



flcsf.org  
**First Word**  
*The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church*

## Organ restoration offers chance to explore alternate liturgy settings

By Michael Elsbernd,  
 Director of Music Ministries

Restoration work on the Aeolian-Skinner organ begins Monday, May 2. During the restoration (May through October) all service music will be led by the Steinway piano in the chancel. This offers us an opportunity to explore some new liturgy settings. Starting in June, setting eight in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* will be used during the 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. Marty Haugen's "Now the Feast and Celebration," will be used at all morning services on the first Sunday of each month. Setting one in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* will continue to be used at the 8:15 a.m. services, except for the first Sunday of each month.

While the primary instrument leading our corporate worship will change, our liturgy (which literally means "the work of the people") will continue to bring unity to our congregation. This is an excellent time to refocus our attention to liturgy, and how we are:

- Transformed by the Gathering of a people;
- Called by God to hear the Word proclaimed in scriptures and song;
- Strengthened for service and mission through the Meal Christ shares at his table;
- And finally, we we are Sent into the world that God so dearly loves.

This weekly pattern of Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending, loosely describes the way we see, hear, and respond to our Creator, who is in dialogue with us through prayer, scripture, Holy Communion, Baptism and preaching. When liturgy is alive, we welcome the stranger in Christ's love, we pray for God's whole church, we describe the attributes of God and his love as expressed through the gift of his son, Jesus. We express what we believe through the Apostles' Creed, while acknowledging the need to confess our sinfulness and receive the words of absolution.

Each week, the act of gathering affirms our vocation as a people created by God. As we live out this vocation, our weekly liturgy not only keeps us from forgetting the attributes of our Creator, but also teaches us the story of our salvation as we proclaim before the Gospel, "Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!" (John 6:68)."



The Aeolian-Skinner organ will be out of service from May through October, as this heritage instrument undergoes a much-needed restoration.

## The Doubting Thomas of faith ... and the gravity of God's grace



This beautiful Carvagian study of "Doubting Thomas" (4' by 4')—by local Ethiopian immigrant and painter Eyob Mergia—is temporarily on loan at First Lutheran, thanks to Piper Gallery.

By Pastor John Christopherson

"Eight days later [after Jesus' first post-resurrection appearance to his disciples—when Thomas was absent] the disciples were now again in the house [where Jesus had celebrated his last supper with them]. [This time however,] Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless but believing.' Thomas answered Jesus: 'My Lord and my God!' (John 20:26–28; emphasis added).

Our Gospel lesson for the Second Sunday of Easter (1 May 2011) focuses on four key words: "Peace Be With You." Four words of tremendous reassurance because they grow out of the power of Jesus' resurrection, pointing us to him who is the Author and Sustainer of all life ... and faith ... even in the midst of all our doubts.

Jesus speaks these words, "Peace be with you," to his disciples—as a parent would to a child, the child in all of us who has run into hiding because of a terrible thunderstorm. He repeats the

—continued on page 2

## High school seniors recognized, receive quilts as a reminder of God's love

Each year, Youth and Family Ministries produces a video testimony of First Lutheran Church high school seniors. Seniors share their faith and reminisce about things they have experienced as they've grown up at First Lutheran. Sunday, May 1, was Senior Recognition Sunday. The seniors were recognized during the 11:15 a.m. worship service where they received quilts made especially for them by the First Lutheran Church Quilters.

Following is a transcript of a few of the seniors' comments. The entire video will be available on the First Lutheran website, [www.flcsf.org](http://www.flcsf.org).

**Joey Johnson, O'Gorman High School**

**Plans after high school:** U.S. Military Academy, West Point

As I head up to West Point, I look forward to being able to spread God's word, and do good things around the world. I'm going to be given a lot of

opportunities to help people, and I look forward to spreading my faith.

My favorite song is *What Wondrous Love Is This*. I don't really have a reason except I think it's a beautiful song and has a really good message.

**Marta Lerdal, Washington High School**

**Plans after high school:** University of Sioux Falls, majoring in sports management

One of the most meaningful

experiences I've had at First Lutheran was being able to teach the kindergartners in Sunday school classes.

It's really good knowing that I'm helping the younger kids get to learn and love Jesus as much as I have grown to. It's also really fun to teach with Nancy because she teaches me that being a child sometimes is a good thing.

Receiving my quilt on Senior

—continued on page 5



The First Quilters display the 2011 senior quilts.

## 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 June issue is Tuesday, May 10. Please e-mail articles or questions regarding *First Word* to: [kvilhauer@flcsf.org](mailto:kvilhauer@flcsf.org). *First Word* is also available online ([www.flcsf.org](http://www.flcsf.org)).

## The Doubting Thomas of faith ... and the gravity of God's grace

—continued from page 1  
words three times. Why? Because like a big reassuring hug, once is never enough. These words bring home the wish of a lonely world, a wish once made upon a star—that from afar, God would come to dwell among us, and death would no longer have the final word.

And so, as with the disciples, Jesus speaks to us again through his Word through Holy Scripture ... into the rooms of our lives that are still filled with fear and loneliness: “Don’t be afraid,” says Jesus. “I’m here.” “Peace be with you” ... Unlock the doors of your fearful hearts. “Peace be with you” ... Open yourself in faith and leave room for the mystery



Pastor John Christopherson

of my saving love that’s overcome death. “Peace be with you” ...

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Thomas. He defies tidy summary. I know he’s been given a bad rap over the years of church history. Somewhere, at sometime,

someone called him “Doubting Thomas” and the name stuck. And it’s true, he *did* doubt. It’s just that there’s so much more to it than that ... Too often we think that where there’s doubt, there can’t be faith. For example, I overheard a woman not long ago saying to a friend, burdened with doubts: “If you don’t get rid of all those doubts, well ... you must not have faith. And you know, like ... hell.” Great friend, huh? ... As though faith and doubt are mutually exclusive.

