

First Word

Monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

Easter: the Word is Out! Especially for You

By Pastor John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



"For we know, brothers and sisters, beloved of God, that he has chosen you."
– I Thessalonians 1:4

A Pastoral Reflection

Each month, Pastor Katherine Olson convenes a monthly gathering of our beloved Visitation Pastors – along with our new gem of a Parish Nurse, Jana Elkins and I – to share reflections (a collective wisdom of more than 200 years of parish experience) from their preceding month's visitations. These pastors (Jim Christopherson, David Houck, Roger Noer, and Dennis Tranberg) – in addition to Pastor Katherine – bring God's Word and Sacrament to our nearly 150 matriarchs and patriarchs in the faith each month ... those who otherwise would not be able to commune with the rest of our extended family of faith at First Lutheran Church. These pastoral visits give a personal, sacramental touch of God's love.

I was particularly taken by a reflection shared by Pastor Tranberg this past April, as he talked about how he himself is blessed by these visitations. "As I shared the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, I extended my hand with Christ's promise of the forgiveness of sin and new life, proclaiming: 'This is the body of Christ given *for you*. This is the blood of Christ shed *for you*.' And it was if a bright light went on in the room. 'Pastor Tranberg, I've never heard it that way before! It's for me. For me. I'm free!' And then the man broke into tears." Family and friends of First Lutheran, let us not lose touch with this incredibly personal Word of God for us, especially in this Easter Season – as it claims us as God's beloved and then calls us to proclaim it – all of us, each day.

A Theological Reflection

Pastor Tranberg's story brought something very important to mind for all of us who attended that meeting last month... Too often, in an attempt to make it very, very clear that "God so loves *the world*" (*o cosmos*) – as emphasized, so clearly, in John 3:16 ... that God's love and saving grace that reaches even to the very ends of a cross – is universal in scope (note how often St. Luke uses the words "all" or "whole" in his gospel) ... there's a tendency to quickly gloss over a very important connecting point; namely, God's love *for you*! As with the man in the opening story.

Let's be mindful that God did not enter the world in terms of an abstraction, but in relation, in person, in Jesus (no matter how beautiful the language of the *incarnation*) ... Nor did God come to us in the form of a proposition, not even a systematic theology, that would lay to rest the wrangling or limits of reason – as to how a God of love and omnipotence can square with "the problem of evil" or humanity's experience of "sin and death" (no matter how tightly argued a *theodicy* or eloquent an *atonement theory*). I mean, Jesus didn't die for a theory. And theology as such does not save. As Alfred North Whitehead observes, in good company with C.S. Lewis: "The Buddha gave us his teaching [as with all the great religions of the world], but Jesus gave us his life." (*Religion In The Making*, p.55)

A Biblical Reflection

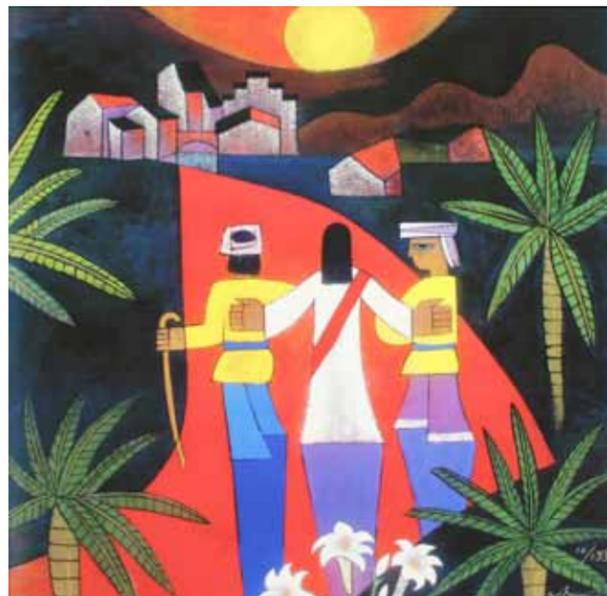
We need to remember, especially in our age of religious pluralism and technology ... that God's Word that speaks to us through his Holy Scripture, bears witness to a very, very clear personal message; one that connects God's forgiving and saving love *with* and *for you*. Listen in:

"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you ... he who formed you ... 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'" (Isaiah 43:1)

"Greater love has no man than this, than a man lay down his life for [you] his friends." (John 15:13; cf. Isa. 43:24c; 53:10-12; Phil. 2:5-11; Gal. 2:20)

"But God shows his love for [you] in that while [you] were yet a sinner, Christ died for [you]." (Romans 5:8)

And so, it becomes equally clear, upon listening to this "great cloud of witnesses" – of Isaiah, St. John and St. Paul – that God's love is not some superficial or saccharine love, but one that comes down to us, down-on-its-knees-in-the-muck-and-mess-of-it-all, in the very flesh of Jesus (John 1:14; Hebrews 4: 14-15). Again, this is not some kind of *noun-sense* LUV, but one that's personal, self-sacrificing and of a *verbal-sense*. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!" (Mark 15:34)



"Road To Emmaus" Artwork by Hi Qi

As much as I love God's gift of reason – for reflection upon God's Word and seeking to "make a case" in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ with clarity and coherence – especially in an age when our cultured despising assumptions of truth lie on the altars of science-n-technology ... Dear family and friends in Christ: may we always be painfully aware of proclaiming universal abstractions or theologies that presume we have God "nailed-down" in some neat and tidy system or ritual (e.g. "This bread *symbolizes* Jesus body"). Turning the personal into the propositional or abstract. When at its heart, the message of Easter is especially one that *is* a very intimate, personal word of the risen Christ calling you by name: "Peter" (Mark 16:7) ... "Mary" (John 20:16) ... (Now, write your name in this space _____).

"This is my body given for *you*," says Jesus again this day. Yes, the Word is out! And it's for **YOU** ... **You** who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5) ... **You** who are now free ... in Christ ... from the powers of sin and death (I Corinthians 15:55-57).

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed ... for **YOU**! Alleluia!

j.r. christopherson
Senior Pastor



First Lutheran's CD Ministry

Member Sue Severson shares God's peace through the gift of song

We know that music has a healing power of its own. In the words of Martin Luther, "Music is one of the fairest and most glorious gifts to God...for it removes from the heart the weight of sorrow, and the fascination of evil thoughts."

