



March Events for Youth & Kids

Last month five families joined us for the FLC Super Bowl Party. With a big-screen, surround sound, and lots of food, our guests had a ton of fun. Our youth also had a blast at their February Lock In. Between Wii/PlayStation, competitions, games, food and movies, the youth also had devotions and team-building exercises. In February, the FLC Children's program hosted Sunshine Kids at the Presbyterian church as well as "Invite A Friend To Church" Sunday where the kids sang in church, families invited friends, we welcomed in new members, and hosted a pot-luck.

On March 18th, from 7:00-8:00 PM, the Youth will have a special parent-student meeting to discuss the upcoming mission trip to Pine Ridge SD. It is pertinent that all youth and parents be there, so they know what they are signing up for and/or what they are declining.

The 4th grade students at First Lutheran have their 1st Communion classes at 10:00 AM the Sundays of March 11th, 18th, and 25th. These 4th graders will partake in their first communion on Palm Sunday, the 25th, at the 11:00 AM Family Service. Emails were sent to all the parents. If you or someone you know, missed this memo, please

contact Pastor Alyssa or Pastor Rob ASAP.

Lastly, the Children's Program will be hosting Sunshine Kids at the First Lutheran Church from 1:30-4:00 PM, Wednesday March 7th; and again from 3:00-5:00 PM Wednesday March 21st.

The Konsors from the Baaken Oil Rush Ministry will speak to the kids about their ministry with the homeless and low-income families here in Watford City. For the service project, the kids will sort and assemble donations for their mission. This will be a great hands-on learning experience for the kids. Please encourage them to bring their friends.

Thanks, and blessings to you all,
Pastor Alyssa Quade



March Scripture Readers:

9:00 AM March 4
Reader: Frances Olson
9:00 March 11
Reader: Valerie Williams
9:00 AM March 18
Reader: Matt Beard
9:00 AM March 25
Reader: Dale Washburn



Women of the ELCA Circles

Wednesday, March 7
10:00 AM
FLC WELCA General mt. @ Church
Monday, March 12
5:00 PM Hope @ Horizon
Tuesday, March 13
2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon
Wednesday, March 14
1:30 PM Peace @ the church



First Lutheran Church Council

Highlights of February

Present: Glen Beard, Angie Moe, Craig Paulson, Megan Wirtz, Keith Helmuth, Erica Johnsrud, Jeff Meyer

Absent: Gretchen Stenehjem, Jeremiah Beard, Mikka Haugeberg, Steven Holen

Others present: Pastor(s) Rob Favorite, Mark Honstein and Alyssa Quade

Pastor Rob started the meeting with a prayer. Election of officers and committees followed.

2018 Officers:

President, Glen Beard
Vice-President, Angie Moe
Secretary, Craig Paulson

Committee Members:

Financial: Jeremiah Beard, Jeff Meyer
Keith Helmuth
with Treasurer, Ardyce Alveshere

Property: Glen Beard & Craig Paulson
with Advisor Pastor Mark

Worship: Erica Johnsrud, Angie Moe
with Advisor Pastor Rob

Stewardship/Evangelism:
Angie Moe, Gretchen Stenehjem
Advisor- Pastor Rob

Youth/Education: Mikka Haugeberg,
Craig Paulson, Megan Wirtz, Angie Moe,
Steve Holen

Next meeting:

Tuesday, March 13 @ 5:30 PM



First Lutheran Lenten Fellowship Supper will continue until March 21st at 5:30 PM. This is open to everyone wanting food and fellowship before the 6:15 Worship





Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!