But honestly, faith isn’t all that clear—at least not this side of the grave (I Corinthians 13:12). Faith and doubt, trust and risk, hang together in life. We witnessed this on Good Friday in Jesus’ passion and crucifixion. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me” (Mark 15:34). These are words that imply \_\_\_?\_\_\_. But then, we also heard, “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46). These are words that imply \_\_\_?\_\_\_. So it is that we too experience doubt and faith—hanging together on the cross.

Think about it ... “faith by definition implies doubt” (see Paul Tillich; *Dynamics of Faith*, p. 16–22). John Calvin, the great professor of piety in many ways, was even want to say in his classic *Institutes of the Christian Tradition*: “Doubt is in all people, and always mixed with faith” (I:547). Captured well by Calvin, is the New

Testament drama of our chronic need of God’s reassurance: “Lord, we believe; yet help our unbelief” (Mark 9:24). No? Yes? \*\*\*

So ... there was more to Thomas’ questioning than a simple lack of faith. It was rather, better understood, a lack of imagination ... a lack of openness, of not leaving room for the mystery of God’s way in the world to enter in. Think back with me to a couple of examples accounted in Scripture (before the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus) that offer us a fuller picture of The Doubting Thomas of Faith.

**“Don’t be afraid,” says Jesus. “I’m here.” “Peace be with you” ...**

First, recall the time in St. John’s gospel (John 14:1–6) when Jesus is talking about going to prepare a place in his Father’s house with many rooms ... and concludes with “and you know the way I am going.” But Thomas is quick to speak in all honesty: “Lord, we don’t have a clue.” Thomas asked honest questions of Jesus if he didn’t understand.

Second, recall the time Jesus told his disciples, again in St. John’s gospel (John 11:1–44), that he was going to return to Judea, to a small suburb of Jerusalem called Bethany in order to comfort his friends, Mary and Martha. Their brother, Lazarus, had just died. And the disciples panicked: “You’ve got to be kidding, right?! Last time we were there, folk tried to stone you!”

But what was Thomas’ reply? Look at John 11:16: “Thomas said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go with Jesus, that we might die with him.’” *Doubting Thomas?* ... Thomas had spent his life waiting for the Messiah, and now that the Messiah was here, in the person of Jesus, Thomas was willing to spend his life for him and his ushering in God’s kingdom come. Not much imagination, but a lot of loyalty!

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Perhaps it is this trait of loyalty that explains why Thomas wasn’t in the Upper Room when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his death and resurrection (John 20:19–25). I think

that Thomas, with all of his brutal honesty and tenacity, took the death of Jesus very, very hard. Even if he couldn’t understand all of Jesus’ teachings and miracles. He was still willing to go to the end with Jesus. But he’d never expected that the end would come so abruptly, so prematurely. Perhaps he was, typische Thomas, still searching ... searching for answers ... searching for Jesus. As he said to his fellow disciples, with some feigned bravado: “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nail, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe” (John 20:25). And as a result, he was left with a crossword puzzle of unanswered questions. Somewhere between the brutal doubt of it all ... and ... a love of limping loyalty that didn’t want to get hurt all over again. And right there, Jesus found Thomas!

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Though it went against every logical bone in his body, Thomas said he’d believe if he could just have a little proof (the father of modern day “logical positivism”?). And Jesus—who is ever so patient with our doubting and growing pains of faith—gave Thomas exactly what he was searching for, and more ... Jesus extended his hand one more time ... And was Thomas ever amazed. He did a double take, fell flat on his face, and cried: “My Lord and my God!” The gravity of God’s grace finally got to him. May it be so the next time the Spirit of Christ says to us, gathered as his family at table: “This is my body ... given for you.”

The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always ...

j.r. christopherson  
Senior Pastor

The inspiring painting of faith, by Eyob Mergia (on the cover page) is hoping to find a home at FLC! Benefactors welcome.

### Further reading:

- *Dynamics of Faith* by Paul Tillich
- *Doubt: A history, The Great Doubters and Their Legacy of Innovation from Socrates and Jesus to Thomas Jefferson and Emily Dickinson* by Jennifer Michael Hecht

### Church Council Highlights: March 24, 2011

Bill Bradfeldt, chair of the Board for Outreach, reported that at the March meeting the members recommended funding the four remaining ministries identified by the Mission/Outreach Task Force as recipients of the “God’s Work. Our Responsibility.” mission and outreach funds. The two local ministries are Habitat for Humanity and St. Francis House; the two global ministries are LIZWAN and Lutheran World Relief. President James Moore suggested that the Outreach Board submit a full report on the four remaining projects and recommend a distribution

timetable at the April meeting. The council would then vote on the recommendation.

Marilyn McNeill reported on the progress in the arrangements for implementing the Youth and Family Life Background Screening Policy. It is estimated that the average cost per person for the background check would be \$20 to \$27. Kris O’Connell and Marilyn plan to conduct the initial training, and the youth staff would be responsible for the training thereafter. A motion to accept the First Lutheran Church Children and Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures as presented

was made, seconded and unanimously passed. President Moore extended thanks to Marilyn and Kris for their work on the policies.

President Moore announced that the South Dakota Synod Assembly will take place June 10–11 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. The two days will be filled with inspiring worship services and Bible studies, informative reports on happenings in the ELCA and the synod, and business sessions at which resolutions will be considered. First Lutheran is allowed 10 lay voting members.

## Scripture lessons

**May 1:** Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**May 8:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

**May 15:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

**May 22:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

**May 29:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

## Media Ministries welcomes new broadcast technical director

Media Ministries recently said goodbye to Technical Director Tyler Johnson. Tyler served First Lutheran for almost three years. Thank you, Tyler!

