



flcsf.org



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

The priesthood of all believers

By Pastor John Christopherson

"Over time, I have learned two things about my [Christian faith]: first of all, that it is God who is seeking me, and who has a myriad ways of finding me. Second, that my most substantial changes, in terms of [spiritual growth] come through other people. Even when I am convinced that God is absent from my life, others have a way of suddenly revealing God's presence" (Kathleen Norris; *Amazing Grace*).

I believe that one of the many gifts that God's Spirit has so richly "chosen, blessed, broken, and given" through the family of First Lutheran Church, is one that has been largely forgotten or neglected in recent American (and yes, Lutheran) church history—a church, particularly in mainline Protestantism, that has increasingly become bureaucratic and hierarchical, a church that has moved from a theology grounded in Christology to one of anthropology, and thus a church that has shifted the norming norm or "authority for faith and life" from Holy

Scripture to human experience. As Robert Putnam of Harvard University has recently diagnosed: "Most Americans are adapting their religion to fit their politics, and the operating center of authority is the almighty SELF" (*American Grace*; 320–368, 419–442; cf. the provocative imagery of "the center cannot hold" in Wm. Butler Yeats' poem, "The Second Coming").

So, what is this gift—amidst all the self-contradicting rhetoric of a "Bound Conscience" or the empty bravado of "Peace, peace, when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11) in our time? ... It is a wonderful re-awakening and re-visioning of what Martin Luther classically refers to as "The Priesthood of all Believers." By this, Luther is referring to God's call (vocatio) to ministry that comes to each one of you from your baptism (cf. *Weimar Ausgabe* 6:407; *Luther's Works* 36:113). For you are the church, the communion of Christ's saints, gathered by his Holy Spirit around the center of God's "proclaimed

gospel Word and holy Sacraments" (*Augsburg Confession*; Article VII)—not some building or denomination (idolatry), not as just another social service agency (legalism), not as just "lay-people" (what a condescending term this can become!) who are to follow the agendas of a crusading *illuminati*, the self-appointed PC "thought police" with clerical garb, donning 20 lb. pectoral crosses (a new papalism). "My burden is light," says Jesus (Matthew 11:30). "[Are we] now seeking the favor of men, or of God?" asks St. Paul (Galatians 1:10a).



The family of First Lutheran at worship on Easter Sunday.

Remember, "Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:5–9; cf. 1:10–17). For "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11). Even the agnostic deconstructionist, Han-Georg Gadamer witnesses: "It is the tyranny of hidden prejudices that makes us deaf to the language that speaks to

—continued on page 2

Music staff changes

The music department will have a number of staffing changes in the coming months.

Associate Music Director Christopher Windle will be leaving the First Lutheran Church staff to pursue a master's degree at Temple University in Philadelphia, Penn.

Dr. James Johnson will be joining the staff on Monday, Aug. 1, as principal conductor of choral and instrumental ensembles.

Dr. Michael Elsbernd's duties will change slightly. He will direct the handbell choirs and serve as associate director of the Adult Choir as well as principal organist and director of Music Ministries.

Accompanist Gerry Kropp and Agape Ringers and Belle Campana Director Mary Pottratz will no longer serve on the Music Ministry staff. Gerry has been the steady, anchoring presence with FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers through numerous transitions and her musical and spiritual leadership is gratefully recognized. First Lutheran also gives thanks and praise for Mary's service and leadership during the last two years.

See the accompanying article to the right for a note from Christopher Windle and look forward to further introduction of Dr. Johnson in an upcoming issue of *First Word*.

Editor's note: Christopher Windle is leaving the staff of First Lutheran to pursue his master's degree at Temple University. An open house in his honor will take place on Sunday, July 10, between services in the Gathering Room. By Christopher Windle, Associate Music Director

As I write this article, I sit in the Indianapolis, Ind., airport waiting for my flight to Minneapolis so that I can return to Sioux Falls. (I will never understand airlines.) I am returning from a rather successful visit to Philadelphia, Penn., where among other things, I found an apartment for this fall! Yet, there is a real bittersweet sense about the entire experience. In the last two years I have found a home in Sioux Falls and First Lutheran Church.

I am excited and yet nervous about the opportunities and challenges this move holds. I do know that with Dr. James Johnson coming, the congregation, the music, and the choirs are in exceptionally gifted hands. I am very excited to hear about the coming program year, I know it will be amazing!

It has been a great privilege to work with the choirs of First Lutheran Church. Their willingness to try new things and their dedication to excellence is truly an inspiration. The Adult Choir has tolerated my eccentricities and for that I am very grateful. In that process beautiful music has been made.

Jubilant Singers and FLYGHT have both grown musically in tremendous ways. I am incredibly proud of each and

every member of those ensembles and want to publicly thank them all for their dedication to the groups and their tireless enthusiasm for music and each other.

These choirs are incredibly special, as are the young men and women who sing in them. Jubilant Singers and FLYGHT provide a place for the young people of First Lutheran to learn about music and worship. In choir, they learn how to use a hymnal and follow the liturgy and participate as leaders—to be active and joyful participants in worship. The responsibility to be leaders is a great one, whether the singers know it or not. It is a duty they carry out with great dignity and poise.

Yet, what is so special about these groups is the community that is created. The singers are an amazing group of people whose kindness, enthusiasm, and caring spirit envelops everything they do.

Everyone wants a place to belong, a place to be. After my move to South Dakota, I have become acutely aware of this need. The choirs of First Lutheran are a welcoming community of people.

Associate music director says goodbye

Engage your heart and mind, and find a place in the choir



Christopher Windle is pictured here with members of one of the youth choirs during a recent trip to Omaha, Neb.

They want to know you and to make music with you. If you or your child are not involved in choir, seriously consider it. It may seem intimidating for any number of reasons, but I promise you, you will find a place and a sense of belonging. You will find a community that cares about you deeply. And with this love, the music will come.

