

First Lutheran Church

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Parish Staff

Rev. John Martinson
Interim Pastor

Jan Smith
Christian Educator

Lynda Glick
Parish Nurse

Rob McNair
Secretary

Jack & Shirley
 Neese
Custodians

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday — Friday
 8:00a — 5:00p

Building Hours

Monday — Friday
 8:00a — 5:00p

Saturday
 9:00a — 12:00p



Hello! Grace to you and Peace, from the God who created us, and our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!

For those whom I have not yet had the opportunity to meet I am the new parson. It has been great being among you already. The hospitality you have shown me has been wonderful! Thank You!

I will be serving you as an Intentional Interim Pastor while I am here. That means I will be helping you to continue doing ministry here—Worship, Christian Education, Stewardship, Evangelism, Mission Support. These important ministry will not stop because of the changes that have occurred. I will also help you to have great conversation with one another—conversation about your history as First Lutheran, what is good and rich about First Lutheran that you wish to honor. Conversation about the ministry of First Lutheran and what the Holy Spirit is prodding and coaxing and calling you to be about as you go forward in Christ's Name.

One important thing you need to know about me: I do not do everything. I am smart enough to know that I cannot, and wise enough to know that if I did do everything, I would not be helping you. Two of the things I will be focusing while I am here are visitation and listening. First Lutheran is your church. The ministry being done here at First is your ministry. So I am expecting your council and committees and other groups to be actively involved in decision making and event scheduling.

For the Council and committees and groups to work, I want — and I invite and encourage — everyone to join in the process of the conversation and planning for your future in this place and in this time. We are reminded the Holy Spirit is on our journey and adventure with us.

I am very glad to be with you here at First in Battle Lake. Thank you for the warm welcome! I look forward to having a great time here with you!

Living in God's Amazing Grace,
Pastor John E. Martinson



BUILDING ON BLESSINGS UPDATE

The **Stewardship Key Leaders Committee (SKL)** continues to be ever amazed by the generosity of our church family and friends in their support of the building of our new church home. As the final year in our initial three year commitment period commences we are thankful for your faithfulness in keeping your commitments current and in other instances where you have even surpassed your initial commitment. There are those who have given generously as a way of remembering family and friends. Still others have taken on special projects as a way to raise money for the building program. The timely sale of properties and the often unexpected generosity from unexpected places keeps us ever mindful that God is at work in this project.

We are often reminded of Pastor Jerry Hoffman's question, "How are you?" and our reply of, "We are grateful!" His story of the little lady who had so little to give that he encouraged her to keep what little she had and her chastisement of him by saying, "Do not deny me the joy of giving to my Lord." And in Pastor Charles Lane's book "Ask, Thank, Tell", he tells us over and over again the goal of stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of their time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them. We have seen this happen over and over again with the volunteer use of time and talents in the building of our new church home. The Building on Blessings committee wants you to know how thankful we are for all of you and for ALL you have done and will continue to do as you give unselfishly of your time, talents, and finances as we head toward the completion of our new church home and the joyous day we worship there together as God's family.

Building on Blessings

SKL Committee



Healthy congregations focus on mission

By Bishop Larry Wohlrabe

Congregations are not algae or bacteria. That is to say: congregations are not single-cell creatures, concerned solely with their own survival. Congregations are marvelous, complex, purposeful living bodies. They're made up of many "cells" (disciples) who invariably want to accomplish more, make something new, and create fresh possibilities. Healthy congregations have a "life force" within them—the Holy Spirit—that frees them to focus on more than individual survival. Unable to help themselves, they simply have to reproduce, propagate, grow. When congregations stop doing these things, they die.

This is the third in a series of articles on the marks of healthy congregations. Bishop Larry encourages congregation councils or other parish leadership groups to use these articles for their opening devotions.

If you've been part of a mission church you know how exciting that can be—building a congregation from scratch, rounding up seekers, forming community, starting programs and ministries, looking ahead to a first building project. There is also a keen sense of connection with the wider church—both the denomination (which may invest dollars) and neighboring congregations (which may encourage their own members to "seed" the mission church). The atmosphere is "electric" in a mission church.

What if our synod thought of itself as having 270-plus mission churches? What if we kept calling congregations mission churches for as long as they live? What if we all realized that the only way to survive is to stop focusing on survival only—to turn our churches inside out, giving ourselves away as freely and lavishly as Christ gave himself for all?

Recovering a lively sense of mission is one of our most critical callings in these early years of the 21st century. Realizing that a congregation is more than just a place where religious folks gather to "do their thing," is crucial. Reorienting ourselves to understand the church as a people sent on a mission is essential.

How does this happen? Often it's triggered by a crisis or turning point. A tragedy forces us out of familiar patterns. The old ways simply aren't working any longer. New opportunities rise to meet us.

It would be a mistake to suggest that "focusing on mission" is a piece of cake. No. This is hard work—clarifying and redefining God's purposes for us in the thick of cultural transformation. Resistance from lovers of the status quo is real.

It usually helps if we at least take a stab at *stating* what we think our mission might be. A **mission statement** (or **purpose statement**) is simply a way for a congregation to define itself, to articulate its reasons for living and moving and having its being. Lutheran pastor and counselor Peter Steinke likes to say that a good mission statement includes the following elements:

- Is no more than a single sentence in length
- Is easily understood by a 12-year-old
- Can be recited from memory *at gunpoint!*

Such a mission statement can be "confessed" regularly (in worship and other places), even as it guides the leaders of a congregation in making choices and establishing priorities for the coming years.