Bryce Jarrett was hired as technical director and started working on Sunday, April 10. Bryce is a native of Britton, S.D., and a graduate of Montana State University. He's lived in Sioux Falls since 2001. He is the founder of Fiveman Films, a full service

film and HD production and post production company.

In his spare time he likes to spend time on the water with his girlfriend and her kids. He also likes to scuba dive.

Welcome to the media team, Bryce!



Bryce Jarrett

## 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

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



## Perennial Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
First Lutheran Church Parking Lot

**Donate plants:** Drop off plants from 7 to 9 a.m. on the day of the sale. Put fist-sized clumps in a plastic bag, label and price.

**Volunteer:** Call Jan Erkes at 338-7575 to sign up to help!

**Shop:** All proceeds go to the "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." Campaign.

## Study on the Lutheran Confessions to continue

The summer study on the Lutheran Confessions will continue.

This summer we'll be looking at Luther's Smalcald Articles. And in response to the great feedback we've received regarding Dr. Chris Croghan's five Sunday morning sessions during Lent, we'll be mixing in some reflections on Gerhard Forde's book about Luther's theology called *Where God Meets Man*. Forde's book will be helpful, but not necessary for our study on the Smalcald Articles.

A copy of the Lutheran Confessions, however, will prove quite handy. A copy is available in the First Lutheran Church Library.

We'll continue meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room, Thursdays at noon in the Friendship Room and Sundays at 8:55 a.m. in the Den starting in June.

For more information, please call me at 339-1983, ext. 17.



Pastor Jason Burggraff

## 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. Natanael 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  
(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  
(15) Bryce Jarrett\* ..... 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 Schrodin\* ..... 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

**Main Phone Line:** ..... (605) 336-3734  
**Direct Dial:** ..... (605) 339-1983  
**Toll-Free:** ..... (800) 425-9899  
**Fax:** ..... (605) 336-8370  
**Emergency Cell:** ..... (605) 323-7667  
**Custodian Cell:** ..... (605) 351-8281  
**Project Car:** ..... (605) 332-2777

## Senior Ministry Luncheon



Tuesday, May 10 • Noon  
Fellowship Hall

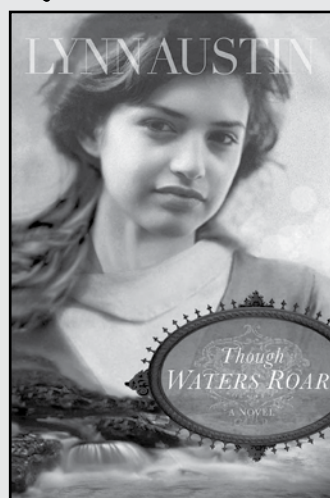
**Program:** "Dwelling Places" by Marit Pudas

Marit will discuss her 50-plus years in building miniature dwellings. No reservations needed. All are welcome.

## FLC LIBRARY SUGGESTED READING for May

*Though Waters Roar* by Lynn Austin is available for check-out in the First Lutheran Church Library.

The book's heroine, Harriet Sherwood, longs to follow the ways of the women in her family who lived for social justice, but Harriet ends up in jail. Spiritual questions are explored as Harriet reviews her family heritage: Hannah participated in the Underground Railroad, Bebe fought demon rum, and Lucy fought for a woman's right to vote. The author weaves these stories together as Harriet works to find a place of understanding.



## FLCW meeting schedule

The First Lutheran Church Women will host the annual Salad Supper on Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m. in Reformation Hall. Hannah Circle is hosting.

The theme for the supper is Growing in God's Garden. Entertainment will be provided by a First Lutheran musical ensemble. Tickets are \$6 each and are available through Circle chairs and at the Information Desk. All women are invited to come and bring a guest. The FLCW board meeting will be prior to the salad supper on May 5 at 4:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.



FLCW is sponsoring a collection of



**Socks & Shampoo**

**The SOS collection will benefit SIGH (Stepping Into Good Health), a free foot clinic for those who have limited resources for health care. The SOS items needed are:**

**New socks:** Men's extra large black socks; calf length or ankle length socks in medium and large (any color); diabetic socks in medium or large (available at Dollar Tree, Walmart, Walgreens).

**Shampoo:** Any size, including travel size.

A basket will be available in the Welcome Center for contributions. Call Arlene Bich, secretary for mission community for WELCA, at 275-6891, or Paula Bartels, parish nurse, at 339-1983, ext. 24, with questions. Thank you for your support of this project.

**FROM THE CHILDREN**



Sunday, May 8  
11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
Sanctuary

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES



### Make your voice heard

Confronting the problem of hunger can seem overwhelming.

What can one person do? Plenty. Bread for the World members write personal letters and emails and meet with our members of Congress.

This outpouring of concern sends a powerful message to our political leaders and helps us move closer to our goal of ending hunger.

#### Why handwritten letters?

Because they work. Research from the Congressional Management Foundation confirms that handwritten, mailed letters are still the best way to communicate with our members of Congress. This year's topic focuses

on the bipartisan effort to reform the way the United States delivers foreign assistance to help struggling people in poor countries. First Lutheran Bread for the World members, under the auspices of the Board for Outreach Ministries, will provide a place for members to write letters to our South Dakota congressional delegation on this important topic on Sunday, May 15, in the atrium.

#### Pick up background information in the Welcome Center

Letter-writing materials, including background information, can be picked up in the Welcome Center starting Sunday, May 1. Members are encouraged to write letters ahead of time and bring them to the Offering of Letters table on Sunday, May 15. Letters can also be written that Sunday. You can read more about this year's Offering of Letters topic at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).



The Offering of Letters is Sunday, May 15. Letter-writing materials are available in the Welcome Center.

