

**From Pastor Bob**

In John 17, Jesus prays for all who would follow Him. He prays to the Father “that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one.” The practical lesson in this would seem to be one of concluding that not even the prayers of Jesus are quickly answered.

In 1988, when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed, the gathered convention body leaned heavily into John 17. There was a strong push to move in an organizational direction that would open the way to greater unity. Events of the past year have illustrated just how difficult unity is. Our church is founded in Christ, but it abounds in human frailties.

It is easy for us to point out the frailties of others. We can think of times when we have done that. We can think of times when it has been done to us. This is not a helpful process.

As we come to the fresh beginning of another fall season, may we renew our identity as ELCA Lutherans here at First Lutheran. May we step boldly into the identity of being into Jesus, who is the Word made flesh among us. To be into Jesus is to take risks on behalf of the outcast and the powerless. To be into Jesus is to walk with people as agents of grace and mercy. There are many ways of reading and understanding Scripture. Baptism and Communion are taught us by Scripture, but not all Christians do baptism the same; not all Christians do communion the same. Love of neighbor is taught, but not all Christians show that love in the same way. As we lead with grace and mercy, we resist the urge to lash out over the differences.

We are at a point where we need to affirm our identity in Jesus, the One who stood firm in face of those who were fearful that his love reached beyond what Scripture allowed. It is our intent always to stand with Jesus. May that be our plan as we look forward to a Rally Sunday unlike anything we have previously known under that heading.

With all this in mind, we will, on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, be having a very unique Rally Sunday worship. There will be *one worship* only for the weekend! No *Saturday evening service* and *one service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning*. In the service we will be celebrating the ministry we do in the living name of Jesus. It is time for us to stand together in the name of Jesus and know His blessing as we are rallied under his name and living presence. Be along for Rally Sunday that we might renew our stand together as First Lutheran Church!

**Network of Faith - 2010-2011 Registration**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I'd like to join the Network of Faith
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the potluck dinner on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I volunteer to be the first host of my group

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle preferences below. We will do our best to accommodate your preferences and we thank you in advance for your understanding if we cannot.

**Meeting Times Preferred:**

Weekdays    Weekends    No Preference

**Type of Group Preferred**

Singles    Couples    Families    Snow Birds    No Preference

On September 26th, the Network of Faith will kick-off with a potluck noon luncheon in the Church Fellowship Hall, where you will be introduced to the other members of your group. During lunch, you'll start planning your future gatherings.

We hope you are excited about the Network of Faith and the friendship, fellowship and fun that it will bring.

## Caring Friends

On Friday, September 24, our small group ministry known as Caring Friends will gather at noon in the church library for the first fall session. This group meets once a month and continues with a ministry of caring and connecting the year round. If you have interest in joining this practical and supportive ministry effort, please call Pastor Dahl for more information.

## First Lutheran Women

**Quilting / Activities Day:** We meet in a very informal setting in the Fellowship Hall on the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month from 1-4. **Note** – September Date change from the 6<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> due to Labor Day. Anyone is welcome, no experience necessary as there are many different tasks involved in putting a quilt together. Anyone who wishes to do another craft (knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, etc) are also welcome. The coffee pot is on at 2:30, you may just want to join us then. Contact person is Bonnie Dretsch – 532-3165

Our Thankoffering Tree goes up the end of October into November. More information coming later.

While quilting and the **Prayer shawl Ministry** will continue to meet, we will restart our **Circle Bible Studies** in September. Using the ‘Lutheran Woman Today’ bible studies entitled “The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity”. These studies focus on Reading the Bible, Body of Christ, Stewardship, Spiritual Gifts, Worship, Race and Culture, Loving Relations, Barriers to Resurrection, Witnessing and Evangelism. We welcome any woman, member or not, to join us. If you would prefer to do the study on your own, you can find subscription information at the Lutheran Woman Today web site ([www.lutheranwomantoday.org](http://www.lutheranwomantoday.org)) or the office has subscription information. Contact person is Dawn Planting 507-423-1465 or 507-828-8157.

## Thrivent Lyon County Chapter Members

**Activity:** Lyon County MN Chapter Annual Dinner

**Date:** September 12, 2010

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** First Lutheran Church, Church & A St., Marshall

**Contact:** Deb Herman 507-532-4550 or [dherrmann@iw.net](mailto:dherrmann@iw.net)

Please RSVP by Sept. 8. There will also be a business meeting; Dinner will be provided.