Yet one thing I want to leave you all with is that the congregation is and always will be the primary choir of the church. It sings more often than any other musical ensemble and makes a truly joyful noise. Each of you has a unique and wonderful voice to add to this sound—no one can ever take that away. It is my hope that each of you finds a place in this choir.

Singing hymns and songs can be a deeply personal expression of our faith,

—continued on page 3

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.



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)

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 August issue is Monday, July 11. Please e-mail articles or questions regarding *First Word* to: kvilhauer@flcsf.org. *First Word* is also available online (www.flcsf.org).

Church Council Highlights: May 26, 2011

Pastor Natanael Lizarazo announced that Jennifer Garretts-Masters has agreed to serve as First Lutheran's representative on the Charis Ministry Partners board. Charis is made up of 13 ELCA congregations in the Sioux Falls area working together on issues such as hunger and lack of transportation.

President James Moore described the balcony renovation, which will include reconfiguring the risers to increase flexibility, removing the pews and

replacing them with chairs, moving the organ to its original placement facing east, painting the side and east walls of the balcony, improving acoustics by installing panels on each side to project sound, raising the balcony railing to conform to building codes, installing new case work as a cover for the pedal pipes, and improving lighting for an estimated cost of \$38,050. Dedicated pledges for the organ and balcony renovation stand at \$788,818. The

contract with Schoenstein & Co. calls for a payment of \$761,115, leaving \$27,703 in pledged funds. An additional \$10,347 would be needed to cover the balcony renovations. After discussion, which brought out that the best time for the balcony work to be done is while the organ is removed, a motion authorizing the balcony project to go forward using pledged funds as well as unpledged funds, not to exceed \$10,400, was made, seconded and passed by a vote of 12 to 2.

The priesthood of all believers

—continued from page 1
us in tradition" (*Truth and Method*, p.239). O, I give God thanks and praise for the "priesthood of all believers" and a faithful tradition that is alive and well among the family of FLC!

As Karl Barth made crystal clear: "Theology is not a private subject for theologians only. Nor is it a private subject for professors [bishops or pastors]. Fortunately, there have always been ... laity who understood more about the Bible and theology than most professors ... Theology is a matter for the whole church!" ("Theology" in *God In Action*, p.56–57)

* * *

And so it causes me deep, deep, deep concern to hear comments from the floor of our recent South Dakota Synod Assembly this past June 11–12 (Sioux Falls) that mitigate against the New Testament teachings of what it means to be "the church."

- "Your new mission start congregation on the northwest end of Sioux Falls [shepherded by Pat and Roe Eidsness] will fail without the support of the National Church" (Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of Congregational and Synodical Mission for The ELCA). Really!!!! When the "National Church" has given little if any financial support (rather it's local congregation support) for this new mission start. How patronizing! Talk about a spirit of unhealthy co-dependency!

- "The resolution before us—regarding more congregational representation in discerning and deciding social statements [e.g. the 2009 Sexuality Statement that was decided by the Churchwide Assembly of 1,050 of our 4,600,000 ELCA members]—is not wise. Because, I dare say, congregations are too ignorant to make such decisions." (An ELCA senior pastor from Sioux Falls). Again, how patronizing! Where's the democratic process in this implied ecclesiology? Episcopal vs. congregational model?

"All believers have the capacity and responsibility to reflect on matters of faith and to share the burden of interpretation. We would do well to reflect such a balance in our own church structure, while recognizing our enormous responsibility for educating the laity. Democracy works only if citizens are informed. The same is true in the church." (Dr. Don Juel of Luther Seminary; "The New Testament and Lutheran Ecclesiology" a paper requested by the Commission for a New Lutheran Church, Sept. 29, 1982).

- "Congregations have no business

in making decisions on matters of social polity. That's for the church [i.e. the ELCA church-wide expression] to decide?" (A voting member (sic) of an ELCA congregation in Sioux Falls).

Read the New Testament. Look again at Article VII of the Augsburg Confessions. The ELCA = The Church!!!! It's preposterous, nay idolatrous, for any institutional church to make sole claim to be, or even think it re-presents the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ! ("The church does not belong to some bishop or pastor, but only and always to Christ." Bishop David Zellmer; Opening Sermon for the Synod Assembly, June 10.)

So, let's be earnest in "equipping the saints" (Ephesians 4:12)—through worship, prayer, and studying God's Word—together.

As you can clearly see, these are difficult times for Christ's Church, times when Christ calls all of his disciples, anew, to be "wise as serpents yet gentle as doves" (Matthew 10:16b) testing the spirits of false teaching (1 John 4:1). And so, let's be earnest in "equipping the saints" (Ephesians 4:12)—through worship, prayer, and studying God's Word—together. As former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, Will Willimon observes:

"Not everybody who uses the right words, crying 'Lord! Lord!' gets my ear," said Jesus. 'But everyone who does my will.' Often Jesus asked his critics, 'Have you not read?' referring them to some passage from the Hebrew Scriptures. Of course they had read the Bible. But with Jesus, simply reading Scripture wasn't enough. Something else was required—discipleship. Jesus is best known by obeying Jesus, by putting down the book and following Jesus ..." (*Why Jesus?* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010, p.136)

Since my answering God's call through you, now some 10 years ago (June 17, 2001) ... to commence serving as a pastor-theologian in your midst ... I still marvel at the genuine, welcoming spirit of Christ's body, among the family of First Lutheran Church (think of hosting the Salvation Army's "Toy Town" at Christmas or the burgeoning new

