

Summer Sermon Series
"The Parables Of Jesus"

"All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable." (Matthew 13:34, ESV)

I love a good story. And my favorite ones usually have something to do with my good old Uncle Ole. Like the time when Ole walked into the doctor's office in his hometown in Minnesota. The receptionist said, "Can I help you?" Ole said, "I need to talk to da doctor." The receptionist said, "What do you need to talk to him about?" Ole said, "I got da shingles." She said, "Why don't you just sit down over there and someone will come and talk to you."

About a half hour later, a nurse came up to Ole and asked, "So, tell me, what is it that you have?" Again, Ole said, "I got da shingles." The nurse said, "Okay. Why don't you go into that room over there, get undressed, and put on one of the gowns that are on the counter." So that is what Ole did.

He waited another half hour, and finally the doctor came in. The doctor said, "Hi there, Ole, good to see you. Now tell me again, what is it that you have?" Ole said, "Like I told da lady out front, and like I told da nurse, I have da shingles." The doctor said, "And exactly where are the shingles?" Ole said, "Dey are out in my truck. Da lumberyard told me to bring 'em here and ask you where you wanted me to stack 'em."

The point of the story is that, if you really want to understand what a person is saying, it's always important to ask a few more questions. And that's kind of what the parables of Jesus are all about.

Jesus was thirty years old when he was baptized by John the Baptist. That was the beginning of his public preaching and teaching ministry. That ministry would last for three years, up until his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven when he was thirty-three. In the early part of those three years, the teaching of Jesus was pretty clear and straightforward. But it also led to a great deal of controversy.

The religious leaders of the day, primarily the Scribes and Pharisees, began to challenge and attack Jesus. They were angry because he did not follow all of their manmade traditions. And they were also jealous, because crowds of people were following Jesus and wondering if he might be the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of Israel.

So about halfway through his three-year ministry, Jesus changed his method of teaching in public. Instead of teaching with plain theological statements, Jesus began to share important spiritual truths through parables. Jesus knew that most of the religious leaders would simply dismiss his folksy stories as the simplistic ramblings of a country preacher. But he also knew that the people who **really** wanted to understand his teaching would come to him and ask questions. And those people would hear the powerful spiritual truths that were buried deep in the stories.

During this latter part of the spring and throughout the summer I thought it might be fun to walk through several of these parables with you. Bible scholars have identified about thirty or so parables of Jesus, along with some brief illustrations that could be classified as "mini parables." I'm not going to try to cover all of them in this sermon series. But I will look at about twenty of them. I will dig into the cultural context of the parables, so that you can have a better understanding of what

the people of that day would have heard when Jesus told these stories. And I will try to apply the truths of the parables to our time and our context.

I hope you can join us for all or most of this series. I know that summer brings many fun activities and vacations. But when you are in town, I look forward to seeing you in worship so that we can all explore these fascinating and insightful stories together!

Pastor Shields

Office Hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon. – Thurs.
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**Office Closed
Memorial Day, May 27**

*Special announcements for the bulletin, or the screen, need to be to the office by **Thursday morning**. Call, leave a message, email, or drop off a note. **Newsletter deadline will be the 20th day of June.***

COUNCIL Summary – April 2024:

The agenda, March minutes, & financial reports were approved.

Pastor’s Report – 12 worship services, 15 calls, 23 meetings & classes, 16 appointments, 2 funerals (Bud Wedding & Mary Hull) Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers, Greenfield Chapel Service, Holy Week services, Owls Service, Easter Services. Coming: Special Needs Prom, April Mobile Food Pantry.

Admin. Report – March Sunday attendance 123 / 49 views – Attendance for 5 Lenten services 43 / 58 views, Maundy Thursday 64 (including OWLs) 41 views, Good Friday 61 / 28 views, Easter Sunday 35 at 7:00am, 130 at 9:30am (total 165) 43 views.

Property – Getting estimate on repairs for the boiler, working on inspection list, lawn mower serviced & ready, new policy to have 2 people when checking the sump pump pit in the yard (one above ground /one in the pit), looking into security measures, will purchase back-up surge protector for elevator panel & lightning arrestor from Elmore’s, sump pumps in pit will be checked, looking for perfect doorknob for the elevator entrance, will obtain generic relays for the elevator controls to have on hand. Forming security task force.

Service & Mission – Next Mobile Food Pantry on April 25th, Easter Breakfast yielded \$626.50 in donations, Lenten Denial offerings: \$723 Princeton Food Pantry, \$393 Buddy Bags, \$539 Princeton Ministerial Assn. April Benevolence Freedom House \$500, River Bend Food Bank \$1000, Farm Stew \$750. Considering hosting the Christmas Carol Sing-along.