First Lutheran families,

Thank you for the necklace and recognition for my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at First Lutheran. I feel so blessed to be able to say that I have been in my calling at First Lutheran for 20 years. First Lutheran is an incredible congregation with awesome youth and families. You care so much for your youth and their faith. Your continued support and prayers for me and for my family are what make this calling possible for so long.

One of the greatest impressions on my life is watching the youth and families grow and change on their faith journeys. It's the “high fives”, the laughing, the tears, the “how's it going?” in the store aisles.... the “I'm praying for you.” It's the day to day relationships that I cherish most with the youth....watching all that God is doing in their lives. Each youth, and each family for that matter, is a true gift from God. Being a part of their faith journeys...and watching how they allow their faith to be a part of their lives is a humbling and priceless part of ministry.

I have seen many changes in that time. The demands on the youth in this world and community have changed beyond belief. It is crucial that in today's pressures that they be grounded in the faith of our Lord and Savior. It is a hand in hand effort with parents, families and the congregation to nurture and be the discipleship unit to teach the faith. Helping to facilitate the people of the church to do their ministry with youth and families is so important. We have youth and families with amazing gifts from God. And I'm blessed to have my faith touched by you all.

Thanks again.....and thanks for the memories! Here's to another 20 years?! I'm up for the challenge if you all are. ☺

In Christ,

*Tonya*

### Opportunities to Help Others Through Social Ministries

Volunteers will be needed for serving **Esther's Kitchen** on September 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church entry. You may donate a dessert or donate your time to help serve on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Check the times and number of desserts needed on the sign-up sheet.

First Lutheran will be serving **Meals on Wheels** in September. The first week of delivering noon meals is September 13-17, and the second week is September 20-24. As a volunteer, you will pick up the meals provided by the Senior Dining Center at 10:45 a.m., then deliver the meals according to the route you sign up for. You may sign up for one day or several days. The delivery route takes about an hour. Some people like to have two people on a route, so you may sign up with another person. If you want to deliver the route alone, sign your name twice on that route so that we do not pair you with someone. Meals on Wheels needs many volunteers for this, so please find the sign-up sheet in the church entry or call Kathy Bartz, 337-0137, Donna Reaves, 532-3808, or Linda Konn at 929-3842.

Our theme for the **food shelf** items in September is to "stuff the lunch box." A grocery cart is located in the church entry for your donated items. As always, you may donate any food item or donate money for the food shelf to use.

### **KEN DAVIS at the Washington Pavilion Sioux Falls, SD**

*Saturday, October 30th at 7:00 PM Doors Open at 6:00 PM*

Ken Davis, Christian comedian from "Lighten Up and Live", is coming to Sioux Falls for a time of laughter, music and encouragement for **the whole family!** Lock up the pets and

**bring your neighbors** for a night you won't forget! WE HAVE 40 TICKETS

AVAILABLE!! 1st COME 1<sup>st</sup> SERVE!! **COST: \$17.50/person! We will provide transportation....** Qs? Contact Tonya.



Ready for some "Fall Family Fun"? Ready for a challenge? How about a little "**Family Wii Extreme Challenge**"..... Mark it down families!! **Sunday September 19 at 1pm in the youth room.** Parents, you might want to start working out now to be able to win the challenges against your kids. ☺ Questions? Just ask Tonya. Hope to see you there!



### **PARENTING FORUMS/VIDEOS TO START UP SEPTEMBER 19, 9:45AM IN THE YOUTH ROOM!.....**

Spread the word....and tell others about this amazing opportunity. Those who have been in the past parenting forum at First Lutheran have thoroughly enjoyed the group, conversations, and support in this tough area of raising Christian kids. Don't forget your coffee!



### **Bible Study Opportunities for Teens:**

Youth and Family Ministry is planning on some new bible study opportunities for youth!

Curious??? Ask Tonya! It's going to be awesome!! Girls... "**Lady in Waiting...**

**Becoming God's Best While Waiting for Mr. Right**" and Guys..... "**Young Man: after God's Own Heart**". Be watching! Let's get into the Bible!!!

**"To Save a Life" Bible Study!** Remember the movie that was in Marshall last winter? Senior High youth will be starting a Bible Study on the various topics touched on in the movie! Starting November..... then once a month during Sr Hi ALIVE at 8pm! Catch ya'll there!



