



July Worship Assistants

1st 9:30 AM

Reader: Lorri Honstein
 Greeters: Einar & Sonja Prestangen
 Ushers: David & Celest Berg
 Comm: Ron & Karen Broderson
 Coffee Hr: Joanne Faulkner

8th 9:30

Reader: Ari Johnson
 Greeters: Owen & Laurie Hamre
 Ushers: Lyle & Sue Best
 Coffee Hr: Marcie Feilmeier

15th 9:30 AM

Reader: Barbara Curren
 Greeters: Karla Quale
 Ushers: Mike & Stef Russell
 Comm: Myron & Marcia Hovet
 Coffee Hr: Carol Kummer

23rd 9:30

Reader: Gretchen Stenehjelm
 Greeters: Nyla Dahl
 Ushers: Kevin Sullivan & Brian Anderson
 Coffee Hr: Karn Pedeson

30st 9:30

Reader: Sue Jorgenson
 Greeters: David & Donna Lou Sanford
 Ushers: Kelly & Frances Olson
 Coffee Hr: Robin & Stacey Arndt



Women of the ELCA Circles

Tuesday, July 10

2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon

Wednesday, July 12

2:00 PM Banks WELCA @ the WC Library

The First Lutheran Peace and Hope Circles will have a joint summer session next month. More information will be in the August Clarion



Grace, peace all of you!

"I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him" (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

God's actions on all of us are constantly changing, reforming, or molding us in new and unique ways. Each day brings changes in our lives that are not always easy to see or that we even want to accept. When reading the Bible, we are constantly reminded of change as generations came and went.

As individuals, we change and bend to the world around us. New technologies challenge us into thinking new ways about our daily lives. Our early settlers here in McKenzie County would have been blown away by the "luxurious" lives we live now, and the busy pace of life as we transport ourselves all over the state and the world. These things were unthinkable one hundred years ago.

The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us of the seasons of life in which all things fall into the inevitability of change. *"To everything there is a season"* is a phrase that many of us might be familiar with. We witness births and deaths, laughter and sadness, gain and loss, war and peace. While we may feel this sense of constant change, our Scripture reminds us of eternal truths. *"Whatever God does, it shall be forever."* God's Word is not subject to the changing standards of this world. His principles are true in every generation regardless of customs, traditions, trends, or ways of thinking. God is a constant force in any generation.

The Bible teaches us that we are not to focus on the temporary aspects of earthly living, but to focus on the things of God instead, the things that are often

not seen. The world is in a constant state of flux; our community is as well.

Even though many of us come to church to seek sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of the outside, we struggle with the changes that sometimes occur within our own church. Even change in liturgy can be hard for some. But we need to remember, that all things of the world are temporary and are prone to decay or change of some sort. But we have faith in God's limitless power to direct his will for all of us, and to remember that his Word is eternal.

One of the 20th century's most noted pianists was Arthur Rubenstein. He was blessed with abundant natural abilities. But he felt that the key to success was not just talent alone, but also the willingness to be bold and to take risks. He said, *"What troubles me about so many of the younger musicians I hear is that they think small and act small. They are afraid to feel, afraid to make a mistake."*

The problem of thinking small and fearing change was common among the disciples of Jesus. After all, Peter tried to walk on water as Jesus commanded him to do so, but, by being distracted, failed this task. Jesus asked Peter, *"Why did you doubt?"* And, I suppose, that is a question that we could ask ourselves, *"Why do we doubt? Why do we resist doing something bold? Why are we afraid of change? The point is – maybe, we are to be bold in trusting God, and not to focus on our limitations and weaknesses. Maybe, we should just "walk in faith." Remember, nothing is impossible with God.*

So, why are we so hung up?

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob





First Lutheran Council Minutes

May 9, 2018

Present: Jeremiah Beard, Pastor Alyssa, Megan Wirtz, Gretchen Stenehjem, Pastor Rob, Craig Paulson, Angie Moe, Jeff Meyer, Keith Helmut

Absent: Erica Johnsrud, Glen Beard, Steven Holen, Mikka Haugeberg, Pastor Mark

Guest: Hayley Moe

Call to Order: Angie Moe called meeting to order at 6:06 PM. **Devotions:** Pastor Alyssa. **Motion to approve minutes:** Gretchen moved, Megan 2nd.

WELCA Report: Wondering about Egress window project and progress on it, Quilts delivered to Williston

Committee Reports

Finance: (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) Met and went over statements, Vercon was paid off and snowblower was paid for.

Property: (Glen/Craig) New Cleaners are working out well, John Quade hired as maintenance and grounds keeper, Jeremiah Moved to approve bid for egress windows at parsonage Jeff 2nd. Motion carried

Worship: (Erica/Angie) Met and picked out music

Stewardship-Evangelism: (Gretchen/Angie) Camp meal Sunday May 20th

Youth-Education: (Mikka/Megan/Craig/Steve) Pastor Alyssa will petition Trust Committee for funding for TV downstairs in the youth worship area to help with visual learning and music

Old Business: Getting bids for Egress windows at Parsonage, WELCA will help with funding for project and will also get other donations for the project

