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First Word
The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

Easter: God's Ultimate Benediction

It's a big word. An uncommon word. But it's at the very heart of our celebration come Easter ...

What's a bene-diction? We hear it every vespers service or on Sunday at the close of the service—sending us out into the new week with hope and renewed confidence: “The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make his face to shine on you ...” (Deuteronomy 6:24). A benediction literally means to say a “good” (bene) “word” (diction).

It's a much-needed word in our culture, where so many of us feel not blessed, but cursed. Ponder this with me: “To give a benediction creates the reality of which it speaks” (H. Nouwen; *Life of the Beloved*, 56). It's a mother's: “I love you.” A father's: “I forgive you.” A friend's: “You're awesome, dude!” Get it? The spoken word has a spirited power to transform, to create new life. Thus, Easter is God's Ultimate Benediction. God's good-word that reminds us of his resurrecting life, and hope, and light—that shines in all the dark places of our lives.



Pastor John Christopherson

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In the very first chapter of the Bible, Genesis, God created somethin' out of nothin', being out of non-being, light out of darkness. How? By speaking just a word. “And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). And God said: “Let the earth bring forth living creatures ... and let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:24, 26). And God said ... And God said ...

And it was very good. And as the book of Job tells us: “The morning stars sang together, and all the children of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7).

But then sin slithered into the beautiful picture. And the “good sayings” were forgotten.

A devil of a snake fed man a line and an apple. “SSSSS ... Sssssay, Adam ... you're lookin' pretty sssswarthy today ... Look at the ssssize of those pythons! And Eve, well ... what can I ssssay? I think Y-O-U should be god.” And being the “Blue Light Special” consumers that we are—we swallowed it all (concupiscence), “hook, line, and sinker.” And the sinker of this self-centered sin took humanity—and you and me—all the way to the bottom. And it was darkness all around. Paradise lost (John Milton).

And so, God gathered a people, a chosen people, blessed them to be a blessing, a light to all the nations (Genesis 12:1f). God sent the descendent stars of Abraham, but the impotence of will won out over importance of faith. God sent a flaming bush to Moses, to “Let my people go!” ... But they ended up worshipping the various golden calves that still keep us in bondage today. (Wonder what they are? Check your check stubs. Check your calendar.) God sent fiery prophets, but they either got water thrown on their parade or were extinguished. And then like a 9/11-straight-from-hell, God's chosen people were blown to the winds of Babylon by terrorists. Everything burned to the ground. “Ashes, ashes, they all fell down.” ... And on fallen knees they cried out to God. God heard their cry, as God

Lenten midweek services

Lent IV, April 6

11:15 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Theme: Images from the Prison

Preacher: Pastor Natanael Lizarazo

Lent V, April 13

11:15 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Theme: Images from the Hospital

Preacher: Pastor Barbara Wangness

Holy Week services

Palm Sunday, April 17

8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m.

Maunder Thursday, April 21

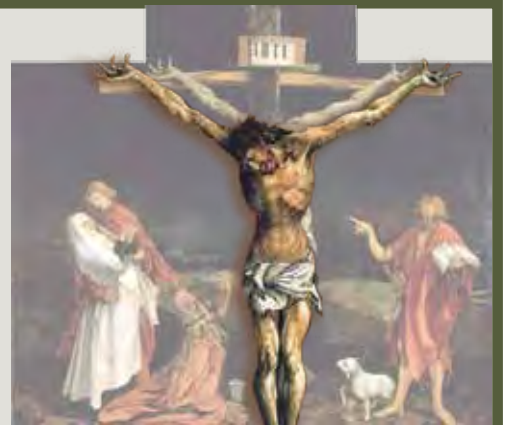
11:15 a.m. & 7 p.m. Communion

Preacher: Pastor Jason Burggraff

Good Friday, April 22

12 noon Family Service

Preacher: Pastor Jason Burggraff



beneath the cross of
JESUS

Grünewald's "Crucifixion"

7 p.m. Choral Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion
 Preacher: Pastor John Christopherson

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 23

5 p.m. Communion

Preacher: Pastor Natanael Lizarazo

Easter Sunday, April 24

6, 8, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m.

Preacher: Pastor John Christopherson

always does ...

“In the fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4), God said: “**This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine—I mean, really shine! To help them remember that I love them and that they're not alone.**” And God did. Never wearying of trying to get himself a-cross, word after word, in search of the right word, God gave us the most wondrous gift: the **Word made flesh in Jesus** (John 1:14). And so, for all of the world's not-so-

certain-shepherds, those who then as now represent each of us—those who sit in darkness of debt, divorce, doubt, disease, death—God's light came to dwell, wrapped in swaddling cloths (Luke 2:12). Emmanuel: “God-with-us.”

But swaddling cloths can reveal as well as conceal. And Jesus' mother, Mary knew this temptation very well.

—continued on page 8

Many opportunities are available to share your time and talents

The theme of this year's Stewardship program is “First Stewards” and consists of four sub-areas

each of which will be emphasized throughout the year. This quarter, the focus is on “Stewardship of Time and Talents.”



In a book studied by the Stewardship Board, *Beyond the Collection Plate* by Michael Durall, a number of definitions of stewardship were given, but one is particularly appropriate: “Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe.” The key words here are “what we do” and it is well for us to examine the many opportunities and possibilities that we have at First Lutheran Church to share our time and talents.

It is sometimes difficult for members of a relatively large congregation to know everything that happens regularly, so check out page 4 to learn a few things about what happens around First Lutheran that people may not know!

Clara Anderson knits a shawl for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

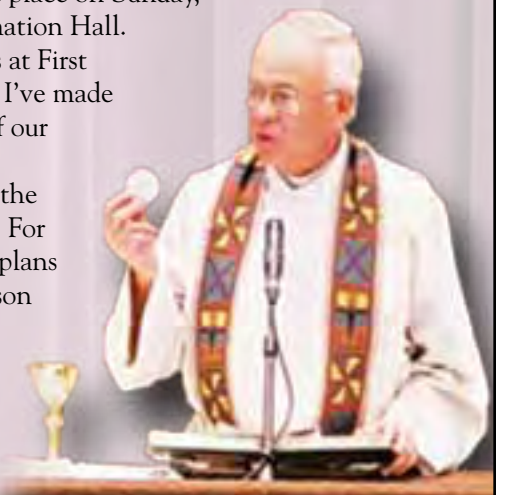
Pastor Dave Johnson to retire April 15

After nearly 11 years on staff at First Lutheran Church, Pastor Dave Johnson is retiring on Friday, April 15.

