



From Pastor Bob...

At this writing, we are coming through another great week of Vacation Bible School! Our thanks to Corlys, our Education Committee, and the many wonderful volunteers who pour their hearts into delivering the great Bible stories that were included under the theme of “High Seas Expedition”! They were fascinating stories which included some very intense difficulties for the followers of Jesus. There was jail time, a shipwreck at sea, a snake bite and more. In spite of it all, the followers of Jesus carried on with the Good News message of Jesus.

The lessons really could not have been more timely for our current situation. We continue to ride the rough waves of economic upheaval in our world and turbulence in the church. We have wondered about the ship of state and its stability. We have wondered about the stability of the church.

The ship of state is historically one that knows both boom and bust. Over time, country after country seems eventually to run aground in one way or another. What would the survey say if we polled all the countries of the world today? From what we hear in the news, most seem to be in a struggle to stay afloat. It seems we are in a time when we need to “listen up” as a nation and start doing some things differently if we are to keep going as a country.

Through thick and thin, the history of the church is that the Lord has always kept it alive. In face, in some of the more trying times, the church even gains in strength because God is true to his promise of being a “very present help in trouble.” (Ps. 46) Even so, we know we in the church also have to “listen up” both to the Lord and to the difficulties that confront us. As a congregation, we are being faced with a time of doing some things differently in order to carry on with this Good News message of Jesus.

Your elected leaders here at church are keeping close watch and doing their best to keep everyone informed. We thank them for that. May we continue to pray and work together as we seek to chart a sure course over what has been choppy waters. We will continue to trust in the Lord and look for His guidance in face of the challenges!

Benevolence

As First Lutheran has made a decision to be a tithing congregation, First Lutheran gives 10% of its general fund contributions to Ministry and Benevolence each month—things such as SW MN Synod, Shetek Bible Camp, Lutheran Social Services, and SMSU Campus Ministry. Ten percent of that 10% goes to “other benevolence”, which supports local organizations.

In May, the church council voted to have \$250 from “other benevolence” designated to pay for the costs associated with the Minnesota All State Lutheran Choir visit to First Lutheran on June 27, 2010.

Be looking for a benevolence update in each Parish Visitor.

Becoming More Bible Based at First Lutheran

Based on responses from the recent survey of First Lutheran membership, a committee will soon be forming to explore ways that First Lutheran can become more Bible Based.

The Bible Based Exploration Committee, co-chaired by Cathy Berg and Shirley Anderson-Porisch, will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 from 6:30-8:00 pm at First Lutheran. Anyone interested in being part of this exploration and implementation is invited to join the committee – adults and youth. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cathy (532-2546, cberg@iw.net) or Shirley (532-6806, kporisch@charter.net) before August 4.

Did you know? The **Today's Readings** inserted in the weekly bulletin list the readings for the next Sunday at the bottom of the insert? Consider taking it home with you to read the lessons prior to worship the next weekend. The Lessons can also be found in the ELW Hymnal for those of you who have your own copy of the hymnal.

FREE - Christ In Our Home devotionals for July, August, September, can be picked up at the church. The scripture readings follow the Revised Common Lectionary, Series C, the readings used for weekend worship. Texts specific to commemorations and festivals are used when appropriate. Also available, Davey & Goliath Devotions for families.

Bruce Berg Approved for Ordained Ministry

Thank you for being a part of God's work of calling forth servants of the Gospel by supporting Bruce Berg during his candidacy for ordained ministry. Your prayers and other assistance for him on this journey are truly appreciated. May God continue to bless your ministry and mission. We appreciate your partnership in the Gospel.

Joyce Piper, Synod Minister, Southwestern Minnesota Synod - ELCA

Funeral Serving at First Lutheran

When we hear of tragedy striking somewhere we often wonder to help. We have a real need within our own church family in times of suffering and grief that is often over looked. The Funeral Committees of First Lutheran provide a wonderful ministry and service for all our members during their time of grieving that is also a great outreach to the community at large. We receive a lot of appreciative feedback from people attending the funerals.

As a member of First Lutheran, you are a member of one of these Funeral Committees. We have five committees that are determined alphabetically - A/D - E/J - K/N - O/Se - Sf/Z - with each committee serving on a rotating basis, averaging 3 to 4 funerals per year.

At the time of the funeral, the chairpersons call their committee list and ask for one of three things: **Workers** to help set up, serve, and clean up (for all or any part of the day you're available) - a donation of a **cake** - or a donation of **\$5.00** which goes toward the cost of supplies (placemats, napkins, etc.) all the extras involved in hosting an event.

Thank You!

A HUGE thank you goes out to all of you who completed the survey for the ad hoc education task force this spring. Your feedback was honest, straightforward and very helpful to the task force and council.

