

Intern Pastor Jackie Rostad Writes....

During my time in seminary, I've had the opportunity to lead and teach in a variety of settings. I've preached children's sermons, led seniors in Bible study, and taught adult forums at my church. But when I found out that I would be helping to teach Confirmation during my Internship at First Lutheran, I have to admit, it was a little bit scary. This is mostly due to my own memories of confirmation class.

To be perfectly honest, I didn't like confirmation very much. The program at my home church was mostly based around memorization, worksheets, and really boring filmstrips. The curriculum didn't leave much room for open conversations about the questions of faith that mattered to me – it was more about showing up and finishing assignments than really exploring and deepening my Christian faith and spirituality. Before I got confirmed, I had to write a faith statement essay. I used this essay as an opportunity to finally ask those questions that I had. I was hoping that my Pastor or someone, anyone, would read it and approach me for that conversation I secretly longed for. But no one ever responded.

You can see why I'd be wary of teaching Confirmation, when my own experience was so lackluster. But Confirmation has come a long way since the early 1990's. The Here We Stand curriculum that we use at First Lutheran emphasizes different styles of learning, incorporation of Biblical and pop-culture resources, and relevance to students' everyday lives. The classroom materials offer thought-provoking, open-ended questions, and both the large and small-group sessions aim to be both educational and worshipful.

Yes, there are still written assignments and attendance requirements. These encourage responsibility and accountability to the Covenant that students and their parents enter into at the beginning of Confirmation. But my ultimate goal as a Confirmation leader is to have a program that is centered around encountering and experiencing God, with room for honest questions, spiritual growth, and open conversations.

Confirmation is a journey toward going deeper with God. Like any journey, there are times when we will need to look closely at the directions, times when we can simply marvel at the sights and experiences along the way, and times when we may have to admit, "I'm lost!" My hope is that I and the other Confirmation Captains can be tour guides along that journey for the next year.

PARENT VIDEO SERIES IN THE YOUTH ROOM! “New Kids By Friday!!!!” with Kevin Leman Sundays between services in the youth room! Check it out! No one needs to parent alone!

Oct 4 **STAYING CONNECTED TO BE RESPECTED...It's Not an Impossible Dream!**

Oct 11 **CHECK YOUR ATTITUDE AT THE DOOR...Dudes and Dudettes With 'Tudes Not Permitted Inside!**

Oct 18 **THE AMAZING RACE FOR SELF-ESTEEM....Raising the Bar of Confidence Without Lowering the Boom of Discouragement**

Oct 25 **"LEMAN SECRETS" FOR ENJOYING THE JOURNEY ...Little Things Mean a Lot!**

FYI!! Car Wash tickets for Ampride (by County Fair) are still available for purchase at the church office. Proceeds go toward youth ministry at 1st!! And... they make great gifts! Thanks! For supporting the youth!

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY TO TRY NEW FUNDRAISER.....

The youth and family ministry committee and the youth are excited to kick off a new idea for a fundraiser the month of October. Check out the information we will be sharing October 3 and 4 in worship AND on the bulletin board. We are hoping that the congregation will be as excited as us to try something new..... After all, how many coupon books and pizzas and pastries and cookies, and do we REALLY need! Be watching for “the scoop”..... And the Kenosis Project included.....

LOOKING AHEAD: COLLEGE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN WORSHIP SERVICES NOVEMBER 28 AND 29

If you have a son or daughter that would be interested in helping with the college recognition worship services on Saturday Nov 28 and both services on Sunday, November 29....please contact Tonya or the church office. Plans are being made to put this weekend together already. There are many opportunities. Help us welcome back our college-age youth!

From Pastor Bob...

“What does this mean?” That is the “Luther question” out of the Small Catechism. We remember, from our time in confirmation studies, spending time drilling on the answers provided for us in the booklet. It was always a question of “What does this mean?” It was rarely a question of “what do *you* think this means?”

Then, of course, we grew older. We grew into ways of more independent thinking. There came the time when those voices of authority weren’t very welcome. Whether it was going to church on Sunday or the length and color of our hair, we were ready to step forth and declare our thoughts about what it all means. It is a segment that makes for an uneasy time in the growth process. In due time, our individual expressions run their course, and we find our place as a working part of the whole. We learn that we sometime have the responsibility of “being authority” and at other times the responsibility of “being under authority.”

It is interesting that our ELCA has now turned 20 years of age. As is always the case in the faith, we are a body born of adoption. We know about the goodness of the Lord and His readiness to take us in as his children. That is the divine adoption. Then, in the formation of the ELCA, we adopted together and became one church body out of three. As with all “blended families”, this has not been without its difficulties. But we are “grown up” bodies of faith and so we moved ahead with polite consideration and patience. The differences, however, have not gone away.