A reception in his honor will take place on Sunday, April 10, between services in Reformation Hall.

“These have been wonderful years at First Lutheran,” says Pastor Dave. “I hope I've made some small contribution to the life of our congregation.”

Pastor Dave will continue to lead the Thursday morning men's Bible study. For the rest of his retirement, he says he plans to occasionally fill a pulpit, hear his son preach, travel to visit his Nebraska grandchildren and “accomplish some other kind of mischief involving game, fish or parks.”



MISSION STATEMENT

First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus.
(Matthew 22:34-40)

We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus.
(Matthew 28:16-20)

We are committed to welcome and minister to all people.

We are committed to equipping people for ministry.

We are committed to service in our community and world.

We are committed to a ministry of relationship building.

We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church.

We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry.



Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 24
7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Reformation Hall

On the menu is pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. The breakfast is a gift from the custodians, who worked the parking lot to pay for the supplies. They pledge not to run out of sausage this year!

Soup and Bread Meals

Lenten Soup and Bread Meals are served in Reformation Hall from 12 to 1 p.m. and 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. each Wednesday through April 13. Cost is \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children ages 5 to 12, and those under 5 are free. Proceeds will support First Lutheran seminary students and the Food to You Mobile Food Pantry. Hamburger vegetable soup is on the menu for April 6. Potato ham soup will be served April 13.

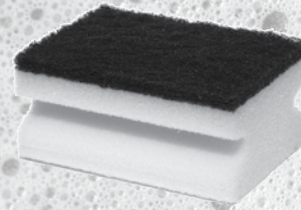


Lenten meal volunteers stir up the soup with a smile.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 16
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bring a handheld vacuum if you have one. All ages welcome!



Scripture lessons

April 3: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 10: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 17: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philemon 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

April 21 (Maundy Thursday): Exodus 12:1-4[5-10], 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 22 (Good Friday): Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

April 23 (Easter Vigil): Romans 6:3-11; John 20:1-18

April 24: Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY (Christ the Victor Chapel)
5 p.m. Vespers with Communion

SUNDAY (Sanctuary)
8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion
9:45 a.m. Traditional Worship
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
12 p.m. Worship in an African Context (Chapel)

MEDIA MINISTRY BROADCASTS
8:15 a.m. KELO-FM Radio (92.5)
11 a.m. KSFY (Sioux Falls), KPRY (Pierre) and KABY (Aberdeen)

Church Council Highlights: Feb. 24, 2011

Treasurer Corey Halstenson spoke to the issue of managing the "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." campaign receipts. He explained that the contributions designated for the organ project have been set aside and that the console will be sent to San Francisco in May for restoration and be returned in October. It appears this would be the best time to do possible construction projects in the sanctuary, such as replacing the flooring and updating the lighting. In order to have the funds necessary for these projects, the undesignated contributions in 2011, estimated to be \$500,000,

could be escrowed. A motion was made and seconded that for the near future undesignated capital campaign contributions be accumulated for use toward possible capital expenditures anticipated for this summer and that the Church Council and Executive Committee monitor this and make the decision when incoming capital campaign funds will again be applied to the debt. During discussion, it was brought out that \$75,000 has been set aside for debt repayment, and approximately \$75,000 is the current amount in the Mission Outreach Fund. A suggestion was made that the

council receive a monthly report on the escrowed funds. The motion was then passed unanimously.

A statement of Children and Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures compiled by Kris O'Connell and Marilyn McNeill was presented to the council. In order to be proactive in this area, they studied the policies of other churches and are seeking a background screening program. Funds obtained through the Thrivent Choice program will be used for the screening of all current staff and volunteers. A vote on the statement will be taken at the March meeting.

First Word

First Word is the monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. It is distributed to members of the congregation and others upon request.

If you have material for *First Word*, please contact the editor, Kerrie Vilhauer, or a member of the First Lutheran Church pastoral or program staff (see staff listing on page 3).

Opinions expressed in *First Word* are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by the First Lutheran Church congregation or staff. The editors of *First Word* reserve the right to edit submissions. Responses are welcome.

The deadline for the May issue is Monday, April 11. Please e-mail articles or questions regarding *First Word* to: kvilhauer@flcsf.org. *First Word* is also available online (www.flcsf.org).

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Adult Forums finish up for the year

Adult Forums meet at 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the Friendship Room. The schedule of topics is below:

**April 3—Mark Ovenden
"Sports Talk"**

Mark grew up in Boston, Mass., and remains a die-hard Red Sox fan. In 1978, Mark moved to Sioux Falls in order to do play-by-play radio broadcasting for Augustana College. Since then he has been the sports director at KSFY, KELO and presently at KDLT, where he has worked for 14 years.

**April 10—Bishop David Zellmer
"The State of the ELCA, in South Dakota and Beyond"**

Prior to his election as bishop, Bishop Zellmer served parishes in Pierre, Mitchell and Warner, S.D. He has been called to lead the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, at a difficult time. He will bring us up to date on the fallout from the recent decisions in the church as well as give a glimpse into the thriving ministries of mission-driven congregations throughout the synod.



Bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA, David Zellmer, is speaking on the state of the ELCA at the Adult Forum on Sunday, April 10.

April 17—Palm Sunday—No Adult Forum
April 24—Easter Sunday—No Adult Forum

The Law and the Prophets agree: Lenten virtue belongs to Jesus alone!

By Pastor Jason Burggraff

“Lutheran theology starts where all others end. Virtue is not the goal of life, virtue is our problem. Religion is not given for morality; it is there to end it. The picture of progress upward to happiness is toppled, and in its stead is the apocalyptic end of righteousness in this world so that only Christ remains, who alone is righteous in the eyes of God.” (Steven Paulson, “Lutheran Theology,” T & T Clark International, 2011, pg. 2)

Have you ever heard such words muttered in a churchly setting? Who could ever dare say, Lutheran or not, that virtue is not the goal of life, but our very problem? What about our worthy projects to help others? What about maintaining the church itself—are these not virtues that need encouraging, and even coaxing, from time to time? Likely, this quote from Steven Paulson sounds extreme to our ears. (In fact, Paulson goes on to say that “Of course this description of religion is a problem for those caught up in the legal scheme



Pastor Jason Burggraff

of life.”) But let’s compare it to another, more highly regarded writing:

Romans 3:19–26 says, “Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world be held accountable to God. For ‘no human being will be justified in his sight’ by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.”