In 2009, First Lutheran's Sue Severson was asked to produce a CD of inspirational music for some Cancer Care kits that the church's Parish Nurse, Paula Bartels, was putting together. The first CD, published in 2010, was given the title "You Are Loved," and consists of 15 hymn arrangements and original compositions performed on the piano by Sue. The title track was written to honor Sue's dear friend Doreen Pospisil, an active member and fellow musician at First Lutheran Church who entered into eternal rest following a tough battle with cancer in July 2010. The cover of the CD features a beautiful cross nestled atop a piano. This unique cross was designed and handcrafted by Sue's father, the late Elmer Sorensen, and is a familiar sight to many in our community. The popularity of "You Are Loved" led to a second CD, released in 2013, entitled "Hymnprov: Hymn Improvisations by Sue Severson."

Both compilations continue to be given out as gifts by the Caring Ministry department of First Lutheran and by former parish nurse, Paula Bartels, who keeps two CD's in her purse all the time for chance encounters everywhere. Paula shared the following story with us as an example of how she utilizes these discs to spread the gospel in an easy way. One day Paula was at a funeral visitation for a friend and met someone in the receiving line, who shared that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and was still suffering from her treatment effects and not doing well. Paula asked her if she liked piano music and quickly presented her with the gift of the CD when she said that she did. Both women left wiping away tears.

Sue's father, Elmer Sorensen, supported this music ministry with initial financial support and also left significant memorial funds to keep this project going. If you would like to request a CD for a friend or neighbor who is going through a tough time (cancer, chronic illness, bereavement, relationship struggles, the list goes on), contact Pastor Katherine Olson, Parish Nurse Jana Elkins, or Executive Secretary Donna Jahr at the church and they will set aside one of the Caring Ministry department's CD's for you to pick up from the information desk, free of charge.

These CDs are meant to be given away freely and joyfully, in the spirit of Paula Bartels whose caring presence has reminded many others – friend and stranger - that no one suffers trials and tribulations apart from the loving presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are also grateful to Sue Severson and family for sharing their gifts and allowing this ministry to continue to bless others. However, we know that good music is something to be enjoyed in all times and circumstances. If you would like to purchase a CD for your own enjoyment or as a gift, both are available at the Information Desk for \$10.

NEWS AND UPDATES



Evangelism, Inviting, & Marketing

By Pastor Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



"You are witnesses of these things" - Luke 24:48

Jesus' resurrection was a complete shock, so much that it stunned everyone into silence. When you read the gospel accounts of the days following the empty tomb, stunned silence is the overriding theme. There are a few who talk about his unfortunate death, but unbelief is the reaction to his rising. The disciples are hiding in fear. The governing authorities don't know what to make of the odd rumblings and rumors. Even after Jesus appears to his followers and reminds them that suffering, death, and rising to take away the sin of the world was exactly the plan, they are so stunned that they still find it difficult to speak boldly of the resurrection. Instead of going out into the world with this good news, they try to stay in Jerusalem, until the Holy Spirit sends them out to be witnesses to the resurrection.

It is quite a miracle then, that we even have an Easter celebration. That the gospel is preached around the world is itself an amazing work of the Spirit, for even still today we have a hard time boldly proclaiming that Jesus died for sinners, and was raised for our forgiveness.

In the past six months or so, First Lutheran has really raised the bar in terms of our Outreach ministries. There are new programs for non-members to attend like First Friday Movies, Coffee & Prayer, and Healthy Cooking classes. New connections with Downtown Sioux Falls are raising our involvement and exposure in the downtown community. We continue to expand our volunteer base serving with ministries like The Banquet, Church on the Street and other cherished outreach in our community. In addition, we are marketing our ministry opportunities through social media, email campaigns, and community publications.

All of these moves serve good purpose. They invite, engage, and let people know they are welcome and that there are services we provide for the community. Yet inviting, advertising, and marketing are not the same as witnessing to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These outreach initiatives serve First

Lutheran by showing how great our ministries can be. But First Lutheran serves Christ Jesus by proclaiming the gospel, giving the good news, and witnessing.

We are being made into witnesses. No matter how difficult it is for us to "get the word out," the Holy Spirit continues to push and pull upon us, drawing out into the open where people need to hear the forgiving and freeing word of Christ. Christian ministry is just this - forgiving and freeing sinners with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Evangelism, giving God's word of Jesus' death and resurrection, is more than an advertising and inviting campaign. Getting the Word Out is learning to be bold in our lives through the Spirit, to preach to our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers the freedom and forgiveness that we have in Christ our Lord.

Updates and Changes

Jeff Backer serves as intern pastor

Jeff Backer will serve as an intern pastor from May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. Internship is one of the final requirements to be considered for ordination. This year will involve intentionally learning through on the job training, as well as regular reflection and evaluation with the pastoral staff and an internship committee. In this role, Jeff will continue to serve as Director of Evangelism & Outreach while becoming more visible in pastoral care, worship, preaching and teaching.

Pastoral call committee

A Call Committee, to begin the process of calling another pastor, will be formed in the coming months, likely next fall. There is already an ongoing planning process about First Lutheran's immediate and future staffing needs. We are in a unique situation with Jeff serving in a pastoral role, that we have a few months to work through what is needed in terms of pastors and staff to best move our ministry forward.

Planning next steps

Significant effort is underway in aligning FLC Staff, Boards, and Council. At the end of April, a half day council retreat focused on the progress made so far in the strategic plan, as well as the next steps that need to occur into next fall.

CLASSES & GROUPS



Stepping into Health

It is back! Holistic Health Ministry's Stepping into Health program resumes May 1. Participants are encouraged to walk or run each day from May 1 – July 31 and be accountable for their progress by recording steps on a tracking calendar. Pedometers are available for a small donation. New to Stepping into Health? Please call John Hegg at (605) 339-2582. If you have participated previously, please contact John Hegg by phone or email, johnhegg@sio.midco.net, to sign up for this session.

Wednesday Night Forums

**The Augsburg Confession – led by Pastor Lars Olson
May 3, 10, 17 & 24 – 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Friendship Room**

As part of our deepening learning about the Reformation during this 500th Anniversary, this class will look into the content, purpose, history, controversies, and ongoing use of the Augsburg Confession in Lutheran churches. We will explore the theological perspective of the Augsburg Confession as compared with the writings of Luther, other Reformers, and other Christian traditions.

Grieving with Grace – May 6

Grieving with Grace participants learn about the grieving process how to be gentle with themselves as they work through the grief of a loved one's death, together with others. Sessions take place on the first Saturday morning of the month in the Gathering Room at First Lutheran Church. Social time begins at 9:30, and the group sessions last from 10-11 a.m. Led by Pastor Katherine Olson, sessions include video clips on topics relating to grief, comfort from Scripture, prayer, encouragement, and access to additional resources for support.

Please join us for any or all of these sessions:

- May 6 – Are We Changed Forever by Grief?
- June 3 – Beyond the Broken Heart: Naming Grief
- July 1 – Beyond the Broken Heart: Understanding Grief

For questions about Grieving with Grace, please reach out to Pastor Katherine at kolson@flcsf.org or 339-1983, ext. 214.



