

Parish News

APRIL 2026

BRITTON LUTHERAN PARISH

Britton Lutheran Parish Holy Week Schedule

First Lutheran

Maundy Thursday | 7pm April 2nd
Good Friday | 8pm April 3rd
Easter | 7am & 9am April 5th

Pleasant Valley

Maundy Thursday | 6pm April 2nd
Easter | 10:30am April 5th

Lake City

Good Friday | 6pm April 3rd



Easter

All are welcome to join for Easter on Sunday, April 5th at First Lutheran and Pleasant Valley!

First Lutheran

7:00am Sunrise Worship
Jaws will serve breakfast
between services
9:00am Worship



Pleasant Valley
10:30am Worship



PAINTING OF THE WORD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH
6:30-7:45pm

Come dive into Christ meeting with his disciples after the Easter resurrection and providing the miraculous catch. You'll paint your own 9x12 canvas to take home! Paul Oman will be leading us via zoom along with other churches!

Cost is \$10

You can sign up in the fellowship hall or contact Pastor Lexy at 605-590-0140.

COME
PAINT
THIS!

MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group (Men of First) is planning to meet every other month. Plans are to have some faith based speakers and some outdoor activities.

Please join us!

Next Meeting Sunday, May 3 @ 6:00pm

ONETIME BIBLE STUDY

"Family"

WED APRIL 29 | 5:30 PM-8:00 PM

First Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Supper provided. No need to RSVP.



From the Pastor:

I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins

The forgiveness of sin is God's most important work. It is the epitome of the gospel, itself - the one, real treasure of Christianity. Forgiveness of sin is the accomplishment or benefit given out from Scripture's pinnacle moment - the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the one concept in Scripture that all other Scripture leads up to or points to. When Jesus teaches his disciples how to preach, forgiveness is the ONE thing he teaches them: *"If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* That was the whole of Jesus's lesson on preaching for the disciples.

God is not God "in part," and he does not make a habit of doing partial projects, either. He tends to finish what he started, sometimes announcing the completion of a project with words like, "and it was good," or "it is finished." In other words, he gets things *all-the-way done*. *He sells out to finish his projects - going to, what we would certainly call, drastic measures. This is also true when we learn just how much God intends to forgive - the sin of the world. We're pretty sure that's way too much.*

A world where sins are forgiven to that extent is unfathomable. Think of all the ramifications: No accountability, no motivation to be good, apathy, chaos, lack of purpose, etc. These are the things we imagine would happen if such whole-sale forgiveness was enacted. In general, we're worried it's a bad idea. It's bad business. We're scared we'll get burned somehow. We're pessimistically cautious that forgiveness will get taken advantage of. Since our reason is completely opposed to forgiveness, it can only happen *unreasonably - through the Holy Spirit working in us, creating faith in forgiveness where there once was none. Since we simply won't have it, the Holy Spirit goes to work to enlighten us, which is perhaps more like getting hit on the head with a frying pan than turning a light on...*

Why isn't the forgiveness of sins appealing? Not much in all of Christianity is more self-debricating than this: *"I believe in the forgiveness of sins."* *When we speak this line, we're not talking about some ethereal forgiving that's done "out there" somewhere. We're speaking about forgiveness for ourselves. Confessing belief in forgiveness is admitting that we're in need of it. We're forced to come to terms with the things for which we need forgiveness, which is not our favorite pastime. In fact, we spend most of our lives trying to prove to others and ourselves that we're trustworthy, loving, dedicated, upright, generally righteous, and a whole litany of other positive characteristics we're trying to prove, too. As such, forgiveness enters a world that is desperately trying to prove that it does not need forgiveness. Because with forgiveness, we're forced to face our idolatry, our unbelief, our manipulative tendencies, our hesitancy to listen to God, our disdain for those in authority, our murdering, our bad relationships, our stealing, our gossiping, our coveting, our hatred, and more. (This isn't nearly as fun as trying to prove trustworthiness, dedication, etc.) The Torah tells us that for these transgressions, we deserve death. So we don't need forgiveness in the way that we're in need of a massage or a haircut every once in a while. Our need for forgiveness is incredibly imminent. We desperately need forgiveness of our sins. Without it, we have death. No life. Just death. Forever.*