### **Saturday Men's Bible Study**

We gather at County Fair on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, for the first session of this year's monthly men's Bible Study. Breakfast occupies the first portion of the hour, and then we move into *Master Builders Bible for Men* and the designated Bible reading with discussion. We will be on schedule for the second Saturday of each month and look forward to growing this group as the year goes on.



**Come join the 6:00 a.m. Bible Study that meets at Mike's Café on Wednesday morning!! Contact Corlys Knudson for further information.**

### **Rejoice Bible Study**

Join other women Wednesday mornings (except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the Month) In the church fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. for a study on the Psalms. Contact Jan Mann For further information – 532-5617.

### **ADULT FORUMS: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

Beginning October 3, at 9:45 -10:30, and the First Sunday of each month, please come to Rooms 2,4,6 to be a part of the adult forums. A variety of interesting topic will be presented...so watch the newsletter and bulletins in the coming months.

### **ANOINTED, TRANSFORMED, REDEEMED: A STUDY OF DAVID.**

This, Beth Moore Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 16, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Rooms 4,6,8 (Movie Room) and on Monday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Movie Room. The six week study is divided into three segments, two lessons each. Each segment focuses on the life of David at a different stage of his life: as a young man (by Priscilla Shirer), as a middle-aged man (by Beth Moore) and as a man facing the final third of his life (by Kay Arthur) With these three amazing women as our leader, you will laugh with them, cry with them and learn to love God with them.. The member books at \$14.00 which you will receive the first day of class. Just call the church office, 532-2439, to say you are coming so there will be a book for you. See you there!!



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Graders to Receive Bibles:**

On Sunday, September 19 the following First Lutheran 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will receive their Spark Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, as a gift from the church:

Addison Arndt, Aubrey Bjella, Thor Fischer, Andrew Fuhrmann, Jenna Holien, Owen Holmberg, Olivia Jorgenson, Bensen Kuecker, Regan Luther, Tanner Myhrberg, Courtney Nielsen, Jada Nielsen, Kelli Remme, Nicolas Stelter, Ashley Wall, Peyton Whitesitt



### **3 YEAR OLDS AND THEIR PARENTS:**

ON THE THIRD Sunday of each month, beginning October 17, from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. (parents and three year olds) please come to Room 2, (Fireside Room), and Rooms 4,6,8. We will begin with refreshments and an activity together. Then there will be Bible Stories, crafts and games for the children and ideas on Christian parenting will be shared with the parents. Parents and children will be within these four rooms, so not far from each other. Please plan to attend these informative sessions in lieu of 3 year old Sunday school this year.

## Network of Faith

The Network of Faith is an opportunity for you to meet & spend time with others in our church family through fun and fellowship gatherings.

When you join the Network of Faith, you will be paired with other members of the congregation to form groups of six. The groups may consist of singles, couples or families. Your groups will meet monthly throughout the year and what you do when you gather is entirely up to your group. Each month a different member of the group will act as the Host. The host will then organize the activity for that month. Be creative but keep it *simple*. Here are a few ideas:

- ⊙ Meet for a Picnic in the Park
- ⊙ Attend a football game and tailgate prior to it
- ⊙ Plan a progressive meal from home to home/Informal Dinner or Dessert in homes
- ⊙ Gather at a community event (plays, concerts, benefits, etc.)
- ⊙ Organize a game night (cards, dice, trivia, etc.)
- ⊙ Volunteer as a group (Esther's Kitchen, Heart to Heart, The Banquet, etc.)

Please complete to following form and indicate any preferences you may have (a group that meets on weekends or weekdays, a snow bird group, a group with young families or maybe you don't have specific preferences). We request that the forms be turned in by Sept. 12th. Place them in the offering plate, the basket on the table in the Narthex or to the church office.