Senior luncheon

Tuesday, May 9 ♥ Noon ♥ Gathering Room

All First Lutheran senior adults and their friends are invited to join us for our monthly luncheon. The program will be by Bernie Hunhoff - Founder and Editor, South Dakota Magazine. The menu is penne pasta alfredo, salad, bread stick. Please remember to RSVP by calling the church receptionist at 336-3734, no later than Wednesday, May 3. If you need a ride call Project CAR, 332-2777, no later than 9 a.m. on Monday, May 8.

Mission Experience:

Colombia!

November 10–18
2017

For information
contact Jeff Backer
jbacker@flcsf.org
or
605-339-1983 x209

CLASSES & GROUPS CONT.

Healthy Cooking

Tuesday, May 9: Willie Bertsch will do pork loin (low-fat, lean meat) and vegetables on the BBQ.

Willie is a BBQ aficionado. He is an instructor for Plum's Cooking Company and is *the* expert BBQ guy for Fireplace Pro's. Willie and his wife, Audrey, have been members of FLC for 49 years.



Tuesday, May 23, Gwen Wawers will be making Spring Salad and talking about watching our cholesterol. Gwen is an instructor and chef for Plum's Cooking Company in Sioux Falls and is a new member at FLC.



Classes are free and open to the community. Please remember to register for each class you plan to attend so we have enough supplies. To register, please stop by the church Information Desk, call the church office at 605-336-3734, or visit flcsf.org/healthycooking.



As the school year comes to an end, so does this year of Scripture First. The final classes for the semester will be Sunday, May 21, and Wednesday, May 24. Thanks to all the teachers, shepherds, parents, students, and helpers for all your patience, sharing, and learning. We learned a lot this year, and are already making plans to make next year even better. This summer we will be recruiting and training volunteers, and developing new resources for home and small group use. We will also be migrating the Scripture First website over to the First Lutheran Website so everything – lessons, scriptures, teacher planning – will be in one easy resource. Watch for details throughout the summer.



Through Friday, May 8, First Lutheran Church will be a collection site to support Movers For Moms along with 2 Men and a Truck. The Movers For Moms Collection is to recognize those moms living in shelters this Mother's Day by arranging delivery of small gifts for women who are victims of domestic abuse, homelessness, or human trafficking. Please place donations in the designated box in the Welcome Center and pray for these moms as they transition into better lives.

Suggested donations include creature comfort items such as: nice soaps, hair styling products, shampoos and conditioners, pillows, blankets, slippers and robes.

Please note: the First Lutheran will be closed Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.

AN AFTER-EASTER REFLECTION



Rabboni! ("My Teacher!")

Connecting Holy Scripture with New Ministry Initiatives

By Pastor John Christopherson, Senior Pastor

"Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabboni!' (which means, 'My Teacher')." – John 20:16

Today, "on the second day of the week" ... after yesterday's absolutely glorious celebrations of Easter ... I must admit, I never cease to get *verklempt* [Yiddish for "choked-up"]. Each worship service, that begins with the strong downbeat of a tympani, signaling the commencing of a festive processional, uplifted by a congregational song that "raises-the-roof" and even "gets-the-lead-out" of the old, beatific stained-glass windows: "*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*." All the while accompanied by the deep pedal tones of the pipe-organ and the soaring sounds of the brass choir... Wow! I pray that none of us ever takes such an amazing worship experience for granted.

And so today, as I'm taking something of a respite – sitting in my home study – I've been thinking back on the Easter sermon for yesterday, one that had a spirited focus for this year on Jesus' life-giving Word; One who called Mary Magdalene by name (John 20:16), from death's deep darkness and into his own brilliant light of the resurrection (cf. John 1:4-5). What joy is there, is here! (for us as well in the hearing) as Mary exclaims: *Rabboni!* ("My Teacher!")

Now, this in turn, brought me back to one of the eight Strategic Initiatives that was lifted-up by these past two years of congregational discernment, a discernment that is now beginning to form blossom and bloom. In particular, I've especially been pondering Initiative #6 (entitled, "Teaching and Faith Formation") in the light of this Easter Season. So, join with me in the musing ...

In the history and hierarchy of the ancient world, the teacher held a position of the very highest respect and esteem (think Confucius, Homer, Socrates, Plato, Hippocrates, etc.). The teacher imparted wisdom. Next came the farmer who provided food. Then the soldier who gave protection. Then the artisan and artist. And finally, the merchant, who basically facilitated the exchange of goods – who had the "ground floor" of occupations.

However, today ... in our highly industrial/technological culture ... we've almost reversed this order. The manufacturing and selling of material goods has become a very prestigious occupation, say nothing of cultural pre-occupation. The advertising industry exalts the world of things. The teacher retreats, and wisdom is a casualty (cf. Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Harold Bloom's *Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?*, Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind*, or Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves To Death*).

And yet, at least in principle, this is not so in the church. Although the rapid increase in "commercialized Christianity," with its *McGrace* market-share-driven para-churches, is as much sobering as it is scintillating. The teacher is still called to the center. To impart the wisdom of God remains the church's call

(and yes, the family's call). What God has revealed to us through his Holy Scripture, and preeminently in Jesus the Christ, becomes the curriculum of the church. We teach God's revealed truths in our Sunday School and Confirmation classes, in sermons and Bible Studies, in various forums and pastoral care settings – and even, if we are but faithfully attentive (and not merely enculturated) ... in our church seminaries and colleges. We echo our Teacher, our Lord Jesus Christ, who warned us that the abundance of things is neither the path to wisdom nor to the abundant life, but "*by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the God*" (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; cf. John 10:10).

In as much as we all appreciate the medical advancements and rather lavish provisions made possible by modern science and technology, anyone who pauses to carefully ponder the depths of the 20th Century knows that these are not sufficient keys to love and grace (think Nazi Germany, think Russia's Gulags or Chernobyl, or even American physicists' seeming innocuous ability to split the atom – ingenious as it was). Indeed, as the well-beloved theologian of Princeton, Paul Ramsey has observed: "Knowledge may have its privileges, but the violation of love is not one of them" (*Basic Christian Ethics*, p.81).

And so, as born-out by sheer human experience ... the accumulation of stuff, and even knowledge as such, do not yield "*the peace that passes understanding*" (Philippians 4:7). Indeed, we need skills to cope with our world, and these our schools and universities do provide; but every Christian institution, *including the family*, knows that its higher task is to be the agent of Christ's church, to usher its children/students into God's world of truth and goodness and beauty ... the upside-down kingdom of Jesus' beatitudes, where "the last are first and the first are last" and everyone who thinks they're "King/Queen of the Hill" is in for a big surprise.