By way of the recent assembly vote, those differences have come to a head. For generations, the authority of Scripture was acknowledged as the foundation and base for the life of the church. In the recent assembly, a vote has been ushered to center stage as the basis from which we will shape ordained ministry. It is a vote which has no firm foundation in Holy Scripture. If it had firm foundation in Scripture, we would not have the division that we do. We have the division that we do because we find no place in Scripture that affirms or uplifts same sex unions.

So, “What does this mean?” It means that some are going to “leave home” because they feel it unsafe to stay in a structure with an uncertain foundation. Others will seek to address the uncertainties of the foundation and work to keep the structure intact. Another group finds “the vote” to be the right piece and wishes to move ahead without further critique of the new option for ordination of pastors.

We are still an ELCA family. We are in the midst of a pretty big squabble. As with all family differences, it is good to step back a bit and allow ourselves some reflective space. That is what we are seeking to do at First Lutheran. What will come of all this for us? We don’t have an immediate answer for that. We do know this: we as the church recognize where the authority in our lives is to be found. It is in the living presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the written word graciously provided by our loving God. With that in place, we are confident that we will find our way through the tangle of this vote and we will emerge with a greater strength.

Bible Study Opportunities



For Women.....

REJOICE study on Nehemiah. The groups meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall beginning Sept. 2 (with the exception of Circle Day, the 2nd Wednesday of each month) Contact Person: Jan Mann, 532-5617

CIRCLES meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The 6:00 a.m. circle meets in the Church Library, two of the 9:30 a.m. circles meet in homes of members, using the Lutheran Women Today Bible Study (magazine subscriptions can be ordered through Augsburg Fortress for \$12). Contact person: Dawn Planting, 423-1465. The 2009-2010 study in on Paul's letter to the Romans....fall themes include *So That We Might Be Mutually Encouraged By Each Other's Faith; The Obedience of Faith; Hope Does Not Disappoint.*

There is a 9:30 circle group that meets in the church fellowship hall. They will study Romans (published by Lifeguide). Contact Person: Mary Holmberg, 762-3317

Women's Bible Study and Prayer Meeting Using the Women of Faith Book "Living A Life of Balance", 5:30-6:30 a.m. in the church library on Thursdays beginning Sept. 10. Contact Person: Bonnie Wasberg, 532-2181

WEDNESDAY STUDY ON PHILIPPIANS – *Christ, the Source of Joy and Strength* at Mike's, 6:00-7:00 a.m.. (with the exception of Circle Day, the 2nd Wednesday of each month.): Contact Person: Corlys Knudson 532-2429

For Men...

A MEN'S STUDY GROUP meets at Mike's Café on Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m. using the book *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel. Contact person: Dave Deines, djdeines@live.com.

SATURDY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On the 2nd Saturday of each month we will gather for a 7:30 a.m. Bible Study at the deli tables of the County Fair Supermarket. Our text will be the Master Builders Bible for Men. Our series of Scripture lessons this year will take us in the direction of understanding the wholeness of our being. It is good to be able to taste the good life, but life is more than the frosting!

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY

Introducing.... **The Lutheran Bible!** Yes, there is now a "Lutheran" Bible. No, it isn't that we have somehow rewritten the Bible according to Lutheran perspective. It is instead that this Bible has some helps and notes that do give insight to the Word's shaping of the principles by which we do our reading. This group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The course heading is "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible."

If you can Tie and Knot We Need Your Help

There are two sewing groups at First Lutheran that would love to have more helpers:

The Quilters meet the 1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Quilts are made from donated materials and then given away to whomever is in need, LWR, SMSU foreign exchange students, etc and then some are for sale, with a small amount of the money going to help purchase additional supplies and then rest is donated to various charities and organizations. You don't have to "sew" to be of help. There are ladies that sort, organize, cut blocks, lay out quilt pieces, do hand sewing, and some come to simply enjoy the coffee and fellowship. Help is also needed to sew the quilt blocks together to make the quilt tops, the blocks are already laid out for you--- this could easily be done at home, at your schedule. Any questions can be directed to Bonnie Dretsch – 532-3165

A **Social Ministries Group** sews every Tuesday night from 6:00 – 10:00 PM & Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 P.M. They make items for WRAP (Women's Rural Advocacy Program), Lyon Co. Public Health, quilts for those adopting a child, cancer quilts for chemo patients, items for House of Hope, etc. They create a variety of items and when their tables are full – they donate it all and start again. . This group meets in the lower level of the new part of the church. Any donations for this group should be left at that site. If you can't meet at those times, they would be happy to send items home for you to work on. Any questions can be directed to Linda Konn 929-3842.

Both groups enjoy what they do and welcome others to participate

for sewing and fellowship.

First Lutheran Women

October 5 – Quilting 1-4 p.m. 2:30 WELCA Meeting/Elizabeth Circle Serves

October 14 – Circles Meet

October 21 – Quilting/Elizabeth Circle Serves

Watch for the Thank Offering Tree to be up October 31.