Those serving on the task force also deserve a huge thank you: Shirley Anderson-Porisch, Cathy Berg, Tom Hey, Bruce Lamprecht, Jason Swenson, and Chris Ulrich. The amount of time needed to do the work of the task force was much, much more than first anticipated...and despite the huge time commitment, all were willing to do whatever was necessary to help the First Lutheran Family. I am very thankful for their work and was honored to serve with them.

Sincerely,
Shelly Maes, Church Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE June 2010

Ad Hoc Task Force Report: This report involved many, many hours of studying the surveys returned by congregational members. Included in the report are: a) Background on the formation of the task force, b) What First Lutheran is today, c) Educational Forums, d) Explanation of the surveys, e) Survey results—findings and recommendations, and f) Prayer. After discussion, the council felt it was time to put the emphasis on healing the First Lutheran Family and getting back to our mission. With that, a motion was made with regards to point #5 of the Ad Hoc Task Force recommendations saying First Lutheran Church will remain a member of the ELCA and focus on the First Lutheran Family and our mission. The motion carried 20 to 1 on a written ballot. Information will be sent to congregation members on the task force report and the council decision.

Revised Job Descriptions were adopted at the council meeting, along with a process for **annual goal setting** with staff and a process for performing **annual reviews** on staff. Additionally, the personnel committee is in need of 2 new members—Council President Shelly Maes will work on filling those spots.

Financial: The council updated the information for the signature card at Bremer Bank for our checking and savings accounts, and authorized which officers be given authority to act in the event of a financial emergency and access the line of credit established at Bremer Bank on behalf of the church.

Carpeting Project: After the carpeting was ordered for the Fellowship Hall, hallways, Fireside Room, and TV Room, it was noted that the area leading into the Fellowship Hall will have the existing blue carpeting and therefore that area will not look the best. So, a change was requested by the Property and Management Committee to use that same amount of carpeting to redo the hallway, Fellowship Hall, and the steps, hallway, and entry area leading into the Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$9,825. The WELCA / women of the church have agreed to contribute \$6,000, and the council moved to have the additional \$3,825 taken out of the Lunde Memorial Fund.

Stewardship: There is growing concern about the church's financial shortfall in giving—and spending more than is being taken in. The committee is working on a letter to all First Lutheran members about this concern. Council President Shelly Maes will call a meeting soon of the Executive Committee, Property and Management Committee Rep and Stewardship Committee Rep to discuss a plan of action regarding the financial plan.

Greetings to All Women of First Lutheran,

We would like to introduce you to many wonderful opportunities that are here waiting for you at First Lutheran. We have bible studies, quilting, circles, fund raisers, volunteer work, prayer shawl ministry and most importantly fellowship with one another using God's love to bring us all together. We are a collective group of First Lutheran Women who have one purpose—to show, give, and learn about God's Love for us.



Quilting

During the summer we only meet once per month on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Those dates are: **July 21st and August 18th**. We meet from 1-4 pm with coffee at 2:30. Maybe you have wondered what we're all about – join us on one of these days to find out. With any questions, contact person is Bonnie Dretsch 532-3165 dretsch3@iw.net



Fair Trade Coffee

If you haven't had a chance to enjoy some LWR Fair Trade coffee yet, you will have an opportunity to do so. The First Lutheran Women will be selling this coffee to support Equal Exchange. The LWR Coffee Project ensures that more of the money you spend on coffee reaches the farmers who actually grow it. The cost is \$8 for a 12-16 oz bag of various coffee flavors or \$4 for a box of tea bags (depending on the flavor, there are 16 or 25 bags/ box). Look for information on the narthex bulletin board, check with the church office or contact Dawn.



Summer Bible Study Retreat

Looking for a quiet day away from the heat? Looking for a day of studying God's word? Looking for a day of great fellowship? On **Wed. July 14th from 9:30 till 3**, we will be gathering in the fellowship hall (come and see the new carpet!) to study the Lutheran Women Today summer study on **Prayer**. There will be copies of the study in the narthex or church office. You may also download copies from the Lutheran Woman Today web site. Pastor Jackie will be leading the study and lunch will be served. If you are in need of child care, please let us know and we will have this available. Join us for fellowship in experiencing how prayer is such an important part of our faith journey.



To those interested in the Prayer Shawl Ministry –

This ministry combines knitting (crocheting) and praying as you make beautiful prayer shawls with love and care for those in great need. When the prayer shawl is completed it will be given to someone special who is suffering and in need of love and prayers.

If you don't know how to knit but would like to learn, this is your chance. Yarn and needles will be available. If you don't knit or crochet, you can still be part of this ministry by donating needles or crochet hooks, donating money for yarn, offering to help deliver shawls, or referring someone in need of a shawl.

