



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

The Holy Trinity: God “With Us”...“For Us”... and “In Us”

By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



During my childhood years of worship, “real church” always began with a rousing – maybe even rowdy (if that’s even possible for a bunch of Norwegian Lutherans?!) – rendition of the well-beloved hymn: “*Holy, Holy, Holy*.” You not only sang the hymn, the hymn sang you – enfolding, connecting, uplifting

you with the congregation’s four-part harmony and the old pipe-organ with all of its stops pulled. Even by age five, you could sing it by memory. (Something we need to work on with our children today.)

But, there was that second verse. You know. The one that concludes with the words: “*which, wert and art, and ever more shalt be*.” And I’d almost always ask myself: “Which, Wert, and Art?! ... Who are these guys?” I’d at least heard of “Art” before. Ya know: like Art Olson, Art Hanson, Art Johnson ... Hmm?

Indeed, as we observe on Trinity Sunday this year (May 27), this whole matter of the trinitarian nature of God, can cause a cerebral hernia for both preachers and congregations alike. Holy Trinity? Holy Cow! However, however ... from our baptism, through Sunday School, and Confirmation ... and on into our continued life in Christ, together with his communion of saints ... there’s a life-long calling from our Lord to take an ever deeper look into the Divine Life; that is, how “all things” (*ta panta*) hold together in God (Colossians 1:17). As St. Paul describes this connectedness in Acts 17: as one “in [whom] we live, and move, and have our being” (v.28a). British biblical scholar, James Barr astutely observes: “It’s one thing to say you believe in God; but what finally matters is the kind of God in whom you believe” (*The Scope and Authority of the Bible*, p.122). So ... what is the nature of God and God’s relation to the world, to us? This is the quest of *The Holy Trinity*.

Now, what guides this quest of “faith seeking ever deeper understanding” (St. Anselm) – each year on Holy Trinity

Sunday – is a New Testament text that Martin Luther refers to as “the gospel in a nutshell.” You know this beloved text well too: “*God [the Father] who so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall have everlasting life*.” You see, there’s a wondrous connection here that speaks of the threefold/triune nature of God and God’s relationship to his beloved creation: 1) God “*With Us*”; 2) God “*For Us*”; and 3) God “*In Us*.” In her masterful work, entitled *God For Us: The Trinity and the Christian Life*, (Harper Collins, 1991) the late Dr. Catherine LaCugna of Notre Dame, reemphasizes this exact point. Listen in with me ...

“The heart of the Christian life is to be united with the God of Jesus Christ by means of communion with one another [as we are called and gathered by the Holy Spirit]. The doctrine of the Trinity is ultimately therefore a teaching not about the abstract nature of God, nor about God in isolation from everything other than God, but a teaching about God’s life with us and our life with each other [in God]. Trinitarian theology could be described as par excellence a theology of relationship.” (p.1)

The Holy Trinity as God’s Word of “*relationship*” ... I’d like to just briefly unpack this a bit by looking at the best known Trinitarian formula in our Christian liturgy, The *Apostles’ Creed*. And then bring it together with its biblical foundation in our Gospel Lesson for Trinity Sunday; namely, John 3:16. We begin with the *First Article* of the Creed: “**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker**

of heaven and earth.” Now the first word here that you need to trust and believe very intimately, “from the very beginning” (Genesis 1:1f), is that you are created by God, in the very “image of God” (Genesis 1:26). You are the only one like you in the whole universe. Contra modern days cosmologists and atheists, such as Carl Sagan or Richard Dawkins, you are not some cosmic accident.

(Please open your Bible and read Isaiah 49:16; Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 43:1b; Psalm 23:4; John 14:1-3).

As with Nicodemus, in the gospel story from John 3:1-17 ... out in “the dark night of the soul” ... searching for “the light of the world ... I was privileged to share this claiming word of God this past week with two families in our congregation, families who are going through various “valleys of the shadow.” Those, who like you and I, need every day to hear this precious enfolding Word of life and light: “**For God so loved YOU, that he gave his only Son...**” It’s such a powerful, transforming Word. This blessed assurance that God is always with us. An assurance that gave Dietrich Bonhoeffer the confidence

to pen the following words in a Nazi prison cell, just hours before his death: “*Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine. Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God. I am thine!*” (These words are part of Bonhoeffer’s poem, entitled “Who Am I?” which can be found as a preface to *The Cost of Discipleship*.)

Now to the Second Article of the *Apostles’ Creed* that speaks of the second personae of God’s relationship to us and his creation: “**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.**” We are moving now *from* our understanding of

– see HOLY TRINITY, p2



Andrei Rublev, The Trinity, ca. 1411 or 1425-27



FLC Bike Blessing

The second annual Blessing of the Bicycles was held on Sunday, May 6, at First Lutheran. About 25 kids and adults brought their bicycles to receive a blessing under the awning.

Intern Pastor Jeff Backer presented each participant with a special bicycle adorned prayer pebble to carry on their bicycles and gave a blessing for all those who utilize non-motorized transportation. South Dakota EMS for Children was also on hand to give out helmets.

Afterwards, the group took to their bicycles enjoying a ride through downtown to Queen City Bakery for treats.



WORSHIP IN THE PARK

JUNE 10, JULY 15, AUGUST 19

This summer First Lutheran Church will host **Worship in the Park** on three Sundays at 11 a.m. in the McKennen Park band shell. Larry Olson and friends will provide worship music. On Sundays, June 10 and July 15, the congregation is invited to bring a picnic lunch and we will gather together after worship to eat and enjoy fellowship at picnic tables by the playground equipment. On August 19 we will celebrate the annual Blessing of the Backpacks and the Evangelism and Outreach Board will provide lunch. Invite a friend, bring a lawn chair and join us for worship. In case of rain, worship will be held at First Lutheran.

Holy Spirit Proclaims Christ

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



The Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood member of the Holy Trinity, which is to be expected since we can barely decide with any conviction whether or not ghosts even exist. More likely than not, as a regular attender of worship, you confess that “We believe in the Holy Spirit” as we profess together the creed, but that’s also the point where our uncertainty and confusion take over and the rest of the third article - which is all about the Holy Spirit! - spills out of our mouths without too much thought. Many have been overtaken by the idea that the Holy Spirit is something like *The Force* of “Star Wars.” It’s powerful, it’s mysterious, and it is surely doing something that we cannot see.

The Holy Spirit, however, is not the unseen, all connecting, impersonal force of the living universe, but rather a specific living person of God. A person is living, active and intentional while a force can only be used to do work. The Holy Spirit is not a force that we wield and use as a tool, but God who comes to give us life in Christ.