Please consider your congregation's mission or purpose statement a *working document*, though. Poke, prod and revise it regularly. It will change as surely as your mission will change in this constantly-changing world. If you'd like to help your congregation get in touch with its mission or purpose, please take a look at a book, *Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation* (2007, Augsburg Fortress), written by Pastor David Daubert.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. What are some ways God has been turning your congregation inside-out for the sake of others?
2. When did your congregation experience a crisis or turning point that led you take another look at your purpose for existing as a church?
3. Can disciples in your congregation articulate your purpose or mission in a single, understandable, memorable sentence? How could you help your congregation to define its purpose or mission?

NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

"Extreme Makeover" was the theme of the NW Minnesota Synod Assembly held at Concordia College in Moorhead on May 16 and 17.

Our new synod leader, Bishop Larry Wohlrahe opened the assembly by leading the service of Holy Communion. In following the theme of "Extreme Makeover, Renewing Church Edition", he pointed out that God needs us to renew the church. He asked us to say together, "Move that church." We need to be agents of God's power. At the end of the service, we were introduced to the new assistants to the Bishop who are Mr. Erin Anderson, Pr. Laurie Natwick, and Pr. Stephen Peterson.

Our first keynote speaker, Pr. David Daubert spoke on "Renewing the Church From the Inside Out." He told us that God has a dream for us. God is in the change business. The best thing we have is a promise. He noted that the church has changed over the years from the time the church was the center of our life circle to being pushed to side of our circle. He also noted that today only 18% of the people in U.S. attend church regularly — we are in need of an "Extreme Makeover". The characteristics of a growing congregation are:

- ✚ Having and using a purpose (mission) statement;
- ✚ Being willing to change;
- ✚ Strong leadership;
- ✚ Reclaiming the Word; and
- ✚ Recovering the great commandment in Matthew 28.

He finished his talk by having us ask the question, "What's Jesus been up to in your life this week?"

Our Friday afternoon keynote speaker was Pr. Kathryn Love, a dynamic speaker from our church-wide office in Chicago. She based her talk on running a race. It was a very enlightening talk on evangelism for our church today. She asked, "What's getting in the way of running the race?" She reminded us that when we pray seriously things happen. The gifts of God given to us in baptism need to be stirred up. Three points of revival are: (1) the Word of God; (2) Testimony; and (3) Prayer.

The Saturday assembly began with Pr. Kathryn Love leading a "Revival Service" which was very impressive and awakening to all.

The final session dealt mostly with resolutions and announcements. These resolutions all passed: (1) Fiscal proposal; (2) 2009 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy and

Church Staff; (3) Support of creation of Dept. of Peace in the U.S. government; and (4) Support for the Book of Faith, which is being introduced in the ELCA.

There were 574 delegates and 105 visitors at the final session. The next assembly will be May 16 and 17, 2009 and we would encourage others to be part of this. The fellowship, speakers, music and food were wonderful. We would like to thank members of First Lutheran for giving us this opportunity.

Anita Boyum

John and Jane Dixon

*"Entrust the past to God's mercy,
the present to His love, and the
future to His providence."*

Saint Augustine — "Confessions"



1. One of our newest books is "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks, based on the true story of an ancient manuscript found in Hungary. Brooks previous book, for which she received the 2006 Pulitzer Prize, has been donated by Carol Thompson. It is called "March" and is about the father of the "Little Women" by Alcott. He enlisted in the Union Army as a chaplain, so reading it will make you "live" the Civil War. Brooks did an enormous amount of research for this book.
2. Ernest Bartel's book "Take Eat, Take Drink" is a history of the Lord's Supper through the centuries from A.D. 30 to the present day. The book includes study questions at the end of each chapter, which would simplify group study. The author served congregations in Wisconsin and North Dakota. He and his wife, Lois, currently live in Wahpeton, ND.
3. "The Christian World" by Martin Marty is called "a global history" as it tells how Christianity spread from a few believers two thousand years ago to become the world's largest religion, comprising more than two billion followers.

Louise Arvesen, Librarian
Marge Quammen, Assistant



Attending: Sharon Worden, Warren Tikkanen, Loren Romberg, Becky Belmont, and Dick Oftedahl.

Opening with prayer by Chairperson Loren Romberg

Financial Report: Handouts were provided by Warren Tikkanen

Review of current bills to be paid:

Approval of Minutes: No changes--minutes approved.

Committee Reports:

✝ **Education:** No Report

✝ **Worship/Music:** Future committee meetings will be held in the evenings to allow for expanded participation, particularly members of our praise team.

✝ **Outreach:** Planning and scheduling for our new church directory has been completed.

✝ **Property:** Options for a new floor scrubber that will be needed in our new church were discussed, and a final decision on the purchase will be made in the upcoming council meetings.

Completion of our new building is progressing nicely. Most of the woodwork is installed and finished, with plans for carpeting to take place in the very near future.

✝ **Finance:** Income for the general fund was down slightly for May from previous months, and the congregation is encouraged to strongly support the general fund during this time of transition between pastors and facilities.

✝ **Stewardship:** No meeting

✝ **Mutual Ministry:** This committee is currently short three members. Dick will bring names to the council of potential new members next month for consideration. This committee is also working on a list of names of visitation priorities for Pastor Martinson when he begins his ministry at First Lutheran.