African ministry), the creative excellence in worship and music (think of the rich heritage, yet modulated liturgies that stir the soul, and the Piano Lab for children who otherwise could not afford lessons), the committed concern for solid, biblically-based Christian education (think of the tripling of Bible study offerings over the past few years), the plethora of pastoral care ministries (think of the parish nurse programming and support groups, a Christian counseling team, the Health Cabinet, or "Meals From the Heart"), the incredible TLC and artistic flare that goes into Media Ministry (think of everything from Sunday bulletins, to *First Word*, to the engaging First Lutheran website at www.flcsf.org), the financial generosity and investment prowess that have doubled the church campus footprint since 2004 (think of the committed benevolence that has borne much fruit in two recent, grassroots capital campaigns, totaling nearly \$11M ... yes, think "unheard of" (!) for a downtown congregation these days), or the hundreds of volunteers giving thousands of hours each year (think of the new carpentry shop—where grandfathers in the faith, as well as youngsters, work together), the great heritage of being a mission-driven congregation—**first, in Word, and then in deed**—(think annual bazaar with 100% of proceeds going to local and global missions each year, think the First Quilters, think of \$80K toward support of new surgical technology and staffing in Cameroon and agricultural education in Nicaragua this past December). And think of an absolutely fantastically magisterially gifted, faith-full, caring, dedicated, hard-working-yes-I-can-do-windows staff and Church Council ... I'll sing it again: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Through YOU!!!! The whole family of First Lutheran Church and beyond ... The Dutch theologian, Edward Schillebeeckx frames our little cathedral on the prairie well: "People are the words by which God continues to tell his great love story" (*Church*, xiii).

* * *

Thank God for the amazing gift of the "priesthood of all believers." May we lift it up, for all the world, together at the foot of Jesus' cross and within the horizon of his resurrection ... "For it takes at least two to gospel" (Robert Jenson; *Visible Words*, p. 25). Don't just take my word for it; pick up the Bible and read ... God's Word!

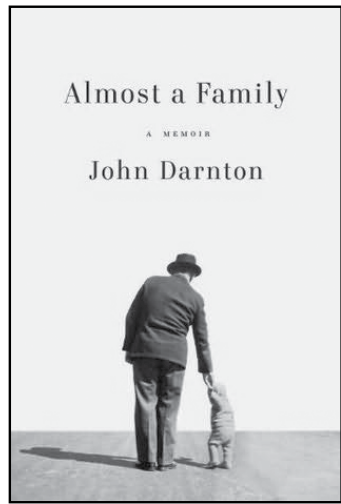
In Christ,

j.r. christopherson, Senior Pastor

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



FLC LIBRARY SUGGESTED READING *for July*



The book the First Lutheran Church Library is featuring in July is *Almost a Family: A Memoir* by John Darnton.

John Darnton worked for the *New York Times* for 40 years. Darnton was 11 months old when his father, a war correspondent for the *New York Times*, was killed by friendly fire during WWII.

This book is Darnton's biography of his family's dynamics. Darnton's resolute word pictures of his parents, the explanation of the cost of his father and mother's choices are deep with emotional honesty and make this book a good read. —Barbara Siebels, Librarian

Senior Ministry Luncheon

Tuesday, July 12
12 p.m. Luncheon
Fellowship Hall

Program: "Life Experiences"
by Myrna Williamson, Brigadier
General in the U.S. Army

No reservations needed.
All are welcome.

FLCW Schedule

The First Lutheran Church Women will not have board meetings in July and August.

There also is not an FLCW program in July.

On Thursday, Aug. 4, Linda Munson will lead the all circle Bible study at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room.



Scripture lessons

July 3: Zechariah 9:9–12; Psalms 145:8–14; Romans 7:15–25a; Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 10: Isaiah 55:10–13; Psalms 65:[1–8] 9–13; Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 17: Isaiah 44:6–8; Psalms 86:11–17; Romans 8:12–25; Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

July 24: 1 Kings 3:5–12; Psalms 119:129–136; Romans 8:26–39; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

July 31: Isaiah 55:1–5, Psalms 145:8–9, 14–21; Romans 9:1–5; Matthew 14:13–21

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



CAROL CHOIR RECOGNITION



Carol Choir Director Bonnie Lindgren would like to recognize the following members of the choir:

These students have participated in the choir all four years:

Alli Benson
Isabelle Bogue
Peter Christopherson
Tori Deitschman
Elizabeth Doty

Alyssa Elton
Dylan Hankel
Katie Johnson
Emelia Skogstad
Sarah Snelling
Connor Sowell
Bella Tooley
Winter Van Veldhuizen

Faithful attendance award winners:

Because of their faithful attendance, these seven Carol Choir members were rewarded with a trip to a Washington Pavilion Cinedome movie followed by a pizza party.

Perfect attendance:

Morgan Oskar
Ellie Williams
Lauren Williams

One or two absences:
Grace Cain
Ethan Elsbernd
Alyssa Elton
Ashley Elton

Associate music director says goodbye

—continued from page 1

and song requires us to open ourselves emotionally. This is intimidating to everyone and is a much different experience than that of observing a choir or band. It requires us to engage our minds and our hearts, but this is essential to worship. A mantra given to me by my teacher, Dr. Anton Armstrong, says it best:

"Mind, body, spirit, voice, it takes the whole person to sing and rejoice." Always remember, liturgy, a word thrown around a great deal to describe our worship, comes from Greek and means literally "the work of the people." This is an important aspect of Lutheran worship, which points to our commitment that worship should

be a communal experience, not passive observation. This is why we sing hymns, so that we can share this expression as an engaged community.

Hymns and songs should always be sung as if they are new, with excitement, anticipation, and joy. Even in seasons such as Lent and Holy Week, where the grief of the church is palpable, hymns allow us to express and encounter these difficult emotions. No matter the age, or style, or genre of a hymn or song—worship must always be contemporary; we must encounter it here and now. This is our responsibility as worshippers.

As I prepare to move across the country (again), I want to thank

each and every member of this congregation for their support and guidance over the last two years. As I clean my office (that's right, stop by to see it if you don't believe me!) and prepare to move, I keep coming back to one hymn:

"My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the sweet though far off hymn
That hails a new creation:
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—
How can I keep from singing?"