Therefore, it is this challenge, set before us by a rather defining initiative ("Teaching and Faith Formation") ... as a family of First Lutheran Church, chartered and set by our Lord as a "city on a hill" (Matthew 5:14) ... to humbly return, time and time again, to what it means to be a people who are of a spirit of "*faith seeking ever deeper understanding*" (St. Anselm). Yes, says Jesus: "*Go ... and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you ...*" (Matthew 28:20). His truth – marked by the sign of the cross – still holds. And we, especially as a teaching congregation, are still called to "teach and preach it" in the very thick 'n thin of life's challenges of every generation ... taking confidence in knowing that Christ's Spirit is with us, teaching truth in love through us – as "*earthen vessels who carry the treasure*" (II Corinthians 4:7). *Rabboni!* Our Teacher!

It's Easter. The Word is out!
Preach it. Teach it!

j.r. christopherson
Senior Pastor

UPCOMING EVENTS



NAMIWalks 2017

Saturday, May 20 at Sertoma Park
Registration and 8 a.m., 5k Walk at 9:30 a.m.

Every journey begins with that first step. This year, more than 50 thousand people across the nation will join NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and walk together to raise awareness of mental illness, show support for those affected by mental illness, and raise funds for local, regional and state NAMI organizations.



The mission of NAMI South Dakota is to provide education, support, and advocacy for individuals and families impacted by mental illness. Last year, the First Lutheran Walkers raised \$1,350 to support NAMI South Dakota, allowing them to continue providing their crucial services. These services include support groups like "Family Support" and "NAMI Connection" which are open to benefit many individuals and families in our community.

You can partner in this effort by joining our walking team or by becoming a financial supporter of the cause. A booth in the church atrium will be set up on Sundays, May 7 and 14, to recruit walkers and financial support. Alternatively, you can visit namiwalks.org/southdakota and search for "First Lutheran Walkers" among the top teams listed on the left of the page. Click "Join our Team" to become a walker, or click on our roster and support one of our team member's efforts with a donation. Please pray for our efforts and help us end the stigma surrounding mental illness. Recovery and hope is available, and our community can commit to transforming itself into a more compassionate place for people to seek help for mental illness, one step at a time!



Worship with St. Dysmas

St. Dysmas
hope beyond bars

On Thursday, May 25, First Lutheran will take part in the worship service held with the St. Dysmas congregation at the SD Penitentiary. We will meet at 6 p.m. at the front entrance, check through security, and proceed to Hope Chapel. Afterward, those attending will be invited to meet at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant on East 10th where we will meet a couple former members of the St. Dysmas congregation to talk about our experience. This is a hugely rewarding opportunity to worship "behind the walls." To attend, security paperwork must be completed and turned in to the church office by Tuesday, May 9. Please contact Jeff Backer, (605) 339-1983 ext. 209, or jbacker@flcsf.org.

The Music Ministry of "Maggie and David"



Pastor David Houck and his wife Margaret have been married for nearly forty years...making music and doing ministry together has been a central part of their relationship from the very beginning! David and Margaret have put on musical programs for audiences throughout the world, sharing the love of Christ through song and spoken word.

Known by their stage name "Maggie and David," this duo is planning to bring their ministry into various senior living and nursing home communities throughout Sioux Falls, in conjunction with the Caring Ministries of First Lutheran Church. Maggie and David will perform 45-60 minute programs featuring popular music of decades past, hymns, Scripture, prayer, and spoken words of encouragement

Maggie and David's first performance will be June 7, 3 p.m., at Bethany Meadows in Brandon. Watch for more concerts at various retirement facilities to be announced soon. We hope to catch you at a Maggie and David performance some time, for proof that some things really do get better with age!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Women's Summer Bible Study

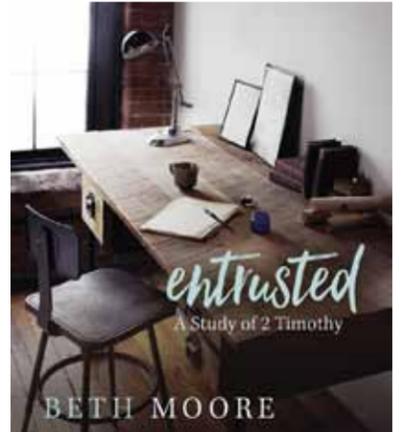
Entrusted – A Study of 2 Timothy

Wednesdays, June 7 – July 19, 6:30 p.m. – Friendship Room

"I am not ashamed, because I know the One I have believed in and am persuaded that He is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day." 2 Timothy 1:12

Entrusted – A Study of 2 Timothy: Final words can be compelling. In Paul's final letter, he charged Timothy, his beloved son in the faith, to not be ashamed to fulfill God's call on his life. In this six-session Bible study, Beth Moore will challenge you to do the same.

God has a call for you. He has entrusted you with the gospel message and has gifted you to carry it to the furthest reaches of this planet. He's calling you to be His mighty servant, willing to face whatever difficulty you encounter as you carry out His mission. Guard the deposit entrusted to you! Workbooks can be purchased at Crossroads' Bookstore for \$17.99. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Donna Johnson at 359-8623 or DeAnn Clark at 359-4754.



What does the word Mother mean to you?



By Marcia Huffman, WELCA President

Eve—mother of humankind, Sara—mother of Isaac, Rebekah of Jacob, Rachel of Joseph, Jochebed of Moses, Hannah of Samuel, Ruth of Obed, Elizabeth of John the Baptist, and Mary mother of our Savior Jesus Christ. These Bible mothers have a profound influence on our faith. In all cases, we can envision them holding their newborn children close and singing sweet lullabies to sooth them to sleep. All of them watched their children grow in stature and in faith in our loving God. Yet they all had worrisome times as they had to let go and commit them to His care. Eve worried how evil in the world would affect all children; Hannah realized that we care for our children for only a brief time because in essence they belong to God. Imagine the worry that plagued the mother of the Prodigal Son or how much stress there was on the Zarephath widow trying to provide for her children. And, we all feel the sadness of Mary at the foot of the cross.

Even though all First Lutheran women have not been mothers themselves, everyone in our congregation has a mother. As we approach Mothers' Day take time to think of all of the caring things your mother has done for you. When I was five my mom and dad worked all night sewing cowgirl outfits for us for Christmas. Coming home for lunch at sixteen Mom had "Happy Birthday Sweet 16" playing on the phonograph. She was my Sunday School teacher, Brownie Scout leader and my Super Hero. At age 63 my mother went home to be with Jesus. Like me, many of you have only cherished memories of our mothers to warm our hearts. To those of you who still can, give your mom a big hug and tell her what she means to you, because you mean the world to her!