So, if virtue (Paulson) or righteousness by the law alone (Apostle Paul) is not the aim of religion, then what is it? It is first to hear and then

“The aim of religion is first to hear and then to proclaim the Word (Christ) which puts to death our false ambitions, and raises up the true life and peace of Christ.”

to proclaim the Word (Christ) which puts to death our false ambitions, and raises up the true life and peace of Christ. This life and peace (truly the “good life”) comes quite apart from our “virtue” or attempts at it. Conversely, Christ’s work in us is to actually put down our old selves, and make us new and virtuous on his account.

This Lent and Easter, may your own personal attempts at religious progress be put to death. Now, know that you are made virtuous by our risen Savior alone, Jesus Christ.

Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate available in April

By Jean Sneen

Did you know Equal Exchange coffee is available for sale in the Welcome Center the second Sunday of each month? Added to the list of items for sale this month is Equal Exchange chocolate, just in time for Easter.

But you might first ask, why does a church sell coffee? Equal Exchange has a partnership with Lutheran World Relief. They promote fair trade, offering a way to support small-scale farmers.

Growers are guaranteed a fair price for their products, including a guaranteed minimum price for agricultural products (the world

market price for a given commodity like coffee or cocoa is often lower than the cost of production).



Many coffee growers in Third World countries can barely make a living. So, Equal Exchange has gone to these coffee growers in Africa and South America and set up co-ops, paying them fair prices so they can support their families.

Fifteen types of coffee are available—regular, bean, decaf, flavored, etc.—so something should be to your liking. This coffee is top grade, and

costs much less since we sell it at cost. Is there an easier way for you to help others than to buy their coffee? Try it! You’ll like it!

FLC LIBRARY SUGGESTED READING for April



If you ever had a desire to serve God and thought you had it worked out but found God had other plans, you can resonate with the heroine of *The Passion of Mary-Margaret*, by Lisa Samson. This novel is first and foremost a love story between Mary-Margaret and her savior, Jesus Christ. Some have compared it to the book of Hosea, but the author has clearly stated it is not an attempt at retelling that Old Testament book. *The Passion of Mary-Margaret* won the 2010 Christy Contemporary Standalone Fiction Award.

—Barbara Siebels, Librarian

SENIOR MINISTRY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 12
Noon
Fellowship Hall

Carol Twedt will share her experiences as a Minnehaha County Commissioner for 20 years.



No reservations needed
All are welcome

FLCW meeting schedule

The First Lutheran Church Women board is meeting on Thursday, April 7, at 10:30 in the Friendship Room. The general meeting will take place at noon in the Gathering Room. The program is “My experiences as a peacemaker in Israel and Palestine” by Susanne Nelson.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

James Moore..... President
Mitch Krebs..... Vice President
Corey Halstenson..... Treasurer
Kris O’Connell..... Secretary

Council Representatives

Randy Olawsky..... Financial Services
Alan Saatkamp..... Adult Discipleship
Toby Wellenstein..... Pastoral Care
Gregg Greenfield..... Member-at-Large
Bill Bradfeldt..... Outreach
Adam Smith..... Youth, Family and Young Adult Ministry
Ron Moegenburg..... Stewardship
Tracie Osthus..... Member-at-Large
Marilyn Korsten..... Member-at-Large
Kathrine Clark..... FLCW
Julia Kramer..... Media
John Hegg..... Worship and Music
Tim Heinemann..... Property

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

To reach a staff member directly, dial 339-1983 and the phone extension listed in parentheses.

Pastoral/Administrative Staff

(12) Rev. Dr. John Christopherson..... Senior Pastor
(17) Rev. Jason Burggraff..... Associate Pastor
(21) Rev. Nanael Lizarazo..... Associate Pastor
(19) Rev. Barbara Wangsness..... Associate Pastor
(1) Rev. James Christopherson*..... Associate Pastor
(53) Rev. Dave Johnson*..... Associate Pastor
(11) Rev. LeeRoy Eikanger*..... Visitation Pastor
(1) Rev. LeRoy Nevin*..... Visitation Pastor
(11) Rev. M. Franklin Pudas*..... Visitation Pastor
(26) Marilyn McNeill..... Church Administrator
(1) Carol Knapp..... Pastors’ Secretary

Youth, Family and Young Adult Ministries

(13) Marnie Dahle Backer..... Director of Youth Ministries
(34) Debbie Garcia*..... Administrative Assistant
(45) Nancy Henrichsen..... Director of Children’s Ministries
(41) Mara Stillson..... Associate Director of Youth Ministries
(25) Melody Roberts*..... Nursery Coordinator/
Children’s Ministries Assistant
(40) Irma Rodriguez Leon*..... Nursery Attendant
(10) Heidi Tooley*..... Recreational Ministries
Coordinator

Financial Services

(18) LaVonne Wolf..... Financial Specialist

Library

(43) Barbara Siebels*..... Library Coordinator

Media Ministries

(15) Kathy Hein*..... Broadcast Technical Director
(20) Heather Kuecker*..... Media Assistant
(15) David Palmer*..... Broadcast Technical Director
(15) Kerrie Vilhauer*..... Communications Coordinator
(15) Joe Ward*..... Broadcast Technical Director

Outreach Ministries

(36) Linda Carpenter*..... Visitor/Volunteer Coordinator

Pastoral Care Ministries

(24) Paula Bartels*..... Parish Nurse
(11) Arlene Bich*..... Wedding Coordinator
(16) Dr. Mark Britzman*..... Christian Counselor (consultant)
(11) Sarah Hagenlock*..... Wedding Coordinator
(11) Sherri Schroden*..... Wedding Coordinator
(22) Charlotte Peters*..... Caring Ministry Coordinator

Property and Administrative Services

(29) John Cerwinski..... Custodian
(29) Jeff Hartnett..... Custodian
(29) Rob Oswald..... Facilities Manager
(10) Connie Corey*..... Receptionist/Member Secretary
(10) Barbara Johnson*..... Receptionist/Member Secretary
(10) Kristy Zuraff*..... Receptionist/Member Secretary

Worship and Music Ministries

(35) Shirley Barlow..... Administrative Assistant
(35) Dorothy Christopherson*..... Women’s Choir Director
(14) Dr. Michael Elsbernd..... Director of Music Ministry
(35) Dr. Jerry Hanson*..... Director of Music Emeritus
(35) Marcia Kittelson*..... Organist Emerita
(35) Gerry Kropp*..... FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers
Accompanist
(35) Bonnie Lindgren*..... Carol Choir Director
(35) Mary Pottratz*..... Belle Campana/Agape Ringers
Director
(35) Sue Severson*..... Adult Choir Accompanist
(35) Pam Sonnichsen*..... Instrumental Coordinator
(35) Hazel Wek*..... Carol Choir/
Women’s Choir Accompanist
(49) Christopher Windle..... Assistant Director of Music
*Part-time

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Toll-Free:..... (800) 425-9899
Fax:..... (605) 336-8370
Emergency Cell:..... (605) 323-7667
Custodian Cell:..... (605) 351-8281
Project Car:..... (605) 332-2777

STEWARDSHIP



DID YOU KNOW?