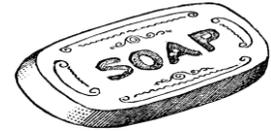
“I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure.” (Eric Liddell in “Chariots of Fire”)

One Sunday out at Garden Church, where I was preaching, I heard the song, “On Eagles Wings” being played. It reminded me of the Super Bowl, and the team that won. Of course, I was thrilled because this was a team that I had rooted for all my life, and who had not won a championship in 57 years. However, I thought about the horrible behavior of some of the Philadelphia fans, and the way they treated the Vikings fans as they entered the stadium in Philly for the NFC Championship, and all I can say is that it still bothers me that people have to behave that way, especially when “guests” come into your city. Instead, I would prefer to focus on the positive, especially on a few of the team players on the Eagles. We know all about Carson Wentz, a brilliant player, and the terrible injury that he incurred. And we also know about Nick Foles, the backup quarterback, who led his team to victory in the Super Bowl. What both these men hold in common is their strong faith in God. In fact, Nick Foles wants to become a pastor when his playing days are over. When you hear these young men talk, they credit God for any strength or success they have achieved. That commitment to their faith has rubbed off on the other athletes, and it was not unusual, during the season, to see many of them gathered together in prayer meetings and Bible study. These athletes along with many other Christian athletes don’t just talk the talk but walk the walk and live the Gospel of Christ in their everyday lives. So, what is it deep inside an athlete that truly makes a mighty man or woman of

God? It is not found in powerful muscles or the super smart brain, not even in great writing or great speaking or doing great charitable works in and of themselves. What makes a great man of God can be found in the *heart* and in the *legs* of man. For a man who gives his whole heart to God and runs after Him will find the Almighty lifting him up to a new level of purpose that creates a mighty man of God. So, why are we talking about sports athletes? Because they are BIG role models, especially among youths. Throughout history there have been other athletes who have walked the walked in their faith. Eric Liddell was one example. This Olympic runner is immortalized in the superb true-life movie “Chariots of Fire,” and his heart for God was evident. And he literally ran after Him, giving up the chance to win a 1924 gold medal in his best race, the 100-meter, because it meant racing on a Sunday. There is a quote in the film that cements Liddell’s relationship with God when he says, “... I believe God made me for a purpose ... He also made me fast. When I run I can feel His pleasure.” Liddell was the son of missionary parents in China and used the publicity he garnered in racing to promote the Gospel of Christ. He died as a POW in Japanese controlled China in 1945. Another such athlete was Jackie Robinson. The UCLA and Brooklyn Dodgers great was chosen by Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey to break the country’s baseball color barrier because of Robinson’s devotion to God. Although abused by other players for being black in a white man’s game, he didn’t fight back. It’s noted that Robinson kept his reliance on God and prayed every night for strength. The rest, as they say, is history. And then there was Mariano Rivera. Keeping with the baseball theme, the recently retired Rivera was an outstanding pitcher with the New York Yankees. He glorified God in an interview, noting: “Everything I have and everything I became is because of the strength of the Lord, and through him I

have accomplished everything. Not because of my strength. Only by His love, his mercy, and his strength.” Today, he is establishing a church in New Rochelle, N.Y., called Refugio de Esperanza, where his wife, Clara, is serving as pastor.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob



In May the First Lutheran WELCA will send quilts and soap to Lutheran World Relief.

Soap keeps hands clean, germs at bay and helps people present themselves with dignity. We will send the collection of the new bars of soap to Lutheran World Relief and they will deliver them to where the need is.

If you would like to donate new bars of any brand soap, in their original wrapping, bath-size bars are the highly preferred, please drop off at the church office or bring to church and place in the basket provided.

This fall in October, the concentration will be on quilts and school kits (as there will be good sales on school supplies in Aug/Sept.



We would like to welcome the newly baptized to Banks Lutheran Church:

Laney Thorne

Parents: CJ & Calli Thorne





Growing, Together, in Christ.

“¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

(Romans 5:1-5)

For Lent at First Lutheran, I am using the book, Reclaiming the L Word, to help people return to the Lord. In her book, pastor Kelley Fryer quotes the Apostle Paul, “*while we were still weak, Christ died for us,*” (**Rom 5:6-8**) which indicates a God who comes down to us, to help us out of the mess we’re in, and not a God who calls us to get out of the mess before meeting with us. This is a foundational understanding of the Gospel for Lutherans, that Jesus meets us at the cross, not in the temple. We profess a Savior who goes to any limit to reconnect with his creation, and meets us at the lowest point in life, to restore our relationship with Him. How awesome is that?

Perhaps this month we can use the study guide from the book to reconnect with this God who calls us to live differently from the world and meets us where we are at in order to help us along the way. Pastor Fryer identified five principles of Lutheran doctrine that will help us do just that.