Women of First Lutheran, whether you are mothers, grandmothers, aunts or beloved teachers, we ask you to join us at our monthly meeting on May 4 at noon in the Gathering Room for a salad luncheon and program. Our theme will be "Seeds of Love" and Jennifer Lunder of the Ayuda Initiative will be our speaker. Ayuda means "help" in Spanish. Please join us for fellowship and learning and to celebrate God's love for all of us!



2017 WELCA Officers and Circle Chairwomen

Seated: Charlene Stebritz, Jeanne Buren, Connie Nelson, Marcia Huffman, Lisa Bean

Back row: Sharyl Wolf, Judy Erickson, Lillian Carlson, Carmen Reinholt, Norma Hofer, Arlene Bich, Joan Hansen, Gloria Simpson, Faith Christiansen, Lola Coon, Ione Pereboom, Jean Hoff, Hazel Wek

Not pictured: Kathy Stelzer, Jane King, Karen Hemre, Lila Peterson, Dorothy Mikkelson, Mae Ranschau, Jean Eidsness, Mary Nicolai, Janet Naessig, Pyllis Day, Kiki Hegg, Julaine Walker and Marilyn Haddorf

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



The Word is Out!

By Marnie Dahle Backer,
Youth & Family Ministries Director



“So faith comes from what is heard and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” – Romans 10:17

A day in the life of the Youth & Family Ministry (office time)...

Today Elias, Heather and I gathered around the island in our office to paint some pottery. The fifth-grade First Communion students have made some wonderful creations of blessings bowls and chalices. The chalices were used on Maundy Thursday to receive the wine for the first time. We were all channeling our innermost artistic selves to try and add a little color to their wonderfully sweet pottery. (It should be noted that none of us claim to be artists.)

As we are painting away, FLC member and guru of all things gadgety with FLC's name on it, Todd Smith, came in to chat about some of the ideas we had for the 18-22 Ministry care packages. We found a nifty little gizmo that has a phone cleaner, spot for your ear buds AND a stand for your phone! Awesome! Now... it needs something snazzy on it to help them remember that each is a child of God. There isn't a lot of room on this little plastic wonderment, so it was decided a Bible verse would be the way to go; AND it will encourage them to find their Bibles and look up what the verse says! We tossed around some ideas: I Samuel 3:10 – “The Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Hmm... that's a good one but would it look good on the gadget? Then someone threw out Psalm 81:8 “Hear, O my people, while I admonish you; O Israel, if you would but listen to me! Well... While a “powerful” verse, I didn't think that was quite the message we were going for. We decided to call in the “big guns” (aka Pastor Lars). We bribed him with M&Ms and the cheerful mood of an office project. We explained our plight and he brilliantly came up with John 11:35 or “Jesus wept.” Again... a “powerful” verse, but not the message we were looking to share with our 18-22 year-olds. So he stepped up his game and came up with Romans 10:17. Love it! The word is out. Easter is upon us and Christ has died for you and for me. And this faith of ours comes to you and to me through the word of Christ. Thanks be to God!

And then... we went back to work.

Ten Commandments photos:

Right Kaylee Pearson decorates her Ten Commandments learning craft, and at the far right the Glou family (Mike, Noah, Ian & Penny) bless each other and Ian picks up his milestone pebble.

Below left Kindergartners learn about the Ten Commandments from Pastor Lars and far right the children and their families receive a blessing during the 11 a.m. worship service.



First Communion photos above: Simon Van Buskirk makes the sign of the cross on his mom, Shannon; Gabi Micheel works on here chalice; Matthew Alpers checks to be sure is chalice is just right; and Luke Jerstad receives the sign of the cross from his dad, Mike.



Milestone Minute

First Communion Milestone. April was a full month with milestone events. The fifth graders completed their instruction to celebrate their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. They learned about two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. From pottery creations to bread making, they used their brains and their creative skills to get themselves ready for this big day!

Ten Commandments Milestone. We introduced a new milestone for kindergarten children, The Ten Commandments! Right up to the day of the Milestone celebration, I thought we might be a little bit crazy trying to pull this off. Grown-ups struggle with learning these. But these brilliant little minds didn't pause once; they jumped into several activities to learn them – coloring sheets, a “cootie” catcher game and a craft stick project. They also learned about our relationship to God and our neighbors, “We are to fear, love and trust God so that we would love and care for our neighbors.” BOOM! They got it!

High School Senior Recognition. In May, we get ready to wrap our high school seniors up in the warmth and wonderment of the beautiful quilts that our amazing First Lutheran Quilters have been making for them throughout year. During this time of great change and perhaps some uncertainty, the quilts serve as a reminder to the graduating seniors and their families, that God's love never changes, no matter what.

MISSION

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.

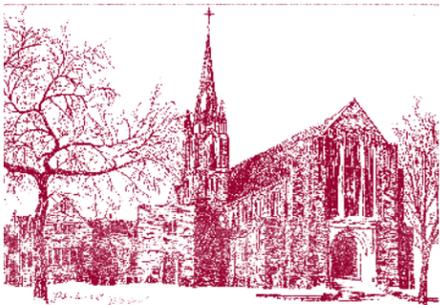
We are committed to equipping people for ministry.

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 (Chapel)

5 p.m. Vespers/Communion

Sunday (Sanctuary)

8 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Media Ministries Broadcasts

8 a.m. KELO-FM Radio (101.9)

11 a.m. KSFY (Sioux Falls), KPRY (Pierre) and KABY (Aberdeen)

www.youtube.com/flcsf

www.facebook.com/flcsf

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

Newsletter submissions are due the first business day of the month. Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to Susan Bell, Communications Coordinator, at sbell@flcsf.org. Reader feedback is always welcome. First Word is available to read or download online at flcsf.org/firstword.

Church Council highlights

If there is an item that you as a church member wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Marilyn McNeill, Business Administrator, at 339-1983 ext. 236, or mmcneill@flcsf.org. Council agendas will be posted on a bulletin board in the Atrium and on the church website home page, flcsf.org, the weekend prior to meetings. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

- Chris Croghan and Sarah Stenson met with the Executive Committee and Matt Bock, Chair of the First Lutheran Church Foundation, to listen to a proposal to bring Dr. Steve Paulson to Sioux Falls.
- Boards are in the process of setting up ministry teams.
- Dakota Avenue step and wall/signage ready to proceed when the weather improves.
- Converting from fluorescent lighting to LED lighting was approved.
- Zachary Rygiel reported on the vision of worship and music.
- Council Members signed Conflict of Interest Policy.

