



Grace, peace and Greetings to all of you!

“Why are times not kept by the Almighty, and why do those who know him never see his days?” The world had come crashing down on a man named Job. The world, according to Job, had become increasingly unfair, and so he asked the question above. First, robbers had stolen his belongings at his home and had slaughtered his servants. Next, fire from the sky had burned up his sheep, and then a mighty wind came along and destroyed his house and killed his sons and daughters. And, to top it all off, Job contracted a painful disease. And so Job could rightly ask, “What did I do to deserve such suffering?” Job described the feeling of God’s absence at the time of his greatest need. Where was God? For us, perhaps another question that we might ask is this, “Why does God seem so silent to my prayers?” But is God really silent in my prayers? Maybe that is something we might have to look a little more closely at. A theologian named Oswald Chambers once asked this, “Has God trusted you with his silence – a silence that has great meaning? And then he said, “God’s silences are actually his answers.” Consider that for a moment. While we often think that God’s silence means that He has ignored us or left us, that is not true. God’s silence does not mean that He is absent. But in those dire moments when

suffering occurs and we strive for answers amid worldly unfairness, God may be inviting us into something through his silence. Are we being prompted and not realizing it? The author, Philip Yancey, wrote a book called “Prayer: Does it make any difference?” He provides some helpful hints on how to handle the silence of God or what seems like an unanswered prayer. The first question he asks is, “Do I have any sins to confess?” And his response is along the lines of - When we are weighed down by sin and fail to confess, we struggle all the more, and it would appear as if God were absent. By letting go of sin, God then works with us as we move forward in our restoration. Another question is this, “What are my motives for prayer?” Do we want God on our own terms by asking for things to help us get ahead in this life? Are we listening to God, really listening, or are we just talking at God? Am I pursuing results rather than pursuing a closeness with God? And in my pain, is God creating in me perseverance, character, patience, hope, and joy? There was a story of a vintner who refused to irrigate his vines because the stress caused by occasional drought produced the best, most tasty grapes. Seasons of dryness make the roots run deep, strengthening the vine for whatever the future holds. Do our roots begin to run deep in our pain? And lastly, the author encourages us to pray with others. It is the power of community, praying together, that brings forth evidence of God’s grace. Someone once said that you can respond to the silence of God in two ways: one,

you go into depression, feel guilty, or look down on yourself; or two, for you to have that expectation that God is about to bring you to a deeper knowledge of Himself. That is the choice we have. Maybe, it’s time to follow His silence and what it might say to us.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob



Dead line for Clarion articles is the 15th of each month.
Email/drop off your articles.



Thank You!

SPONSORS

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of April: Nyla Dahl & family in memory of Neil Dahl; Grace Alex & family in memory of Luke Alex; Jan Broe, Wes & Cheryl Falkner and families in memory of LaVern Broe.

Please check your special dates and call the office (444-3244) to sponsor a Sunday in this new year.

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast.





**Sunday, May 21st
Class of 2017 Recognition**

Receiving quilts from the Parish are:

First: Cassandra Bellon, Sean Larsen, Brady Leiseth, Mackenzie Sparby, Hunter DeFoe, Rait Elliot, Dominic Ferrai, Lane Kinden, Brindin Kostad, ReiAnn Lindley.

There will be a potluck dinner following the 11:00 AM worship at First Lutheran. The dessert will be provided... so bring salads and main dishes.

Banks: Jayden Leiseth
Garden: Cheyanne Berquist



**FLC – WELCA
Spring Give-A-Way**

Please bring your items to the church in the morning of May 5st (8 AM – Noon).

The Give-A-Way will begin at 12:00 PM and continue until 7:00 PM.

We emphasize that donated items should be summer clothes, recreational items and work clothes.

Save your heavy coats & winter items for the fall sale. Please no large items, appliances or furniture.

Volunteers are welcome to help anytime during the day. This event will take place throughout First Lutheran Church.

Everything is Free!

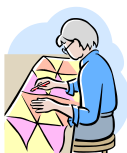


Got a Minute(s)?

The Trust committee has not been able to locate the first minutes book. Missing are minutes after the first meeting on November 10, 1982 until the May 28, 1990 meeting.

Apparently, there is a bound minute book somewhere!!