We'll schedule periodic meetings when we can get better acquainted with one another, show and share our work and plan how this ministry will move forward. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, July 1st at 7 pm in the fireside room. All are welcome.**

Thank you so much for your interest in our ministry to those in our midst who suffer in body, mind or spirit. It's only with the help of volunteer knitters and crocheters that this ministry and outreach can succeed. Know that your interest is truly appreciated. Together our hands can become God's hands, resulting in a caring touch. For more information, call the church office or Dawn.



Nursing Home Birthday Party

Each year First Lutheran hosts the monthly birthday party at the Marshall nursing home, Morningside Heights. We bring and serve cake, gifts for those residents having a birthday, and assist with playing bingo. This year that date is Thursday, July 8th, 1 pm. We are in need of volunteers in all these areas-if you would be willing to help or make a cake. The contact person is Marlene Nordby at 507-929-1647.

We will be updating our information, such as Bible study opportunities, monthly activities, funeral offerings, etc in August. Contact the church office for information, to express any concerns or with ideas. Watch for information on all these activities in the bulletin or bulletin board.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the events and ministries that the First Lutheran Women are able to offer. These activities, as well as the funeral groups, are in need of help. If you are willing and able to help, please contact myself or anyone of your officers.

Blessings to allPresident, Dawn Planting 507-423-1465 or 507-828-8157 email loving_mom_3@hotmail.com

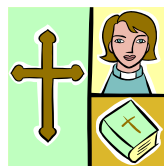
Secretary, Carole Halverson 507-532-6943 Treasurer, Bonnie Dretsch 507-532-3165

Looking ahead:

Friday & Saturday September 17 & 18th, 2010, **Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp** will be having their **64th Annual Women's Retreat**, "Rejoice". This is a retreat for women of all ages --women with busy lives who find there is not enough "me" time. Bring your bible, a friend--laugh, relax, enjoy great food. It begins Friday at 4pm or later to the Lakota Retreat Center and ends approximately 3:30 on Saturday. If coming Friday night does not fit into your schedule, plan to attend the day on Saturday. There is a brochure on the bulletin board or give the church office a call for contact information.

Psalms 118:24 says, "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it".

Circle Bible Study groups will be forming in the fall. We are a circle of women who come together to study the Bible. We gather in groups of about 8-10 women to learn about God's word and how it applies to us now in our current times. The Bible studies found in the "**Lutheran Woman Today**" magazine is the heart of the program, but other studies may also provide opportunities to meet the needs of women. Scholarships are available for the subscriptions, if needed. Each circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month either in each other's homes or at the church. There is currently two different time's available-6:00 am for the early risers or 9:30 am. Other times can be arranged if there is an interest, for example: noon, afternoon, evening or perhaps on another day that week. We would like to include as many women that want this opportunity as possible. For more information, contact ... Marge Sorenson at 507-532-3400 or Dawn Planting at 507-423-1465 507-828-8157 or loving_mom_3@hotmail.com



This fall the Women of the church will begin the Bible study, **The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity**. The prophet Amos asks the question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed." (KJV) It is an important question for our time. It merits investigation, using biblical texts (central to our Lutheran understanding of faith), and intentional ways of communicating together about some important issues in our faith community.



Shetek Lutheran Ministries Senior Adult Retreat – Aug. 27-29

Pastor Cy and Betty Jo Solberg will be back to once again lead the retreat. Pastor Cy leads Bible Study discussions which are relevant and heartfelt! Betty Jo brings her wonderful musical gifts.

The Shetek Staff is on hand to ensure that you enjoy a comfortable stay and they lead additional activities. Come enjoy the meeting space in the Lakota Retreat Center where you will have a great view of the lake. If you stay in the retreat center enjoy a private bedroom with your own bathroom as well as air conditioning. Campground space is available for RV's and campers. And of course enjoy the natural beauty of God's creation at Lake Shetek. All buildings in use are handicap accessible.

A retreat schedule and registration information is posted on the church bulletin board or is available at the church office.



Serving Others....

We will again participate in **Stuff the Bus**. This is a project sponsored by the Lyon County Alliance for Youth and Families to collect school supplies for needy children in Lyon and Lincoln county. All types of school supplies are needed. What is needed most are pencil boxes, crayons, scissors, Kleenex and socks. Cash donations are also accepted. Watch for a box around the 4th of July and we will collect until July 25th.



July's **food shelf** theme will be Cool Foods for Hot Summer days. Some suggestions are jello, drinks, salad dressings, salad mixes, and croutons. August's theme will be Stuff the Lunch Box. Suggestions are snacks, crackers, and juice boxes. Other suggestions for the food shelf are paper products, shampoo, conditioner, baking items, canned items. THANKS to all who donate as this is much needed in our community.



Esther's kitchen will be July 15th and August 19th. We make supper and serve it at 6pm. At 5 there is a social time and after supper we do the dishes. We always serve the 3rd Thursday of the month at First Presbyterian church. This is a free community meal and is open to all. We have been serving around 60 people every Thursday. So come to eat or come to help. THANKS to all that have helped.