Stewardship of Time and Talents at First Lutheran

This list provides only some of the service opportunities in which many members share their time and talents. There are even more possibilities as we work together as a First Lutheran family to serve our God from whom all blessings flow. If you are not involved in sharing your church family responsibilities in this aspect of stewardship, please consider doing so. It is truly an appropriate way to display our gratitude for all that God has given us.

1 The First Quilters made 786 quilts last year. That number is even more impressive when you do the math and realize that is more than two per day for every day of the year.



2 About 25 First Lutheran members volunteer with Project Car.

3 Volunteers staff the Piano Laboratory at First Lutheran Church, a

program for students who may otherwise not be able to take piano lessons.

4 Elizabeth Ministry is a program where volunteers mentor and give support to new moms.

5 Volunteers sort and organize music every week in the music library.

6 A volunteer assists the parish nurse weekly with administrative duties.

7 First Lutheran provides financial assistance, and members also attend services at the St. Dymas prison congregation.

8 A group of volunteers assists in monitoring building maintenance and provides help with repairs when needed.

9 First Lutheran is responsible for one Meals on Wheels route, and members volunteer as drivers.

10 Volunteers provide assistance to the elderly and others in need through Helping Hands

11 More than a thousand bulletins are assembled and stapled by volunteers weekly.

12 Every month, a volunteer sends birthday cards to members who are over 80 years old and congratulatory cards to couples who celebrate 50 years of marriage.

13 Media Ministry volunteers operate cameras, announce services for broadcast, operate sound boards and record timings for services.

14 Our congregation has six vocal choirs and three bell choirs with opportunities for all ages.

15 More than 20 musicians share their gifts as instrumentalists.

16 Fifteen members are on the list to volunteer as cantors for services.

17 More than 280 family members volunteer as helpers and servers for Wednesday Night Meals. Forty more volunteer for cleanup and 70 more bring desserts.

18 More than 30 high schoolers and adults volunteer as shepherds and workshop leaders for FaithWalkers classes.

19 About 35 lay persons volunteer to assist with communion.

20 More than 35 people volunteer to serve as ushers.

21 Hundreds of members volunteer to provide sale items and to work at the annual bazaar spearheaded by the First Lutheran Church Women.



National Volunteer Week celebration Sunday, April 17

National Volunteer Week is April 10–16, and we would like to honor each and every person for devoting time and talents to the many ministries of First Lutheran Church. All volunteers are invited to a Volunteer Appreciation Get-together on Sunday, April 17, in the Gathering Room between services. Please come and enjoy cake, coffee and wonderful fellowship.

As the volunteer coordinator, I seem to be involved with many activities

that go on here at First Lutheran Church. The number of people who volunteer for these missions and activities absolutely amazes me. It is such a positive experience being a part of such a wonderful thing. I look forward to my continued work with all of you, and hope to meet many more of you in the upcoming year.

Thank you for all you do!
Linda Carpenter, Volunteer Coordinator



VOLUNTEERS EVEN TAKE PICTURES! THANKS TO GENE SMITH FOR TAKING A NUMBER OF THE PHOTOS SEEN HERE.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Organ Send-off Concert

A light-hearted celebration of the Aeolian-Skinner organ on the eve of its restoration

Friday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m.
First Lutheran Church Sanctuary

The program will include a number of perennial favorites, including Bach's famous "Tocatta and Fugue in D-Minor," along with other less serious works for the organ. The Aeolian-Skinner organ will be out of service from May through October, as this heritage instrument undergoes a much-needed restoration. No charge.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Grow in your prayer life

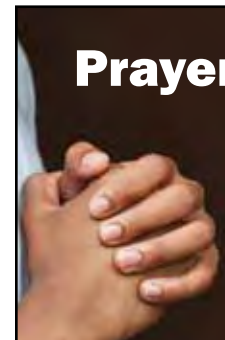
By Pastor Natanael Lizarazo

Are you satisfied with your current prayer life? If you are like me, the truth is that no matter where we find ourselves in this vital spiritual practice, there is plenty of room for growth! We know that for Jesus, prayer was one of his most powerful practices. If this was true for Jesus, how much more is it also for us. If you are interested in growing in your prayer life, we invite you to attend a "Prayer School" with Lutheran Pastor Karl Kruse of Prayer Watch International.

Though this Prayer School is a wonderful follow up to our Alpha Ministry, you do not need to have taken Alpha in order to participate. Prayer School will take place at First Lutheran

Prayer School

Sunday, May 1
12:30 to 6 p.m.
Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple



on Sunday, May 1, from 12:30 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person or \$35 a couple. Lunch is included. If finances are of concern, please talk to me. To sign up or for further information, contact me at 339-1983, ext. 21, or 4290@flcsf.org. I hope you will make this transforming investment in your own life!

Inspired to give: Gifts from capital campaign make a difference

The following article was recently published by our partners in ministry St. Dymas Prison Congregation. In sharing this article we are not only updating you about what God accomplishes through our mission gifts, but also celebrating the rich legacy of mission outreach that continues to flow out of the "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." campaign.

Members of First Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls recently blessed St. Dymas of South Dakota through a gift of \$40,000. The monetary gift came out of the church's capital campaign, "God's Gifts. Our Responsibilities.," and will be paid over a period of five years in \$8,000 increments. This gift is possible thanks to First Lutheran's commitment to give 10 percent of the monies received through their capital campaign in support of eight different strategic and long-term outreach projects, four of which are local and four are global.

At the outset of the campaign the Outreach Board recommended to the Church Council and congregation to commit 10 percent of all funds received to fund mission outreach beyond the

walls of the congregation.

"This joyful commitment is nothing new," Pastor Natanael Lizarazo says. "First Lutheran has a long and rich tradition of mission outreach both locally and globally."

Among local projects, St. Dymas Prison Ministry was one of the eight ministries which was recommended and approved to receive funding. The first installment of \$8,000 has been given.

"This is an opportunity to invest first and foremost in relationships and then secondly in ministries that present the love of God on a daily basis," Pastor Nate says. "We have a number of members who worship a couple of times a year with inmates at South Dakota State Penitentiary on Thursday nights. We also have long provided and will continue to support the ministry with an annual monetary gift outside this special donation."