Outreach & Fellowship – Feb. Food Challenge: 1st Lutheran 955 lbs, New Hope 433 lbs, Peoples Church 355 lbs., Presbyterian 148 lbs. = 1,891 total lbs. Looked over literature for the Pictorial Directory. Photography dates are Tuesday, June 4th & Wednesday June 5th.

Youth & Education – Working on volunteers for VBS, end of year Sunday School Teachers meeting.

Worship – Palm branches cleaned up, risers & candelabras stored, price for Pentecost geraniums, Gary Swanson contacted for Sept. 15 Rally Day, pencils in pews and attendance book issues.


Finance – Giving through March \$500 greater than expenses, total giving \$4500 ahead of March last year (2023 Easter was in April), Building Fund balance \$41,500 after paying Endowment loan.

Old Business – Paperwork sent for the Peterson Charitable Trust.

New Business – Request for use of the building for May 18th graduation party was approved by council.


Endowment Committee
10:00am - Monday, May 6th

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
11:30am MONDAY, May 6 - Worship
7:00pm - TUESDAY, May 7 - Committees
COUNCIL MEETING
3:30PM - TUESDAY, May 14

 **ALTAR FLOWERS**
The open dates coming up:
May 19, and June 9, 23, 30
Please call the office if you would like to schedule one of the above Sundays

ALTAR GUILD
May – Mary Ann Smith, Lynn Holland
June – Karen May, Lani Swinford, Julia Cain
July – June Ohlson, Cindy Pierson,
Laurie Anderson

CIRCLE MEETINGS
Tuesday, May 21, 2024
9:30am Rebekah
3:00pm Lydia


MAY BIRTHDAYS
Pat Polson 5/1
Naomi Ramirez 5/1
Dave Schuetz 5/3
Lynne Swanson 5/4
Trent Pierson 5/7
Rick Cook 5/10
Jed Adamow 5/13
Steve Saunders 5/15
Dennis Ohlson 5/19
Ruby Ohlson 5/21
Emerson Busche 5/23
Julia Cain 5/24
Kevin Martin 5/25
Jim Muelschlegel 5/25
Ryne Muehlschlegel 5/25
Tom Kloster Sr. 5/27
Alan Knotek 2/28

 **May Anniversaries**
Chris & Emily Adamow 5/20
Hank & Evelyn Sale 5/27

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP
10:00am - Tuesdays, May 14 & 28
&
QUILTERS
1:00pm – Thursday, May 9 & 23

Old Wheels Meetings
Saturday, May 4th &
Saturday, June 1st
8:00am - Scugg's Pond



2024 GRADUATES!

8TH Grade

*Allister Swanson
(Ray & Cheri Swanson)*

Hudson Kloster
(Tony & Heather Kloster)

Camden Jennings
(Chris & Tiffany Jennings)

COLLEGE

University of Alabama - May 4th

Ryne Muehlschlegel

BS in Commerce & Business Admin.

(Jim & Dawn Muehlschlegel)



**Abigail Women's Center
Baby Bottle Collection**

**Mother's Day, May 12
through**

Father's Day, June 16

**Pick up your baby bottle in the back of church.
Fill the bottle with your change to help a
young mother in need.**

**Ladies Departed
Since 2023 Mother's Day**

Lois "Sue" Markiewicz 8/13/23

Diane Wampler 8/27/23

Judy Diers 11/11/23

Eva Coats 12/30/23

Linda Kloc 1/21/24

Mary Hull 3/2/24

*The LCW has purchased books in their
memory for our Library.*

PENTECOST – SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

Please WEAR RED to church!

**Pastor Norm Femrite will be preaching
& communion will be served.**

THANK YOU!

To our "other" church family,

Larry & I would like to thank all of you who sent cards, checked in to see how Larry was, but most of all thank you for praying. God has been so faithful & we praise Him for seeing us through these past weeks. Your church means a lot to us. Thank you for everything. Kathy Allen

HONORING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool/Kindergarten - Lisa Shields & assistants: Ava Kyle, Gay Kyle & Dawn Muehlschlegel

1st & 2nd grade - Marilynne Kloster & Joanne Sheldon

3rd & 4th grade - Jennifer Jaques & Ian Eklof

5th - 8th grade - Don Kyle

Please thank them for their service to the children of this church. They spend many hours preparing lessons & activities so our children have a fun & safe place to learn the stories of the Bible. They all do a great job!