Thank you all.

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
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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 Wangness Associate Pastor
(1) Rev. James Christopherson* Associate Pastor
(11) Rev. LeeRoy Eikanger* Visitation Pastor
(11) Rev. LeRoy Nevin* Visitation Pastor
(1) Rev. M. Franklin Pudas* Visitation Pastor
(11) Alan Saatkamp* Associate in Ministry
(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
(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* Communications 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
(10) Deb Koch Kitchen Assistant
(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) Bonnie Lindgren* Carol Choir 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

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Legacy of God's gifts bless the poor of Colombia!

Gifts from capital campaign change lives

By Pastor Natanael Lizarazo

Like a life-giving river that freely flows, so it is also with the legacy of mission outreach that is flowing from the people of God here at First Lutheran Church. Such flowing is happening thanks to precious resources from the "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." campaign. In this issue, we share the legacy of mission that such gifts are making possible for Leadership & Development LIZWAN, a ministry serving the people of God in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

LIZWAN Ministry is anchored in Gospel narratives such as the mustard seed, the multiplication of five loaves of bread and two fish to feed thousands and the story of the two disheartened disciples walking to the village of Emmaus. LIZWAN's sister organization in Colombia, The Emmaus Road Foundation, takes its inspiration in this Gospel narrative. People we serve in Colombia know the realities these two disciples were experiencing as they were walking. The transformation happens when the risen Lord joins them, shares the Scriptures and blesses them with the reality of a new-found joy and mission obedience as he reveals himself in the breaking and sharing of bread.

LIZWAN also gets its inspiration from three inter-related realities.



Alicia Lizarazo inspects the thousands of pennies donated by the Sunday school class of Trinity Lutheran Church. The offering became the seed money to start LIZWAN.

First, my own reality growing up as a poor child in the Andean Mountains of Colombia! I would never have accomplished the education I have had it not been for the sacrifices of my poor family, the help of my congregation, the encouragement of the Lutheran Church of Colombia and the generosity of other people. Thus LIZWAN provides a concrete avenue for me to return the gift I so graciously received.

Secondly, LIZWAN inspiration emerges from a tragedy in our family, namely the death of our second child in Barbara's sixth month of pregnancy, while we were serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Edgemont, S.D. LIZWAN was born where human grief intersected the healing grace of God and the solidarity of the Christian community. God has the power to transform any human situation, no matter how tragic it might be. This continues to be true for Barbara, our daughter, Liz, and me. We thank God for using the LIZWAN Ministry to bring life out of death, blessings out of tragedy and joy out of grief for the poor families we serve in Colombia.

As the five loaves of bread and two fish Gospel narrative reminds us, God has power to work miracles out of insignificant resources. Aware of our loss, the Sunday school class of 12 children at Trinity Lutheran Church asked Barbara and me what they could do to lessen our loss. It was in response to this question that the vision of offering education to poor boys and girls in Colombia became a burning fire in our hearts. The Sunday school children got really excited and started to donate pennies. By the end of 1991 these 12 children had collected \$112.96! This offering became the seed of LIZWAN and its sister organization in Colombia, The Emmaus Road Foundation. These pennies provided the first scholarship for one poor child. Many other scholarships have followed for children, youth and adults seeking a dignified life and pursuing the development of needed



A gift of \$10,400 was recently presented to Leadership and Development LIZWAN from First Lutheran as a result of the recent "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." campaign. LIZWAN contributes to the education and training of Christian leaders in Colombia and is committed to a more dignified, just and compassionate Colombia.

Christian leadership for family, church and society! All thanks to support from family members, friends, non-profit organizations and congregations such as First Lutheran Church.

Thirdly, LIZWAN is inspired by the deep joy and commitment of poor families in Colombia to sacrifice daily bread on their tables in order to provide education for their children. Through scholarships, counseling, spiritual accompaniment and leadership development, LIZWAN makes the investments desperately needed by these families to see their children succeed, become committed Christian leaders and responsible productive citizens. Pastors, nurses, a medical doctor, teachers, social workers, psychologists, engineers, computer specialists, evangelists and other professionals testify to the mission legacy which supporters of LIZWAN make possible.

Just this past year, LIZWAN has joined the Lutheran Church of Colombia and the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in supporting holistic services for a group of 40 elders displaced by the armed conflict in Colombia. These services include supporting a community center where these elders receive lunch Monday through Friday, participate

in worship, have psychological counseling at the center and in their homes, participate in guided activities such as hand-crafts and dance, and enjoy communal celebrations of their significant life milestones.

Anchored in these humble beginnings, the mission of LIZWAN will continue to be "building a dignified, just and compassionate Colombia through formal education, Christian leadership development, servant opportunities, and transformative people-to-people relationships. In this spirit, we acknowledge with profound gratitude the prayerful and financial support LIZWAN has received through the years from individual members, First Lutheran Church Women, those who have visited us in Colombia and now the whole congregation!

As Founders of Leadership & Development LIZWAN, Barbara and I take this opportunity to give thanks to God for First Lutheran's rich legacy of mission among the poor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. For further information, please visit our First Lutheran website under the ministries for the world tab. We also invite you to visit us at our own webpage at www.emmausroadfoundation.org.