When Jesus came into the world offering forgiveness, we crucified him. That's how much we really don't care for it. However, the Holy Spirit is bent on making it happen. What we thought might get rid of forgiveness once and for all - crucifying God - turned out to actually *give forgiveness to the world. God found a way to get through to us, interestingly enough, through forgiveness. How would God deal with our hatred of forgiveness? - by forgiving us! No one would ever believe this forgiveness without the work of the Holy Spirit. Luther's famous line - "I believe that I cannot believe by my own understanding or effort" - shines through brilliantly when it comes to belief in forgiveness. Only by the Holy Spirit would anyone ever have faith in the forgiveness of sins. We live by the grace of God.*

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!
Pastor Jesse



FIRST Communion

The following 5th Graders will receive the Lord's Supper for the first time on Maundy Thursday at First Lutheran::

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sophia Erickson | Wynn Mattson |
| Weston Hastings | Ella Mundt |
| Reeve Knecht | Hayden Peters |
| Lukas Knudson | Jase Stelzer |
| Elias Leonard | Lennox Stenvold |
| Tyler Wurst | |

Raising The Bar: The Alma Richards Story
FREE MOVIE FOR EVERYONE

Thursday
April 9

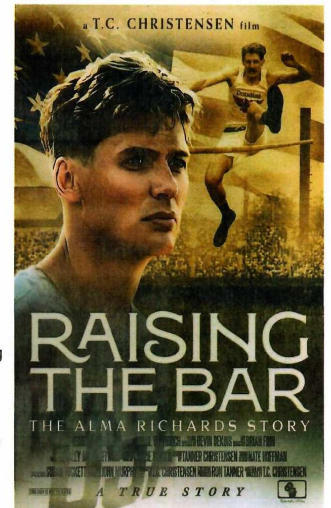
Doors Open
6:00 p.m.

Show Time
7:00 p.m.

Rated: PG for thematic elements, language & smoking

Runtime: 103 min

Please plan to come early and fill the theatre



Starring: Paul Wutrich, Kenyon Stinger, Ali Durham

Inspired by the TRUE STORY:

In 1908, Eighth grader Alma Richards quits school. He doesn't see the point in going when he could be working as a ranch hand. A chance encounter with a Michigan State Professor sets Alma back on the road to education, which in turn leads him to more than he's ever dreamed of including a trip to the Stockholm Olympics competing in High Jump for a Gold Medal

STRAND THEATRE

Our fifth graders made unleavened bread as part of their First Communion class yesterday. The bread they made will be served for worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2..



Reminder: FL Trust Fund and PV Scholarship Fund are offering \$250 scholarships for public college attendees and \$500 scholarships for Lutheran college attendees. Applicants need to be members of Britton Lutheran Parish. The application deadline is April 15 for High School seniors.



NORMAN CARLSON

Endowment Fund

- † Kent and Jane Duerre
- † Marcella Duerre
- † Family and Friends
- † Curt and Jan Foster
- † Dennis and Jane Mattson

DOROTHY CHRISTENSON

Music Fund

- † Sandy Hastings

CLAYTON GERKEN

Endowment Fund

- † Walt and Patty Roehr
- † Al and Marlene Sime

Undesignated

- † Jerome Ness

BETH HAAVIG

Endowment Fund

- † Walt and Patty Roehr

KENT OLAND

Endowment Fund

- † Maxine Vrchota

ANNE SPITLER

Undesignated

- † David and Gretchen Christenson



Preschool—2nd graders shared their memory work March 8.

On March 22 the 3rd grader recited the books of the New testament; 4th graders recited books of the Old testament; 5th graders recited the 23rd Psalm and 6th graders shared the Apostles' Creed.





Our 7th grade confirmation class attended the Confirmation Retreat along with over 100 others kids at Vining MN, Feb 27-Mar 1.

High School Girls Bible Study

Monday, April 20 @ 6:30
Fellowship Hall @ First Lutheran
Lunch Provided
All highschool girls are welcome!

Girls Support Girls
PRAYER CIRCLE

Cultivating a community of prayer and support for girls in our community. Big test coming up? Stressed? Worried? No matter how big or small - you're not alone! Girls empowering girls through word and prayer.

✝ 9-12 GIRLS "CIRCLED BY FAITH"
✝ 6-8 GIRLS "LIFT" (LOVE IN FELLOWSHIP & TRUTH)

♥ CONTACT MICHELLE KRUTSINGER WITH ♥
QUESTIONS AND TO GET YOUR GIRL INCLUDED
ON THE CHAIN. YOU CAN REACH MICHELLE AT
605-470-0214

Christian Symbol

PEACOCK — The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification.

Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing— atoning, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity.

Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.

There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! *There's something better coming.*

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." *There's something better coming!*