New Business: Keith moved to -Host Dave Ramsey 9-week course, led by John and Alyssa Quade, and to approach Trust committee for possible sponsorship, course will start in January at the current cost of 200 dollars per family, second by Angie, motion carried Megan moved to move Council meetings from Wednesday to Monday for the summer months and start meetings at 7PM, (June 11, July 9, August 13) Meetings will go back to Wednesday's in September and start at 6PM, Second by Keith, motion carried Note in Clarion about new Committee created, Personnel committee was created to help deal with anything related to the personnel involved with the church and Area Parish, includes Banks and Garden church Representatives, Craig Paulson, Erica Johnsrud, Zane Frick, Jesse Rolfson Craig moved to accept Pastor Alyssa as First Lutheran's Assistant Pastor only, relieving her of her area Parish responsibilities, second by Jeff, motion carried

Staff reports:

Pastor Rob: Area Parish committee met, Synod Convention May 31- June 2nd. Need to start looking for new Secretary

Pastor Mark: no report

Pastor Alyssa: Going to Synod Convention/ June 10th Doctor/ going to help mission group prepare for their mission trip

Motion to adjourn: Jeff moved, Keith 2nd

Devotions next meeting: Pastor Rob

Closed with Lord's Prayer Respectfully submitted, Craig Paulson, secretary



Thank You!

SPONSORS

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month June: in honor of Myron & Marcia Hovet's wedding anniversary by their children: Craig, Terrill, Elisabeth & families; in memory of Betty Boehm by Mitch Haugeberg family; in loving memory of Clayton & Terry Brenna by the Ollie Brenna family; Delores Quale in honor of her great-grandchildren.

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

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast.



First Lutheran's "Beyond Belief" VBS program had 16 preschool and 36 elementary students learning "God's love is bigger than we think", "God provides more than enough", "Our hope is real", and "Jesus is always with us" from the Bible stories of the prodigal son, Jesus feeding the 5,000, healing the paralytic and giving the Great Commission. Thanks to our UMM counselors: Riley Reed, "Riley" Riley, Cassidy Wright, Jonathan Baccam, Paige Dolan and Katelynn Schroeder. Thank you also to the FLC WELCA Circles for providing noon lunches for the counselors.





Growing, Together, in Christ.

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I'm sure, lives in you. For this reason, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:5-7)

As I write this letter, I'm sitting in the American Lutheran Church in Stanley, ND. I'm listening to a worship band of youth from our synod practice for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Imagine being a teenager playing in a band in front of 30,000 other teenagers and adults. THAT takes courage! And I am proud of these young Lutherans for being willing to step up and use their God-given musical talents. I can only imagine what the results will be as these teens come back with rekindled faith and a desire to do something locally for Jesus!

Before they go, many of them will be helping with Vacation Bible School, joining college age counselors from around the world. At Synod Assembly last month, we met many of the camp counselors. Many of them are local, and some of them came from faraway places like Australia, Madagascar and Cambodia. Traveling to a new country for the first time, to a camp in North Dakota that has poor cell service and few amenities, that too takes courage!

At the end of this month, a dozen of our youth will be going to the Pine Ridge Reservation. They will learn about the history and culture of the Lakota people, and will work to improve the economy by helping to build a small

business, a coffee kiosk, in Pine Ridge. It will be an eye-opening mission trip, and I imagine many of the youth will come back changed, more appreciative of what they have, and hungrier to help people for Jesus. It is something that will take courage, and these kids have stepped up to the challenge!

These are just a few ways our Lutheran Youth are living out their faith this summer. Much like Timothy, they are young and unsure of themselves. They need the encouragement Paul gave to Timothy in his letter. They are willing to step out, take a chance, and trust God for the results, and it is exciting! We might not have a lot of youth sitting in our pews on Sunday, but if we have a lot of youth serving others in Christ's name, I believe that is a cause to celebrate!

This fall, First Lutheran in Watford will have a new intern, Hallie Moe. Hallie is from Watford City and recently graduated from Roanoke College. She is discerning a call to ministry. To help in her discernment process, FLC has worked out an internship program for her to learn what it is like to be a minister whether of service as a deacon, or of Word and sacrament as a pastor. It is exciting to have a local gal pursuing such a process. Last month we had another local, Cora Wolff, who graduated from Watford City in 2008, return to give a missionary report and ask for support for her ministry in Cambodia. Amazing!

Last year the Living Lutheran magazine had an article on "Church in Rural America." The first headline in the article was, "A Changing Landscape," and it spoke about how multipoint parishes are becoming more popular. What it means to do church is changing across America and as rural churches make up a third of the denomination, it is important we adapt. So, what can we do differently to still do church, but maybe outside the walls?

Bill Tesch, the SD Synod Director for Evangelical Mission said, "Where (multipoint parishes) work best is when the congregations look at this as an opportunity to see "what more can we be doing in ministry as a partnership than we can't do alone?" When they take a missional approach toward it instead of desperation, they do better." How can we work together as a parish to help our youth live out their faith in new and fresh ways? How can we work together in partnership rather than in desperation?

Would we all be willing to let the youth lead a whole service, from the greeting to the benediction? Would we help brainstorm and contribute to more mission trips for our youth? Would we be willing to give financially for youth programs in other parishes in the Upper Missouri Conference to which our churches belong, or to the Western North Dakota Synod? There are lots of ways we can use the gifts God has given us to be a blessing to others.

I'd like to spend some time talking about this over coffee with you this summer. If you are interested, or have some ideas, give me a call. Let's get together to talk about it. I know our youth will be energized after these trips and I want to capitalize on their energy. I pray you'll join us in seeking ways to live out our faith in new and meaningful ways. Together in Christ,

Pastor Mark



We would like to welcome the newly baptized member of Banks Lutheran Church: Andee Lynn Nordeng daughter of Sy and Abby.