✝ **Executive/Personnel:** Volunteers have come forward to cover three of the four weeks of Jack & Shirley's vacation, which is the last two weeks of June, and the first two weeks of July. Thank you to those that graciously have come forward at this time.

Council members were reminded of the special congregational meeting to be held on June 22, 2008, immediately following the second service, to approve the sale of the parking lot across the street.

The council was informed that the purchase agreement to sell our current worship facility was signed on June 10, for a purchase price of \$85,000, contingent to our replacing the electrical panel for the church, sealing the roof from current water issues, and caulking and painting the windows. The closing date for the sale is August 31. An estimate for the electrical work has been received for \$770.

All committees were reminded that they must submit budgets by August 1st for the annual congregational meeting and report.

The meeting was adjourned with Lord's Prayer

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Sunday, June 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Loren Romberg. After a devotional a motion was made that read:

THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MOVES THAT THE CONGREGATION SELL THE PARKING LOT ACROSS THE STREET TO THE SOUTH OF THE OLD CHURCH FACILITY TO THE CITY OF BATTLE LAKE FOR \$53,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED.

The floor was opened for discussion, but none was brought forth. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.



The WELCA Board met on June 2, 2008. Secretary and Treasurer's reports read and approved. Balance on hand is \$1,495.68. Anita Boyum and Evie Hanson reported on Mission in Action and that the following items will be sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR): 14 health kits, 51 layettes, 29 school kits, and 28 prayer shawls. Jack and Shirley Neese will transport these items to the drop off site in Wadena. Pastor Beem will speak about LWR at our November 20, 2008 General WELCA Meeting that Mary Circle hosts.

Plans for the June 20 salad luncheon were finalized. Proceeds will go to the building fund. Raffle tickets will be sold at the luncheon with proceeds going to buy round tables for the new church and to the education wing.

We discussed a Pathways request for \$2,400 to support Jon Dahl as a youth missionary. It was decided to check with the church council and other organizations to determine if and how much they are contributing.

We had a lengthy discussion as to whether we should have a Fall Festival or a Tour of Tables. It was decided that this should be brought up at the June circle meetings to get ideas from the entire membership, and then report back to the board next month before making a decision.

No Bake Sale letters were sent out.

Marcia Olson will attend the Annual Convention of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA in Grand Forks on June 7.

We are still looking for volunteers to attend Women's Week at Luther Crest.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next board meeting will be
Monday, July 14 at 1:00 p.m.


Annual Convention of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

It was a privilege and a pleasure for me to represent First Lutheran at the 21st Annual Convention of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA. It was held in East Grand Forks on June 6 and 7 at my former parish, Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Nearly 150 women participated in an inspirational time of worship, entertainment and fellowship around the theme "Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly With Your God" (Micah 6:8). During the Friday evening business session, Mavis Werner of Concordia Lutheran in Fertile, MN was elected as Vice President and Diane Nord of Faith Lutheran in Wolverton was elected secretary. Elected to two year positions on the board were Virginia Anderson of St. Paul Lutheran in Thief River Falls; Almira Beyer of Calvery Lutheran in Bemidji; and Janet Lindberg of Trinity in Pelican Rapids. The evening was rounded out with a banquet and musicians, The Trinity Trio of Thief River Falls.

Saturday began in worship with Holy Communion presided over by Bishop Larry Wohlrabe. The keynote speaker was Patricia Lorenz, author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Her message was "Our struggles in life are blessings" and she stressed the importance of laughter. Pastor Ron Nichols led the afternoon Bible Study and the day was rounded out by a walk through the Ten Commandments with Lena and Inga, the Benson sisters. They were delightful!


I was so blessed to have had this wonderful experience.

Marcia Olson



The WELCA Board extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who helped to make our **Annual Salad Luncheon** such a success. Thank you to all who furnished salads and volunteered to work and to Tom and Grace Stoebe who crafted and donated the darling child's Adirondack furniture for the raffle. Our receipts were over \$2,100.00 for the raffle and luncheon combined. Again, THANK YOU!

- WELCA Board



JULY CIRCLE SCHEDULE

None of the circles meet in July. Therefore, we will not have a **WELCA Bible Study Leaders** meeting this month. Pastor Martinson will lead the next one on Tuesday, August 5 at 2:00 p.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
JUNE 2008**



Call to Order: President Bruce Smith called the meeting to order and led us in devotions from Phillipians 4:4-9. The theme was on "Peace of Mind". Bruce felt it appropriate since we have many stressors in our lives: financial, personal, being without a pastor, etc. After reading the scripture, Bruce asked, "How do we reduce stress in our life?" John Dixon replied, "Go Fishing!" What is one man's stress may be another man's stress reducer.

Bruce introduced speaker Gary Molstad of Habitat for Humanity. Gary spoke on how the Habitat for Humanity is in the process of remodeling or building a house for Gary Widness. Since Gary Widness works at Larry's Market and takes care of his father, it was felt Gary could use some help with down payment of taxes and insurance of \$1,000.00. Gary Molstad went on to tell about Habitat for Humanity in Otter Tail County and that his office is in Church of Peace in Fergus Falls. Habitat for Humanity has built approximately 30 homes in Otter Tail County in the past 30 Years. Homes are interest free with 30 year mortgages.