Pastor Nate says worshipping at St. Dymas of South Dakota Thursday evening services can be an inspiring experience. "You're in a setting where people know they are sinners," he

says. "They also know there is grace, mercy and forgiveness from God. There is no pretense otherwise. I think that is one of the things that always connects with people who come to worship at St. Dymas. You experience a sense of joy in a very unusual place. That's evident in the inmates, the music and all who participate in the worship. All of a sudden God is taken out of the box. He is present in places that we sometimes can't imagine we'll find him."

First Lutheran's hope and prayer is that the efforts that led them to support St. Dymas of South Dakota will also be



Representatives on behalf of the congregation of First Lutheran present a check to Pastor Marlin Wangsness of the St. Dymas ELCA congregation at the penitentiary. Left to right is: Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Jennifer Gerriettes-Masters, Pastor Wangsness, Marilyn McNeill, Charlotte Peters and Pastor John Christopherson.

inspiring for members of other Lutheran churches in the region.

"It is our hope and prayer that this gift will encourage other congregations to also connect and perhaps establish a growing endowment for St. Dymas of South Dakota so the gospel of Jesus Christ can be proclaimed to South Dakota prisoners," Pastor Nate says.

YOUTH, FAMILY AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES



Vacation Bible School
 Tuesday, May 31 through
 Friday, June 3
 9 a.m.-noon
 Register via the website starting
 Monday, April 18.

Those interested in helping
 (fifth-graders to adult)
 can sign up on
 Nancy's office
 door or contact
 her at
 nancyh@flcsf.org.

Egg Hunt
Friday, April 15
6:30 to 8 p.m.

4th and 5th graders: Come at 6 p.m. for supper and set up
FaithWalkers families: Come at 6:30 p.m.

The fun lasts until 8 p.m.
 Friends are welcome!

Upcoming Events

Middle School Mini Lock-in
 Friday, April 8
 7:30 p.m. to midnight
 Cost is \$5 and an Operation Donation item
 Contact Mara Stillson for more information or
 to sign up at 339-1983, ext. 41.

High School Holy Week Retreat
 Swan Lake Christian Camp
 Thursday, April 21, to Friday, April 22
 Cost is \$50
 Keep your eyes open for more details!

Refugee families hoping for a new start come to the United States from all over the world with next to nothing. Lutheran Social Services Refugee and Immigration Programs help provide them resources to reach self-sufficiency. Welcome boxes with basic needs for their homes are one way members of First Lutheran are invited to help. Bring items from your home to the Atrium on Sundays, April 3 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Items do not need to be new, but do need to be in good condition. Check out the bulletin inserts on Sundays in April for welcome box ideas. (Available online at www.flcsf.org/bulletins.) Examples of needed items include dishes, sheets, pillows, towels, furniture, cleaning supplies and more.

Or, consider donating money toward the project. For items that are too big to bring to the church, contact Marnie Dahle Backer at 339-1983, ext. 13.

4:12 is Christian adults in their 20s and 30s experiencing ministries through a balance of fellowship, life sharing, spiritual growth and outreach.

You are invited to participate in LENTEN WORKS OF LOVE

The Board for Outreach Ministries and the Board for Youth, Family and Young Adult Ministries are teaming up to collect items for people in need during Lent. The following items will be collected in

the atrium through Palm Sunday, April 17:

- Non-perishable food items for the Sioux Falls Food Pantry
- Personal hygiene items for Necessities for Neighbors (a program of the Food to You Mobile Food Pantry) Examples include: laundry soap, diapers and wipes, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products and soap.
- New or gently used shoes (any size) for Mayan Families, an organization in Guatemala

Lent is a season filled with Christian fellowship, nourishing meals, prayer, worship, spiritual renewal and servant opportunities. This is what faith active in love is about and calls for in our lives.

MEDIA MINISTRIES



February and March broadcast sponsors

First Lutheran Church's worship can be seen every Sunday at 11 a.m. on KSFY, KPRY and KABY in Eastern South Dakota, Southwest Minnesota, Northwest Iowa and Northeast Nebraska. A live radio broadcast of worship can be heard each Sunday at 8:15 a.m. on KELO-FM, 92.5.

KELO broadcast sponsored:

Feb. 6: By First Lutheran's Cub Scout Pack 153.

Feb. 13: In memory of M.R. David's birthday, which would have been Feb. 15, by his wife Carmen, son Mark and family, and daughter Mary and family.

Feb. 20: In memory of Les Rollag, who would have celebrated his 79th birthday on Feb. 15, by his family.

Feb. 27: In memory of Jodi (Burmoed) Wolf for her brave fight against cancer by Ron, Jill, Zach, Gary and Linda Burmoed.

March 6: In memory of Dr. Doris Huseboe; her parents, Delbert and Erna Eggers; and her grandparents, Claus and Mary Eggers and Richard and Lena Schneider. Funds for this have been made available through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

March 13: In loving memory of Mrs. Marie Steen, made possible through

earnings of the bequest of her daughter, L. Inez Rognley, to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

March 20: In memory of Norman Salem, who would have celebrated his birthday on March 19, by his wife, Doris Salem, daughters, Karla and Karen, and their families.

March 27: In loving memory of William Bentzinger Sr., Harold Spitznagel, and Wallace Steele, through earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation, by Spitznagel, Inc. of Sioux Falls.

KSFY telecast sponsored:

Feb. 13: In memory of Bill Grevlos, beloved husband, father and grandfather, who would have celebrated his 74th birthday on Feb. 13, by Cheryl, Dann, Dave, Mike, Jill and grandchildren.

Feb. 27: In honor of Ed and Eunice Mansfield on their 60th wedding

anniversary by their family.

March 6: In honor of Paul and Donna Willadsen's 57th wedding anniversary on March 5.

March 9: By Judy Jasper for nursing homes residents and homebound individuals. It is also sponsored in honor of FLC pastors for their ministry in spreading the Word of God. As we receive the cross of ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, let us remember that we are members of the body of Christ and this season of Lent we await the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter.

March 13: In loving memory of Samuel Spitzer, who would have celebrated his 91st birthday on March 14, by his family, Emma, Elaine and Ella Spitzer.

Closed captioning sponsored:

March 9: By Judy Jasper for nursing homes residents and homebound

individuals. It is also sponsored in honor of FLC pastors for their ministry in spreading the Word of God. As we receive the cross of ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, let us remember that we are members of the body of Christ and this season of Lent we await the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter.

Gifts and memorials

Un-sponsored dates are made possible in part through gifts and memorials to First Lutheran Church Media Ministry. All donations make a difference. Thank you for your support.