Read again the words of the *Apostles’ Creed* which we confess weekly:

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen”

These are the things that the Holy Spirit is about; creating faith in Christ sinners and thereby creating and sustaining the church. The Spirit proclaims the forgiveness of Christ and bestows resurrection to the dead. That’s how we say that the Holy Spirit is always making in the preaching of the gospel word come alive! The life is not given because the preaching is loud, strong, energetic, or exciting. The feeling of the thrill is

powerful but fleeting. Life in Christ comes by faith in Christ, where the Holy Spirit gives you ears to hear the simple promise of forgiveness and resurrection to life everlasting.

Lutherans have long taught that the church is wherever the Word is preached and the Sacraments are rightly given (*Augsburg Confession*, Article VII), because this is how the Holy Spirit makes faith. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther makes one of the most audacious claims in his explanation of the Apostles’ Creed. “I believe that I cannot believe by my own understanding or effort, but the Holy Spirit has...” The gospel word from Jesus Christ that forgives sin and grants life is incomprehensible on our own. Faith is not something that can come from us, “...but the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel.” That you believe in the good news of Christ Jesus only happens by the God the Holy Spirit’s choosing you for faith.

The church year is entering into the long green season that we celebrate through the summer and fall, all the way to Advent. It’s a long stretch, but a few months is but a moment when you compare it to the years, decades, and centuries since Christ that the Holy Spirit has been creating, sustaining, and enlightening the church through the gospel. And not only that, but equipping the church with gifts for ministry in order to continue to preach God’s word throughout the world.

The very Spirit of the Living God, who has spoken to this word to you, is alive and active in your life. Don’t be confused or misled. The Spirit is with you in all that you do, promising you forgiveness and life, and freeing you to boldly (or quietly), eloquently (or inarticulately), know and share the good news of Jesus. You cannot do it wrong, for even if you don’t feel it or understand it, the Holy Spirit is with you giving you faith in Jesus Christ. I hope this clears up some of our confusion!

The Holy Trinity... cont.

God as our Creator (a.k.a. “Which” of “Which, Wert, and Art” Co.), who’s always “WITH US” ... claiming us as his beloved children ... to God as our Savior, who’s always “FOR US.” Think Baptism: “*Marked with the self-giving cross of Christ forever.*” Think Holy Communion: “*This is my body and blood,*” promises Jesus, “*given and shed for you.*” “*God so loved YOU that he gave of his very self...*”

My friends, God who is the Creator of ALL things – visible and invisible – has come near to us – taking on flesh (John 1:14) – in the person of Jesus. In Jesus we have a brother, a Savior who shares our sorrows (Hebrews 4:14-16) – who enters the world and seeks us out even in the very deepest and darkest places of our fears and doubts and even death (John 10:11-17; cf. Luke 15). I remember well, when our children were little ... being awakened in the middle of the night by the shuffling sounds of little “jammy feet” ... the touch of a little hand on my face and a little voice that would say: “Daddy? Me scared! Dinosaurs in my room.” (I think in large part, this was due to our taking too many trips to the *Museum of the Rockies* when we lived in Bozeman, MT – which was just a few blocks from our home. Especially the 25 ft. tall Tyrannosaurus Rex that “greeted” (!) you as you stepped through into the foyer.) And so, taking Johnny, or later, Sarah or Matt back to their rooms, I’d lie down next to them on their beds, assuring them not to be afraid: “Go to sleep now. I’m here **with/for you.**” Yes, this is God’s loving word to each of us again this day, whatever the darkness might be in our Nicodemus world. And what’s it “wert”? As Martin Luther writes in his *Small Catechism*, regarding Holy Communion: “Where there is forgiveness of sin, there is life and salvation.”

Finally, we come to the full-blown expression of the Holy Trinity in the Third Article of the *Apostles’ Creed*: “**I believe in God, the Holy Spirit.**” If John 3:16 is “the gospel in a nutshell” ... well, this is certainly a tough nut to crack at this point. For with **God as Creator** we can look to the natural splendor of Creation – of “**God with us.**” The “Which” ... the “Whence” ... the “*font and wellspring of all good*” (John Calvin; *Institutes of the Christian Religion* Vol. 1, Ch.2.1). AND with **God as Savior** we can look to the bible and read about Jesus’ life and ministry – of his Word and Sacrament that still enter our ears and hands – of “**God for us.**” **But the Holy Spirit!** What are we to make of Jesus’ words to Nicodemus and to us in the Gospel text for Holy Trinity Sunday (John 3:1-17), when he says: “*The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*” Certainly as South Dakotans, we should have some strong sensibilities of this windy condition of our lives! But thankfully, Jesus explains later in John’s gospel what he’s talking about here: “*I will not leave you desolate*” (14:18). “*I will breathe into you my Holy Spirit, the Comforter*” (20:22) – “**God in us.**” The reality we celebrated on May 20: Pentecost Sunday.

One fascinating way I’ve come to look at our living within the Trinitarian life of God, is to look at the very structure of life itself: how it is that we measure time as “Past, Present and Future” (*which in old English is exactly what “which, wert, and art” means!*); of the triangle being the strongest geometric or architectural form; of measuring human gestation in “tri-mesters”; or the three primary colors being red, blue, and yellow. Even our sojourn of life is marked with a kind of trilogy, of a “beginning, middle, and end.” But finally, how do we get in touch with God as Spirit? Jesus as always has a more personal answer and we find it when we go to the very conclusion of the *Apostles’ Creed*: “I believe in the Holy Spirit” ... Then what? ... “**The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints.**” Here again is God’s Trinitarian word of relatedness: “*I am With You, For You, and In You, always ... as YOU are now my ‘ongoing body in the world’* (Irenaeus), *as my Church ... to ‘make disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit’* (Matthew 28:19). “Do you not know,” witnesses St. Paul, “*that you are God’s temple and that Christ’s Spirit dwells in you*” (I Corinthians 6:19). Yes ... “Which, Wert, and Art ... AND ... Johnny, and Bob ‘n Betty, and Bud, and Lois, and Fred and Julie ... and ever more shalt be.” Blest be the tie that binds.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning (“*which*”) ... is now (“*wert*”) ... and ever shall be (“*art*”). Yes. Amen ... blessed Trinity.

j.r. christopherson
Senior Pastor

Worship at First Lutheran Church FAQs

Revised Common Lectionary

This article is the first in a series that the Worship and Music Board hopes will be helpful and of interest to the congregation. Through these inserts, the board hopes to educate, inform, and answer your questions about worship on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Below, the board has chosen our first question and answer as a starting point and example.

We are interested in receiving your questions and feedback! After you’ve had a chance to read, feel free to email zbrockhoff@flcsf.org or call the church office, 336-3734, with questions you would like to see answered in the future. We hope this can be of benefit to our worship life together, as we proclaim and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord as the body of Christ in this place.