Motion by Willard Duda to donate \$200.00 towards Gary Widness's insurance and taxes to help out. The motion was seconded by Leonard Monke. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No report as Bob Moe was injured in accident and is recovering. Last financial statement showed \$978.00 with some outstanding bills to be paid.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of May meeting was read by Leonard Monke in Skip Lee's absence.

Church signs need to be changed to accommodate correct time for church. Loren and Henry will take care of it.

John Dixon made an addition to the minutes that fundraiser to raise money for kitchen was to include money toward the purchase of a dishwasher.

Bruce Smith related Pancake Breakfast receipts were \$655.00 with \$235.00 in expenses. Loren related that someone had donated \$50 after the Pancake Breakfast so that would increase the profits.

Minutes of May meeting were approved as corrected.

Old Business: Thanks to all men who helped at the Pancake Breakfast and the Confirmation Dinner. Two younger men helped at the Pancake Breakfast – Brian Hodnefield and Jason Severson.

A group gathered and took care of cleaning the ditches of County Road 16.

Can Cage is okay for this month according to Loren.

New Business: Bruce mentioned Common Hope, a group we have donated to in the past. Only 16% goes toward administrative cost with 84% going directly to programs. Keep this in mind.

- ✚ Brat Feed at Art of The Lakes Art and Craft Show in August. Co-Chairs are Dick Oftedahl and Loren Romberg.
- ✚ Evening meeting with younger men of congregation. Loren made a motion to have a steak fry with each member of Men's Fellowship inviting younger member of congregation and providing steaks for member and his guest. Steak fry will be held Tuesday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Lions Park. Co-Chairs are John Dixon and Jack Neese. Bruce will take care of publicity. Motion was 2nd by Dick Oftedahl. Motion carried.
- ✚ Fundraiser possibilities: Bruce suggested a raffle in conjunction with the Brat Feed in August with at least 4-5 donated items. Bruce began by offering a signed print by Minnesota artist Jeff Renner. Warren Bessler offered some wildlife prints. Loren Romberg offered a fish dinner for four people at the Romberg home. After discussion, Henry made motion, 2nd by Jack Neese to have raffle. Motion carried. Chairmen will be Dick Oftedahl and Bruce Smith.
- ✚ Anyone interested in Bible Study should contact John Dixon or Bruce Smith.
- ✚ John Dixon stated that the new Church Mission Statement is: Connect People with the Love of Christ.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Recorder, Henry Peterson



A Brand Like No Other . . .

by Jan Smith

Our church as all others has a brand of its own. The brand is made up of the members who each have certain talents and spiritual gifts that together reach out into the community.

The most obvious brand for First Lutheran is that we are just that, Evangelical Lutherans. Branding comes from the outside connecting within, a marking in some way. Because we are followers of Jesus, we have been branded at baptism with the cross of Christ forever. Oh, the oil or water used to mark us washes away. The "marking" is recorded in church records for all to see and God's eyes as one of His.

Less obvious brands that identify us as First Lutherans are our values, our mission and our vision. Where are we headed? How will we get there? What role can each of us play in the vision and mission of First Lutheran. It is time to **Move our Church**, literally and figuratively.

Soon we will move to the new facility. With that will come a lot of sweat-equity or prayers that all will go smoothly. Some of us will feel loss, mourning for a while what has been left behind. Others will be lost within the building, not knowing the layout or the routine. The community already labels us the church "on the hill." There will be many projects to complete once the move is made.

Just like the "new church" will be a visual presence in the community, so should we strive to be a visual and vocal presence. We each find ourselves in this community because God has placed us here for a reason. Listening to his calling, taking his direction and being brave about being vocal means that what is His will can be carried out by us. It won't always be easy. He never promised us a smooth journey. He did promise us that he would be with us "to the ends of the earth." Let's together **move our church**, making sure our spiritual **brand** is always visible and welcoming.



Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic sea-coast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged over the ocean, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops. As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals.

Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him. "Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man. Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!" The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away.

The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew. When you're prepared, spiritually, mentally, and physically, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God. We don't need to understand, we just need to hold His hand to have peace in the middle of storms.

Summer means Skin Cancer Awareness

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancer types. There are more than 1 million skin cancers diagnosed each year in the U.S. That's more than cancers of the prostate, breast, lung, colon, uterus, ovaries, and pancreas combined. And the number of skin cancers has been on the rise for decades.

The good news is that there is a lot you can do to protect yourself and your family from skin cancer, or to catch it early enough so that it can be treated effectively.

Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. Much of this exposure comes from the sun, but some may come from manmade sources, such as tanning beds.

RISK FACTORS that may increase your risk of skin cancer: fair skin, history of sunburns, excessive sun exposure, sunny or high-altitude climates, moles, precancerous skin lesions, a family history of skin cancer, or, a personal history of skin cancer.

PREVENTION and how to protect yourself:

- ✚ Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.;
- ✚ Wear sunscreen year-round;
- ✚ Avoid tanning beds and tan-accelerating agents;
- ✚ Be aware of sun-sensitizing medications (always check with your doctor or pharmacist);
- ✚ Check your skin regularly and report changes to your doctor; and
- ✚ Have regular skin exams.

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE - If you notice any suspicious change in your skin, consult your doctor right away. As with most cancers, early detection increases the chances of successful treatment. Don't wait for the area to start hurting - skin cancer seldom causes pain.

THE BIBLE tells how the LORD dealt with itches, skin diseases and other health problems in several chapters in Leviticus. After reading this, you will be thankful for the progress we've made and for doctors and nurses.