### First Lutheran seminary students appreciative of support

The call to go into ministry is a life-changing experience that requires the support of families, friends and the church. For FLC members Justin Mootz, Denise Broveak and Daniel Gayetaye, support, both prayerfully and financially, from First Lutheran has meant a lot.

According to the ELCA website, the average annual tuition at an ELCA seminary is \$12,000. The typical student also incurs living expenses ranging from \$15,000 to \$26,000 depending on his or her family situation.

Proceeds from this month's offering envelope will help to support those who answer the call to ministry.

Read on to learn more about what students Justin Mootz and Denise Broveak are up to:

#### A note from Justin Mootz

Greetings from Seattle, Wash.! I'm a third-year seminary student in the Master of Divinity program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. I'm doing my internship on the West Coast. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to gain practical experience in parish life and explore my vocational calling.

I first began to sense a calling to ministry while working as a missionary on behalf of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA with the Lutheran Church of Nicaragua (ILFE). I had several key tasks. One of them was to take part in the weekly preparatory meetings the national church held for its lay pastors. Due to Nicaragua's financially difficult situation, the ILFE doesn't have money to pay many full-time, professional clergy. Instead, they rely on lay members that have other full-time jobs. Since these members often cannot attend seminary, the church trains them through lay courses. I had the privilege of taking



Justin Mootz is pictured with his Godson at his baptism in Managua, Nicaragua.

part in this learning process with these members. I was astounded by their love of God, their faith in the midst of difficulties, their diaconal work in the communities, and the lengths they would go in order to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. I was inspired by these pastors and felt an increasing call to follow their example into ministry.

When I returned from my work with the ILFE in 2006, I began to seriously contemplate a theological education. I felt confident that I was called to attend seminary, but I was nervous about the financial commitment it required. I spent the next two years paying down some undergraduate debt, and saving up for more possible schooling.

During this time, I continued to serve as a volunteer with both the SD Synod and First Lutheran. In 2008, with financial and prayerful support from First Lutheran and Luther Seminary, I enrolled for my first semester in the Master of Divinity program.

My time at Luther has been a true blessing in preparing me for future ministries. I would not have been able to make this leap of faith without the loving support of my home congregation. I feel blessed to worship in a community that actively seeks to form and facilitate leaders from within its ranks. Thank you for helping me to pursue God's calling in my life!

#### A note from Denise Broveak

I have come to realize that what I am most thankful for today is God's interruptions to my plans for my life. And First Lutheran Church has been cast in a major role of God's interrupting plans. Twenty two years ago, Pastor David Holm asked if I would help teach confirmation. I was grossly inept for the task. I barely remembered my confirmation from 1972 and I hadn't been to church for a few years. Intending to decline, I couldn't resist a stronger desire to check it out. The experience both challenged and renewed me perhaps more than my students. For that I now give thanks.

When I returned to Sioux Falls seven years ago, a fellow parishioner and friend, Ginny Christopherson, asked for my assistance with the Alpha program. I had no experience with this type of outreach. I had other plans for my time as a business proprietor. But of course

there persisted a stronger desire to inquire further. My husband, Bill, joined me in this venture of coordinating, leading and serving the Alpha program several times. For this new awareness of the family of God—inside and outside of our church walls—Bill and I give thanks.

When Pastor Natanael Lizarazo gathered parishioners to go to Nicaragua, I knew I was ill equipped for such a challenging immersion experience. But Bill and I were soon taking introductory Spanish classes—for fun of course. I later rolled up my sleeve for inoculations for foreign travel. The Nicaraguan youth revealed the richness of God's Spirit to be fully present amidst poverty and I returned to see the spiritual poverty found amidst our riches. I give thanks for God helping me to see.

Perhaps it is evident now that my calling into vocational ministry began long ago but I only recently acknowledged it. Transitioning from executive recruiting to seminary student has been slow but all is in God's good timing. But when "the call" became serious, for many reasons it was not feasible to move to attend a Lutheran seminary. With a little networking I found several Lutheran "second-career" pastors and chaplains in Sioux Falls who had traveled an arduous path of seminary studies through a combination of Sioux Falls Seminary and Luther and/or Wartburg Seminaries. It could be done. But what was most surprising to learn was that the newly formed Luther House of Study was a means of facilitating such a journey.

I began this journey in January of 2007 with one class. And now, as I complete my internship year in June at Christ Lutheran Church in Hartford, I look toward my final year of study. It is with much gratitude that I reflect on my church home for all that was facilitated in my sense of call into ministry. And I am equally grateful for the prayers and scholarships. I plan to graduate spring 2012. What then? My confidence lies in claiming that ... only God knows.



Denise Broveak

# Photos of the family of First Lutheran



▲ Pastor Barbara Wangsness gives Pastor Dave Johnson an Oldham High sweatshirt celebrating his retirement from First Lutheran after nearly 11 years of service.



◀ First-graders recite the Lord's Prayer during worship.



▶ Volunteers served soup and bread meals five Wednesdays during Lent.



◀ Members of Ninepatch received quilts from the First Quilters during their final worship service as a band.



▲ Fifth-graders had a chance to bless their parents and make communion-ware while preparing for their First Communion.



## YOUTH, FAMILY AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES



# High school seniors reminisce and share faith in video

—continued from page 1

Recognition Sunday is going to mean a lot to me because my own grandma has made my quilt, and she's tried to put different things that she knows I will like into it. Also it's going to be good because it's like we're going together and we're both uniting in our faith. I'll keep it forever. It will just be a good thing to keep along with me to remember First Lutheran.