Q: Why do we read four Scripture lessons together every week during worship?

A: Each week in worship, we hear four readings of Holy Scripture usually from the Old Testament, the book of Psalms, New Testament, and one of the Gospels. The readings are not chosen at random by one of our pastors in a dark office with a Bible and candlelight! Each reading is assigned in the *Revised Common Lectionary*. The *Revised Common Lectionary* [RCL] was released in 1994 after revisions to the existing set of lectionary texts. The RCL is shared by many Christian denominations, including our Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian brothers and sisters in the faith. The four readings are chosen to relate in theme and content to one another. Most often, the First Reading and Gospel text share a common theme. Sometimes, the Second Reading reading may relate as well; often during the year, the Second Reading is a nearly sequential reading of an epistle. The Psalm we sing often illuminates a picture or theme from the First Reading. You can listen for these connections each week.

The RCL is based on a continuous three-year cycle of readings that begin each year on the First Sunday

of Advent and conclude with the Festival of Christ the King. Each Church Year is designated A, B, or C and draws primarily from one gospel. For example, during this current year [Year B] many of our gospel texts are drawn from the gospel of Mark; however, as you have observed, Year B uses many texts from St. John’s account as well. Next year, [Year C], most of our gospel texts will be from St. Luke’s account. Year A draws primarily from St. Matthew’s gospel.

There are a few basic reasons we choose to use this lectionary:

1. We share this lectionary in common with other Christians outside of the Lutheran tradition of the faith. Think about this! You can ask what your Methodist, Roman Catholic, or Episcopal neighbors heard on Sunday and share the good news you heard as well! [Reading multiple texts also ties our worship to the Jewish Synagogue. In Jesus’ day, worship in the synagogue included three readings regularly: one from the Torah [the Law], another from the Prophets, and a reading from the Psalms.]
2. A lectionary like the RCL keeps clergy and staff from choosing their own Bible passages from week to week. This makes sense, as Scripture is not what we “want to hear” or what we “want to preach about.” Worship is not a time for religious commentary about current events or popular topics chosen by preachers or people. Rather, worship is a time to hear from God. God’s Word always delivers God’s Law and Promise of good news in Christ. Listen for this good news!
3. In reading four assigned texts, we hear a broad portrait of salvation history, and God at work in all times and places. In addition, requiring ourselves to use a variety of different passages over a three year period means we touch on areas of Scripture that may sometimes go unheard - and maybe even passages we would rather not hear!

There is much more to say about our reading and study of Scripture in worship. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of the pastors.

Women's Ministry



A Prayer Study and Our Collections

By Kathy Stelzer, Co-President WELCA

Bible Study! It's one of WELCA's favorite events because we all enjoy it and gain enrichment in our Christian walk. This June, WELCA will have one of our favorite First Lutheran ladies, Carol Knapp, lead it for us! Now a member of our FLCW Elizabeth Circle, she has chosen to lead us in a study of prayer.



Carol Knapp

Following the summer Bible study in the Gather magazine, written by Anna Madsen, Carol Knapp will speak on prayer practices, using as a basis Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." While Anne Lamott, one of Pastor John's favorite authors, writes that there are basically two types of prayer: "Thank you," and "Help me." Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, in her book on spiritual disciplines, lists sixteen prayer practices or ways of praying, from breath prayer to welcoming prayer. Together we will examine some new ways of communicating our praise, our thanks, and our requests for forgiveness, healing, and blessing to our God and then listening for his gracious response.



A lifelong Lutheran, Carol has been a member of First for over 40 years. She has served on the staff as librarian, director of Media Ministry, and secretary to the pastors. Since her retirement in 2014, she has participated in a class on the book, "Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life", taught by Norma Jean Strommen, and helped to facilitate a "Sharing Word and Spirit" class on prayer.

Also, our Collections! What is important to you and do you have a collection surrounding that interest? Let us know about it and tables will be made available for each of you to display your collection. We look forward to the viewing as you share it! To facilitate this, please call Marcia, 360-4168, or Kathy, 332-1820, with your name, collection title and the amount of space needed for your display.

June meeting

Our WELCA meeting will be on June 7 at 10 a.m., in the Gathering Room. The WELCA Board does not meet during the summer months. Please remember that our summer stewardship project for May through August is baby care kits. The items include diapers, undershirts, sleepers or gowns, receiving blankets, sweaters or baby sweatshirts, bath size bar soap, socks and hand towels. Your generosity will be appreciated.



Wanted!

In Your Best Presentation!

**WHAT YOU MEANINGFULLY COLLECT!
DISPLAY AT OUR JUNE MEETING!
CALL: MARCIA, 360-4168 OR
KATHY 332-1820 TO ARRANGE!
THANK YOU FOR SHARING!**

What does WELCA Membership mean to you?

By Marcia Huffman, Co-President WELCA

For a little over a year I have been using my words to write articles about the WELCA ministry at First Lutheran. This month I thought it would be important to hear what some of our other member have to say and let their thoughts be known. I posed the question "What does WELCA membership mean to you?" and received the following answers. Perhaps as you read why WELCA is important to our members, and why they enjoy being part of this vital organization, you too might be moved to join us. We would welcome you with open arms.

"Most important is that WELCA means fellowship, a feeling of community, that we support each other and feel support from others. I also enjoy the programs and feel we are an integral part of the church."-Lois Peterson. "WELCA means meeting new people and making new friends and working together with other members. This is how we get to know people"-Ione Pereboom. "WELCA means friendship and serving others and we have fun together, especially at quilting. Join us!"-Dorothy Mikkelson. Maurine Holt said "Ditto for quilting!" Nancy Olson responded "WELCA is my women community of believers that allows/provides me the opportunity to be a vital voice in offering the unique perspective/voice/gifts of women in our faith community, local and global community."