YOUTH, FAMILY AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES



Pray for these people going to camp or on a mission trip

1st & 2nd Grade to Camp Shetek Play Day: Aug. 3

Mollie Brown
Grace Cain
Nate Flenard
Grace Glover

1st & 2nd Grade to Camp Shetek: July 21

Alexis Brady
Madison Sampson
Kelton Stensland

2nd-5th Grade to Camp Shetek: July 6-8

Karsten Ahrens
Abigail Amundsen
Isabelle Bogue

Victoria Deitschman
Alyssa Elton
Ashley Elton
Gavin Fischer
Jackson Fischer
Bridget Holmstrom
Brooke Kokenge
Lindsay Kokenge
Alaina LeClaire
Morgan Oskar
Cole Olson
Jacob Van Buskirk
Arika Williams
Lauren Williams

2nd-4th Grade to Camp Shetek: July 31-Aug. 2

Ethan Elsbernd

Garrett Masters
Morgen Zeller

4th & 5th Grade to Camp Shetek: July 31-Aug. 5

Miranda Flenard
Payton Ortman
Connor Sowell
Bella Tooley

5th Grade to NeSoDak: July 24-29

Thadd Coon
Samantha King
Hailey Olson
Megan Nolan
Ella Roberts-Oakland
Noah Schlekeway

Kate Solberg

6th Grade to NeSoDak: July 31-Aug. 5

Jacob Alvine
Harrison Backer
Alex Barron
Morgan Carl
Anna Kappenman
Connor McElroy
Monroe Zeller

9th-12th Grade to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp: July 9-16

Jillian Doty
Anna Litz
Adam Lund

Katie McGuire

Dan Nelson
Brendtly Ross
Haley Sundet
Jessica Sundet
Doran Starnes
Tasha Thibodeau
AJ Thorson
Erin Willadsen

Colombia: July 29-Aug. 5

Jeff Backer
Jennifer Hoff
Sam Jensen
Dana Johnson
Colleen Kokenge
Tracie Osthus
Eric Sather

Meeting our brothers and sisters in Christ

FLC delegation to Nicaragua builds relationships, shares God's love



The First Lutheran Church delegation poses with the people of La Carbonera next to a well put in by Lutheran World Relief.

The trip to Nicaragua affected my life back home by making me realize that it's not what you have, but who you have. Even though they had nearly nothing, they were the happiest people ever.

–Shaylee Heinert



The group crosses a bridge on the way to La Carbonera.



◀ The group from First Lutheran attends a Mother's Day celebration at Central Church in Managua.

▶ Sarah Wadsworth presents a homemade blanket to her host mom in Somoto.

The youth were just like us and they were going through some of the same things we are. It was great when they welcomed us. That is the part that affected me greatly because they didn't even know us and they welcomed us with open arms and made us feel so comfortable and safe.

–Lindsey Herbert



It's just a hop, skip and a jump. The delegation crosses a puddle on the way to a rural community. While in Nicaragua, the group was able to spend time with the youth and see firsthand the progress being made on the farm/retreat center that First Lutheran supported as part of the capital campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pizza Party!

An intro into FLC high school ministries for all incoming ninth-graders
 Thursday, July 7
 5–7 p.m. in Manos de Cristo
 RSVP to Marnie at 339-1983, ext. 13.

Walking Wet Together: Middle School Afternoon Adventure

(For youth who have completed 6th or 7th grade)
 Wednesday, July 20, from 1–5 p.m.
 Please sign up in the youth office by Sunday, July 17.

High School Summer Youth Group

Wednesday, July 20, at 7 p.m.
 Meet at Thunder Road
 Cost is \$5.

4:12 Canoe/Kayak/Potluck at Covell Lake

Sunday, July 17
 5:30–7:30 p.m.
 Chicken will be provided, please bring a side or dessert to share!

4:12 Habitat for Humanity Building Night

Wednesday, July 13, at 5 p.m.
 Call Marnie at 339-1983, ext. 13, to sign up.
 4:12 is Christian adults in their 20s and 30s experiencing ministries through a balance of fellowship, life sharing, spiritual growth and outreach.

First Lutheran Church Calendar—July 2011



Friday, July 1

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC
8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
11:30 AM Organ Workers Meals FrR FrK
Saturday, July 2
10:15 AM Open Gym RH
5:00 PM Vespers C
Sunday, July 3
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK
9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W
9:45 AM Traditional Worship S
11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S
12:16 PM Worship in African Context C
3:00 PM Counseling PR
7:00 PM Our Savior Pulaski WI Overnight D Md

Monday, July 4

Office Closed
Our Savior Pulaski WI Overnight D Md
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR
Tuesday, July 5
9:00 AM Worship Planning TR
11:30 AM Women's Bible Study in McKennan Park
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR
6:00 PM Stephen Ministries FrR/FrRK
Wednesday, July 6
9:00 AM Quilting QSC
9:00 AM Kindermusik MR1
10:00 AM Bible Study with the Pastors GR/GRK
12:00 PM Eat Well Live Well Love God PMR
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR
3:00 PM Charis Transportation Committee PMR
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1

Thursday, July 7

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR
10:00 AM Visitation Pastors TR
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:00 PM Incoming Freshman Pizza Party MdC
5:15 PM Volleyball Practice (MR) RH
7:00 PM Pre-Baptism Class GR
7:00 PM Our Savior Pulaski WI Overnight D Md
Friday, July 8
Our Savior Pulaski WI Overnight D Md
8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC
8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
Saturday, July 9

10:15 AM Open Gym RH
5:00 PM Vespers C
Sunday, July 10
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S
8:55 AM Study on Smalcald Articles FH
9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W
9:15 AM Equal Exchange Coffee WCD
9:45 AM Traditional Worship S
11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S
12:16 PM Worship in African Context C
3:00 PM Counseling PR
4:00 PM St Luke's Lutheran Church Overnight D

Monday, July 11

St Luke's Lutheran Church Overnight D
8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR
Tuesday, July 12
9:00 AM Worship Planning TR
11:30 AM Women's Bible Study in McKennan Park
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon FH/FHK
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR
6:30 PM Board of Adult Discipleship TR

Wednesday, July 13

10:00 AM Bible Study with the Pastors GR/GRK
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1
6:30 PM Study on Smalcald Articles GR
Thursday, July 14
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR
12:00 PM Project Car Steering Comm TR
12:00 PM Study on Smalcald Articles FrR
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:15 PM Volleyball Practice (MR) RH
6:00 PM Holistic Health Council PMR
6:00 PM Board of Outreach FrR