**The last day of classes will be May 12th.
May 12 will be a Super Sunday & special
treats will be provided for all Sunday
School students & staff. So parents,
please send your kids directly downstairs,
past the Fellowship Hall treats & directly
to their classrooms!**

Pastor's Bible Study

11:00am Wednesday Bible Study

6:00pm Thursday Bible Study

No Bible Study May 15 or 16.

**Last Bible Studies before summer break
will be May 22 & 23.**

Thank You!

To everyone who helped make "A Night to Remember" a success.

Pastor's letter in the April church newsletter says it all. The last 2 sentences are my favorite "And our special needs friends are giving us a glimpse of the joy right now (being in heaven). In their smiles we see the love of God. And we can't help but smile back.

Numerous people Saturday night told me you could feel the love in the room and it made their heart happy.

Thank you to First Lutheran as the sponsor of this event and to all the volunteers who help every year. Especially to our Lord and Savior who is with us every step of the way. We can't help but smile back.

Dianne Van Drew



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY REPORT

The April 25th Mobile Food Pantry served 142 households totaling 334 people.

Our next one will be Thursday, June 27th.

SCUBA VBS PROGRAM

July 14-18, 2024

5:00 – 7:30pm



Supper will be served at 5:00 each night with the program to follow.

Registration forms can be picked up in the back of church or in the office. Please turn in your forms as soon as possible so you can receive a CD or download card with this year's music.

We are seeking volunteers for this summer's VBS week. Help is needed in the kitchen, crew leaders for groups of children, outside games & activities, craft room assistants. Talk to June Ohlson if you would be able to help in some way that week.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

This year is 1st Lutheran's 170th Anniversary of our founding.

It's been 6 years since our last directory.

Arrangements have been made with Universal Church Directories for a new book. Pictures are scheduled to be taken on Tuesday, June 4th and Wednesday, June 5th.

Sign-up online by going to www.ucdir.com, our church code is: il369 & password: photos. The online sign-up will be shut down over the weekends & in person sign-ups will take place on Sundays at church. You may also submit a photo or arrange to have one taken at another church using the same company.

To submit a photo, you may email it to the office (office.flcprinceton@gmail.com) or bring in a photo. It can be scanned & the office will submit it for you.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact the office.

Can you help us?

We are looking for a couple of folding clothes racks to use during the week of Bible school.

Continued prayers for:

Cancer patients: Loren Cook, Brenda Cook, Karen May, Gary Schail, Nancy O'Connor mother of Pam & Jerry Zibert's son-in-law, Chad Errio), Eric Davis (brother-in law to Rob Buchanan), Michael Frandsen (Lani Swinford's brother), Steve Heward (son-in-law of Hank & Evelyn Sale), Derek Stier (cousin of Jeff Jaques, Rodney Smith (brother of Duane).

Others: Sandi Smith, Char Morger, Dave Little, Roger Munson.

**Old Wheels Car Show
& LCW BAKE SALE**

**June 15, 2024
10am – 2pm**

**The Bake Sale & Food Sale will go as long as the
food lasts.**

**There will be a Bounce House &
Train ride for the kids.**

DJ Scott Bickett will be on hand with his music.



CAMP MENNO HAVEN

Open House

9am – 4pm - Monday, May 27th, 2024

Come walk the trails, play in the gym, go fishing, enjoy a snow cone, paddle around the lake in kayaks, canoes or paddle boats.

Bring a side dish for the noon Potluck.

Please RSVP to mennohaven.com/rallyday

Habitat for Humanity

H/H has opened an application period for a new house build in Princeton in 2024. Anyone interested will need to complete a one-page pre-qualification worksheet to determine eligibility for a further application package. You must show a need for housing, willing to partner in the building and ability to repay an affordable low interest mortgage. Income cap is \$66,500 for a family of 4 or \$87,800 for larger family. Go to www.localhabitat.org for Pre-qualification worksheet. For more information or to request a printed form, contact Fran Gibson, at 815-434-2041 ext. 001, send email to habitat628@att.net or stop by the office located in the ReStore at 1011 Shooting Park Rd., Peru, IL.

We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing.

–George Bernard Shaw

The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of
a wise man is in his heart. –Benjamin Franklin

**RED GERANIUM FLOWER ORDER FORM
FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Flowers may be ordered through the church at **\$18.00** per plant.

_____ # Red Geranium Plants

My plant/s is a
memorial to: _____

My plant/s is
in honor of: _____

Order form & payment may be placed in the offering or turned into the office by **May 12th**.
Make checks out to "First Lutheran Church".

Plants may be picked up after worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.

Signed _____