Sponsorships available

To sponsor a broadcast or closed captioning, call LaVonne Wolf at 339-1983, ext. 18.

First Lutheran Church Calendar—April 2011



Friday, April 1

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC

6:30 PM Otto/Benson Rehearsal S

Saturday, April 2

10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR S FrR

10:15 AM Open Gym RH

11:30 AM Wedding Hospitality TR

2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR

3:00 PM Otto/Benson Wedding S

5:00 PM Vespers C

Sunday, April 3

8:00 AM Mentor Breakfast Set-up D

8:00 AM Operation Donation display AD

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S

8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK

8:55 AM Where God Meets Man Study FH

9:00 AM Mentor Breakfast D

9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W

9:30 AM Adult Forum FrR

9:45 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR

9:45 AM Traditional Worship S

11:00 AM Adult Forum FrR

11:15 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR

11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S

12:16 PM Worship in African Context C

3:00 PM Counseling PR

Monday, April 4

9:00 AM Sewing QSC

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

10:30 AM Organ Practice S

1:15 PM Kindermusik MR1

3:45 PM Piano Class PL

4:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop UR

6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR

6:45 PM Cub Scouts Pack 153 D/FrR

Tuesday, April 5

7:00 AM Lent Soup Prep RHK

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR

1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

6:00 PM Stephen Ministries FrR/FrRk

6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsal HR/S

7:30 PM Women's Choir CR/ S

Wednesday, April 6

7:00 AM Lenten Soup Prep RH/RHK

8:00 AM Operation Donation AD

8:45 AM Faithfully Fit Forever PR

9:00 AM Quilting QSC

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

9:30 AM Organ Practice S

10:00 AM Bible Study with the Pastors GR/GRK

11:15 AM Lenten Service S

12:00 PM Eat Well Live Well Love God PMR

12:00 PM Lent Soup Meal RH/ RHK

1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR

4:30 PM Good Vibrations Rehearsal HR

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

4:30 PM Writing Your Memoirs SmoradaTR

5:15 PM Jubilant Singers Rehearsal CR/S

5:15 PM Belle Campagne Rehearsal HR

5:15 PM Lenten Soup Meal RH/RHK

5:15 PM Piano Class PL

5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

5:30 PM Grief Support for Endings TR

6:00 PM FLYGHT Rehearsal CR

6:00 PM 1st Communion FH/FHK

6:00 PM FaithWalkers C/UR/PR

6:00 PM Wednesday Women's Group Mdc

7:00 PM Lenten Service S

8:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study Mdc/SSR4/S

8:01 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/FrR/S

Thursday, April 7

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR/GRK

9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

10:00 AM Visitation Pastors TR

10:30 AM FLCW Board Meeting FrR

12:00 PM WELCA General Meeting & Lunch GR/GRK

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

6:30 PM Higher Nets RH

7:00 PM Pre-Baptism Class GR

Friday, April 8

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC

7:30 PM Middle School Mini-Lock-in All Rooms

Saturday, April 9

10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR S FrR

10:15 AM Open Gym RH

2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR

5:00 PM Vespers C

Sunday, April 10

8:00 AM Operation Donation display AD

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S

8:55 AM Where God Meets Man Study FH

9:00 AM Reception for Pastor Dave RH/RHK

9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W

9:15 AM Equal Exchange Coffee WCD

9:30 AM Adult Forum FrR

9:45 AM FaithWalkers C/PR/UR

9:45 AM Traditional Worship S

11:00 AM Adult Forum FrR

11:15 AM FaithWalkers C/PR/UR

11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S

12:16 PM Worship in African Context C

12:30 PM Adult Leaders Lunch/Meeting PMR

3:00 PM Counseling PR

4:00 PM Set-up 8 Great Dates GR/GRK/FrR

5:00 PM 8 Great Dates GR/GRK/FrR/RH/N

Monday, April 11

9:00 AM Sewing QSC

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

10:30 AM Organ Practice S

1:15 PM Kindermusik MR1

3:45 PM Piano Class PL

4:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR

6:30 PM Thrivent Workshop-Identity TheftFr/FrK

Tuesday, April 12

7:00 AM Lent Soup Prep RHK

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR

12:00 PM Senior LuncheonFH/FHK

1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsal HR/S

6:30 PM Board of Adult Discipleship TR

7:30 PM Women's Choir CR/ S

Wednesday, April 13

7:00 AM Lenten Soup Prep RH/RHK

8:45 AM Faithfully Fit Forever PR

9:00 AM Quilting QSC

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

10:00 AM Organ Practice S

10:00 AM Bible Study with the Pastors GR/GRK

11:15 AM Lenten Service S

12:00 PM Lent Soup Meal RH/ RHK

1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR

4:30 PM Good Vibrations Rehearsal HR

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

4:30 PM Writing Your Memoirs SmoradaTR

5:15 PM Jubilant Singers Rehearsal CR/S

5:15 PM Belle Campagne Rehearsal HR

5:15 PM Lenten Soup Meal RH/RHK

5:15 PM Piano Class PL

5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

5:30 PM Grief Support for Endings TR

6:00 PM FLYGHT Rehearsal CR

6:00 PM 1st Communion FH/FHK

6:00 PM FaithWalkers C/UR/PR

6:00 PM Wednesday Women's Group Mdc

7:00 PM Lenten Service S

8:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study Mdc/SSR4/S

8:01 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/FrR/S

Thursday, April 14

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR/GRK

9:00 AM Rachel Circle GR/GRK

9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

12:00 PM Project Car Steering Comm TR

3:30 PM Syttende Mai Committee Meeting GR

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

5:30 PM Media Board TR

6:00 PM Holistic Health Cabinet PMR

6:00 PM Board of Outreach FrR

6:00 PM Worship & Music Board Mtg LL

6:30 PM Higher Nets RH

Friday, April 15

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC

6:00 PM 4th/5th Grade Activity Night GR/GRK/RH/

6:30 PM Family Fun Night RH/RHK/LFT

Saturday, April 16

8:00 AM Clean-Up Day

10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR S FrR

10:15 AM Open Gym RH

2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR

5:00 PM Vespers C

Sunday, April 17

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S

8:55 AM Where God Meets Man Study FH

9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W

9:45 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR

9:45 AM Traditional Worship S

11:15 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR

11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S

12:16 PM Worship in African Context C

3:00 PM Counseling PR

4:00 PM Set-up 8 Great Dates GR/GRK/FrR

5:00 PM 8 Great Dates GR/GRK/FrR/RH/N

Monday, April 18

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1

10:30 AM Organ Practice S

1:15 PM Kindermusik MR1

3:45 PM Piano Class PL

4:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

5:00 PM Property Board TR

6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop UR

6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR

6:45 PM Cub Scouts Pack 153 D/FrR

Tuesday, April 19

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR

1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR

3:30 PM High School Senior VideosTR

4:30 PM Piano Class PL

5:00 PM Stewardship Board Meeting TR

5:00 PM Youth & Family Board Meeting PMR

6:00 PM Board of Pastoral Care L

6:00 PM Stephen Ministries FrR/FrRk

6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsal HR/S

7:30 PM Women's Choir CR/ S

Wednesday, April 20

8:45 AM Faithfully Fit Forever PR

9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1</

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Gifts and memorials from February 2011

Thank you to our generous donors who have shared many thoughts, prayers and financial gifts with the ministries of First Lutheran Church. We are blessed by the support of the following people...

