibility. So he learned the ropes and produced *Hope & Hunger* almost entirely by himself. Most recently, Brent re-released *Keys: Songs from the Altar*, a soul-searching follow up to the original *Keys* instrumental recording. *Altar* includes beloved hymns of invitation and reflection

Brent has always appreciated the opportunities to share his music, but in 2010, he felt strongly that his childhood love for great stories and characters should be explored. Late that year, he released his first children's book, *Neckless: The Audrey Amaka Story*. In 2015, Brent released a Christmas book, *The Gingerbrood*—the rollicking tale of five gingerbread cookies on the run. Written in verse, *The Gingerbrood* is geared to young readers, but retains a level of humor and sophistication that older children enjoy as well. A delightful follow-up called *The Gingerbrood & Little Dart* was released in December of 2017 and the educational *Cookies and Colors with the Gingerbrood* board book in the summer of 2019.

Brent continues to balance his tour schedule with developing products, writing new stories, and designing children's books for other authors. Despite the constant motion, Brent insists there *is* a point to it all: "My ultimate goal is to make a meaningful connection with people and point them to a loving God—a God who can change us from the inside out. What we do in this life matters in the next. And because of God's grace revealed to us through Jesus, we have the hope of eternal life. I feel strongly that my talents must be used to share redemptive messages to promote healing and wholeness in our hearts and homes."

Please join us and invite your friends and family - particularly the children in your life - for this fun and inspirational experience.

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Join people from across the Northern Great Lakes Synod for a fun and interesting series of short programs from Monday, May 15 – Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Free of charge and open to anyone who wants to take part, most workshops are 50-minutes each. Time will be allocated for questions and comments. Advance registration is not required. If not yet available, Zoom links will be posted prior to each program. A couple highlights from the 2023 line-up are below. To see more courses, visit [www.nglsynod.org/assembly/online-workshops/](https://nglsynod.org/assembly/online-workshops/)



#NGLSYouth

with **Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator**

Monday, May 15 at 6 pm ET / 5 pm CT – Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85750126170>

Watch the workshop promo at <https://youtu.be/S5S5yzLhQB4>

Stop by this workshop to learn what young people in our synod have been up to this year and how you can support and grow youth ministry in your congregations. Knowledge and use of hashtags are not required :)

“Could this be the Christ?” A wellspring of scandals in John Chapter 4
with **Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique**

Tuesday, May 16 at 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT – Zoom link coming soon

Wednesday, May 17 at 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT – Zoom link coming soon

Watch the workshop promo at <https://youtu.be/VGt1iS0Ohns>

Pastor Tommy has been leading Bible Studies for the Synod’s Lifelong Faith Formation program since it was launched in 2020, applying his seminary and pastoral experiences to his teaching, along with his sense of humor. For this workshop he says, “We will take a deep-dive into the story of the woman at the well, and leave scandalized and fulfilled all at the same time.”

The Presbytery of Mackinac

Final Course - Winter 2023 **Esther - Song of Solomon**

CRE/CLP Education

Pastor David Van Dam is teaching this 6 week course which discusses people of God living their faith and giving expression to that faith. **The Zoom classes begin Thursday, April 13 at 4pm**



If interested, please let Barb know and she will help you register.

Upcoming Courses - Fall 2023 *Registration Opens in Late Summer 2023*

Christianity in the World

Sept-Oct 2023 -- 5 Classes via Zoom

Exegetical Work

Oct-Nov 2023 -- 5 Classes via Zoom

New Testament from Romans to Revelation

Oct-Dec 2023 -- 10 Classes via Zoom

For more info on CRE/CLP education, visit <https://www.presbymac.org/partners>

The Presbytery of Mackinac

Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
with Rev. Jeri Baker
January 19 through January 28, 2024



"A visit to the Holy Land is an experience that you will never forget. You will feel the Spirit moving as you walk the lands of our ancestors of faith and connect with the scriptures both physically and visually. It will affect your faith life in unique ways. Come along on this spiritual pilgrimage, walking the very places where the Lord himself trod. Hosted by Rev. Jeri Baker, Hessel Presbyterian Church and Rudyard Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)"

Leaving from Chicago on January 19 and returning on January 28. Other airport options may be available if there is need.

\$3,790.00 per person (double occupancy), which includes airfare, land travel, breakfast and dinner, entrance fees, hotels, private coach with guide. Space is limited to 36. If you think you might be interested, please ask Barb to get the itinerary for you. Rev. Baker's contact information is revjeribaker@gmail.com.

FROM THE PASTOR *(Continued from page 2)*

Let us also be steadfast in prayer for the children and youth in Florence and surrounding communities. Please pray that we will be able to hire a warm, open, approachable, and empathetic "Children and Youth Coordinator" who will create an After-School Program for our parish. Please pray for the children and youth as they attend our upcoming concert/show with Brent Vernon on April 27th at Bethlehem, make plans to participate in our 2023 "A Summer Day at Camp," and register to attend camp at Fortune Lake or Presbytery Point with our scholarship support. For Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

COUNCIL AND SESSION MEETING NOTES

We are still exploring options for storing our Session and Council meeting notes in a common digital space, but have been a little delayed because of Holy Week. In the meantime, we plan to send out past copies next week to those who have asked.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries
to
Celebrate



At First

4/5 - Kit DeMuri
 4/10 - Ruth Blohm
 4/18 - Spencer Davis
 4/24 - Michael Smith
 5/7 - Emmett Johnson
 5/8 - Lisa Novak
 5/10 - Dave Knispel
 5/11 - Lilly Mayfield-Wilson
 5/18 - Alicia Gehlhoff
 5/22 - Greg Novak
 6/18 - Dianne Olive
 6/21 - Lois Ann Johnson
 6/26 - Chris Klescewski
 6/26 - Gina Gehlhoff
 6/28 - Evelyn Vassar

Anniversaries

4/12 - Ken & Linda Johnson
 4/21 - Dave & Patty Knispel
 6/22 - Ann & Jim Brolin

At Bethlehem

4/4 - Thomas Wittkopf
 4/9 - Jordyn Springer
 4/9 - Jenna Springer
 4/18 - Ben Lehto
 4/24 - Jan Schaal
 4/30 - Kathy DeGrave
 5/8 - Chris Nelson
 5/14 - Rochelle Wittkopf
 5/16 - Jean Manley
 5/20 - Randy Foltz
 5/21 - Diane Ivy
 5/29 - Myrna Erdmann
 6/5 - Kathy Friberg
 6/11 - Jackie Lehto
 6/11 - Connie Walther
 6/25 - Missy Lison

Anniversaries

4/26 - Wayne & Mary Voelker
 5/10 - Tim & Laura Schwanz
 5/25 - Bill and Deb Fleming
 5/30 - Kathy & Dennis DeGrave
 6/3 - Tom & Rochelle Wittkopf
 6/10 - Don & Melissa Lison
 6/25 - Pastor Doug & Elaine

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH COUNCIL, SESSION, & DEACONS

BETHLEHEM COUNCIL

Deb Fleming
 Bill Fleming
 Robert Friberg
 Diane Theis
 Mary Voelker
 Connie Walther

FIRST'S SESSION

Frank DeCleene
 Debbie DeMuri
 Jim Gehlhoff
 Jan Roberts
 Karen Wertanen
 Janell White

FIRST'S DEACONS

Joan Churchill
 Wendy Gehlhoff
 Kelley Johnson
 Lois Ann Johnson
 Lisa Novak
 Janell White

The Florence Parish

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