First Lutheran Pet Owners

We have received an invitation from The Little Portion Secular Franciscans of the Marshall are sponsoring a “Blessing of the Animals” on the feast of St. Francis, Sun., Oct. 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Holy Redeemer parking lot at 403 W. Lyon, Marshall. All animals and their favorite people are welcome!

Bible to be Presented to Two Year Olds

In keeping with our “Baptismal Promises” and our “Hand In Hand Partnership”, the following First Lutheran “Two Year Olds” will receive their “Spark, Story Bible” on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2009 during the 8:30 or 10:45 Worship Service.

The children who are in the two year old class have birthdays
September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007

Aliya Amundson, Maria Anthony, Aurora Baer, Brianna Berg, Elijah Boelter, Tyson Brandt, Spencer Brink, Taylor DePover, Kannon DePyper, Brooklyn Elsen, Adyson Fischer, Carter Gehrke, Derek Hisken, Ashlynn Landgraff, Dylan Larson, Alex Lim-Bjork, Brianna Luchardt, Piper Mellenthin, Logan Miller, Carson Moline, Jacob Murphy, Noah Myhre, Brynn Paulson, Eli Pedersen, Jacob Peterson, Logan Phillippe, Julianna Purrington, Makia Radtke, Grace Richter, Sophie Schamber, Caleb Steilen, Drew Wajer, Owen Wilts, Madigan Ziemer.

“Your Word is a Lamp to my Feet and a Light to My Path” Psalm 119



CHOIRS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Star Choir (3 year olds-2nd graders) Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 14.

Alleluia Choir (3rd-6th graders) Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 14

Questions: Contact Bonnie Wasberg 532-2181

Middle School Handbell Group Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Adult Handbell Group Sundays 9:45 a.m.

Contact Steve Meyer 532-2734

Genesis Praise (High Schoolers) Rehearsals will begin Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. in Rm 14.

Contact Alison Marshall, 537-0493

Women’s Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7 p.m.. . Contact Lorraine Schmidt, 532-3186

Chancel Choir (Men and Women) rehearses Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Contact Russell Svenningsen 532-7438

Men’s Choir (to sing a couple time per year) Watch for information! Director: Charles Kauffman 532-26747

Liturgical Dance for Grades 4-6 will begin with an information meeting with new girls and parents on Wed., Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30. The girls take turns bring supper for the group. Director – Lauren Booke.

Council Update - September 2009

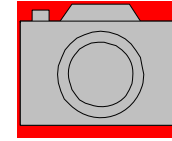
By-Law Changes: At the January 2010 Annual Meeting, proposed changes to the church council by-laws will be addressed. Any proposed changes need to be submitted to the council 60 days before a vote is taken (by mid-November), and the congregation needs to be informed of recommended changes 30 days prior to the congregation's annual meeting (mid-December). Be watching for proposed changes in upcoming Parish Visitors, bulletins, special flyers, on the bulletin board, etc.

“Cleaning Champion”: Is anyone interested in walking through the church and listing out the various jobs that need to be done? (Things such as paint touchups, carpet cleaning, wall washing, etc.) After the list is compiled, we can solicit volunteers to help do the cleaning.

H1N1 Virus and Flu Concerns: The council decided it would be in everyone's best interests to forego handshaking during the cold and flu season. This means there will be no handshaking during the sharing of the peace, the greeters will welcome worshipers at each of the outside doors versus shaking hands at the entry to the sanctuary, and the pastors will greet but not shake hands after worship services. We will also place bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the church. We hope all will make it through this cold and flu season a little easier with this change.

Appleton Prison Visit: The ELCA pastor serving the prison will be preaching at the weekend of October 31st – November 1st. Then, on Tuesday, November 17th, 15 congregation members (those attending will be chosen on a first come, first served policy) will visit the prison and participate in a worship service. Those visiting the prison must be 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license with them. The group will leave the church around 5:00 p.m. to attend the 7:30 p.m. worship. If interested, contact Pastor Bob.

ELCA Assembly Discussion: The vote taken / the decision made at the assembly may have raised some questions among members. Council suggested that an adult forum be held to answer questions that members of the congregation may have. This forum is scheduled for September 24th.



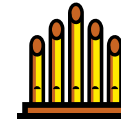
Scraptime is Back at 1st!!

Friday, October 23 6pm-11pm in the Fellowship Hall!

It's Fun, Friends, and Fellowship...and great long tables. Just bring your supplies, photos, etc...and your own beverage. We'll provide bars or cookies.

Questions? Just contact Pam Sukalski at pamsukalski@hotmail.com or 507/530-2499

Hope to see you there!