Staff updates

Wedding Coordinator

Please join us in thanking Arlene Bich and Nancy Nolop who have recently retired as our Wedding Coordinators. Arlene worked with First Lutheran brides and grooms for nearly 10 years and Nancy for almost 4 years. Thank you to both women for their dedication to making each wedding ceremony at First Lutheran a beautiful Christian worship experience.

Welcome to Cheryl Satterlee who will be serving as our new Wedding Coordinator. Cheryl is a long-time member of First Lutheran.

Nursery Coordinators

Welcome to Kris Stark and her daughter, Samantha Stark, who are joining Youth & Family Ministry as Nursery Coordinators. Kris is a First Lutheran member. She operates an in-home day care business. Samantha grew up at First Lutheran and is currently a college student.



Arlene Bich



Nancy Nolop



Cheryl Satterlee



Kris Stark



Samantha Stark

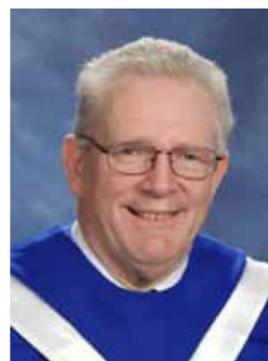
First Lutheran Church

FREE COFFEE AND PRAYER
7:30AM – 8:30AM

Coffee and Prayer happens each Wednesday morning from 7:30 – 8:30. Beginning this month, many ELCA Lutheran churches in Sioux Falls area will also be hosting Free Coffee and Prayer on Wednesday mornings. As a group, we felt that this would be a meaningful way for people to start their day each Wednesday knowing they could go to almost any ELCA Lutheran church and get prayer and a beverage. We encourage you to tell your friends and co-workers about this amazing way to start their day.

Volunteer Focus for May

Scott Allan leads the Senior Ministry Team which includes the monthly luncheon for First Lutheran senior adults and their friends. He does an excellent job in lining up the speakers for the programs as well as the organizing the meals with HyVee's catering staff. Scott spends a great deal of time on the phone contacting speakers or groups to come and share their story, their singing voices, their knowledge and their passion with First Lutheran older adults at the luncheon. He arrives early in the morning the day of the Senior Luncheon and is one of the last to leave. Scott works with the rest of the ministry team to plan the dessert and someone from the team picks up the dessert (my favorite is the sherbet). Many thanks to the members of this ministry team as well as a huge thank you to Scott for the volunteer time he gives to the planning of these monthly events. *You are appreciated!*



CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers/Executive Committee

Brian Aamlid President
Aaron Ellingsen Vice President
Eric Severson Treasurer
Mindy Moore Secretary
Pr. John Christopherson Senior Pastor

Council Representatives

Alma Kallesen Adult Discipleship
Gayle Johnson Caring Ministry
Colleen Kokenge Evangelism, Mission & Outreach
Deb Nelson Financial Services
Marcia Huffman FLCW/WELCA
Brad Thompson Media
Julia Kramer Member-at-Large
Diane Atchison Member-at-Large
Maria Neely Member-at-Large
Lyle Eidsness Property
Tim Heinemann Stewardship
Suzanne Willadsen Worship and Music
Ben Ready Youth and Family

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastoral Staff

(203) Dr. John Christopherson Senior Pastor
(210) Rev. Lars Olson Executive Pastor
(214) Rev. Katherine Olson* Associate Pastor
(202) Rev. James Christopherson* Visitation
(202) Rev. David Houck* Visitation
(202) Rev. Roger Noer* Visitation
(202) Rev. Dennis Tranberg* Visitation
(202) Rev. Dave Johnson Emeritus

Administrative Staff

(202) Donna Jahr Secretary to the Pastors
(236) Marilyn McNeill Church Administrator
(201) Judi Mueller* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary
(201) Cleo Sorensen* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary
(201) Pat Svenes* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary

Caring Ministries

(237) Jana Elkins* Parish Nurse
(202) Cheryl Satterlee* Wedding Coordinator

Evangelism, Mission & Outreach Ministries

(209) Jeff Backer Director
(231) Jean Hoff* Volunteer Min. Developer

Financial Services

(211) LaVonne Wolf Financial Specialist

Media Ministries

(252) Susan Bell Communications Coordinator
(213) Jared Callahan* Communications Assistant
(236) John Cerwinski* Sound Board Technician
(213) Kathy Hein* Broadcast Director
(213) David Palmer* Broadcast Director
(213) Hons Oakland* Broadcast Director
(213) Tanner Wangsness* Broadcast Director

Facilities

(201) Dave Wilson Facility Manager
(201) Rick East Custodian
(201) Jeff Hartnett Custodian

Worship and Music Ministries

(260) Zachary Rygiel Director/Organist, FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers Director
(261) Shirley Barlow* Administrative Assistant
(261) Donna Hamilton* Accompanist
(261) Dr. Jerry Hanson* Dir. of Music Emeritus
(261) Ali Hoffman* Youth Handbell Director
(261) Marcia Kittelson* Organist Emerita
(261) Bonnie Lindgren* Carol Choir Director
(261) Dr. Paul Nesheim* Adult Choir Director and Women's Choir Director
(261) Larry Olson* Contemporary Worship Coordinator
(261) Mary Ryrholm* Agape Ringers Director
(261) Sue Severson* Accompanist
(261) Pam Sonnichsen* Instrumental Coordinator

Youth and Family Ministries

(204) Marnie Dahle Backer Director
(228) Nancy Henrichsen* Nursery Attendant
(228) Gayle Johnson* Nursery Attendant
(228) Annel Jolo* Nursery Attendant
(228) Sarah Rasmussen* Nursery Attendant
(228) Irma Rodriguez Leon* Nursery Attendant
(238) Heather Smith Children's Minister
(228) Kris Stark Nursery Coordinator
(228) Samantha Stark Nursery Coordinator
(235) Elias Youngquist Youth Minister
(228) Kristy Zuraff Administrative Assistant

()=Direct dial phone extensions *Part-time

Main phone:(605) 336-3734
Direct dial:(605) 339-1983
Toll-free:(800) 425-9899
Fax:(605) 336-8370
Pastoral emergency:(605) 610-9431
Custodian cell:(605) 351-8281
Project CAR:(605) 332-2777

MEDIA MINISTRY



Media broadcast sponsors February & March

First Lutheran Church's worship can be seen every Sunday at 11 a.m. on KSFY, KPRY and KABY in South Dakota, southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa and northeast Nebraska. A live radio broadcast of worship is aired Sundays at 8 a.m. on KELO-FM, 101.9.

KELO broadcast sponsored:

Feb. 19: In memory of Les Rollag, whose 85th birthday would have been on Feb. 15, by his family.