Gifts to Foundation in memory of

Carl Grevlos: Dorothy Grevlos
Vi Smith: Dorothy Grevlos

Gifts to Caring Ministry in memory of

Jane Hassenstein: Roger & Bev Lamp

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of

Louise Cork: Jean Osthus; Russell & Betty Kielman
Lorraine Dreyer: Mary Barkley; Arlene Buitendyk
Elaine Fryda: Wayne & Verna Remme
Joe Funke Jr.: Pastor LeRoy & Elaine Nevin

Shirley Headrick: Herb & Dorothy Mikkelson; Kim Wiertzema

Jane Hassenstein: James Burress; Pastor Franklin & Marit Pudas

Vi Smith: Perry & Thelma Juel; Howard & Arlene Bich

Dorothy Vagstad: Herb & Dorothy Mikkelson; Edith Magnuson; Georgia Sears; Viola Peterson; Don & Florence Toft; Helen Van Liere; Karin Hartje; Ruth Werner; Cleo Nichol; Helen Gunderson; Clara Mae Ranschau; Lillian Carlson; Bob & Ihleen Gunderson; Bob & Ellen Tabbert; Melvin & Carol Feuerstein; Opal Rogness; Don & Arlene Hoek; Howard & Lou Ann Paulson; Mike & Gloria Simpson; Blanche B. Johnson

Gift to Music Department in memory of

Jane Hassenstein: Marianne Larsen
Dorothy Vagstad: Charles Connor; A. & M. Vagstad; Vance & Sherry Goldammer; Bill & Opal Westerdahl; Gloria Lundstrom Mary Ann Hohman; Frances J. Vanderbush; Ruth Werner; LeRoy & Janet Halstenson; Ed & Mary F. Larson; Don & Judy Erickson; Maurine Hult; Verna Headrick; Phyllis Beuckens; Don & Jean Sneen; Ann & Julaine Walker; Paul & Donna Willadsen; Betty J. Miller

Gift to Organ Fund in memory of

Dorothy Vagstad: Ed & Eunice Mansfield

Financial update February 2011

Worship Attendance	
February 2011	3,082
Total Revenues	
2011 Actual	\$314,492
2010 Actual	\$299,332
Total Expenses	
2011 Actual	\$289,286
2010 Actual	\$294,661
Notes Payable	
Bank Loan - Capital	\$974,758
Contract For Deed	
Ideal	\$608,456
"God's Gifts. Our Responsibility" Income	
Through February 2011	\$1,829,336

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES



April brings Parkinson's Awareness Month, Healthcare Decisions Day and a blood drive at FLC

April is National Parkinson's Awareness month. April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day. April 3 is the Blood Drive at First



Paula Bartels

Lutheran. April 24 is Easter. What a busy month! **Resources for Parkinson's disease**

Parkinson's disease affects more than 1.5 million people in the United States. South Dakota is the second highest ranking state in

the nation. You may have or know someone who has Parkinson's. It is a disease that affects people regardless of gender, race, background or lifestyle. It is a progressive, disabling, neurological disorder that affects ability to walk, talk, write and swallow. Exercise and medications can help.

My father was diagnosed with Parkinson's 15 years ago. He and my mother have found education, support groups, and their faith to be keys to dealing with Parkinson's.

The Parkinson's Awareness Month Conference, hosted by the Parkinson's

Association of South Dakota, will take place on April 29 and 30 at the Ramada Inn and Suites in Sioux Falls. The conference will include speakers discussing "Home-made Hope: How to Thrive Now with Parkinson's Disease," "Wellness Choices for a Healthy Brain," "Music is Exercise," and "Is Exercise Medicine for Parkinson's?" For more information, contact the Executive Director of the Parkinson's Association of South Dakota, Corinne Kruse, at 271-6113.

Other resources for those with Parkinson's include support groups that take place in the Sioux Falls area. Struthers Parkinson's Center in Golden Valley, Minn., offers a day-long assessment to anyone with Parkinson's in the five-state area. For more information, call (888) 993-5495 or go to parknicollet.com/Methodist/Parkinsons. Or feel free to contact me at 339-1983, ext. 24. I accompanied my parents last spring and found it an extremely helpful day for our whole family.

Advance care planning

Despite recent gains in public awareness of the need for advance care planning, studies indicate that most Americans have not exercised their right to make decisions about their

health care in the event that they cannot speak for themselves. If you would like more information about benefits of advance care planning or "Five Wishes," a tool to use in planning, please contact me.

Blood Mobile at First Lutheran April 3

The Community Blood Mobile will be at First Lutheran on Sunday, April 3. You must be 17 years old (16 years old with signed consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds to donate. Contact Howard Bich at 275-6891 to donate. Drop-ins are also welcome!

Reflect on the words of Annette Langdon, parish nurse of Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minn.:

"As a nurse, I know the benefits of giving blood and the gift of life and health they lend to others. Donated blood helps people through open heart surgery and treatments for cancer. It replenishes hemophiliacs, accident victims and premature infants. One donation of blood helps three people because it is separated into red cells, plasma and platelets.

"As a Christian, I know the benefits of receiving blood, the blood of Christ:

'But now in Christ Jesus you who

once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility' (Ephesians 2:13-14).

'You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot' (1 Peter 1:18-19).

As you give your blood, may you be blessed and inspired by reflecting on the gift of life Jesus gives you.

- As you stretch out your arm, remember that Christ stretched out his arms on a cross for you.

- As your skin is pierced, remember how Christ's hands and feet were pierced for you.

- As your blood flows out to give life and hope to others, remember the hope and eternal life Jesus gives you through his blood."