Friday, July 15

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC
8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal S
6:15 PM Clark/McKenney Rehearsal Dinner GR GRK
Saturday, July 16
10:15 AM Open Gym RH
3:30 PM Wedding Hospitality TR
5:00 PM Vespers C
7:00 PM Clark/McKenney Wedding S
Sunday, July 17

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK
8:55 AM Study on Smalcald Articles FH
9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W
9:45 AM Traditional Worship S
11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S
12:16 PM Worship in African Context C
3:00 PM Counseling PR
5:30 PM 4:12 Canoe/Kayak/Potluck Offsite

Monday, July 18

8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
9:00 AM Sewing QSC
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR
Tuesday, July 19
9:00 AM Worship Planning TR
11:30 AM Women's Bible Study in McKennan Park Of
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR
6:00 PM Board of Pastoral Care L
6:00 PM Stephen Ministries FrR/FrRK

Wednesday, July 20

9:00 AM Quilting QSC
10:00 AM Bible Study with the Pastors GR/GRK
1:00 PM Middle School Summer Event RH/RHK/LFT/
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR
4:00 PM Foundation Mtg TR
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1
6:30 PM Study on Smalcald Articles GR
7:00 PM Youth Group - Thunder Road Offsite RH
Thursday, July 21

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR
12:00 PM Study on Smalcald Articles FrR
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:00 PM Financial Services Bd PMR
5:15 PM Volleyball Practice (MR) RH
5:30 PM Board of Worship & Music TR
Friday, July 22
8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC
8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:30 PM Kvien/Jensen Wedding Rehearsal S

Saturday, July 23

10:15 AM Open Gym RH
11:30 AM Wedding Hospitality TR
1:00 PM Amber Overby Shower GR GRK
2:00 PM Lighthouse Luth Overnight D McD RH
3:00 PM Kvien/Jensen Wedding S
5:00 PM Vespers C
Sunday, July 24

12:00 AM Lighthouse Luth Overnight D MdC RH
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK
9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W
9:45 AM Traditional Worship S
11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S
12:16 PM Worship in African Context C
3:00 PM Counseling PR

Monday, July 25

8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:00 PM Property Board TR
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR
Tuesday, July 26
8:30 AM Foot Clinic PMR
9:00 AM Worship Planning TR
11:30 AM Women's Bible Study in McKennan Park
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:00 PM Stewardship Board Meeting TR

Wednesday, July 27

10:00 AM Bible Study with the Pastors GR/GRK
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1
Thursday, July 28
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR
1:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:00 PM Church Council FH
5:15 PM Volleyball Practice (MR) RH

Friday, July 29

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC
8:45 AM Basketball Practice (SL) RH
5:30 PM Albertus/Andriash Wedding Rehearsal S
10:00 PM First Lutheran Lake City Overnight D
Saturday, July 30
First Lutheran Lake City Overnight D
10:15 AM Open Gym RH
11:30 AM Wedding Hospitality TR
2:00 PM Pat Darger Birthday Open House GR GRK
3:00 PM Albertus/Andriash Wedding S
5:00 PM Vespers C

Sunday, July 31

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK
9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W
9:45 AM Traditional Worship S
11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S
12:16 PM Worship in African Context C
2:00 PM Bob Mathiesen 80th Birthday Party GR G
3:00 PM Counseling PR

STEWARDSHIP



The "how" is not our business, but God's business



Terry Pospisil

By Terry Pospisil

Whenever we are given a vision, message, or an urging of something greater in our lives, our first question is usually "HOW"—"How can I accomplish this?" or "How can

I take that job?" "How am I going to

be able to write a book?" or "How am I going to afford that?" Someone once said to me, "The HOW is none of my business. The HOW is God's business."

In each transition of my life, I feel that I have come a great way—a great way towards complete faith and trust in God's good for me and what he wants from me in life. In this feeling of accomplishment there also comes a sense of humbleness.

When I can see that God leads me to greater challenges, more demanding

expectations, and higher planes in this life, I see that he takes me further than I ever imagined. And I never know the HOW at the beginning.

And when I look back on those beginnings—and their endings—I have to smile and thank God because if I had known at the beginning how it would end or what I would be doing to get to the end, I would have been too terrified to travel that path or to accept that encouraged challenge. God was and

continues to be with me every step of the way. Every day I am filled with awe at the fearlessness that surrounds me.

Dear God, I am grateful that I am a part of your plan and that you are first in my life. I consent to your infinite wisdom and perfect timing. I do not believe in failure. I believe in you, Dear God. I release my concerns of HOW for I know You provide answers and solutions that will ever increase the blessings in my life. I am at peace. In Jesus Christ's name I pray—Amen.

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Gifts and memorials from May 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

Leo Roti: Alta Roti

Gift to Ida Bergeland Fund in memory of

Fern Chamberlain: James & Jeanne Koster

Gift to Media Ministry in honor of

Shirley Ashworth's birthday: Barb Peterson

Pastor Dave Johnson: Irene Anderson
Bill and Opal Westerdahl's 60th wedding anniversary: Barb Peterson

Gift to Media Ministry in memory of

Susan Anderson: Pastor Jim & Dorothy Christopherson
Calvin Baier: Wayne & Verna Remme

Lois Bly: Martha Evenson
Melba Dettman: Don & Arlene Hoek; Bea Osthus

Lillian Hansen: Carol Rae Hansen
Frank Harms: Pastor LeRoy & Elaine Nevin

Harry Reiner: Friends; Millie Blackstad; Glenyta Hanson; Terry & Carla Midden; James Moore; Rudolph & Marilyn Nef; John & Trudy Peckham; Pastor Franklin & Marit Pudas; Esther Saylor; The Bank of Elk River