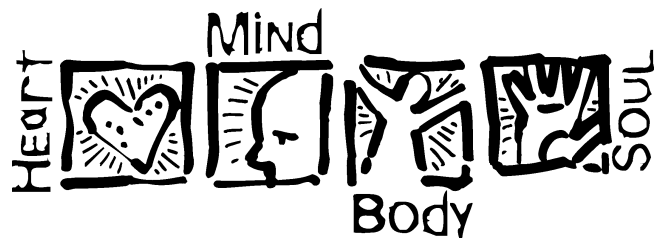
As you enjoy your time in the sun, **take proper precautions!**



A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

A bicycle is not a toy. It's a vehicle!

- * More than one-third of all bicyclist deaths occur among school age youth ages five to 20.
- * Most bicycle crashes involving motor vehicles are due to behavioral errors on the part of the bicyclist and motorist. Although most deaths occur as a result of bicycle and motor vehicle crashes, crashes can happen anywhere - in parks, on bicycle paths, and in driveways. Many do not involve motor vehicles.
- * Head injuries are the most serious type of injury and the most common cause of death for bicyclists.
- * Studies have proven that bicycle helmets work to reduce head injury.
- * Fifteen states and over 50 counties, cities, and localities have enacted bicycle helmet use laws.



HEALTH CABINET
June 2008

In attendance were Hayley Dennison, Lynda Glick, and Wes Hull. Proceeds from the healthy breakfast will be used to start a health cabinet fund.

Welcome home baby blankets (made by Lynda's sister) will begin to be distributed to newborns in our church.

More discussion on Peace Meals — more info to come at the next meeting.

The "Healthy Aging" Health Fair will be held at the BL school on September 27. It is sponsored by Friends and Neighbors with help from our Parish Nurse. It will have four speakers and 51 vendors.

Meeting times will change per council request. Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Wes Hull



Attendance: Brenda Mathiesen, Heidi Hull, Marge VanderBerg, Myron Dahle, Joy Bond, Harriet Lundquist, Loren Romberg, Gail Digre, Jill Damrau, Dave Hofstad,

Carol Thompson, Hayley Dennison, Carol Nelson, and Linda Tikkanen.

Old Business: Options were set forth as recommendations of for possible piano's. Carlson's Music of Alexandria will install and Make sure all is in working order. Several people will get together to go down to inspect and chose the proper piano at a date to be set. Carlson's would provide transportation.

Organ Update: Myron has checked out what it would take to hook up a pipe organ in the new church. This was tabled and will possibly go on the wish list for the new church.

There was an extensive discussion about an alternative worship service with the Worship Leadership team. Also a question of "do we need to have two worship services later on in the new facility?" The leadership team will continue to lead the services through the prelude and special music until we have an interim pastor and when we are in the new facility.

If you have any questions please speak to a council member or a member of the worship committee.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted Carol Nelson

"BY SERVING OTHERS AND PUTTING OTHERS' NEEDS BEFORE ONESELF, ONLY THEN CAN ANYONE TRULY IMPACT THE WORLD WITH CHANGE."

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN —



The "Bike to Work for the Building" campaign is underway. In the first three weeks of June I have averaged riding my bike four days a week

which isn't bad considering the weather. I have survived a potential attack by a beaver and a near collision with a coyote! Luckily most days I am greeted by the yellow-headed black bird that perches in the reeds just north of town. There is information and a calendar hanging next to the elevator door in the Narthex. *Please look it over and consider becoming a sponsor.*

As a sponsor you will agree to contribute \$4 (about the price of one gallon of gas) to the Building Fund each time I ride my bike to work during the summer months of June, July, and August. For those that do not know I live across from Balmoral Golf Course and so it is 9 miles from my door to the church (18 miles round trip). You can sponsor me for a week, a month, or the entire summer. If I were to ride every day, that is a maximum donation of \$20 per week. Thanks to all those who support this endeavor! God Bless! Rob McNair



**SAVE THOSE CANS!
TABS TOO!**

The aluminum can cages are back in operation again at two convenient locations. There is one on the church parking lot and the other cage is located at Cameron's Standard Station on Highway 210.

Please save your cans (preferably crushed) and deliver them to either one of the two can cages. The cans provide a vital source of revenue for the Men's Fellowship for their various charitable projects.

And please save the tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, one of the group's many worth while charities. Leave the tabs with Rob at the church and they will be hand-delivered to Fargo. **Thanks for your help!**



Church Directory Photograph Sign-Up

Do you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you new to our church and wish you had something to help you put names with faces. Well, help is on the way! We are producing a pictorial directory for our church. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken and you will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory just for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits if you wish.

Photos will be taken at our new church on August 19 and 20 and September 2 through 6.

Sign up will be between church services on July 27, August 3, and August 10.

We look forward to "seeing you in the pictures!"



CAMPFIRE NIGHTS

All Students of First Lutheran Church who have finished 4th, 5th, or 6th grade and their families are invited to **Campfire Nights Thursday, July 10 and Friday, July 11.**

We will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on those nights. On Friday, July 11 the students are invited to stay overnight and have their parents pick them up on Saturday by 10:00 a.m. Please sign up by Sunday, June 22 and fill out the permission slip / health form.

Also, we are in need of your help to create our craft project. If you have any chipped, cracked or broken china, glass, stone ware, or ceramics please bring it to church so we can use it for our project.