Feb. 26: In honor of Mike and Gloria Simpson's anniversary on Feb. 18 by Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, Richard Berdahl and families.

Mar. 12: In loving memory of Marie Steen, made possible through earnings of the bequest of her daughter, L. Inez Rognley, to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

Mar. 19: 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.

Mar. 26: In loving memory of Vernon "Bud" Long whose 92nd birthday would have been March 20, by his family and friends.

KSFY Broadcast (fully sponsored unless noted otherwise):

Feb. 5: In loving memory of Mary Ann Knutson on the one-year anniversary of her death (Feb. 2, 2016) by her husband, Dennis D. Knutson.

Feb. 12: To celebrate the life and memory of Bill Grevlos, beloved husband, father and grandfather by Cheryl, Dann, Dave, Mike, Jill and grandchildren.

Feb. 19: In honor of Dorothy Davis whose 90th birthday was on Feb. 23, by her family.

Feb. 26: In memory of Herbert Stelzer through memorials and gifts in his honor from family and friends.

Mar. 1 (Ash Wednesday): 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 received the cross of ashes on our foreheads this day, let us remember that we are members of the body of Christ and in this season of Lent we await the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter.

Mar. 5: In celebration of Paul & Donna Willadsen's 63rd wedding anniversary on March 5th and of being members of FLC for 83 years.

Mar. 12: (On Sioux Falls CW) In loving celebration of the memory of David and Susan Lankford. It is made possible by earnings through a gift by their family and friends to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

Mar. 19: In loving memory of our father, Samuel Spitzer given by daughters Elaine & Ella Spitzer.

Mar. 26: In memory of Dr. Robert Meerdink, whose birthday would have been March 9, by his family and friends.

KSFY closed captioning sponsored:

Feb. 26: In honor of Mike and Gloria Simpson's anniversary on Feb. 18 by Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, Richard Berdahl and families.

Mar. 1 (Ash Wednesday): 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 received the cross of ashes on our foreheads this day, let us remember that we are members of the body of Christ and in this season of Lent we await the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter.

Mar. 5: In memory of Dr. Doris Eggers 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.

Mar. 12: (On Sioux Falls CW) In honor of Vivian Wegner's 102nd birthday on March 10th, by Elaine Berdahl Johnson, Mary Ellen Berdahl Lantis and Richard and Judy Berdahl.

Mar. 26: In loving memory of Albert & Esther Berdahl by Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, Richard and Judy Berdahl and families.

Sponsorships available:

Worship broadcasts are made possible by supporters from all around the country. To learn more about sponsoring a radio broadcast, telecast or closed captioning in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special life event, please call Donna Jahr at (605) 339-1983, ext. 202. Donations of any size will help the broadcast ministry. Dates for future months not listed may be available. Please call for additional dates.

KELO radio broadcast sponsorships (\$150) available for May 21; June 4; July 9 & 16.

KSFY telecast sponsorships (\$1300) are available for May 21 & 28 (5/28 is on Sioux Falls CW); July 2, 16 & 23.

Closed captioning sponsorships for the weekly KSFY telecasts (\$140) are available on May 7, 14, 21 & 28 (5/28 is on Sioux Falls CW); June 4, 18 & 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.

Un-sponsored broadcast, telecast and closed caption dates are made possible in part through gifts and memorials to First Lutheran Church Media Ministries.



Telecast station change

The worship telecast on Sunday, May 28, will air on Sioux Falls CW at 11 a.m. due to the Indianapolis 500 broadcast on KSFY.

FINANCIAL SERVICES



Gifts and memorials

Gifts to the Foundation:

In Memory of Marvin Nelson:
Ed & Eunice Mansfield

In Memory of Terry Wolf:
Carl & Janet Naessig

Gift to Media Ministry in honor of:

Ruth Johnson: Kathy Stelzer

Pr. Peter Strommen: John & Grace Wangberg

Gift to Media Ministry in memory of:

Eleanor Henderson: First Lutheran Church Women

Mervela Hildebrandt: Karen Lidel

LaVonne Larson: Carol Lerdal

Harold Momsen: Alfred Borgen

Marvin Nelson: Kenneth Mehrling

Helen Raker: Doris Edwards,
First Lutheran Church Women

Louise Vail: Barb Matson

Andrew Wek: Yvonne Behrends,

Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson,
Faith Christiansen, Darlene Colwill,
Phyllis Day, Marilyn Eikanger, Shirley
Gortmaker, Jean Hoff, Marjorie
Krueger, Robert & Shirley Messner,
Pr. Leroy & Elaine Nevin, Herb &

Dorothy Mikkelson, Carl & Janet Naessig, Mary Nicolai, John Odney, Jim & Maurine Pederson, Lois Peterson, Pr. Franklin & Marit Pudas, Eunice Quamen, Rosalie Ramstad, Stan & Norma Schmidt, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Migs Sommers, Kathy Stelzer, Don & Flo Toft, Donna Van Houten, Kathryn Welter, Dave & Charyl Wilson

Janet Wepler: Daryl & Mary Wierda
Terry Wolf: David & Lisa Bean, Howard & Arlene Bich, Richard & Glenna Burns, Phyllis Day, Viola Peterson, Jim & Sandy Fink, Bob & Betty Gednalske, LeRoy & Janet Halstenson, Pete & Marilyn Hegg, Dennis & Jane King, Roger & Bev Lamp, Gene & Marlene Linton, John & Bonita Martin, Barb Matson, Elaine Moore, Bill & Nancy Olson, Tracie Osthus, Sandra Pedersen, Bob & Sharon Pederson, Greg & Carol Puerkel, Brenda Roberts, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Jean Sneen, Kathy Stelzer, Doug & Carol Uthe, Hazel Wek

Gift to Music Ministry in memory of:

Andrew Wek: Don & Judy Erickson,
Marilyn McLeod

Online giving

You are able to make a one-time or ongoing gift to the mission and ministries of First Lutheran Church at any time through the First Lutheran website. You may also pay for events and registrations on the website. Please visit our web page at flcsf.org and click on the "Give" tab. You will be directed to create a log in and password.

Questions? Please contact LaVonne Wolf, 339-1983 ext. 211 or lwolf@flcsf.org.

Financial Update March 2017

Total Revenues - Year to date

2017 Actual..... \$475,115
2016 Actual..... \$489,085

Total Expenses - Year to date

2017 Actual..... \$532,400
2016 Actual..... \$492,564

Contract For Deed

Ideal..... \$361,608

God's Gifts. Our Responsibility.