Rejoice this Easter

There are many important things going on in our lives, and we can get so busy! However, it is always good to keep the "main thing the main thing." Enjoy the great spring weather by going for a walk with family, friends, or alone and talk with God.

Life Transitions through February

Births

"May the Lord give you increase, both you and your children." (Psalm 114:15)

- Mason Erik Danko, son of Erik & Abby Danko, born on Jan. 28, 2011.
- Lauren Diane Anacker, daughter of Jeremy & Susan Anacker, born on Feb. 15, 2011

Weddings

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no one put asunder." (Matthew 19:6)

- Jeremy Maurice & Emily Johnson
- Christian Burns & Misti Headrick

Baptisms

"Go ... make disciples ... baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

- Harper Ernastine Beatch, daughter of Jon & Tonja Beatch

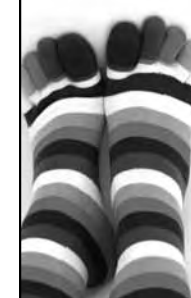
Deaths

"Death is swallowed up in victory... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:57)

- Lloyd Morris
- Roxy Laur
- Leonard Martinek

*Healthy Feet
Community Foot
Care Clinic*

Tuesday, April 26



Parish Meeting Room

By appointment only. Call 336-3734. Cost is \$25 via cash or check the day of the appointment.

Identity theft: What you need to know

By Pastor Barbara Wangsness



Pastor Barbara Wangsness

Identity theft: that's the topic of the upcoming Thrivent Financial for Lutherans workshop our Pastoral Care Ministry is hosting on Monday, April 11, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

And if you have any doubt about its importance—

just ask any of 9.9 million Americans who were victimized by identity theft in 2008 (Javelin Identity Fraud Survey, 2009), including my relative!

During this hour-long workshop we'll learn how identity theft can occur, tips

to protect ourselves and steps to take if this growing crime happens to us. Of special interest will be the presence of Sergeant Bob Harrison, a Sioux Falls police detective who works full time on this growing crime in our area. Free materials will be available. No Thrivent Financial products will be presented nor recording of attendees names be made; this is strictly an educational workshop to assist you in protecting your personal identity.

Claim your Christian identity

Having said that, I also invite you in this Lenten season to take a closer look at another Identity Fraud that continues to grow in our community—one with even larger and more serious repercussions, not having financial, but rather spiritual, ramifications! Yes, it is to seriously consider the meaning of our

Christian identity!

What does it really mean for me to claim my identity as a Christian? How does this direct how I live my daily life? What I say? What I do? My concern for others? Does my life (even silently) reflect to others that I know Jesus? His Lordship in my life?

And, if so—what are the ways this identity is stolen away? Is it happening consciously? Or without my knowing? How can I protect it better? Am I as concerned about protecting the spiritual identity of my children as I am of their financial identity and credit history?

And for those of us wanting to repair our spiritual identity, there are many resources to help us!

Walking the Lenten journey of faith is a wonderful resource as we come closer to understanding what exactly

Identity Theft Workshop

Monday, April 11
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Friendship Room

it is that Jesus has done for us on his journey to and on the cross, through his death and resurrection. Best of all—the info in this identity workshop is never outdated. It's what you need to know!

Easter: God's Ultimate Benediction

—continued from page 1

"She pondered all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:19). **"This little light of mine. Should I let him shine? Or, should I hide him under a bushel?"**

... Like Moses' mother before her, she could have concealed the Christ Child, sending him merrily down the stream. But then there would have been no Exodus, no Deliverance, no Savior. Like every loving mother, Mary prayed—she prayed for the light to shine into the darkness of that lowly stable. And Mary remembered God's word through the angel:

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God [i.e. a bene-diction]. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name, Jesus. [He will save his people from their sin. Matthew 1:21] ... And of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:30–33).

"So? Hide him under a bushel? No! I can't!" said Mary. "For God's

gonna let him shine!" And yet, some thirty-three years later, Mary was moved from the foot of the cradle to the foot of the cross—as she witnessed with the other disciples the death of this precious Christ Child. "Where's the light now?!" "Why did he have to (dei) die?"

Perhaps it was because Jesus revealed the hypocrisy of a religious system where people thought they were saved by genetics: "We're children of Abraham and Lena!" Or "Jah, sure. We're Luterns, ya know. Hose 'em down. If not in the DNA at least in the H2O, right? That's it." **And then they remembered his words:** "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed" (Mark 8:31). Or ... perhaps Jesus was crucified because he pulled the Persian rug out from under all our human trusting in material stuff—exposing the bare facts that we're "emperors with no clothes." Or ... exposing all the strutting and fretting on Wall Street that finally signifies nothing. **And again they remembered his words:** "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces" (Luke 20:17–18a). "And all the king's horses and all the king's men, could not put Humpty Dumpty together again ..." Finally, Jesus took an absolute stand for God in a world of immorality and shallow mottos: "Whatever. It's all relative." And Jesus says: "NO. The truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Not some denomination, not some diocese or false doctrine of bound-conscience-to-human

experience (which will only kill you in the end), and not some synod or church ... "YES," says Jesus, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6a). And Pilate cynically takes a long, hard PUFF on his Camel straight and says: "What is truth? Who really cares? It's all about who has the power. Who's the sheriff around here anyway?!" And all goes up in smoke. Up to Golgotha. Up on a Cross. And darkness filled the earth.

Mary begins to pray again, now with the disciples: **"This little light ... Don't let evil puff it out, O God, let it shine!"** ... And then wonder of wonders, the curtain of the Temple is torn in two. Jesus' death on the Cross for your sins joins heav'n and earth ("Whatever?!"). Then absolute light breaks through. Pointing out the fact that nothing in all creation can "nail" God down. Why? Cuz it's God's creation after all (John 1:4–5; Romans 8). There's only one Holy Roller in history, and that's God—the one who rolled the stone of sin and death away on that third day, for you. **Easter: God's Ultimate Benediction.** The dark and deathly silence, the mourning, is broken. The word is out! Listen ...

"On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the disciples, including Mary, went to the tomb] ... And they found the stone rolled away ... [And they were all afraid. But the angels] said to them: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how Jesus told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful man, and be crucified, and on the third day rise. And they remembered his words ..."



Resurrection window, located in the east balcony of the First Lutheran Church Sanctuary.

In Christ, Our Risen Lord and Savior ...
j.r. christopherson
Senior Pastor

Jesus said
to him,
"I am the **way**,
and the **truth**,
and the **life**."
—John 14:6a

First Word

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- 4 Grow in your prayer life: Participate in Prayer School on May 1