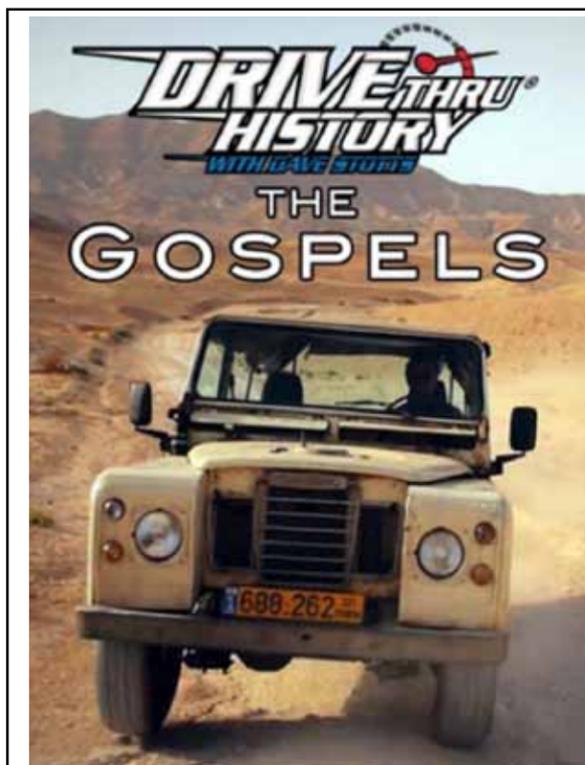
WELCA means "Bible study, friendships, companions, working on projects, meeting new people, the kindness of others, prayer for me or someone I know, (we) can call on someone in time of need."- Gloria Simpson. WELCA is "Fellowship with other FLC women, a vehicle to get involved doing the work of the Lord, prayer support, friendship support of one another, reaching around the world. LWR projects, reaching out and sharing beyond our walls."- Sharyl Wolf. Connie Nelson wrote WELCA means "a community of women in service and prayer, information about organizations that promote helping those in need, breaking bread together and singing songs of praise." Norma Hofer shared "The legacy of stories of women who have done many tasks to aid all of God's work at FLC has inspired me to continue helping through FLCW in any way that I can." These words are from Ruth Werner: "I love to attend, to be together with friends in the house of God and we all have the same things in common - religion, helping and doing God's work. Also for myself I keep learning, plus we can depend on each other and we pray for each other. It feels

like we really are sisters." Kathy Stelzer said "A lot! These women give me a place to share, grow and enjoy my Christian life in so many ways – including Bible study, fellowship, worship, service and prayer. The current and eternal blessings cannot be counted."

From Dorothy Grevlos: "Church women provides an avenue to join together in fellowship with ladies we may know or not have known before and share our faith in combined love and concerns. As we well know, love and caring for our neighbors as ourselves is who we are and by our gathering together, be it large or small, the love and caring for others is what is important. Being kept informed on the activities and involvements in our church becomes our reaching out on a more personal venue. We have been blessed with most interesting and informative Christ-driven programs which again gives us the opportunity to reach out as a family. Yes, we are a family!" Janet Naessig had this to share: "WELCA is a community of women with similar experiences who understand and support each other." "Membership means Friendship, educational information on missions both local and global of the work of women, love of working together and seeking new ideas, another stage of life and activities in looking for and in God's service."-Arlene Bich. "Being a member of WELCA gives me an opportunity to contribute to our church, our community and beyond. Through WELCA we reach more people in need; we reach farther than we could ever reach by ourselves. Participating in WELCA programs at FLC give me a sense of belonging and allows me to grow spiritually. WELCA members are there for each other too; we lift each other up in prayer and support each other with heartfelt kindness."-Barb Hudelson

When asked about WELCA membership, Lola Coon wrote: "I guess I can sum it up as an extended family. We are women of all ages, with different backgrounds and talents, with a common faith and goal to support our faith and FLC. When asked the question, my mind was bombarded with words like faith, friends, fellowship, learning, sharing, music, food and love. We have wonderful programs and speakers both at FLC and at other destinations. We enjoy beautiful music from our 'in- house maestro' Hazel Wek, while Gloria Simpson leads us in song. Just watch for upcoming events and plan to attend a meeting - I don't think you'll be disappointed." Julie Gibson added these thoughts: WELCA membership means "Sharing faith, learning from others, enjoying being part of an organization where we can grow in our faith through Bible study and accomplish great things as a mission-oriented organization, especially our bazaar which shows what the women in our church are all about."

Around the Church



Summer Bible Study

Do you have your road trip planned for this summer? Are you up for the ride of your life? Consider a trip to the Holy Land with tour guide Dave Stotts and his jeep Steve McQueen. The price is right – free!

Drive Thru History: The Gospels

Join us for a summer adventure using the latest series from "Drive Thru History with Dave Stotts." Dave tracks the story of Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection from the locations recorded in books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. He travels to over 50 sites in Israel to deliver the Gospels in a fresh way, show the evidence for the truth of scripture, and encourage families to get excited about reading the Bible together.

The study meets on Wednesdays, June 6 – Aug. 8, 6:30 – 8 p.m., in the Friendship Room.

Please pick up your "Travel Journal" at the First Lutheran Information Desk before the first class.

For more information, please contact: DeAnn Clark clarkdeann@gmail.com, Donna Johnson dbj808@gmail.com, or Sue Quail quail.susan@gmail.com

Caring Ministry



Sexual Harassment... Not In My Church!

By Pastor Katherine Olson



Last month, I attended a sexual harassment response training event hosted by the South Dakota Synod. It included a presentation by Barbara Keller, Consultant for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). With the “Me Too” movement continuing to reverberate throughout many institutions in our culture, it is important to be reminded that sexual misbehavior can occur anywhere, even the congregation. It’s good for us to be aware of such realities, and to remember and declare that the church should be a safe place where people can worship,

learn, work, love and receive care in a manner that is free from sexual misconduct.

Sexual misconduct can take many forms in the life of a congregation, from the blatant to the subtle. I want to identify myself as an advocate who can help you if you are experiencing sexual harassment within the church or in another area of life. What’s more, I wanted to make you aware that there are resources within our church body for reporting harassment and for sexual misconduct prevention. Visit elca.org/safeplace to learn more.

I’m grateful to be part of the congregation at First Lutheran and I want to continue to help it be a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all. Join me in praying for the health of our church, for the sake of the gospel.



New Care and Health Coordinator Joins FLC Staff

Jordan Stone has been hired to serve as Care and Health Coordinator at First Lutheran Church, a full-time position with our staff beginning June 1st. Jordan will work with Pastor Katherine Olson, the Care and Health Board, and the Holistic Health Team to engage the church in ministries of Christian care and health. The scope of Jordan’s work will be developed this summer, as this new position gets its start.

Jordan grew up in Dell Rapids and graduated from high school in 2014. From there, she went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. During her time as a “Red Raider,” she could be found doing many things around campus: the Acappella Choir, the rugby team, intramurals, Residence Life, campus ministries, an admissions intern, theatre, and tutoring. As a student, she also had opportunities to travel abroad to Taiwan and Amsterdam. Jordan graduated a few weeks ago, but will continue to pursue studies in the distance learning program at Luther Seminary. Jordan will be pursuing her Masters of Divinity degree while simultaneously serving First Lutheran as Care and Health Coordinator.