1) Jesus is Lord. It is one thing to profess that Jesus is Lord, it is another to live your life with Jesus as Lord over it. **Read Matthew 18:1-4**. What was asked? What did Jesus answer? What is challenging about it? What is freeing? Now ask yourself, if you and your church were truly to confess “Jesus is Lord” and live it, what would you do differently? Are you up to it?

2) Everyone is Welcome. We like to say that we are welcoming, but there are limits even for us. Jesus had no limits in welcoming others. He welcomed the Samaritan woman at the well, the lepers on the road, tax collectors in their office, and even the criminal on the cross. **Read 1 Cor 1:26-31**. What was the problem? What did Paul say? Have you ever felt unwelcome? What will you do to welcome others this month?

3) Love Changes People. We prefer to be judge and jury over people rather than their public defender. Yet, God’s loves all people, and according to scripture Jesus is the eternal public defender. When we judge instead of love, we sit opposite Christ in that court room. **Read Acts 9:1-22**. How did both Paul and Ananias change after their encounters with Jesus? How can you and your church change to live the message that God’s love changes us?

4) Everybody has Something to Offer. Luther called it the priesthood of all believers. All of us have a vocation from God and when we see life in that regard, we see that God has called us to do something with it for His Kingdom. **Read Jeremiah 1:4-10**. How many excuses does Jeremiah give God? Do they sound familiar? What may God be calling you to do and how could the church help? Let someone know and get started.

5) The World Needs What We Have. Jesus told the disciples, “*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,*” and we can see the results of people living godless lives all around us. Whether Christians or not, they are living lifestyles that seem oblivious to God’s standards. **Read John 21:15-19**. Peter had really screwed up and abandoned Jesus, and the others to go fishing. And what did Jesus do about it? Once again, we see that Christ is willing to go to great lengths to restore a friend who was estranged. What relationships in your life need to be restored? What about your relationship with God? What is the biggest dream you could think of for the future of your church? Would you share it?

So, let us examine how we may apply our Lutheran doctrine to our lives in order to be more like Jesus. Are there ways in which we can better live our confession that Jesus is Lord? Are there things we can do differently to help all people feel that they are welcome? How can we show others that God’s love has changed us for the better, and can change them too? And what might God be calling you to do with the life, skills and situation God has given you? Finally, as we see the condition of the world around us deteriorating, what is keeping you from getting involved? Will you take it to God in prayer?

Let us pray,

Mighty God, we are your people! Give us a new vision for our lives and for our church. Fill us with creativity and courage. Set us free from everything that holds us back so that we can really be your body in this world. Restore our relationships with you and with others, and put us to work, Lord God! Speak to us and use us to make a difference in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Together in Christ, Pastor Mark



Thank You! 
RADIO
SPONSORS

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of February: Madeline Miller & Noreen Wollan in memory of Charles Miller, the Calkins and Aagvik families; In honor of Harlow, Hawkin & Hunter by Cordell & Caryn Wold; in memory of Helen Hamre by Owen & Laurie Hamre; in honor of Caroline Schwartz & Jane Swenson by the FLC Choir.

We need radio sponsors!

Please check your special dates and call the office (444-3244) to sponsor a Sunday in 2018.

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast.



**First Lutheran
Quilting Projects**

The First Lutheran Quilters make quilts to be sent through Lutheran World Relief to places around the world. It offers a bit of comfort to those that may not have much.

We also make baby quilts that are presented to our new members through their baptism. We honor our high school graduates with a quilt. We also donate quilts to people in the area that maybe comforted by one.

If you would like to help in our mission, we have many ways that you may do so. We meet year-round at 1:00 PM on Mondays at the church where we assemble the quilts, cut the squares and sew the binding. You do not need any sewing ability to help. Can you tie a knot or cut on a straight line? If not, we offer on the job training too!

If you are unable to come on Monday, we also need people to sew squares together. That can be done on your own time at home.

We need material to make the tops. Cotton or cotton blends are the preferred material. We also can use good sheets of medium to dark colors for the quilts backs. (We can't use white sheets)

Please consider joining us~
~ just come when you can.
It doesn't have to be every week.