**Joey Bosch, Lincoln High School**  
**Plans after high school:** Minnesota State University, Mankato

In my future I see my faith helping me because I think it will be a solid foundation for me to build upon and to make good choices and help me get through those tough times when I'm away from home next year

**Sadie Klemme, Lincoln High School**  
**Plans after high school:** Either

Augustana College or Mount Marty College

One thing I'm gonna miss a lot is spending time with my family. We spend a lot of time going to church and we all sit in the same pew together. ... And also I'm really close with my mom and we do a lot of shopping and fun things together, so I'm going to miss that time with her.

I think what the quilt means to me is showing how much we've grown in our faith and growing with the church.

**Abbie Hohman, Lincoln High School**  
**Plans after high school:** University of Minnesota

One person of faith that I admire is my dad because he is so passionate about his faith and it seems like everything he does he can relate it back to God and faith.



Sadie Klemme



Left to right: Marta Lerdal, Joey Johnson and Abbie Hohman are each featured in First Lutheran's senior video. The video will be available on the FLC website starting May 10.

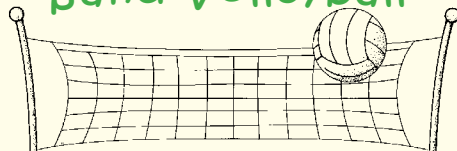
### 4:12 to cheer on the Pheasants

Fighting Pheasants vs. Lincoln Saltdogs  
 Tuesday, May 31  
 7:05 p.m.  
 \$10



Call Marnie Dahle Backer at 339-1983, ext. 13, by Sunday, May 22, to sign up.

### Join the team! Co-ed Adult Sand Volleyball



Please contact Recreational Ministries Coordinator Heidi Tooley at htooley@flcsf.org or Debbie Garcia at dgarcia@flcsf.org, prior to May 10 to join the team. This opportunity is open to anyone over 18 years of age and out of high school.

### PICK MORE DAISIES SUNDAYS, MAY 8 & 15

Go to the atrium to pick a daisy, purchase the item, and bring it back to the Welcome Center by Monday, May 23. Items will go to Nicaragua and Colombia on First Lutheran Church mission trips.

### Middle School/High School trip to Valleyfair

Wednesday, May 25  
 7:30 a.m.—10 p.m.  
 Cost is \$60

Sign up with Marnie or Mara by Wednesday, May 18, at 339-1983, ext. 13 or 41.



### Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, May 31 through Friday, June 3  
 9 a.m.—noon

Register via the website at [www.flcsf.org/vbs](http://www.flcsf.org/vbs) or pick up a form in the Youth and Family Office. Those interested in helping (fifth-graders to adult) can sign up on Nancy's office door or contact her at [nancyh@flcsf.org](mailto:nancyh@flcsf.org).



# MEDIA MINISTRIES



## March and April 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:

**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.

**April 3:** In memory of Leonard Martinek, whose 90th birthday would have been March 31, by his twin sons, Craig and Carl Martinek, and family.

**April 10:** In memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

**April 17:** In memory of Thomas

Richardson, who would have celebrated his 56th birthday on April 27, by his father Leon Richardson.

**April 24:** In honor of Mary Ellen Lantis, Elaine Johnson and Rick Berdahl and their families by Mike and Gloria Simpson.

### KSFY telecast sponsored:

**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.

**April 3:** In loving celebration of the memory of Susan Lankford. It is made possible by earnings through a gift by her family and friends to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

**April 17:** By Frank and Marilyn Alvine in memory of their parents and in thankfulness for their family.

**April 24:** By Jack and Amanda Leaders through a special gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

### 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.

**April 24:** This morning's closed captioning on KSFY is sponsored in honor of Bill and Rachel Burggraff, who celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on April 20, by their children and grandchildren.

### 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.

## Worship broadcast change channel



The Sunday, May 29, worship service broadcast will be on FOX-KTTW at 11 a.m. due to KSFY's coverage of the Indy 500. It will return to KSFY the following week.

# First Lutheran Church Calendar—May 2011



### Sunday, May 1

8:00 AM HS Senior Recognition set-up FH/FHK  
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
8:30 AM Discovery Orientation TR  
8:55 AM Study on Matthew  
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  
12:15 PM HS Senior Recognition FH/FHK  
12:16 PM Worship in African Context C  
12:30 PM Prayer School Lunch GR/ GRK  
1:00 PM Prayer School FrR  
3:00 PM Counseling PR  
4:30 PM Discovery Orientation GR/GRK

### Monday, May 2

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  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
4:30 PM Serve the Banquet Offsite  
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, May 3

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
6:00 PM Stephen Ministries FrR/FrRK  
6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsal HR/S

### Wednesday, May 4

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  
11:00 AM Wednesday Night Meal Set-up RH/RHK  
12:00 PM Eat Well Live Well Love God PMR  
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR  
3:00 PM Lutheran College Fair GR/GRK/A/WC/LL/TR  
4:00 PM Salad Supper Preparation FH/FHK  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
4:30 PM Writing Your MemoirsJSmoradaFrR  
5:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal RH/RHK  
5:15 PM Piano Class PL  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
6:30 PM Women's Choir Rehearsal S  
6:30 PM FaithWalkers C/UR/PR  
6:30 PM Wednesday Women's Group MdC  
6:30 PM Study on Matthew FrR  
7:30 PM High School Bible Study D  
7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/FrR/S  
8:00 PM High School Youth Group MdC/D/RH/RHK/SS

### Thursday, May 5

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR/GRK  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR  
9:00 AM Salad Sup. Preparation RHK  
9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
10:00 AM Visitation Pastors TR  
10:00 AM Piano Class PL  
12:00 PM Study on Matthew FrR  
4:30 PM FLCW Board Meeting GR  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
6:00 PM WELCA Salad Super RH/RHK  
7:00 PM Pre-Baptism Class GR

### Friday, May 6

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC  
9:40 AM Senior Ministry Board Meeting TR