Jordan writes: “I cannot wait to see how God will use me in the Care and Health Coordinator position. I am excited to work alongside some amazing staff members, and meet the congregation I get to serve. I pray God’s light will shine through me, and I ask for your prayers as I navigate a new job and stage of my life.”

We will be introducing Jordan to the congregation in worship on Sunday, June 10. Come greet Jordan then or anytime during the week as she begins her new role among us.

(Re-)Introducing Kin Ministry at First Lutheran

Last fall, nine volunteers were recruited to serve as Kin Ministers at First Lutheran Church. Kin Ministers are those who make regular connections with “Kin” matched to them through the congregation. The Kin are senior members of our church who may be experiencing a measure of social isolation. Prayerful, friendly connections between Kin and Kin Ministers are made in person, by phone, or through a video visitation platform. The Kin Ministry program is being developed by the Good Samaritan Society in partnership with BeFriender Ministry, and First Lutheran Church is one of several local congregations participating in the launch of this program.

Would you be interested in serving as a Kin Minister? A training for new Kin Ministers will be held on Monday, June 4, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Society National Campus in Sioux Falls. (The April training was canceled – you may remember a certain epic snowstorm!) To learn more, contact Pastor Katherine Olson at kolson@flcsf.org or 339-1983 ext. 214. An introduction to the program can also be found online at kinministry.com.

God is good!

First Lutheran member Abraham Gayetaye (who also serves as leader of First Lutheran African Ministries) was finally able to welcome his wife and three children to the United States after spending many years apart. Joanne, Dorcas, Abraham I and Abraham II (pictured with Abraham in the center of the photo) arrived in Sioux Falls on Wednesday, April 25. This effort was the result of many prayers, involvement from the South Dakota Synod and the ELCA churchwide office, as well as the work of congregational representatives. A generous donation from First Lutheran Caring Ministry helped make the plane ticket purchases possible once the family’s paperwork was approved. Joanne’s mother Dinah Nimely (pictured on the left) and many other Gayetaye family members also share in this incredible joy and give God the glory.



Healing Grief Through Art



In May, members of First Lutheran’s Grieving with Grace group met at Creative Spirits studio to paint a special picture in memory of loved ones. The blossoming trees created by these artists also serve as a reminder of our promise of eternal life in Christ. As Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14: “We do not grieve as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again... (and) through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.” Thanks to those who participated, and we hope that this will be one of many creative endeavors to come.

Grieving with Grace Continues June 2 Topic: “Anger and Grief”

After a loved one has died, those who grieve can experience anger: anger toward medical professionals, friends and loved ones, and even themselves. On Saturday, June 2, we’ll talk about this anger in our session of Grieving with Grace. In this support group, participants learn about the grieving process and are gentle with themselves as they work through the grief of a loved one’s death, together with others. Sessions usually take place on the first Saturday morning of the month in the Gathering Room at First Lutheran Church. Social Time begins at 9:30 a.m., and the group sessions last from 10 – 11 a.m. **All sessions are open to first-time participants.** 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. If you have questions about Grieving with Grace, reach out to Pastor Katherine at kolson@flcsf.org or 339-1983, ext. 214.

Visitation Pastor Ministry at First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran has a team of visitation pastors available to share visits and communion with homebound members on a monthly basis. If you or a loved one is unable to regularly attend church and would like to be connected to a visitation pastor, please give Donna Jahr a call at the church office. It would be our pleasure to serve you. Donna can be reached at 339-1983 ext. 202.

Youth & Family Ministry



Getting to know you

By Marne Dahle Backer
Director, Youth and Family Ministries



Many people have been at First Lutheran their whole lives – that could mean ninety years or three years, but lifelong members none the less. In a big place, we have to work a little harder to get to know one another. Just like in life outside the church walls, it can be very easy to stick with “who you know.” We invite you to introduce yourself to someone new this week,

we’re guessing you’ll find a connection pretty quickly. What a blessing that we have so many wonderful people at First Lutheran! This month we are getting to know the Masselink family: Tim and Jessica, Emma (10), Julia (7) and Tyler (7).



Tell me a little about your family

- **Julia** – We have two dogs, Chloe (Weimaraner) & George (Bernedoodle)
- **Tyler** – We went to Florida on vacation - Disney World! I Liked Star Wars. Julia did NOT like the Tower of Terror. Emma liked Mt. Everest. Julia liked the princess stuff and Mt. Everest.
- **Emma** – We go to school at Journey Elementary in Harrisburg. I’m in the fourth grade and the twins are in first.
- **Jessica** – Tim and I are CNA Anesthetists – I’m at Sanford in Dakota Dunes and Tim is at Ophthalmology LTD. We are very busy: Emma – volleyball, basketball, four dances, piano; Tyler – baseball, basketball, flag football, soccer, piano; Julia – basketball, softball, piano, and soccer, did gymnastics but really wants to do dance.

How long has FLC been your church home?

- **Jessica and Tim** – We’ve been married 15 years and joined the year before. All the kids were baptized here. Something kind of cool is that Pastor John married us and baptized all three of the children!
- **Tim** – I was raised Presbyterian and Jessica Catholic – we came to FLC to check it out and came back a few more times and it felt like home.

What ways are you all involved here?

- **Jessica** – Both Tim and I teach Sunday morning Scripture First.
- **Children** – we go to Sunday School and we help with music during Sunday School with Dorothy (Christopherson).

What are some of your favorite things or moments that you have been a part of?

- **Emma** – I really like the music in Sunday School.
- **Tyler** – I like doing the crafts at Sunday School.
- **Julia** – the stories. Joseph and the coat of many colors – and his brothers were kind of mean. Tyler was quick to interject “We are NOT like those brothers!”

What keeps you coming back to First Lutheran?

- **Julia** – it’s because I like learning about in the old days about the stories of God and Jesus.
- **Emma** – Same as Julia.
- **Jessica** – we keep growing and learning about faith, building and strengthening our faith too. We want to show our kids how important it is so they will take their faith life into adulthood.
- **Tim** – The wide variety of experiences.

Are there ways you all share faith at home?

- **All talking at once** - Prayers before bed. Table prayers – we have a dice we roll, hey – we got that from the church. They “never” fight over who gets to roll the dice. Reading out of their *Spark Story Bible*. “Now I Lay me Down to Sleep” at bed time.
- **Julia** – Daddy’s nighttime prayer is the best. Mom’s is a different one but we all know them by heart.
- **Tyler** – Dad’s prayer goes like this: “Dear God, thank you for all you do for us, please continue to watch over us, provide us the strength and courage and patience we need every day. In the Lord God’s name we pray, Amen.”