Anyone having any information, please call Frances at 842-3259 or 770-8502



**Lutheran World
Relief Quilt Sunday
May 7 at First Lutheran**



Articles not available at print time:
Pastor Alyssa and FLC Profit & Loss



The following children from the Parish have received instruction and part-took in their First Communion on April 9th at the 11:00 AM worship service. First Lutheran:

Nolan Dahl, Ethan Evanson, Derek Holen, Ben Honstein, Judd Johnsrud, Jory Lund, Max Paulson, Cashelynn Proffit, Aidan Pelton, Stran Sorenson, Gavin Wirtz.

Banks/Garden:
Dyan Lioi, Mary Rolfson and London Paulicheck





Growing, Together, in Christ.

"Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'" Luke 2:34-5

When Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple for dedication, they got an extra bonus. Simeon, an elder prophet in the church, prophesied over Jesus foretelling the purpose of his life, as well as warning Mary of the consequence of what Jesus was created to do; she too would suffer a devastating blow. Because I am a Bible geek and love the nit-noid details, I must share with you that the sword Simeon referenced was not the common Roman gladius, a two-foot blade with a short handle. Rather, it was the Thracian romphaia, a three-foot blade with a two-foot handle for powerful, two-handed thrusts or strikes. The romphaia is only referenced one other time in the Bible and that is in Revelation 1:16 where John describes Jesus coming in power and the word of God coming out of his mouth like a sharp, two-edged romphaia. It was a devastating weapon that painted a clear picture of the judgement Jesus would bring in the last days, as well as the suffering Mary would endure in Jesus life on earth. As any mother can tell you, suffering is part and parcel to the job description that God gave them.

Somebody was inspired by Paul Harvey's "So God Made a Farmer" to write "**So God Made a Mother.**" "And on the 6th day, God looked down on Adam in his planned paradise and said, "I need a nurturer." So God made

a mother. God said, "I need someone who feels deeply and loves fiercely, whose tears flow just as abundantly as their laughter, whose heart is warm and their ability to guide and set limits is strong. I need someone whose influence on those that they nurture is eternal." So God made a mother. God said "I need someone who can hear a sneeze through closed doors, in the middle of the night, three bedrooms away while daddy snores next to her, who could kiss the 'boo boos', scare away the monsters under the bed, clean up the middle-of-the-night accidents, and live off of four hours of interrupted sleep. So God made a Mother. God said, "I need someone who can ride the roller-coaster of anxiety, hope, fear, and pride with an outward appearance of calm assurance as she sends her child off to his first day of school. I need someone who will buy the school supplies, drive for the field trips, help study for the history tests, fill out the permission forms, clap from the back row of the spring musical, and help coach a sport she's never played. I need someone to teach a child to tie her shoes, make new friends, handle disappointments, shop for a prom dress, and drive a stick shift.

And when that child is 18, I need someone to ride that roller coaster of anxiety, hope, fear, and pride again as she sends her child away to college with the same calm confident outside exterior." So God made a mother. "I need somebody who realizes that children need to be allowed to grow, gain confidence in themselves and be encouraged to be independent individuals and accept the path they choose. Somebody who realizes that their job is one where the better they are the more surely they won't be needed in the long run. Somebody whose breath will be taken away when they visit their first newborn grandchild in the hospital and their daughter looks at them with loving eyes and says "I hope I can be the kind of mom you are, mom." So God made a mother."

This month of is full of those roller-coaster moments so it is appropriate to honor mothers in May. We have Confirmation Sunday where our 9th-graders affirm their faith in God, and their church attendance drops off causing mothers all kinds of anxiety. Then comes graduation, where many sons and daughters go off to college, far from home, where they get to live out their faith on their own terms, and their church attendance drops off in preference to work, study and the "occasional" party. Lots of suffering for mom's there as they worry about the decisions their kids are making. Then comes the day they get married, in the church hopefully, and they move off with the love of their life, and their church attendance drops off in preference to work, travel and spouse. And a mother's suffering continues until the day that their breath is taken away by that first grandbaby who is then baptized in the church, and church attendance picks up again, hopefully, as those new parents realize the roller-coaster they are facing and their need for God's help.

So, thank you, mothers for all the suffering you have endured. You deserve a vacation, a nice long month on a beach somewhere where you can forget all of life's troubles, and just sit in the sand, drinking a nice cool drink and listening to the waves lap at your feet. But who am I kidding, you are a mother, suffering is part and parcel to the job description. Try as you might, even on vacation in the most relaxing, beautiful environment, you will be riding the roller-coaster of anxiety, hope, fear, and pride as you worry and wonder at all your family is doing and accomplishing. Perhaps you can take comfort in knowing that even Mary, the mother of the perfect Son, went through the same thing, and God blessed her for it. Happy Mother's Day. Together in Christ,

Pastor Mark





Circle meetings.....