### Saturday, May 7

8:45 AM Higher Hoops RH  
10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR S FrR  
10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
11:00 AM Carol Choir Picnic FH/FHK  
2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR  
2:00 PM Chelsea Hanson Bridal Shower GR GRK  
5:00 PM Vespers C

### Sunday, May 8

8:00 AM Carol Choir D  
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
8:55 AM Study on Matthew FH  
9:15 AM Hy-Vee Grocery Card Sales W  
9:15 AM Equal Exchange Coffee WCD  
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 From the Children S  
12:15 PM Worship in African Context FH  
3:00 PM Counseling PR

### Monday, May 9

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  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
4:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR  
6:45 PM Cub Scouts Pack 153 D/FrR

### Tuesday, May 10

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
12:00 PM Senior LuncheonFH/FHK  
1:00 PM Life Touch Camera Training UR  
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsal HR/S  
6:30 PM Board of Adult Discipleship TR

### Wednesday, May 11

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  
10:00 AM Life Touch Camera Training UR  
12:30 PM Prayer School Lunch GR  
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
5:15 PM Piano Class PL  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
6:30 PM Women's Choir Rehearsal S  
6:30 PM FaithWalkers C/PR RH  
6:30 PM Wednesday Women's Group MdC  
6:30 PM Study on Matthew FrR  
7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/FrR/S

### Thursday, May 12

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR/GRK  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR  
9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
10:00 AM Piano Class PL  
10:00 AM Life Touch Camera Training UR  
12:00 PM Study on Matthew FrR  
12:00 PM Project Car Steering Comm TR  
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

### Friday, May 13

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC  
8:00 AM Life Touch Camera Training UR  
6:30 PM Watson/Belben Wedding Rehearsal S

### Saturday, May 14

8:45 AM Higher Hoops RH  
10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
11:30 AM Wedding Hospitality TR  
1:00 PM Bread for the World Meeting GR  
2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR  
3:00 PM Watson/Belben Wedding S  
5:00 PM Vespers C

### Sunday, May 15

WELCA SIGH Collection WD  
8:00 AM Offering of Letters AD  
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
8:30 AM Discovery Orientation RH/RHK  
8:55 AM Study on Matthew D  
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, May 16

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  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
4:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR  
6:45 PM Cub Scouts Pack 153 D/FrR

### Tuesday, May 17

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
5:00 PM Youth & Family Board Meeting PMR  
5:00 PM Syttende Mai RH GR  
6:00 PM Stephen Ministries FrR/FrRK

### Wednesday, May 18

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  
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR  
5:00 PM Choir Supper FrR/ FrRK  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
6:30 PM Women's Choir Rehearsal S  
6:30 PM Wednesday Women's Group MdC  
7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/FrR/S

### Thursday, May 19

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  
10:00 AM Piano Class PL  
1:00 PM Martha Circle GR/GRK  
5:00 PM Financial Services Bd PMR  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
5:30 PM Board of Worship & Music TR  
7:00 PM Hannah Circle Off Site  
7:00 PM Ruth Circle Fr/FrK

### Friday, May 20

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC

### Saturday, May 21

10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR  
5:00 PM Vespers C

### Sunday, May 22

WELCA SIGH Collection WD  
8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK

## Final Wednesday Night Meal: May 4

5-6:15 p.m. • \$3.50/person  
Menu: Taco bar

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, May 23**  
9:00 AM Sewing QSC  
9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
10:30 AM Organ Practice S  
1:15 PM Kindermusik MR1  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
4:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
5:00 PM Property Board TR  
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR  
**Tuesday, May 24**  
8:30 AM Foot Clinic PMR  
9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH  
5:00 PM Stewardship Board Meeting TR  
6:00 PM Board of Pastoral Care L  
**Wednesday, May 25**  
7:30 AM MS/HS Valleyfair Trip Offsite  
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  
1:30 PM Pastors Meetings TR  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
6:30 PM Wednesday Women's Group MdC  
**Thursday, May 26**  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GR/GRK  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting FrR  
9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
10:00 AM Piano Class PL  
5:00 PM Church Council FH  
5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
**Friday, May 27**  
8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC  
5:30 PM Anderson/Schiley Wedding Rehearsal S  
**Saturday, May 28**  
10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
11:30 AM Wedding Hospitality TR  
2:00 PM NAMI Connections Support GroupPMR  
3:00 PM Anderson/ Schiley Wedding S  
5:00 PM Vespers C  
**Sunday, May 29**  
WELCA SIGH Collection WD  
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, May 30**  
Memorial Day Office Closed  
6:00 PM TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting PMR  
**Tuesday, May 31**  
9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School UR/PR/RH/RHK/GR/G  
1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
4:00 PM Basketball Practice (SL) RH

## FINANCIAL SERVICES



# Gifts and memorials from March 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 the Foundation in memory of

**Morrie Magnuson:** Howard Maxwell

### Gifts to Caring Ministry in memory of

**Tim Entringer:** Roger & Bev Lamp

**Leonard Martinek:** Jay & Elizabeth Wood

**Hilda Sprucelake:** Don & Iola Nelson

### Gift to Media Ministry in honor of

**Mansfields' 60th wedding anniversary:** Marilyn McNeill

### Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of

**Doris Anderson:** Mark & Darlene Dunn; Friends; Richard & Becky Hainje; Ron & Karen Hohman; Gladys Holliday; Willis & Phyllis Hanson; Judith Johnson; Diana Lee; Edith Magnuson; John Nelson; Eunice Quamen; Wayne & Jackie Spars; Marv & Ginny Stadum; Rick & Linda