Anne Helland: First Lutheran Church Women

Jane Hessenstein: Carol & Betty Brown
Leonard Martinek: Pastor LeeRoy & Marilyn Eikanger; Patti Erickson; Orville & Ardis Hill; Stephen Johnson; Gary O'Heron; Eunice Quamen; Don & Florence Toft; Valley Exchange Bank
Harry Riener: John & Christine Harvey

Charles & Esther Sidlo: Rebecca Arnold; Barbara Hughes; Cheryl Neima; Laurel Rother
Mona Wenge: Dale & Cheryl Berkland; Wilma Trygstad

Gifts to Visitation Pastor Ministry in memory of

Leonard Martinek: Orrin & Karen Anderson; Dawn M. Bain; Joel & Nancy Brown; Duffy Realty; K.M. & L.J. Iseminger; Laura Meaddows; Thomas & Jeanne Streit

Gifts to Music Department in memory of

Leonard Martinek: Friends; David & Marilee Driver; Thomas & Cynthia Hoy; Lodge Minnesota

Gift to Organ Fund in honor of

James Moore: Elaine Moore

Financial update

May 2011

Worship Attendance

May 2011..... 4,541

Total Revenues

2011 Actual YTD \$789,795
2010 Actual \$797,461

Total Expenses

2011 Actual \$776,683
2010 Actual \$762,204

Notes Payable

Bank Loan - Capital \$936,525

Contract For Deed

Ideal \$600,194

"God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." Income Through May 2011..... \$1,989,093

MEDIA MINISTRIES



May and June 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:

May 1: In memory of Albert and Stella Wold by Dick and Jeanne Wold.

May 8: In memory of Harry and Lena Dooyema by their family.

May 15: By an anonymous member who is thankful for life.

May 22: In memory of Erling and Clara Haugo, who would have celebrated their wedding anniversary on May 29. It is made possible by earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

May 29: By Orville and Ardis Hill in loving memory of their parents.

June 5: By the family of Lynn and Helen Loomis. Lynn and Helen would have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on June 10. Also, Helen would have celebrated her birthday on June 7.

June 12: In memory of Albert and Esther Berdahl, who were married at First Lutheran Church on June 11, 1937, given by their family.

June 19: In honor of Doris Salem, who will celebrate her birthday on June 23, by her family.

June 26: By John Hillgren in memory of Ralph and Priscilla Hillgren, whose anniversary would have been June 26. It also is sponsored in memory of their daughter, Sonja Hillgren. This sponsorship is made possible through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

KSFY telecast sponsored:

May 1: In memory of Jake and Amelia Fritz and their son, Leonard Fritz, by family.

May 8: In memory and honor of all mothers by the First Lutheran Church Women.

June 5: In memory of Muriel Ekeland, by her family: Norm Ekeland, Rob and Kari Ekeland, Ron and Deb Levine and Rachel Levine.

June 12: In loving memory of Esther and Albert Berdahl, who were married at First Lutheran on June 11, 1937.

It is also sponsored in memory of Will Edward Lantis and in honor of Mary Ellen Lantis, whose wedding anniversary would have been June 15.

June 19: In recognition of Joyce M. Ashley's parents through earnings from her memorial gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

June 26: In memory of Susan Lankford through the earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation from her family and friends. David and Susan would have celebrated their anniversary on June 23.

KTTW-FOX telecast sponsored:

May 29: By the First Lutheran Church Media Board in honor of all those who worship with us through the broadcast.

Closed captioning sponsored:

May 1: In memory of Harvey Quamen, Sr., who would have celebrated his 95th birthday on May 2, by Eunice Quamen and Harvey Quamen, Jr.

May 8: By Pastors Natanael Lizarazo and Barbara Wangnsen in honor of their daughter, Liz's, college graduation and their wedding anniversary on May 7.

June 12: In memory of Vince and Naomi Pratt, who would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11, by their daughter, Karen.

June 19: In memory of Leonard Martinek, and in honor of his sons, Craig and Carl; grandchildren, Kelli, Kristin and Kyle; and great-grandchildren, Briley and Kennedy.

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.

MEDIA MINISTRIES needs you.

This is your invitation to be a part of the radio and television broadcasts that share the message of God's love each week. We are currently looking to fill soundboard positions, but all help is welcome. On average, each Media Ministries volunteer serves once a month.

Please contact Heather at 339-1983, ext. 20, or hkuecker@flcsf.org, for more information about training and scheduling

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES



Life Transitions through May

Births

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

- Sophia Renae Gronseth, daughter of Dustin & Shanda Gronseth, born on May 6, 2011
- Evelyn Ann Gibson, daughter of Scott & Melissa Gibson, born on May 10, 2011
- Ainsley Emmerson Weatherill, daughter of Jay & Katie Weatherill, born on Feb. 16, 2011

Baptisms

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

- Lauren Diane Anacker, daughter of Jeremy & Susan Anacker
- Joshua Robert Thibodeau, son of Travis Thibodeau & Andria Cass Connor
- James Madetzke, son of Ryan Madetzke & Jennifer Kriech
- Annmarie Lynn Steele, daughter of Jeffrey Steele & Nichole Harris

- Alexis Jolynn Tiedeman, daughter of Tyler Tiedeman & Bobbi Foht
- Kade Amund Kimber, son of Kristofer & Amy Kimber

Weddings

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

- Douglas Lynch & Elizabeth Joyslin
- Jeffrey Belben & Kimberly Watson
- David Schiley & Carrie Anderson

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)

- Frank Harms
- Ervin Erickson
- Evelyn Skiles
- Jeanette Ellingsen
- Grant Larson
- Marie Nelson
- Keith Paisley

Forty-nine children served at Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Thanks to all the volunteers and the financial contributions from Outreach and Pastoral Care Boards, 49 children were seen by the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in June. Dentists and hygienists provided more than \$19,000 worth of dental care.

The Care Mobile, a fully-equipped dental office on wheels, provides



dental care to children (up to age 21) who do not have a dentist.

This was the fifth year the Care Mobile was sponsored by First Lutheran Church.

