

Summer Conventions and More - David S. Wall, Interim Pastor

Grace and Peace you all in the name of Jesus. I wanted to write a few of my experiences at the recent synod assembly of Southwestern Minnesota and my attendance at the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors.

You may hear from other voting members who were in attendance at our synod assembly but I wanted to give you a few of my thoughts. One impression that kept coming back to me was the parallel I see between the Southwestern Minnesota and First Lutheran.

In recent years, the synod has had many challenges. I hope that you will do as I do and pray for our synod staff on a regular basis. Bishop Jon and all in the office have had many challenges and they have faced them and continue to face them guided by the Holy Spirit. You may also know that one of the five congregations I served recently as interim pastor, has left the ELCA. I was blessed to hear the presentation that Bishop Jon gave in the midst of their voting to leave the ELCA. After hearing people who attended that meeting speak their minds, it was as if we had been in different counties rather than hearing the same presentation from our bishop.

First Lutheran has had many challenges and we have spoken to some of those challenges in our Transition Team. I want to thank each member of that group that has worked diligently to grapple with both difficult items and with items that are sometimes difficult to put into words. After our last meeting, the challenge is to share what we have come up with to say here is where we have been and what we can do to move forward from this point. I hope you will extend appreciation to those who have served in this way.

Now, it is with great excitement that I see our synod ready to move ahead and in a very similar way, I also see First Lutheran moving ahead. The theme of our assembly was Prairie Fire. The example of the difficulty of any fire and then the positive new life that comes following that fire. As Bishop Lowell Erdahl and spouse Carol said in their book on marriage, "Be Good to Each Other" (it was written to Carol's nephew John and his fiancé' Pam). A paraphrase of one of their comments is, "We wish you happiness and we promise you challenge." That is true of our life in faith as well. We all want to be happy in our church and we will have challenges. I want to say to you as I see it--and that is how well you are doing in your church life together. I know we have much more to do but it is an honor to be your interim pastor and walking with you in these summer days of 2011. I invite you to continue to pray for your leadership and I thank you for the prayers that we have received as we sense that support in our work.

I also attended NALIP, the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors. One of my big impressions was that we had about 50 in attendance and more than half came from the Lutheran

Church, Missouri Synod (LCMS) and it was very good to be with them. If you have a previous hymnal (the LBW or the Lutheran Book of Worship--the green one) you can look in the front and see that along with predecessor church bodies of the ELCA, we have the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod listed there. That book was published in 1978 and the work that we did together for that hymnal was before that. We have very few connections officially with the LCMS, however it is great to see that the common transition ministry of interims has brought us together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Our presenter spoke about church structure and I found it to be both engaging and challenging as it was very technical in regard to the governance and the operation of congregational life. I still have many thoughts rolling around and am thankful for that event and all who work with congregations who are in transition.

I hope that your summer is one of renewal and refreshment. May God's Blessings be obvious to you in that summer journey as we are guided by the Holy Spirit in this season of Pentecost.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Dave



Request from First Lutheran Foundation

The First Lutheran Foundation provides mission outreach funds in the Marshall community in July and December. In July, 2011 the Foundation Board will be distributing outreach funds to deserving groups and projects. If you know of a community group or project that would benefit from additional funds, please send (firstluth@iw.net) or call 532-2429 with your ideas by July 15. For more information on the Foundation, brochures are available on the tables in the Church Narthex.



DON'T FORGET ABOUT BIBLE CAMP THIS SUMMER!! SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Shetek Lutheran Ministries has so much to offer youth, families, and grandparents...all people! Shetek has worked hard to continue to provide excellent faith building opportunities for our families. And there are some new and exciting camps being created as well as the old favorites! Demands continue to rise for families, and their children as the times in our world change. Summer Bible Camp is the greatest way to keep our young people and families grounded and focused on their faith journey and their love in Christ. It doesn't mean that the demands are not going to be there—but it does promise to remind us that there is a loving God who is with us during all of the changes. And allows us to have some fun in our faith for a week! ☺

Help us keep bible camp a priority. Scholarships are provided for all members of First Lutheran. \$50 for week-long camps and \$20 for half week camps. HOWEVER, money is NEVER a reason to NOT go to camp. Special scholarships are also provided and remain confidential. Just contact Tonya at 532-2429 or 532-6628.

Mark Your Calendar: Call the camp for information 507-763-3567 or check out www.shetek.org Sr. Adult Retreat Aug. 26-28 Women's Retreat Sept. 16 & 17

Wish List: vehicles (preferably mini-vans in good running condition; Life Jackets (adult size); Brace Hand drill; Eureka Timberline 4 person tents, New bed sheets (Twin & double); Box Fans, New Kitchen Towels, Used Golf Cart in good running condition

Worship at Shetek Saturdays in July and August 5:30 p.m.

Thank You from the quilt committee, board and staff to all who donated quilts, theme baskets, monetary gifts and other quilt auction items! We are so fortunate to have friends like you who value the accomplishments, commitment and mission. May God richly bless you for your support!