First Lutheran’s 2018 High School graduates gather in front of the congregation wrapped in God’s love. What a blessing and servant gift from our FLC Quilters. Below right: Emily Whitney, Jacob Croghan and Anna Gette receive their quilts with blessings and hugs from the Quilters.

Milestone Minute

Senior Recognition was held on Sunday, May 6. Thirty-four seniors received a beautiful quilt from the First Lutheran Quilters. They wrapped each of the seniors up in God’s love and gave them a blessing as they head out into the world on their next adventure. What a blessing these young adults have been to our community. Our prayers go with them knowing that God is with them wherever they go. And may they know they always have a church home to return to.



Congratulations Graduates

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Elizabeth Christensen | Noah Kutter |
| Jacob Croghan | Isak Larson |
| Esme DerHagopian | Paul Monson |
| Alyse Dockter | Ethan Moore |
| Nick Doty | Tyler Neely |
| Allison Engel | Megan Nolan |
| Macie Engles | Brayden Oien |
| Anna Gette | Hailey Olson |
| Alex Glanzer | Travis Pearson |
| Will Grevlos | Alexandria Plimpton |
| Abbie Griffin | Ella Roberts-Oakland |
| Taylor Hangman | Emma Salzwedel |
| Rob Hawley | Noah Schlekeway |
| Bridget Holmstrom | Nicholas Stark |
| Samantha King | Emily Whitney |
| Allen Kramer | Arika Williams |
| Katrina Kramer | Izzie Zueger |



Summer Send-off Milestone

Summer Send-off Milestone for Summer Camps & the ELCA Youth Gathering will be Sunday, June 3. We will gather at 10 a.m. for a simple breakfast and craft. A special blessing and milestone pebbles will be given at the 11 a.m. worship service.



Middle School Youth Summer Wednesdays!

- For all youth entering 6th, 7th and 8th grades.
- 9 a.m. – Noon, Open Gym
 - 1 – 3 p.m., MS Youth Group
- Staying for the whole day?! Bring money for lunch and the Youth and Family staff will take the youth with them to lunch!

MS Youth Lock-In

Friday, July 27, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Saturday.

High School Youth Summer Bonfires, 8 – 10:30 p.m.

- For all youth entering 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades and 2018 graduates
- June 6 – Blake & Nick Stark, 7901 W. Maple St.
 - June 20 – TBA
 - July 11 – Isaac Hewitt, 2804 E. 51st St.
 - July 24 – Emelia Skogstad, 2524 S. Cliff Ave.
 - August 8 – Bella Tooley, 2508 E. 17th St.
 - August 15 – Jill & Colin Barron’s, 1500 S. Perry Place

HS Mystery Night

Wednesday, August 1, 6 – 11 p.m. Meet at the church.



Take-out Family Faith Kits

Coming June 10 – “Take-out Family Faith Kits” will be available for families that are on the road or at the lake cabin this summer. Stop by the Welcome Center to pick yours up. Each month will have different activities to bring your family together when you aren’t able to be in worship. Have a happy and blessed summer!

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.

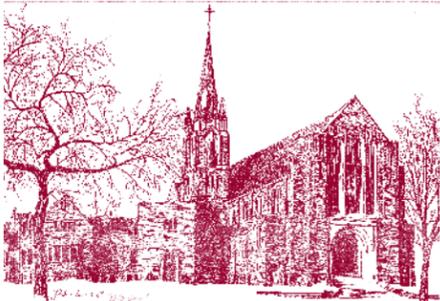
We are committed to equipping people for ministry.

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

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.



Births

Jan. 6 Elliott James Kok, son of Derrick and Jill Kok

Baptisms

April 7 Brecken Marlyn Sisson, son of Jill Sisson and Edward Hodgson

April 8 Joseph Brent Bock, son of Matthew and Paige Bock

April 8 Minnie Drew Budmayr, daughter of Ryan and Molly Budmayr

April 21 Jacob Paul Dornbusch, son of Ryan Madetzke and Kelly Dornbusch

Deaths

April 19 Ralph Allen

April 25 Obed Osthus

April 28 Darlene South

Council highlights April 26, 2018

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. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

- March was a very good month financially. We have \$41,262 of income over expenses thanks to some significant gifts.
- Pastor John shared that there has been great attendance for the Lenten Services and Easter. We received a nice year-end gift from some families at First Lutheran to be used toward staff appreciation and to let staff know they are affirmed.
- Jordan Stone will be starting June 1 in the Health and Caring Ministry. Candidates are still being reviewed for the finance position and conversations are in progress on the communications staff position.
- The 100-ton chiller that serves the Parish Life Building is only operating at 50 – 70% capacity giving us warning that it is beginning to fail. Conversations are underway with mechanical engineers on options and cost. The entire HVAC system is of concern. The Financial Advisory Team is looking into line of credit options in case of equipment failure. Conversation is beginning for a capital campaign for this project, Sanctuary sound system and other capital needs.
- The Call Committee has had several meetings and has updated our site profile for the Synod. We want to be respectful and mindful of our pastoral needs in seeking the right candidate. Advice and input from the Congregation is welcome.
- Church security is a high priority for First Lutheran Church as well as all churches in the nation. We must take seriously the question of security and be proactive in safeguarding members, visitors and staff. Beginning June 1 only the Dakota Avenue and main Atrium entrance will be open Sunday mornings. Various groups will continue to meet to develop and communicate security policies.
- The Outreach Board shared their evangelism goals and priorities of being heard, seen and felt.



Date: July 26, 2018

Location: Augustana Elmen Center

Theme: "Spirituality of Elderhood"

Featured Speaker: Joyce Rupp

Joyce Rupp is well known for her work as a writer, international retreat leader, and conference speaker. She is the author of numerous bestselling books, including "Praying Our Goodbyes", "Open the Door", and "Fragments of Your Ancient Name." "Fly While You Still Have Wings" is among her publications earning an award in the spirituality books category from the Catholic Press Association.