Wednesday, May 3

10:00 AM FLC WELCA General meeting
@ CE Building

Monday, May 8

5:00 PM Hope @ the Horizon

Tuesday, May 9

2:30 PM Garden @ the Horizon

Wednesday, May 10

1:30 PM Peace @ the church
2:00 PM Banks @ Darlene Wold's



Worship Assistants for May
Calling chair, Karla Quale

9:00 AM May 7-- Quilt Sunday

Reader: Barbara Curren
Greeters: Pete & Donna Rauser
Ushers: John & Janet Johnston
Comm: Bob & Deb Wisness
Coffee Hr: Pete & Donna Rauser

11:00 AM

Communion: Lyle & Sue Best

9:00 AM May 14—

Reader: Joy Patten
Greeters: Mark & Jess Anne Knutson
Ushers: JoLynn Pelton & Aidan/Avery
Coffee Hr: Dennis & Kathy Johnson

(Confirmation @ the 11:00 AM worship)

9:00 AM May 21

Reader: Frances Olson
Greeters: Jeff & Mindy Meyer, Max
Ushers: Jeff & Mindy Meyer, Max
Coffee Hr: Marcia Hellandsaas
Comm: Val Swensrud & Val Williams

11:00 AM – Class of 2017 Recognized

Communion: Ron & Karen Broderson

Summer Schedule Begins:

9:00 AM May 28

Reader: Lorri Honstein
Greeters: Jim & Joyce Tveter
Ushers: Steve & Val Williams
Coffee Hr: Karla Quale



First Lutheran Church Council
Highlights of April

Present: Ari Johnson, Gretchen Stenehjelm, Angie Moe, Erica Johnsrud, Craig Paulson, Megan Wirtz, Mark Sparby. Pastor Rob Favorite, Pastor Mark Honstein

Absent: Mikka Haugeberg, Stef Russell, Brandee Proffit, Steve Hoken, Pastor Alyssa Quade

Meeting was called to order by President Ari Johnson. Angie Moe gave devotions. Minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

***Finance report** was approved.

***Property:** G& R Controls will be in the area and will check the heating and cooling units. Glen Beard & Pastor Rob will check into the cost of fixing the Bell Tower issues. Cost of a rail where the handicap parking will be reported on next meeting. Pastor Rob received a letter from Rapid Fire Protection regarding the inspection of the fire sprinkler system. The council advised Craig to meet with the city building inspector to find a local company that does this kind of inspection. The sound bars have been installed in the Centennial Hall.

***Worship:** Will work on the Senior Recognition and the Confirmation Sundays. Hymns will be picked out for the next three months.

***Stewardship/Evangelism:** Gretchen reported on the upcoming "Camper Meals Sunday" – Cold Meal to pick up after the 9:00 AM worship or Hot Meal after the 11 AM worship. The council will decide what to do if the money raised is above the \$1000 for the sponsorship of a Camp Missionary. Angie reported that there were over 200 people attending the seminar – Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage.

***Youth/Education:** Decided to have a community service/fun day each month for kids in the community. The time of the event is from 1-5 PM the first Wednesday of each month, alternating with the Presbyterian Church.

Staff: Pastor Rob issued an invitation to the Living Faith Church of Williston on May 7th to meet with the members of the Macedonia Ministry. Pastor Mark reported that the Family Crisis Shelter is looking for families that would open their homes to victims of domestic violence.

***Other Business:** Ari has been contacted by Vercon's lawyer who has sent a final bill in the amount of \$184,000 for the building project. The Vercon lawyer would like to meet in Jamestown. Ari would like to invite them to come to Watford City to meet with the current council, the previous property committee, Glen Beard and the architect to discuss this issue. Ari will visit with Dan Kelly of the MCHS about our church delegates.

Next meeting: May 10 @ 6:00 PM



Confirmation Banquet
Wednesday, May 10th
Pictures @ 5:45 PM
Banquet @ 6:00 PM



Confirmation Sunday

The following will be confirmation on May 14th at First: Kell Helmuth, Jaden Quale, Trey Polivka, Kaleb Goff and Jacob Goff



LYO News

May 5 6:30 PM Pizza & Movie Night
(please bring \$5 each to help pay for the meal)

May 7 5:00 PM Progressive Meal

May 21 7:00 PM Planning meeting for National Convention in TX