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Address or Phone Number Change?

Please remember to notify the church office
phone 532-2429/email firstluth@iw.net

KEEP THE "SON" IN YOUR SONSHINE THIS SUMMER!!!

First Lutheran's DAY CAMP with SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES is joining forces with St Stephen!! ...at FREEDOM PARK!!
Theme for 2011: "Heroes of Faith!"



July 25- July 28
For kindergarten (going into) -- 6th grade (completing)

We believe in providing MANY awesome opportunities and options to grow in our faith! We are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ... AND we want to give you a "taste of camp" right here in Marshall while having a ton of fun with our sister congregation St Stephen.

This is going to be AMAZING!!! It will be an incredible week of the energetic Shetek Staff, Bible study, games, crafts, worship, camp songs, snacks, skits, and GROWING IN YOUR FAITH!!

Registration information and details were emailed out! Or a registration can be found in this newsletter, or at the church. Mark it on your calendars today!! **Deadline to sign up is July 17th!**

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Church Office Phone 532-2429
E-mail to the church office firstluth@iw.net
First Lutheran Web Site www.lstlutheran.org
Join Facebook from this site
Link to the SW MN synod
Link to the ELCA

Youth Web Site www.first-luthran-youth.blogspot.com

Mark Your Calendars!!!

September 11th is a BIG day at First Lutheran Church. We will celebrate Corlys Knutson's 29+ years of ministry... AND have Rally Day! Pastor Dave and Church Council Members are organizing the day. Please mark your calendars now so you will be able to attend!



Are your lives crazy busy?!
Gone on Weekends?!

First Lutheran's NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHTS are coming to you this fall!!!

Sunday school option on Wednesday!!

(early outs!---4 yr olds through 6th grade)

Snacks, study, convo, games & activities

Family Worship (5:15-5:45pm)

Supper!! (5:45 to 6:30pm)

And all of the amazing normal ministries on
Wednesdays!!

G3 Liturgical Dance

Confirmation with Team

suppers

Spirit Bells (adults)

Little League

Wild Wednesdays

Junior High Alive

Sprite Bells (youth)

Genesis Praise

Chancel Choir (adults)

Senior High Alive



FIRST LUTHERAN IS THE PLACE TO BE FOR FAITH, FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP, AND LEARNING! We're here to help the family keep their faith a part of their week! Wednesday is new or the traditional Sunday is here too! More details to come!

Church Council Update - June 2011

Transition Team Update: Shelly Maes reported that the team has one more meeting. Their time has been spent highlighting issues / roadblocks for the future. They will be making recommendations to the council / congregation.

Corlys Knutson's Retirement: With regret, the Church Council accepted Corlys' resignation after 29+ years at First Lutheran. Pastor Wall and Jason Swenson conducted an exit interview with Corlys and she graciously wrote a job description / list of the duties she has performed. Be watching for more information on a Farewell Party for Corlys.

Associate in Ministry Position: The Personnel and Executive Committees recommended that the replacement be an interim position until a new pastor is on staff. At that point, the position and duties will be re-evaluated. Council gave the Personnel and Executive Committees the authority to fill the position – which will be called Interim Christian Education Outreach Director – and determine the compensation package.

Conversation with Bishop Anderson: The bishop has given his blessing for First Lutheran to pursue discussions with Pastor Juanita Harberts of the Campus Religious Center for some part time, interim assistant ministry. The financial feasibility of such an opportunity will be explored later this summer.

Synod Assembly Update: Corlys Knutson, Pastor Wall, Deb Mitlyng, and Tom Nordby attended the assembly as voting delegates. The theme was "Prairie Fire" which destroys as it burns, leaving the ground black and dead. Then the ground is renewed with rain and sunshine and new growth appears. Our churches have recently gone through this process and are now in the renewal phase. We are reminded that we are a part of a strong organization and we, too, will be renewed.

Benevolence Disbursements: "Other Benevolence Savings" (10% of the 10%) went to:

- \$250 sponsorship fee to the Minnesota All State Lutheran Choir
- \$400+ for a lunch for the choir members and staff after their performance

- \$1,000 for the synod assembly offerings (\$400 to Mission Partners, \$400 to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, and \$200 to World Hunger)

Council Member Resignation: Renae Jorgenson, a member to the Youth and Family Ministry Committee, resigned because her family is moving out of town. Youth and Family Ministry will seek a new member.

Wednesday School: Tonya Tomasek reported on the possibility of having an option of “Sunday School” on Wednesdays during the weekly early dismissal time for the 2011-12 school year. The children would arrive at church shortly after 2:30. They would have snack, activities, convocation time, and education time (using the same curriculum as on Sunday mornings). There would also be a condensed worship time for families, followed by a meal at 5:45 for those families that wish to stay. The confirmands would eat with their teams and captains, as they have done in the past. Choirs’ rehearsal times would remain at the same time and Sunday School will continue to be offered on Sunday mornings.