Register at <http://www.augie.edu/events/aging-faithfully-conference>

Church Council

Officers/Executive Committee

Brian Aamlid President
Aaron Ellingsen Vice President
Eric Severson Treasurer
Mindy Moore Secretary
Dr. John Christopherson Senior Pastor
David Van Veldhuizen Member-at-Large
Terri Carlson Member-at-Large

Council Representatives

Care & Health Cindy Forsburg
Education & Discipleship Alma Kallelen
Evangelism & Outreach Colleen Kokenge
Finance, Admin. & Property Lyle Eidsness
FLCW Kathy Stelzer
Foundation Tom Simmons
Stewardship & Giving Birgit Peterson
Welcome & Community Deb Nelson
Worship & Music James Moore
Youth & Family Ben Ready

First Lutheran Church Directory

Pastoral Staff

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

Administrative Staff

(211) Jody Bymers Finance Administrator
(202) Donna Jahr Secretary to the Pastors
(236) Marilyn McNeill Church Administrator
(201) Judi Mueller* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary
(201) Sandy Rieck* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary
(201) Cleo Sorensen* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary

Caring Ministries

(202) Cheryl Satterlee* Wedding Coordinator
(237) Jordan Stone Caring Coordinator

Evangelism & Outreach

(209) Jeff Backer Director

Media Ministries

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

Facilities

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

Worship and Music Ministries

(261) Shirley Barlow* Administrative Assistant
(260) Zachary Brockhoff Director/Organist,
FLYGHY and Jubilant Singers Director
(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
Women's Choir Director
(261) Larry Olson* Contemporary Worship
(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) Irma Rodriguez Leon* Nursery Attendant
(238) Heather Smith Children's Minister
(228) Kris Stark* Nursery Attendant
(228) Samantha Stark* Nursery Attendant
(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

Financial Services

Media Ministry

Gifts and memorials

Gifts to FLC Foundation in honor of:

Frank Hansen's 90th Birthday:
Gary & Shirley Barlow

Gifts to FLC Foundation in memory of:

Darlene South: Dorothy Grevlos

Gifts to Caring Ministry in memory of:

Pat Tronson: Jeff & Edna Husman

Gifts to FLC Quilters in memory of:

Darlene South: Dennis & Jane King,
Clara Ranschau, Ruth Werner

Gifts to Lankford Art Series in memory of:

Betty Olson: Steve & Doris Bushard

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Loraine Anderson: Peter & Mary Anne Tulipana

Ona Anderson: Jean Ahlers, Richard & Gladys Ambrosion, Norman Eitrheim, Paul & Barbara Halstenson, Arlen & Marcia Knutson, Dwight McDonnel, Craig & Tamar McKenzie, Wayne & Norma Steinocker

Dorothy Davis: Janice Hoeck

Joyce Kelsh: Lori Van Litsenburg

Betty Olson: Lonna Albertson, Don & Alice Anderson, Ruth Barlow, Gary & Linda Belfrage, Jean & Michael Bender, Judy Bentson & Dick Gaddis, Lillian Carlson, John & Beth Claussen,

Mary & Troy Claussen, Sharon & Randy Claussen, Darlene Colwell, Tom Cotas, Sharon Dale, Bob & Sandy Dean, Lisa & Jeff Ducheneau and Evelyn & Madelyn, Jeanette Edman, Eric & Diane Erickson, First Lutheran Church Women, Randy & Sheri Fischer and family, Julie Greenfield, Russ & Carol Greenfield, Dorothy Grevlos, Marion Hartman, Bob & Jane Himrich, Eddie & Brenda Holiway, Donna & Allen Jensen and Mark & Dan, Sheryl Jones, Gene & Dixie Jorgenson and John Fuller, Patt Kapp, Joan & Richard Klock, Emil & Carol Knapp, Helen Lewin, Lydia-Rachel Circle, Norma Matthies, Kenneth & Linda McIlravy, Marilyn McLeod, Neil McLeod, Will & Joyce Meisenhelder, Mary Nicolai, Larry & Catherine Ollerich, Marilyn Olson, Tracie Osthus, Martin & Mary Oyos, Sandy Patterson, Sandy Pedersen, LaMoyné & Karyn Pederson, Lynn Plucker, Delores & Stuart Gabriel, Marsha Pressler, Carol Priest, Eileen Quanbeck, Josephine Redlin, Jennifer Reiners & family, Donald & Jean Reuter, Alex, Kim, Maddy Settler, Kathy Stelzer, Cecil Stockwell, Karen Venables, Joel and Julie Vipond, Mark & Chris Wendt, Glenn & Audrey Wintersteen, Sharyl Wolf, Dave & Deb Wolles

Obed Osthus: Delores Johnson

Reed Ramstad: Mary Eich, Dorothy Grevlos, Eileen Quanbeck, Hazel Wek

David Skancke: Rick Bandy, Franklin & Marit Pudas, Orrin & Pat Townswick

Kathy Swanson: First Lutheran Church Women

Media broadcast sponsors March – April

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:

Mar. 4: 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. 11: 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.

Mar. 18: 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.

Apr. 1: In honor of Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, and Rick & Judy Berdahl and their families by Mike and Gloria Simpson.

Apr. 15: In memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

KSFY telecast (fully sponsored unless noted otherwise):

Mar. 4: In loving memory of Paul Willadsen by Donna Willadsen

Mar. 11: In loving celebration of the memory of David and Susan Lankford. It is made possible by earnings through a gift by family and friends to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

April 1: By the family of Kathy Ross. Kathy was a lifelong member of First Lutheran and sang in the choir for decades. Kathy passed away this past August.

April 8: In loving memory of Herman Lerdal, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, gentleman and farmer, who would have been 90 years old today. This sponsorship is given by his family.

Un-sponsored broadcasts, telecasts and closed captioning are made possible in part through gifts and memorials to First Lutheran Church Media Ministries.

Apr. 22: By Jack and Amanda Leaders through a special gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

KSFY closed captioning:

Feb. 25: In honor of Mike and Gloria Simpson's anniversary on Feb. 18, by Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, Richard Berdahl and families.

Mar. 11: (On CW) In honor of Vivian Wegner's 103rd birthday on March 10th, by Elaine Berdahl Johnson, Mary Ellen Berdahl Lantis and Richard Berdahl.

Mar. 25: In loving memory of Albert & Esther Berdahl by Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, Richard Berdahl and Families.

Apr. 1: In loving memory of Leonard, Betty and Craig Martinek by Carl Martinek and family.

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.

Please call for additional open dates.

KELO radio broadcast sponsorships (\$150) available for June 3; July 15; Aug. 12 and 19.

KSFY telecast sponsorships (\$1300) are available for July 1, 15; Aug. 19 (half sponsorship), 26.

Closed captioning sponsorships for the weekly KSFY telecasts (\$140) are available on June 3, 17, 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Aug. 12, 19 and 26.

Financial update

As of April 30, 2018

Total Revenue, year-to-date

2018 Actual \$711,835
2017 Actual \$676,388

Total Expenses, year-to-date

2018 Actual \$659,030
2017 Actual \$683,823

Contract For Deed – Ideal \$303,735

"God's Gifts-Our Responsibility" income \$3,591

Worship Attendance, April 3,946

Did you write a check to the IRS this year?