If you have any questions call Carol Nelson at 864-8865 or Nancy Quam at 864-5535.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."



Matthew 5:9

THE PEACEMAKERS

THE PEACEMAKERS met again on Wednesday, June 18 at Lions Park. We continued learning about Pakistan and the work Greg Mortenson (bestselling author of *Three Cups of Tea*) does there building schools in remote villages. Mr. Mortenson believes that only through education and understanding will we create lasting peace on earth.



Our first task was to transform ordinary milk jugs into penny jugs. The kids painted them and affixed a Pennies for Peace sticker. They were then given "homework" to find an area business that would be willing to have this jug sit on their counter by the cash register so that patrons could make donations. Hopefully you will see some of these as you frequent local businesses around town.

The second main task was to count the pennies collected. By figuring out how many pennies equals a pound (about 160), we could then weight the collection and have a pretty good estimate as to how many there are. We calculated 9,120 but I know by now we are well over 10,000. We are working hard to collect **54,000 pennies** by the end of August.

I am amazed at the number of pennies that are arriving each day and our collection is growing fast! Please help us by bringing your pennies to church on Sundays throughout the summer. We are hoping to change the world one penny at a time!



Income	May 2008	YTD 2008
General Fund		
General Offering	14,606.18	78,542.94
Mission (Coffee)	74.08	331.73
Mission (Offering)	340.00	1,031.50
Mission - Peoples Church	0.00	0.00
Initial Offering	15.00	425.00
Open Door	70.00	170.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	280.00
Subtotal to General Fund	15,105.26	80,781.17
Designated Gifts		
Parish Nurse	495.00	640.00
Stephen Ministry	0.00	337.00
Youth	339.50	1,765.40
Education	45.00	315.00
Music	70.00	455.00
We Care	0.00	0.00
Sunday School	98.45	379.17
Subtotal Designated Gifts	1,047.95	3,891.57
Other Income		
Trefoldighed Payment	0.00	4,400.00
Interest Income	2.47	49.60
Church Rental	210.00	820.00
MeritCare Parish Nurse Stipend	978.00	4,890.00
Miscellaneous	50.00	50.00
Subtotal Other Income	1,240.47	10,209.60
TOTAL INCOME	17,393.68	94,882.34



Expenses	May 2008	YTD 2008	Budgeted 2008
Administration / Office Expenses	718.07	3,821.48	4,065.00
Evangelism	98.00	399.00	1,645.00
Stephen Ministry	0.00	0.00	600.00
Worship & Music	139.43	1,865.81	3,540.00
Education	964.61	2,700.90	12,300.00
Youth Programs	0.00	467.92	1,800.00
Stewardship / Building Expenses	1,274.96	14,597.26	16,475.00
Insurance	1,065.00	1,586.00	6,628.00
Mission Support	1,686.67	12,208.35	20,300.00
Personnel	14,320.50	73,760.95	179,776.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,267.24	111,407.67	247,129.88

NET PROFIT / LOSS	-2,873.56	-16,525.33
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Other Income	May 2008	YTD 2008
Building Contributions	15,846.23	159,736.26
R.I.F.L. Contributions	10.00	130.00
Lenten Offering	0.00	4,950.97

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

Ezekiel 35:1-5



From the Secretary

Bishop Wohlrabe preached on the passage above during his address to the recent Synod Assembly. The idea of God causing breath to enter into dead bones got me thinking and I turned to Genesis:

"Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

As I contemplated those words I remembered this verse which takes place shortly before Jesus' ascension:

"When he [Jesus] had said this, he breathed on them [the disciples] and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:22).

Over the past week since listening to Bishop Wohlrabe's message it has struck me that we all have the "breathe of life" within us. We all have the ability like Ezekiel to preach to dead bones. But that is a risky proposition because it requires us to leave our comfort zone. It may require us to feel uncomfortable, potentially look silly, and most likely feel embarrassed. But Ezekiel didn't waiver. He wasn't like Moses who hemmed and hawed over God's request to speak.

"But Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' Then the LORD said to him, 'Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.' But he said, 'O my Lord, please send someone else'" (Exodus 4:10-13).

Aren't we all like Moses? We know the Good News but are so unwilling to speak it. We live in fear that we will not know what to say or how to say it. For me, it is the fear of being labeled "religious" that keeps me silent most times. But not Ezekiel. Gods tells him to preach to dead bones and he preaches to dead bones. Ezekiel had the breathe of life. You and I can have it too **IF** we are willing to be obedient like Ezekiel and not hem and haw like Moses. No doubt about it, that is a big, bold **IF**.

I challenge all of us to look around and find the "dead bones" that lay around us. And let us trust in the Lord as Ezekiel did. Let us overcome our fears, our apprehensions, our anxieties as we strive to breathe the life of our Savior Jesus Christ into our community and beyond.

God Bless,

Rob McNair



After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, a five-year-old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole.

As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother runs to the yard in a panic.

"Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she asks as she shook the older boy in anger.

"We were just playing 'church' mommy," he said. "And I was just baptizing him....in the name of the Father, the Son and in....the hole-he-goes."

GIVING UP MORE

We may very well be trying to ride the dead horse Bishop Wohlrabe talked about in his message we recently watched at church, but we thought we would give this effort one last push.

We have had 13 households sign up for the "Giving Up More" campaign, which has generated approximately \$7,000 for the building fund. We certainly appreciate all those who were willing to give up more for our new church home!