Stanton; Vernelle Swanson; Clare & Carolyn Vollan

**Rosalie Axtell:** Dale Axtell; Grace Bass; Greg & Lisa Christenson; Eleanor Emmel; Mae Gunderson; Mary Knudson; Don & Barb Marquardt; Agnes Otterby; Joyce Seivert; Dorothy Sittig

**Marvin Cronn:** Louise Cronn; Beatrice Osthus

**Jane Hassenstein:** Lois Boyce; William & Jean Brennan; R.L. & Barbara Brooks; Henry Carlson Jr.; First Lutheran Church Women; Friends; Teresa Grindley; Terry Holman; Verlyn & Eunice Howe; Pamela Best Johnson; Helen Jorgensen; Jamie & Penny Volin

**Roxy Laur:** Pastor Jim & Dorothy Christopherson

**Lloyd Morris:** Pastor LeRoy & Elaine Nevin

**Jean Nordstrom:** Thomas & Dorcas Ode

**Doreen Pospisil:** Howard & Arlene Bich

**Quentin Quanbeck:** Pastor Jim & Dorothy Christopherson

**Dorothy Vagstad:** Mr. & Mrs. Escritt; Mr. & Mrs. Flynn; S.K. & D.A. Goltz; Angelica

RTA Musil; Mr. & Mrs. Parroquin; Selma Seten

**Jodi Wolf:** Ron & Jill Burmood

### Gifts to Music Department in memory of

**Rosalie Axtell:** Clara Acheman; Dale Axtell; Jim & Diane Hutchins; Paul Hutchins; Michael Hutchins; David Kavanagh; Charle Moe; Bernice Nelson; Florence Selland; Deb Sittig; Lew Thompson; Jackie Tidemann; Myrtle Vangsnes; Gloria Wangard; Roger & Rhoda Wold

**Dorothy Vagstad:** Rosalind E. Dormaier; Angelica RTA Musil; Joel & Pamela Olson

### Gift to Organ Fund in memory of

**Roxy Laur:** John & Marcia Kittelson

### Gift to Organ Fund in honor of

**Mansfields' 60th wedding anniversary:** John & Marcia Kittelson

## Financial update

### March 2011

#### Worship Attendance

March 2011..... 4,388

#### Total Revenues

2011 Actual ..... \$474,890  
2010 Actual ..... \$451,897

#### Total Expenses

2011 Actual ..... \$455,793  
2010 Actual ..... \$465,826

#### Notes Payable

Bank Loan - Capital ..... \$961,867

#### Contract For Deed

Ideal ..... \$605,498

**"God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." Income**  
Through March 2011 ..... \$1,877,502

## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES



# Stewardship: Taking care of the bounty God provides

By Pastor Barbara Wangsness

"Money and Faith in Motion," a program of Consumer Credit Counseling Services, is designed to give practical advice on managing the resources given to us by God. It distinctively addresses the major areas of financial living so that participants are better able to provide for their household and gain resources for helping others—such as in mission outreach.

Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota has provided financial counseling and education to individuals and communities for more than 25 years. Although somewhat

similar to the Dave Ramsey course, it is unique in several ways. It is very affordable (and can even be free—read on!) and it can be taken either as a class with other individuals or scheduled as a private consultation.

If there's enough interest at First Lutheran, we could even host a workshop. Or, you can choose to attend an offering at the Lutheran Social Services offices at 705 E. 41st St. here in Sioux Falls. Their schedule of ongoing classes is available on the CCCS website at [www.lsssd.org](http://www.lsssd.org)

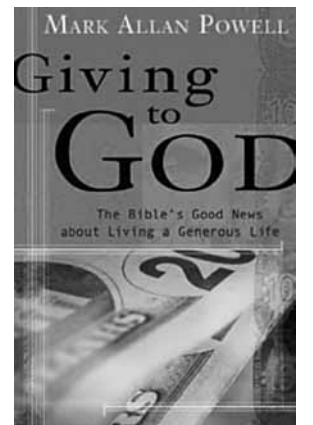
"Money and Faith in Motion" consists of two parts: Part one can be completed individually by appointment or in a group setting. The cost is \$25 per person for this single three-hour class. Part two is an optional opportunity for non-homeowners to educate themselves on housing options and, in so doing, reimbursing their \$25 fee from part one—making the second part of the course free!

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please contact Janette Ellis, the educational coordinator with CCCS, at 357-0176 or [janette.ellis@lsssd.org](mailto:janette.ellis@lsssd.org).

#### Additional reading: Giving to God

In addition, for those of you interested in reading more on the subject, I invite you to read Mark Allan Powell's book, *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life*. This book was most recently used in a book study by our Stewardship Board. It also approaches the concept of Pastoral Care as the author helps us to consider what it means to belong in God in terms of our acts of worship, i.e. expressing our faith and our spiritual discipline. And he also helps us to consider our "money and faith" in terms of both duty and delight—helping us to balance faithful living and faithful giving, as well as considering both support and sacrifice. Add this

Mark Allan Powell's book *Giving to God* is available in the First Lutheran Church Library. Add it to your reading list.



book to your reading list! A copy is available in the First Lutheran Church Library.

The late former American Lutheran Church bishop, the Rev. L. David Brown, of the Iowa District, said it well: "Stewardship is taking care of the bounty that God continually provides us." Both this workshop and this book can help us do just that!



Pastor Barbara Wangsness

## Life Transitions through March

### Births

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

- Aubrey Renee Marshall, daughter of Nicholas Dreyer and Ashley Marshall, born on March 14, 2011.
- Kenley Marie Namanny, daughter of Scot & Kendra Namanny, born on March 2, 2011.
- Kennedy Brooke Parrish, daughter of Mark & Jodie Parrish, born on March 11, 2011.

- Adelyn Lee Ernster, daughter of Kent & Amanda Ernster, born on March 21, 2011.