Rosie will be organist for the first weekend of October (Oct. 3-4), which marks exactly 40 years since she began playing organ at First Lutheran, shortly after moving to Marshall. At that time Ruth Debel was head organist playing at the 10:45 service on Sunday and Rosie played at the 8:30 service every Sunday since there was no Saturday service at that time. We want to thank and congratulate Rosie for her time and commitment to First Lutheran.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, Nov. 1st

Set your Clocks back 1 hour on Oct. 31st!

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First Lutheran will have New Member Sunday, October 25.

If you or someone you know would like to join the church...this is a great time!! New Members will meet together in the Synagogue which is The room by the entrance of the Gethsemane Chapel (Old Sanctuary), on Sunday Mornings, October 4th and October 11th from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. for orientation and to learn more about First Lutheran Church. “Welcome to First Lutheran. - where we are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.”

Serving at The Banquet

On Monday, October 26th, First Lutheran members will have an opportunity to serve at the late afternoon shift at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD. The Banquet is a welcoming place for people with low or no income to receive a hot meal. We will need 5-6 workers to arrive by 2:00 p.m. to prepare the meal and up to 40 workers to arrive at 5:00 to serve and clean up. Children must be 13 years old to work in the kitchen; 10-12 year-olds may serve as greeters or dining room help and are encouraged to come with their parents. The Social Ministries Committee hopes you will volunteer by signing up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Join us for a humbling and fulfilling experience at The Banquet.



Esther's Kitchen

For the month of October, we are focusing on helping Esther's Kitchen build up their pantry items. Instead of donating the food in the grocery cart to the local food shelf, the Social Ministries Committee will take the items to Esther's Kitchen. The food supplies are low at Esther's Kitchen, and we know that grocery gift cards, commercial-sized canned goods, and regular-sized canned and boxed food are much needed. First Lutheran members cook and serve a meal at Esther's Kitchen once a month, so consider joining us on October 22nd at Christ United Presbyterian Church to help or just come to eat. If you want to help with the meal, please sign up. You do not have to sign up if you are joining us to eat at 5:00 p.m. We have enjoyed helping our community and have met many new friends in the process.

Coats for Kids - Gently used coats and other winter gear can be dropped off at the church (there is a drop off box by the church library and one in the church entry by the sanctuary).

Conversation on ELCA assembly vote regarding homosexual pastors living in same sex unions...

A group of about 60 members of First Lutheran met on September 24th for comment and discussion on the above stated assembly action. President Jeff Jorgenson called the meeting to order, Pastor Dahl opened with Scripture and prayer, and Corlys Knudson, a voting member of the assembly, gave a report on the assembly actions. This was followed by comments and questions relating specifically to the change in policy on ordination. Strong consensus was spoken to the effect that this action has departed from the basic teaching of Holy Scripture. Questions were raised as to the options that are available to us. Some said that they wanted no more of their offerings to go to the ELCA, effective immediately. President Jeff Jorgenson and Vice president Shelly Maes were asked to address this to council seeking provision for giving to First Lutheran that would bypass any support for the ELCA. That request will be brought to the council with anticipation that such provision will soon be in place.

A summary of options came down to three: 1. Keep our connection with the ELCA while providing for the individual expressions as stated above; 2. Keep our connection with the ELCA and take congregational action to withhold all support from the ELCA. 3. Leave the ELCA.

The third choice is one that can be done only by the provisions of our constitution. It would require two meetings of the congregation and those meetings have to have separation of at least 90 days. Each of those meetings would have to carry a majority of 2/3 before any such break with the synod could occur. If the 2/3 majority were not reached in the first meeting, there would be no second meeting.

If the will of our congregation did follow the above constitutional provisions with the 2/3 majority voting to leave the ELCA, the question needing to be answered is one of “where to”? There is a group known as Coalition for Reform which recently met in Indianapolis. They will be putting together a plan for ELCA congregations wishing for a new direction but it will take some time to get all the details in place. That plan would likely be the formation of a new synod body of Lutheran churches wherein ordination practices would be like unto the “pre-assembly” policy of the ELCA.

All of these things remain before us as considerations and options. We invite your participation as we move forward with more conversation.

The assembly has spoken and has now disbanded. In our response we will witness. May we all pray God's guidance that our response be one that honors our Lord and His Holy Word!

Send a note to our Nation Guard connections:

Kelly Wasberg
HHB 1-151 FA
APO, AE 09330

Harold Hancock
A BTRY 1-151 FA
APO, AE 09330

SSG Jonah Jenniges
A BTRY 1-151 FA
APO, AE 09330

Matt Whitesitt
175 FSC 1-151 FA
APO, AE 09330

Note – the mail can go at regular postage rates

The public is invite to gather with military families in a social gathering on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the YMCA. This is a potluck event starting at 5:00 p.m., so bring a dish to share! Military families come and enjoy the full facility for the night!

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/Deployed with 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