If you have received your federal "economic stimulus rebate" check, would you be willing to prayerfully consider donating a percentage to the building fund as others have done?

We will give 10% of all funds generated through this campaign to various missions such as the Peoples Church in Bemidji and Lutheran World Relief. So please help us and others by Giving Up More!

For those willing to join the G.U.M. campaign, please complete the form below by circling what percentage you are willing to donate. *Please return this form to the church office.* "GUMballs" (a.k.a. plastic Easter eggs) are available for you to place inside our GUMball machine located in the Narthex in recognition of your pledge. This GUMball machine will serve as a visual reminder of the congregations campaign support. **Thank you!**

GUM Pledge Campaign

I am willing to donate

25% **50%** **75%** **100%**

of my "economic stimulus rebate" check to the
First Lutheran Building Fund.

Name

Address

Phone Number

Thank you! Please return this to the church office.



Dear Friends,

Hi! I don't know who is responsible for sending me the beautiful Prayer Shawl that Lynda Glick brought to me, but I want to tell you I love it and it is such a beautiful work. I do appreciate it so very much! Thank you so very much!

Most Sincerely,
Marian Pederson

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

We want to thank you all for the support and prayers over the past two months. We have been truly blessed with a healthy baby boy. Thank you for the beautiful quilt and book of prayers. See you all in church soon!

Jason, Amy, Wyatt, and Shane Severson

"AND THEY CAME, EVERYONE WHOSE HEART WAS STIRRED, AND EVERYONE WHOSE SPIRIT WAS WILLING, AND BROUGHT THE LORD'S OFFERING TO BE USED FOR THE TENT OF MEETING, AND FOR ALL ITS SERVICE..."

Exodus 35:21

+ + + + +

I was digging through some old files recently and found this verse on the cover of a pamphlet First Lutheran sent out to parishioners in 1952, shortly after our current "tent of meeting" was built. Fifty-six years later we are on the verge of entering our new "tent of meeting" and look forward to using it in service to God's people as we work to be the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

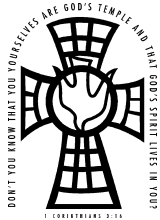
JULY SHARE & CARE #7

* Jim & Carol Sagerhorn 583-2393	* Bob & Jane Duerr 864-0672
Robert & Delores Lind	Maynard & Birdell Olson
Rita Balm	Dick & Shirley Peterson
Warren & Edith Bessler	Ed Prescher
Nathan & Sara Boyum (Jackson)	Jeff & Shelly Sagerhorn (Justin & Garrett)
David & Tammy Coffey (Nicholas & Noah)	Tim & Beth Schendel (Harley & Charlie)
David & LouAnn Ellingson	Jason & Amy Severson (Wyatt)
Les & Helen Estes	Rob McNair & Hayley Den- nison
Lyle & Ordella Fjoser	(Olivia & Oakley)
Bruce & Karen Holdt	
John Howland	

Happy Birthday!

Parishioners celebrating a birthday in July:

Rebecca Belmont	Betty Moe
Dale Berger	Robert Moe
Harold Boeckel	Jodi Morton
Gavin Brendefur	Ethel Nelson
Dana Brown	Gail Nelson
David Christensen	Gerald Nelson
Dean Damrau	Rodney Nelson
Doug Dunker	Thomas Nelson
Drew Durbin	Cathy Olson
William Ehlert	Richard Osman
Charles Evert	Gary Peterson
Ambrose Everts	Karen Peterson
Earl Goebel	Sonja Peterson
Patrick Greene	Katie Rilla
Cindy Heald	Nicole Rilla
Christopher Hillman	Zach Rilla
Denise Hodnefield	Conrad Roberts
Alice Hustad	Wyatt Severson
Chris Johnson	Jan Smith
Emmie Lundquist	Wade Stich
Samantha Lundquist	Clayton Swanson
Rob McNair	Phyllis Tegtmeier
Maddox Mekalson	



SHARE & CARE GROUP # 8
ASSIGNMENT MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2008
9:30 A.M.

Volunteering and assignments will be made at that time.

If you cannot attend, please call a coordinator and sign up for the tasks that you can do.

Bring your stewardship booklet with you.

Reminder: You only serve one month out of the year.

**** indicates that months coordinators**

AUGUST SHARE & CARE #8

** Sonja Peterson 864-4010	** Richard & Wanda Oftedahl 864-8552
Sam & Lorraine Lykken	Marj Kantrud
Steve & Cindy Bailey	Roger & Mary Jo Kuhn
Kim & Deb Biederman (Garrett & Erika)	Doris Lindgren
Dave & Heidi Christensen (Derrick & Dillon)	Charles & Virginia Molitor
Dean & Jill Damrau (Austin)	Theone Pederson
Ken & LaVonne Hockstedler	Jim & Nancy Rodgers (Steven & Scott)
Gary & Peggy Jonson	Ralph & Sharon Salvog
Irene Jonson	Rick & Sharon Schaller
Dallas & Lynda Glick	Alma Sheppard
Tom & Cheri Zosel	Darrell Tegtmeier
Scott & Roxanne Malmstrom (Westin & Carmen)	Carl & Sandy Tegtmeier



Happy Anniversary!