### Baptisms

- "Go ... make disciples ... baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)
- Camden Douglas Minor, son of Clayton & Lacey Minor
- Alice Johanna Herbst, daughter of Dave & Kristen Herbst
- Andrew Wayne Palmer, son of Robert & Tanya Palmer

### Weddings

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

- John Benson & Jada Otto

### 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)

- Dolly Rierson
- Scott DeZotell
- Laura Nesheim

## Healthy Feet Community Foot Care Clinic

Tuesday, May 24  
Parish Meeting Room



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

## Thank you for rolling up your sleeve



22 people  
donated blood  
during the April  
blood drive.

So far, 258 pints  
of blood have been  
given at FLC.

Thanks to Howard Bich for  
coordinating the effort.

## NAMI Walks

National Alliance on Mental Illness

### Changing Minds One Step at a Time

Saturday, May 21, at Sertoma Park

Check in at 9 a.m. The 2.8 mile walk starts at 10 a.m. Join the First Lutheran team, First Steps, and support people whose lives are affected by mental illness! Register to walk or donate money at [www.nami.org/namiwalks11/SDK/sandy](http://www.nami.org/namiwalks11/SDK/sandy). For more information, contact Pastor Barbara Wangness at 336-3734.



## Exercise and healthy eating really do make a difference

By Paula Bartels, Parish Nurse

Can exercise and healthy eating really make a difference in your blood pressure and well being? It did for two men at First Lutheran!



Paula Bartels

Steve Sowell stopped in the library on blood pressure screening Sunday, because his children wanted to have their blood pressure taken. They begged him to have his taken also. After much pleading, he begrudgingly

agreed. A surprised look came across his face as he looked at the high reading.

"You really should go see your doctor about this," I encouraged him.

"Yeah, I suppose so," was his half-hearted reply.

It was evident by the expressions on his children's faces that they were very concerned about their dad. "Do it for



Steve Sowell's children, Connor and Alexis, encouraged him to have his blood pressure checked. Get your blood pressure checked on Sundays, May 15 and 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the First Lutheran Church Library.

your kids. They need you," were my parting words.

The next time Steve came to a blood pressure screening he was smiling. He had his blood pressure record card in his hand as he sat down to be checked. He had been to his doctor and was started on a medication to lower his blood pressure. He also had started exercising, eating healthy, and had lost some weight. That was three years ago.

"I feel so much better. We're going to get out on the bike trails more now. I'd like to lose a few pounds I picked up over the winter. I still watch my portion size and eat well. I'm continuing on my medication and my blood pressure has been great!" he said.

I've seen Steve walking on Wednesday nights while his children are at their activities. It makes me feel good to see that he is committed to "Taking Care of His Temple," and has seen positive results in his life because of it!

### Another success story

"Paula, I'm going off my blood pressure meds!"

Michael Elsbernd was excited as he stopped by my office with the news. His story began three years ago when he took the Church Walkers Challenge.

"I began walking 20 minutes. I tried to walk it every day of the week, but it ended up more like four or five days a week," he said.

He had been started on blood pressure meds in another city, before coming to Sioux Falls.

"It was given as a 'lifetime med.' Exercise and eating healthy was never mentioned at my visits," he recalls. "I started losing weight as I continued to walk—10 pounds! Then I fell back into my old patterns. My wife and I then started Weight Watchers online. It was our third time to do Weight Watchers. Soon we got tired of keeping track of everything we ate and logging it in everyday. We were busy with so many

other things."

His new doctor suggested he go to the YMCA since it was right next door to the church.

But Michael remembers responding, "I'm not a gym rat!"

About a year ago, Michael did end up getting a membership to the Y and he started working out on the cardio machines.

"My doctor gradually began taking me off both of my blood pressure meds. Now my blood pressure is 125/70 and I've lost about 30 pounds!"

says Michael. "I feel great. I have more energy. I can give my best work more consistently. It was little successes over a period of time. If I'd fall, with support from family, friends and colleagues, I could get up and go again."

### Get started. Don't give up!

Both Steve and Michael are living out the motto "Get started. Get up, don't give up!" As the Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians in I Corinthians 3:16,17: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."

Perhaps their stories will encourage you to start living healthy, or to begin again if you've stopped! While not everyone can go off blood pressure medication, with a healthy diet and exercise, you can be much healthier, have more energy and feel better. Taking a walk on the bike trails is a



Director of Music Ministry Michael Elsbernd heads to the gym before he goes to work. Since he's started exercising, he's lost 30 pounds, has been taken off his blood pressure medication and has more energy. He says now he can give his best work more consistently.

great way to exercise ... you might even meet Steve keeping healthy!

### Have your blood pressure checked

Thank you to the seven First Lutheran members who were a part of DIG, a pilot study done by parish nurses in connection with the 2011 Sioux Falls High Blood Pressure Initiative. Mayor Mike Huether is designating the month of May for this important awareness screening campaign. The goal is to check the blood pressure of 8,000 people in Sioux Falls. City-wide blood pressure results by age, gender and ethnicity will be given this summer.

Everyone is invited to be a part of the initiative that is working to increase the awareness of high blood pressure and its effects. How many do you think we could have from First Lutheran? Stop by the library for a blood pressure screening by a nurse on the first Sunday of each month from 9 to 11:15 a.m. Or, stop by my office or call 339-1983, ext. 24, for an appointment on Wednesdays or Thursdays during the month of May.

## First Word

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

- 1 Organ restoration offers chance to explore alternate liturgy settings
- 1 The Doubting Thomas of faith ... and the gravity of God's grace
- 1 High school seniors recognized, receive quilts as a reminder of God's love
- 4 First Lutheran seminary students appreciative of support
- 7 Stewardship: Taking care of the bounty God provides