## CHOIRS AT FIRST LUTHERAN



**Consider joining in this important ministry at First Lutheran...all are welcome!**

**Alleluia Choir – Children’s Choir for age 4 year through 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, 6:30-7:00 p.m.**  
beginning Sept. 15, Room 14 Director – Lauren Boone

**Sprite Bells - Middle School Handbell Group** will begin rehearsals September 8, 7 p.m.  
Director Steve Meyer 532-2734

**Spirit Bells - Adult Handbell Group** rehearse Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.  
If interested please contact Director - Steve Meyer 532-2734

**Genesis Praise (High School)** Rehearsals will begin Wed., Sept. 15, 7 p.m. in Rm 14.  
Director, Wes Meyers, 651-238-6101

**Women’s Choir** rehearses Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Chapel beginning Sept. 8 .  
Director, Lorraine Schmidt, 532-3186

**Chancel Choir** (Men and Women) rehearses Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
beginning Sept. 8.  
Director, John Voit 428-3407



**Liturgical Dance** for Grades 4-6 will begin with an information meeting with new girls and parents on Wed., Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:30-6:15. The girls take turns bring supper for the group (eat at 6:15). Director – Lauren Boone.

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

Sunday, August 1, 2010

- President Shelly Maes announced the resignation of Pastor Kelly Wasberg effective July 31, 2010. Congregational members were informed that no formal farewell will be held for Pastor Kelly, but all are welcome to contact him on their own for closure.
- The revised 2010 financial plan was presented and discussed. With removing Pastor Kelly's salary for the remainder of the year, the financial plan is more in line with giving and significant cuts will not need to be made at this time. We are still challenging members to exceed the first six months giving in order to balance the remainder of the 2010 financial plan. Jim Valentin moved, seconded by Diane Halgerson to accept the revised financial plan as presented. The motion carried.
- The congregation was informed that First Lutheran has lost 15 giving units (single people/couples) to other churches and 21 giving units have moved out of the Marshall area/asked to be removed. This leaves about 225 active giving units at First Lutheran out of a possible 600. Everyone was reminded to think positively, give thanks for what they have, and give as much as they can to help First Lutheran meet its ministry goals.
- With Pastor Kelly's resignation, there were questions on what could be done to ensure that Pastor Bob does not burn out. We feel God is watching over First Lutheran because He has blessed us with three pastors in our congregation: Pastor Steve Quist, retired from Sillerud Lutheran in Balaton; Pastor Bruce Berg who has recently completed his internship at Lake Sarah Lutheran in Garvin and is now awaiting a call; and Pastor Ann Ward who has completed a year of interim in Montevideo. Pastor Quist and Pastor Berg have been contacted and have expressed their willingness to help with visitation, communion worship at nursing homes, and pulpit supply. Pastor Bob will talk with them further and work out details.
- Diane Halgerson acknowledged that the past year has been very tough. The staff was given a round of applause as thanks for all that they have done for the First Lutheran family during the past year.
- Everyone was reminded that the program, Simply Giving, is available to help with continuity of giving when members find themselves unable to attend worship on a regular basis.

## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE - August 2010

**Special Presentation:** Angela Larson and Pam Russell gave a presentation and update on The Refuge (the local homeless shelter program).

**Pastors Jackie:** Pastor Jackie Rostad's final day at First Lutheran is Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The year went by very fast. She is grateful to First Lutheran for the support that she received personally and for her work during a very tough year. A gift was presented to Pastor Jackie on her final council meeting and the group enjoyed some DQ cake in celebration of her time at First Lutheran. Pastor Dahl reported that he and Pastor Jackie have had their final evaluation. She is much appreciated and will receive a wonderful recommendation.

**Plans for Rally Sunday** on September 12<sup>th</sup> are a work in progress. There will be only one service held that weekend—at 10:00 a.m.—celebrating First Lutheran's mission, We are BELIEVERS seeking to invite all into the CARING, SHARING and GROWING ways of Christ. During the worship service, some of the church's missions will be highlighted. A committee of council members will meet with the staff to make final plans.

A discussion was held on **inactive members**. It was mentioned at the August 1<sup>st</sup> congregational meeting that there are 600 "units" in First Lutheran. Of these 600 giving units, 225 are active (attend worship, volunteering, supporting the church with financial gifts, etc.) Suggestions for ways to encourage these inactive members to become active again were discussed. The Evangelism Committee will look into this issue and consider the suggestions.

**The council welcomed new council member**, Diane Halgerson, who will also serve on the Evangelism Committee.

The council approved using the **2010 Bisbee gift** to pay for the sidewalk repair and the remainder be used for Rally Day activities.

There was discussion on **Traditional versus Contemporary Worship** styles. How often should "praise services" be held? There are people ready to serve on praise teams, but there needs to be some direction on this issue. This will be further discussed at the September