Kim & Deb Biederman
J.J. and Anne Cline
Charles & Mildred Drage
Steve & Kristi Hanson
Wes & Heidi Hull
Daryl & Renee Jorud
Roger & Mary Jo Kuhn
Bud & Harriet Lundquist
Jack & Shirley Neese
Robert & Louise Pederson
Jason & Amy Severson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:00a Staff Meeting 9:00a Meeting with Chair Rep. 10:00a Health Ministry 2:00p WELCA Bible Study Leader 5:30p Building Committee 6:30p Men's Fellowship Steak Fry at Lions Park 7:00p Property Committee	2 7:00p Contemporary Music	3 8:30a Men's Fellowship - Shoreline 8:00p "Come to the Lakes"	4 	5
6 Communion 8:30a Worship 10:00a Worship	7 8:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Coffee and Conversation 1:30p Stephen Ministry Meeting 5:30p Board of Education	8 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Health Ministry 4:30p Meeting with Chair Rep. 5:30p Building Committee 6:30p Worship & Music Committee 6:30p Evangelism 6:30p Finance Committee 6:30p Executive Committee 6:30p Mutual Ministry 7:30p Church Council	9 7:00p Contemporary Music	10 9:30a Altar Guild 6:00p Campfire Nights 8:00p "Come to the Lakes"	11 9:30a Coffee and Conversation 3:00p Communion @ Summit Village 6:00p Campfire Nights	12 Phelps Mill Festival
13 8:30a Worship 9:30a Share/Care #8 Assignments 10:00a Worship	14 8:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Coffee and Conversation 1:00p WELCA Board	15 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Health Ministry 5:30p Building Committee	16 12:30p Peacemakers @ Lions Park 7:00p Contemporary Music 7:00p Practice for Glendalough play (Jan Smith)	17 8:00p "Come to the Lakes"	18 9:30a Coffee and Conversation	19
20 Communion 8:30a Worship 10:00a Worship	21 Newsletter Deadline 8:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Coffee and Conversation 2:30p Vacation Bible School	22 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Health Ministry 2:30p Vacation Bible School 5:30p Building Committee	23 9:30a BL Good Sam Share & Care #7 2:30p Vacation Bible School 7:00p Contemporary Music	24 2:30p Vacation Bible School 8:00p "Come to the Lakes"	25 9:30a Coffee and Conversation	26 Wenonga Days
27 8:30a Worship 9:30a Church Directory Sign-up 10:00a Worship	28 8:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Coffee and Conversation	29 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Health Ministry 5:30p Building Committee	30 6:00p LYO Committee 7:00p Contemporary Music 7:00p Practice for play at Glendalough (Jan Smith)	31 8:00p "Come to the Lakes"		

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE	8:30 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	WELCA HOSTESSES FOR JUNE	IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES IN JULY
July 6	McKenzie / Nicole	Charlie / Cara	Lydia: No Meeting Mary: No Meeting	
July 13	Abbi	Charlie	Esther: No Meeting Dorcas: No Meeting	
July 20	Ryan / Cara	McKenzie / Abbi	Wed Afternoon: No Meeting	
July 27	McKenzie	Charlie		



WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP **CAULK WINDOWS** AT OUR CURRENT CHURCH LOCATION.



CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 864-5686 OR CLAYTON SWANSON AT 589-7212 TO **GET INVOLVED**. THANK YOU!

VINING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ham & Salad Supper

Wednesday, July 16

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Free Will Offering



PRAYER CHAIN NEWS



On the first of each month the people requesting prayers will be removed from the prayer chain unless resubmitted. Delores Lind coordinates the Prayer Chain should you wish to submit a name. She can be reached at 864-8696.

Also, the Prayer Chain is **in need of new members** to help with this important ministry. Please contact Delores to **GET INVOLVED**.



New and used children's books are still being collected for the BL Food Shelf. Please place them in the box located by the coat rack. 742 books have been donated since 2001 so please check your book shelves and SHARE. Thank you!

~ Delores Lind

peace meals

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Calling all casserole kings and queens. *The Health Cabinet will begin a PeaceMeals ministry this Fall.* PeaceMeals are a meal that will be delivered to those hospitalized, families in crisis, families with newborn babies, community members who are isolated, etc. The Health Cabinet is looking for people who are willing to provide meals. We have people available to pick up meals for those folks who will cook but cannot deliver the meal. *Please give your name and contact information to the church office.* Many thanks for your willingness to help and **GET INVOLVED**.

HENNING/BATTLE LAKE AREA CHRISTIAN

WOMEN'S CLUB BRUNCH

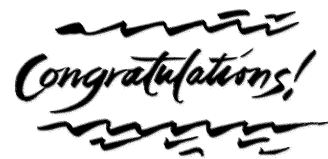
Monday, July 7 at 10:30 a.m. at Thumper Pond Resort
Reservations required for brunch and child care before Thursday, July 3. Call Sharon (218) 367-3826 or Mary (218) 495-3237.



Our sympathy and prayers go out to the following families:

- ✝ **Bob Banks** who lost his beloved wife **Kerry** on June 4 after a courageous battle with cancer.
- ✝ **Tim & Beth Schendel** who recently grieved the loss of Tim's sister **Judith Schendel** of Columbia Heights, MN.

May the Lord bring you comfort during this difficult time.



- ✝ **Nate & Sara Boyum** celebrated the birth of their daughter Isabel Marie on May 20.
- ✝ **Justin & Kari Johnson** celebrated the birth of their son Owen Ronald on June 3.
- ✝ **Jason & Amy Severson** celebrated the birth of their son Shane Terry on June 8.