Income thru Feb. 2017 ... \$3,979,704

Campus Improvement

Income thru Feb. 2017 \$200,537

Worship Attendance

March 3,343



Baptisms

Mar 12 Cruz Sisk, son of Matt Sisk and Danielle Schwarting

Mar 12 Grayson Schwarting, son of Andrew and Deanna Schwarting

Mar 18 Hudson Ronk, son of Calvin Ronk and Stacey Rogers

Mar 25 Thomas Ahlers, son of Casey and Chelsey Ahlers

Mar 26 Lennin Langenfeld, daughter of Luke and Misten Langenfeld

Mar 26 Madeline O'Connor, daughter of Timothy and Andrea O'Connor

Deaths

Mar. 8 Harold Momsen
Mar. 18 Don Henle

EVANGELISM, MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES



The Word is... OUT!

By Jeff Backer, Director, Evangelism,
Mission and Outreach



"Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name." Hebrews 13:12-15

He is Risen.....He is risen indeed! As a congregation we have proclaimed this Easter message, and we celebrate the promises that come in the resurrection. But here we are just a few short weeks after the Easter celebration, and you may be asking yourself, "Now what?"

The lectionary texts that we engage after Easter begin to reflect the great commission that Jesus Christ gave to his disciples, and in doing so, established the mission of the early church. Before His death on the cross and his resurrection, earlier in the Gospel, after witnessing events like the Transfiguration, and hearing of Christ's prediction of what was to come, Jesus warned the disciples not to tell

anyone what they had witnessed. But after that glorious Easter morning, Jesus appears to the disciples and tells them, "Peace be with you!" And all that they had not understood and kept quiet was no longer a secret. In fact, Jesus tells them now exactly the opposite, "Go out into the world and make disciples, telling all of what God has done!" Jesus had in fact done this even in the event of the crucifixion. It did not happen within the walls of the Temple or within the city walls, but outside of them. The greatest part of Jesus' ministry, the cross, was done outside of where it would have been expected.

As an Easter people, Jesus Christ tells us to take this message outside of our own walls, to step out of our protected comfort zone, and tell our neighbors and our community of all that God has done. There are many opportunities for us to both serve and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our presence in downtown Sioux Falls, as well as the various ways that each of you live out your faith in your own vocational calling. As we continue to move forward through the guidance of the First and Foremost plan, we need to be ever mindful of the mission we are called to as the church. Not to keep the Gospel hidden, keeping it only to ourselves, but to willingly spread the Good News to all that we encounter.

The Word Is... out, for all to hear!

Blessing of the Bicycles!

On Sunday, May 7, we will be gathering in the parking lot for Blessing of the Bicycles. In cooperation with Falls Area Cyclists, we will gather at 2 p.m. for the blessing, and ride together through Downtown to Queen City Bakery where we will have treats and refreshments.

Grab your bike, and a friend, and come enjoy this opportunity.



Bike to Work Week

We will also be offering an energizer station during Bike to Work Week on May 15 – 19. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning of that week, we will greet bicyclists with beverages, a snack, and a prayer to get them going!

Non Profit
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Word
First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104



First Lutheran Church is one of 13 member congregations of the Charis Ministry partners. The three ministries that are offered are the Food To You Mobile Food Pantry, Necessities for Neighbors, and Healthy Rides. Each of these ministries provides unique ways of supporting those who are challenged to meet basic needs – food availability, personal hygiene products or transportation issues getting to medical care.

First Lutheran member, Todd Smith, has recently been hired as Charis Ministries' new Food-To-You Coordinator. He will work to build stronger partnerships with the member congregations and other service groups to help "the least of these." Congratulations to Todd; we look forward to working with him to make Charis Ministries more efficient and effective.

First Lutheran Church will be working the May 11 Food To You Mobile Food Pantry distribution at Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church (5100 E. Madison Street). We will need 6 – 8 volunteers at 4:15 p.m. to help unload a truck and an additional 16 volunteers at 5:15 p.m. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, or accompanied by a parent. All volunteers will be done by 8 p.m. Please contact Jeff Backer at (605) 339-1983 ext. 209, or e-mail at jbacker@flcsf.org, to sign up.

If you are not available to help serve, please help by donating peanut butter. Our goal is 150 jars of peanut butter to be distributed on May 11. Please consider donating.

Special Offering Envelope

Support Pueblo de Dios ministries

Blessings dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is María Cabello Salomón. I am the pastor at Pueblo de Dios, the first Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation in Sioux Falls.

Our church in Spanish began six years ago with Pastor Jeanette Clark. Unfortunately, she left to go to another church in Minnesota on Nov. 6, 2016. When she left, I assumed the full-time pastoral role at Pueblo de Dios.



December was a very busy month at Pueblo de Dios with special traditions to celebrate, beginning Dec. 12, with the Celebration of the Virgen Guadalupe and La Posada on Dec. 16. On Dec. 24, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, and we enjoyed the generosity of all the gifts given to our families by First Lutheran and Hope Lutheran.

On Jan. 6, we celebrated Three Kings Day (Epiphany) with special Three Kings Day Bread, a large, round pastry that is traditionally adorned with fresh fruit on top. Inside the bread, there are little figurines that represent baby Jesus. If someone gets a piece of bread with a figurine inside it, that person brings tamales to share with others at the Feb. 2 celebration of Candlemas.

On Feb. 26, we had a Carnival celebration with food, games and activities for the children. It is something we do because the winter gets so long, so we want to provide something fun for the kids at Pueblo de Dios.

Something new is our work with the Ayuda Initiative of the ELCA. Jennifer Lunder is the Ayuda coordinator, and she helps to connect Pueblo de Dios, and the Latino community in general, with other Lutheran churches to share our cultures and get to know one another.

Amidst all the celebrations, activities and food, the principal mission of Pueblo de Dios is to share the love that Christ shows us. Our mission is to teach our children to be disciples, like Matthew teaches us.

Blessings to you,
Pastora María Cabello Solomón

Please prayerfully consider a gift to sustain this Latino congregation. Also, keep Pastor Maria and all of the members of Pueblo de Dios in your prayers in this especially turbulent climate surrounding immigration issues. You may place your Special Offering Envelope in the offering plate, or drop it off at the Information Desk.

Prayer Bus Tour

Join us Sunday, May 7, from 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Welcoming the Immigrant and Refugee with Love

Tour originates at First Lutheran Church at 1:30 p.m. heading to Mt. Zion Jewish Temple and returns to First Lutheran by 3 p.m. Let us come together as we pray and as we present ourselves in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters here and abroad



IN THIS ISSUE...

- 1 The Word is Out
- 2 Evangelism, Inviting & Marketing
- 2 Classes & Groups
- 4 Upcoming Events
- 5 Youth & Family News