But she only just got here!!!!

It does seem that way, but in fact our Intern Pastor Jackie Rostad is closing down on the full measure of her internship with us. We know she has been good for us and we pray that we have been the same for her. Her final Sunday with us will be August 15th. Please watch for announcements relating to a "Farewell and Godspeed" time of fellowship with Pastor Jackie on that day.

**Address Change?
Please inform the church (532-2429)!**

From Intern Pastor Jackie Rostad....

The number of weeks I have left at First Lutheran is now in the single digits. Even as I continue to do ministry here – visiting folks, preaching, leading worship, and helping with Vacation Bible School – I’m also in the process of planning to go back to seminary. I’ve got my class schedule (mostly) figured out, I’ve applied for housing, and I’m realizing that once again, it’s going to be a pain to pack and move my ever-growing library!

Some have asked, “What’s next?” I thought I would write a little about how a person becomes a pastor in the ELCA. About three years ago, I started to feel called to ministry. At that time, I went through the first step of the ELCA Candidacy process, “Entrance.” This involved writing an essay about my faith, psychological assessment, and an interview with the Candidacy Committee of the NW Minnesota Synod. Passing Entrance meant that the committee recognized I had a sense of call and gifts for ministry, and I was approved to begin seminary.

At the beginning of my second year at seminary, I went through the next step in the process, “Endorsement.” At this point, I wrote a longer, deeper essay, submitted my grades, and went through another interview with my advisor and the Candidacy Committee. Passing Endorsement meant that I continued to have a sense of call to ministry affirmed by the church, and was approved to go on Internship.

During my time here at First Lutheran, I’ve met weekly with Pastor Dahl and once a month with my Internship Committee (made up of members of the congregation). I discuss my work with Pastor Dahl and the Internship Committee – the joys, the challenges, questions, and how I can continue to grow as a leader. I completed 3-month and 6-month evaluations with Pastor Dahl and the Committee, and will have one more final evaluation.

This fall, I’ll go through the final step in the ELCA Candidacy process, “Approval.” I’ll submit a sermon and essay, and have lengthy interviews with the seminary faculty and Candidacy Committee. If I pass Approval, I’ll be eligible to be called as a pastor in the church. I can indicate where I’d *like* to end up living – but it’s ultimately up to the church to figure out where I can best serve and do God’s work.

Personally, I find the whole process both scary and exciting. It’s nerve-wracking to be subject to such a high level of scrutiny. But I respect the process – I like knowing that I am part of a church body with high standards for leaders, and it’s empowering to have my call to ministry publicly affirmed by others.

It’s more than a little bit strange to have absolutely no idea where I’ll be living a year from now. There’s always a chance that they’ll send me someplace I’d never choose, but I have to trust that God is guiding the process and wouldn’t lead me to someplace where I’d be miserable. This has been a year of much growth and change for me, and I am so grateful to be in such a supportive and encouraging community of believers. I continue to trust that God has wonderful things in store for me and for the church family here at First Lutheran!

From Mark Lund, serving an Internship at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Charleston, W. Va (June 11, 2010)

“My internship is soon coming to a close...hard to believe! I started here “officially” on Aug. 4, 2009 and my last official day will be Sun., Aug. 1. All I really have left is my final evaluation.

There is still a lot of stuff to do! I’ll be going with the youth group to a Christian Music Festival in northern Kentucky next week! We’ll be there 4 days. It’s called “Ichthus” and is kind of like a Christian Woodstock from what I’ve gathered! Then I’ll be spending some time at Camp Luther – their local Bible Camp.

I’ve still got 2 more sermons to preach before I’m done. I’ve had a lot of preaching opportunities here which is great. I think I’ve preached 12 Sunday morning sermons, 8 Wednesday night sermons, and 6 Sunday night sermons! So, they keep me pretty busy here! I have really enjoyed it here. It has definitely been the hardest, most challenging, and most interesting year of my life. It has also been a year where I have grown in so many ways, more than ever before, It kind of forced me to mature a bit....:

I really miss First Lutheran and can’t wait to get back home. I really look forward to worshipping with everyone back home again!”

Church Office Phone – 532-2429

E-mail to the church office – firstluth@iw.net

First Lutheran Web Site – www.1stlutheran.org

Youth Web Site – www.first-lutheran-youth.blogspot.com

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Robert L. Dahl Res. 537-4039

Intern Pastor Jackie Rostad 651-895-0360

Pastor Kelly J. Wasberg/On Leave/MN National Guard

Corlys Knudson, Associate in Ministry

Tonya Tomasek, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Jane Wilkison, Parish Secretary

Connie Olson, Office Assistant

Russ Sanow, Accountant

Gladys & Alton Beadell, Custodians

Mark Lund, Bruce Berg- Seminary Students