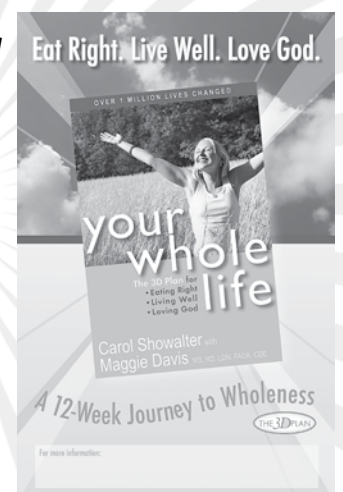
JOIN THE WHOLE LIFE BOOK GROUP!

A 12-week series based on the book *Your Whole Life: The 3D Plan for Eating Right, Living Well, Loving God*, will begin on Wednesday, July 13, at noon in the Parish Meeting Room.

Join this group that focuses on living a whole life incorporating sound nutrition and wellness advice, tips for living well and daily spiritual readings.

The cost of the book and journal is \$10. However, scholarships are available.

Contact Parish Nurse Paula Bartels at 339-1983, ext. 24, to register or to learn more.



Caring Ministry Coordinator Charlotte Peters announces retirement

Caring Ministry Coordinator Charlotte Peters recently announced her retirement after almost 10 years on staff at First Lutheran Church.



Charlotte Peters

As caring ministry coordinator, Char was in charge of the Friendly Visitor program, served as a contact for Stephen Ministry, facilitated Bread for This Journey, a program that delivers a loaf of bread to those who are grieving the loss

of a loved one, and much more.

But her favorite part of her job was assisting Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care Barbara Wangness.

"I love detail work and knowing that I can free up her time for some things," says Char. "She's the most driven person I've ever worked for. I admire her compassion and work ethic."

Char has been caring for others all of her life. And actually, her retirement from First Lutheran is her second retirement. She retired as administrator at Sunnycrest Village in 1999 to take care of her dying mother. After her mother passed away, the position at First Lutheran

seemed to be a good fit for her.

She says people have told her she's too involved. "What does that mean?" she asks. "If you resent what you are doing, you're too involved. I haven't felt that way, so I give."

Another part of her job that she enjoys is coordinating the services of Holy Communion at local nursing homes and retirement facilities.

"It's so important to remember that people in nursing homes are part of our congregation," says Char. "Even though they are not here, they are still valued."

In retirement, Char hopes to get her house in order and take time to read books. She also hopes

"It's so important to remember that people in nursing homes are part of our congregation," says Char. "Even though they are not here, they are still valued."

to be more active in women's activities and attend Bible studies.

On behalf of the congregation and staff of First Lutheran Church, we wish Char many blessings on her retirement!

Find quiet time with God daily: Choose a time, a place, and have a plan

By Paula Bartels, Parish Nurse

Perhaps "taking care of your temple" is going well for you physically, even mentally. But, how is it going spiritually? Our spirits need daily "nutrition" also. Reading God's word, praying and quiet time with God is spiritual food.

When I was a young girl, my pastor told me how important it was to read my Bible daily. It was necessary to grow spiritually, he said.

I started out great! However, I started missing a day here and there, then a week. I'd get back into it daily but then revert to the same old pattern.

I once read a book about a woman who kept a daily devotion routine for more than 11 years, and it really sparked my interest. Her

suggestions for keeping a routine:

- 1) choose a time
- 2) choose a place
- 3) have a plan

I decided to give it a try. My time is in the morning while I have breakfast. My place is a recliner near the fireplace. I read my devotional, *Streams in the Desert*, while I eat my Cheerios with banana. Then I drink my tea while I read the Bible. It has worked for me! Even (or especially) through hard times, like chemotherapy.

The great thing is you can choose the time, place, and plan that fits you!

"The reality of Jesus comes as a result of secret prayer, and a personal study of the Bible that is devotional and sympathetic. Christ becomes more real to the

one who persists in the cultivation of His presence," says Mrs. Charles Cowman in *Streams in the Desert*.

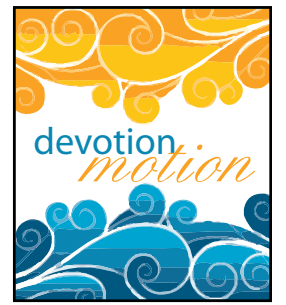
Perhaps instead of looking at our quiet time as a "duty," we can instead see it as an opportunity to spend time with Jesus every day.

In "My Heart Christ's Home" by Robert Munger, Jesus is speaking to a Christian man: "The trouble is that you have been thinking of the quiet time, of Bible study and prayer as a means for your own spiritual growth. This is true, but you have forgotten that this time means something to me also. Remember, I love you. At great cost I have redeemed you. Whether or not you want to be with me, remember I want to be with you. I really love you!"

First Lutheran Church member

Kristi Gullickson finds in addition to her morning devotions, five minutes of quiet at noon break is a great way to refresh her spirit. She suggests finding a break room or someplace you can get away from distractions for a few minutes during your work day.

Going for a walk can be a great way to spend some time with Jesus! Walking is a great way to take care of your body, mind and spirit!



Check the back of the bulletin for some devotion resources.

AROUND THE CHURCH



A peek during the week

In June First Lutheran Church was transformed into Jesus' hometown of Nazareth for Vacation Bible School. More than 60 students took part in activities and learned Bible verses during the four-day adventure.

The organ project continues. Most recently, Schoenstein and Company has been working on replacing the wiring. They have also installed the violone pipes that range in height up to 16 feet.



First Word

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IN THIS ISSUE...

- 1 The priesthood of all believers
- 1 Associate music director says goodbye
- 4 Legacy of God's gifts bless the poor of Colombia!
- 5 Meeting our brothers and sisters in Christ: FLC delegation to Nicaragua builds relationships, shares God's love
- 7 Media Ministries needs you