Social Ministries News

Cathy Berg will be in charge of getting workers and desserts for July 21 and August 18 **Esther’s Kitchen** meals. We always need about 5 workers to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal and need 5 desserts. If you can help call Cathy at 532-2546.

The **Food Shelf** theme for July will be red, white and blue foods. Ideas are red Jell-O, white marshmallows, blueberry pie filling. The theme for August will be Garden month. Ideas are salad dressings for fresh veggies, spices for canning or sugar for fresh fruit. Any donation is greatly appreciated and money is very useful also.

The sewing group has been keeping busy. Donations have gone to the food shelf and Esther’s Kitchen. In the near future we will be taking blankets to the crises nursery and blankets will also be given to the agency that works with adoptions. When a child is adopted they receive a blanket.

Watch for the box for **Stuff the School Bus**. We will once again be collecting supplies for needy children in Lyon and Lincoln counties. Supplies needed are pencil boxes, crayons, scissors, facial tissues and socks. We will collect items through Sunday, July 24. Money can also be donated and will be used to purchase needed school supplies.

We will be serving again at **The Banquet** in Sioux Falls on Wed., Sept. 7th. We need 5-6 people at 2 to prepare the meal and 35-40 people at 5 to serve and clean up after the meal. Watch for the sign up sheets.

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

All women are members of First Lutheran Women and we are all called to “**Mobilize Women in Our Faith**”

Mobilizing women in their faith is something we can all do. During the summer months there are fewer activities that First Lutheran offers; however, we continue to offer activities to strengthen our faith.

Join us Wednesday mornings at Burger King

A bunch of women get together at 9:30 to enjoy coffee and fellowship. In a very informal setting, we catch up on each other’s summers and share many laughs. Any women are welcome, we’re all friends enjoying a good time.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER....

Wednesday, July 13th ***Summer Bible study, on Romans, at noon, led by Pastor Wall
Wednesday, July 20th Quilting 1-4 (due to the July 4th holiday, there will only be 1 day of quilting in July)

Monday, August 1st Quilting 1-4

Wednesday, August 10th ***Summer Bible study, on Romans, at noon, led by Pastor Wall

Monday, August 15th Deadline to register for the Bible Study Retreat and/or Circle Bible Study

Wednesday, August 17th Quilting 1-4

Wednesday, August 24th Bible Study Retreat at Shetek Lutheran Bible camp from 9-4


***We will meet in the fellowship hall at noon. This study is open to both men and women. So bring your lunch and join us over your lunch hour for study and fellowship.

Bible Study Retreat

When I looked ahead in the ‘Christ in Our Home’ magazine for August 24th, the focus and prayer for the day was: For renewed zeal in Bible study in churches. I thought how fitting that our Bible study retreat would be on this day.

If you are looking for a day to get away, join us on **Wednesday, August 24th from 9-4** as we travel to Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp to relax and join together to study the Bible. The lesson will be chosen and led by someone from the camp. We will leave at

8:30 from the parking lot and return by 4. There will be coffee and snack in the am and lunch will also be provided. Cost will be \$10.00 to cover the cost of the lunch, gas and a small donation for the camp. Join us on this day for study, fellowship and relaxing fun as we end our summer before the business of the fall begins. Call Dawn Planting at (507)-423-1465, (507)-828-8157, or you can email her at loving_mom_3@hotmail.com

As we look ahead to the fall, it is time to plan for our  Bible study opportunities.

How is a circle Bible study different from other Bible studies? Not much. Our circle Bible studies meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The times this year will continue to be at **6 am, 9:30 am** and we are also adding 3 more times for you to choose from, **12 noon or 1:30 pm** and an evening circle with time TBA. The meeting place and activities are decided by that particular circle. Some meet at the church, some in each other's homes, while some have even met in a local restaurant (such as Perkins).

Other differences are that we collect a small free will offering that is used in various ways to support the women's ministry at First Lutheran. Each circle is also assigned members of our congregation who for one reason or another are unable to actively participate in activities offered at First Lutheran. This allows them and us to stay connected by remembering them with visits, on their birthdays and holidays (Christian Care).

This year instead of studying the lesson from the Lutheran Woman Today magazine, we will be studying lessons from the LifeGuide Bible Study series. Note the 6 a.m. group will continue using Lutheran Woman Today study. The others will focus on "Couples of the Old Testament". You can see the content and example of the study on the website Christianbook.com. The cost of the book is \$6.00, with scholarships also available.

If you would be interested in joining us for a circle Bible study this fall, please call Dawn or the church office for more information. We need to order the books ahead of time so we need to know if you are interested by August 15th.

We are always looking for new ideas that we can offer to the Women of First Lutheran. If you have an idea or perhaps you know of an activity that someone you know offers at their congregation, please feel free to share them with us. As with all these activities and ideas, please call the church office for further information and the contact person.

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*Have a great and faith filled summer*