By Janet Naessig, Foundation Board Member



Charitable gifts are one of the few deductions left in the new tax law. These gifts don't have to be cash. Donating appreciated property can be an easy and tax effective way to make a gift. You can avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated stocks, bonds or other property. You

can receive a charitable income tax deduction for the current/appreciated value. Assets do need to be held long term (over one year) to avoid long-term capital gains tax. In the new law, while the charitable deduction was left unchanged, your ability to claim the charitable contribution deduction may depend on whether you have enough other itemized deductions to exceed the standard deduction (now \$12,000 for single people and \$24,000

for couples married, filing jointly). (Check with your tax consultant for more information.)

A donor to the First Lutheran Church Foundation decides what he or she wants to see happen at First Lutheran by designating to which of the ten areas of mission the funds are to go. Or the gift can be undesignated and the income will be divided according to the distribution formula. Either way the gift is forever, because in an endowment fund only the interest can be spent. The principal is not invaded.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10

"Big gifts get a lot of press, but small gifts pay the bills." All gifts further the mission.

Senior luncheon June 12

All First Lutheran senior adults and their friends are invited to join us for a delicious catered lunch and an entertaining program on the second Tuesday of each month. On Tuesday, June 12, at noon, the menu is BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans. The program will be by Kate Helgas, Project CAR.

Please remember to RSVP for the luncheon by calling the church receptionist at 336-3734, before Wednesday, June 6.

Need a ride? Please call Project CAR, 332-2777, by 9 a.m. on Monday, June 11.

Evangelism and Outreach Ministries



Real Life Relationships!

By Jeff Backer, Director of Evangelism & Outreach.



“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

– Hebrews 10:24-25

What is it that draws you to this place? This is a question we ask during the new member class. A common response is that people feel connected here, that First Lutheran Church is a welcoming place. I feel this speaks volumes as to the mindset of those that have been here for a long time, and those that visit; trying to get a sense of “what we are about”.

Author Martha Grace Reese offers an even more attuned understanding of this in her book “UnBinding the Gospel.” Reese suggests that our relationships with others in the church are the key to our wanting to be in this place. She compares our relational dynamic to the symbol of the Triune God; with three intertwined rings. She defines our church relationships this way: the first and most important is our relationship with God, especially in His Son Jesus Christ, the second relational component is our relationship with each other as individuals and as a faith community, and the third is our relationship to the world. It is this sense of community and relationships that tends to draw us to this place, and is the key component to the witness of

the Gospel. God works powerfully through these three sets of relationships in the church and in the world, and each ring affects the other rings.

Do you tell others about what is going on here at First Lutheran, or is coming here just part of your “routine”? Better yet, do you share with others in church what is going on in your life? Is this a place where both of these are encouraged and lived out? Because as relationships within the church get fuller and richer, the ripple effect carries through into our lives outside of church; we have richer relationships at work, in our families, in our community, and even as we find ourselves standing on the sideline at a child’s or grandchild’s soccer game. At its foundation, being a witness to the gospel is found in these relational opportunities. As we look around on a Sunday morning and ask ourselves, “I haven’t seen Jim for a while. I wonder what is going on with him?”, do you find yourself sending a note or making a quick phone call? Or have you resigned yourself that it is not your place to reach out to them with a caring word?

When we are compelled to tell others they are missed, loved and that Jesus Christ loves them to the point of his own death, these are the transformational moments of the gospel witness that creates a culture of evangelism, and more importantly, creates faith.

Take an opportunity today to reach out to someone in your life and tell them about what Jesus Christ has done for them!

June Special Offering: ELCA World Hunger

By Suzie Hernes, Evangelism & Outreach Board member

Did you know more than 800 million people – that’s 11 percent of people in our world today – are hungry? Unfortunately, that is the reality that the ELCA World Hunger ministry faces each and every day. The good news: through your gifts they are working for change and impacting lives around the world. The ELCA works with and through congregations just like First Lutheran Church to respond as they are uniquely positioned to reach communities in need.



Hunger Facts:

- 815 million people around the world can’t access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- According to the most recent estimates, 766.6 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90/day.
- At some point in 2016, more than 41.2 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 40.6 million Americans were living in poverty in 2016. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$24,563.

ELCA World Hunger provides immediate relief to those who are hungry and living the reality of these facts. They meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. They connect people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care, and sources of income that creates long-term and sustainable change.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond to the most basic of needs (food) to the long-term and sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Your gift will impact people living with hunger and poverty in more than 50 countries around the world, including the United States.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the ELCA World Hunger ministries with a donation. You may use the June Special Offering envelope for your gift and place it in the offering plate, or you may drop it off at the Information Desk.

Whether you make a donation or not, please pray for this ministry and the people who are affected by it.

[Content source: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>]

Coming soon! Necessities for Neighbors 2

First Lutheran Church is an owner/partner in an organization called Charis Ministries. Approximately 9 years ago, Charis Ministries was formed to address some of the needs associated with low income/homeless accompaniment. Three ministries emerged from this organization: Food-to-You Mobile Food Pantry, Necessities for Neighbors, and Healthy Rides.

Earlier this year, along with consultation from the First Lutheran Church Board of Evangelism & Outreach, the First Lutheran Church Executive Committee, the Downtown Outreach Focused Ministry Team, and a task force of Charis Ministries, the recommendation was made that a second Necessities for Neighbors site would make sense in the downtown area of Sioux Falls. First Lutheran was chosen as this site.

Necessities for Neighbors distributes products that are not available through normal assistance means like SNAP.

Products offered are toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, diapers, and detergent. Necessities for Neighbors is held the first Sunday of each month at Peace Lutheran on the west side of Sioux Falls. It has been suggested that the new site, hosted by FLC on the third Tuesday of each month, will need 1500-2000 rolls of toilet paper per month.

Beginning now, we will be collecting toilet paper as an on-going need. The other products are also being accepted. Please bring your donations to the Atrium.



Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 32
Madison, SD

Congratulations 12-year Youth Choir members



Ella Roberts-Oakland, Arika Williams, Noah Schlekeway, Ethan Moore, Noah Kutter, Paul Monson

On Wednesday, May 9, graduating seniors of the First Lutheran Youth Choir were recognized at an end-of-year Music Appreciation Dinner. Each graduate was given a Gift Edition of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the hymnal we sing from each week in worship. In addition, 12-year Youth Choir members received a Certificate of Appreciation for their time and dedication to First Lutheran’s Music Ministry as we work together to sing the Church’s song. We wish these graduating Seniors success as they begin another chapter of their lives, and hope that these hymnals will serve as a reminder of the steadfast love and new life given to each in Christ Jesus.

A Change for Sunday Mornings

To be proactive in safeguarding our members, visitors and staff, beginning June 1, we will have only the Dakota Avenue and Atrium entrances open on Sunday mornings. All doors can still be exits. Thank you from the FLC Finance, Property & Admin Board.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED