

**Thank You!**



Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of July: The Banks WELCA in honor of Banks Church; Don & Virginia Lund in memory of their parents; Ruth Rolfson in memory of David Rolfson; Barbara Jorgenson in memory of loved ones; in memory of Norman Johnson by his grandchildren, Nancy, Ari, Martine and Alyssa.

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.



**UMM Sweet Corn Festival & Quilt Auction**  
**Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sweet Corn Feed - 11:45 - 3 PM  
Silent Auction - Noon-3:30 PM  
Live Auction starts at 1:00 PM  
Family Festival Activities- Noon +

If you cannot attend on August 12<sup>th</sup> please consider a donation online to help UMM keep the cost down for Summer Camp for the hundreds of kids, they serve. CampUmm.org  
Or... PO Box 111, Epping, ND 58843



**Women of the ELCA Circles**

**Wednesday, August 1**  
10:00 AM FLC WELCA General Meeting

**Tuesday, August 7**  
2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon  
2:00 PM Banks @ Tobacco Gardens with Carol Moore as hostess

FLC WELCA Circles will begin meeting in September.



Now is the time to get supplies for Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

- Needed are:**  
**Notebooks (70-page count)**  
**Blunt scissors**  
**Ballpoint pens – no gel ink**  
**Pencils**  
**Sharpener**  
**Erasers - 2 ½ inches**  
**Rulers with inches & centimeters**  
**Crayons (16 or 24 count)**

Bring donations to the church and place them in the basket on the table in the narthex.



**FLC WELCA**  
**Summer Bible Study Monday,**  
**August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bible Study**  
**in the Centennial Hall at FLC**

**8:30 AM- Coffee & Fellowship**  
**9:00 AM – Noon – Bible Study**  
**Noon lunch provided!**

Please bring your Bible, Lutheran Woman Today magazine (June - July/ August issue) offering and a friend! If you do not have your LWT issues we will have extras!



**August Worship Assistants**

**5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM**  
 Reader: Ron/Karen Broderson  
 Greeters: Grace Alex  
 Ushers: Glen & Anne Beard  
 Comm: Lloyd & Ardyce Alvshere  
 Coffee Hr: John & Janet Johnston

**12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM**  
 Reader: Dale Washburn  
 Greeters: Gene & Elaine Fedorenko  
 Ushers: Cameron & Jan Dodge  
 Coffee Hr: Kenneth & Milana Berg

**19<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM**  
 Reader: Charlotte Schilke  
 Greeters: Justin & Cari Forbes  
 Ushers: Steve & Elizabeth Holen  
 Comm: Mark & Tracy Christensen  
 Coffee Hr: Dale & Joy Patten

**26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM**  
 Reader: Matt Beard  
 Greeters: Orrin & Joyce Moe  
 Ushers: Terry & Angie Moe  
 Coffee Hr: Ron & Lanae Roos





Back on June 26, twelve of our churches' youth and three adult leaders left the confines of Watford City, flew from Dickinson, and arrived in Houston, TX later that afternoon. Before the trip took place, much planning had to occur – hotel, flights, reservations, registration, and daily agenda, etc. I reflected upon how much impact this trip would be for those in our group. We were comprised of those who were ready to enter college within the next couple of months along with those just entering high school. It was quite a span of maturity levels. I was a bit anxious as to how it would all work, how twelve young people of various ages could begin to jell as a team. I wondered what sort of impact the experience would have on each of them, and what they might recall years later in reflection of that experience. And so, for the first time since 2009, our youth went to the National Youth Gathering for ELCA Lutherans included with 30,000 plus youth from around the country. My vision was to plan, to expose, and then to let go. Letting go meant that I would not hover over our youth like some mother hen, but to expose them to new experiences by leading them in a direction but letting them explore and discover. Every evening upon return to our hotel, after having been stimulated by music and speeches in the NRG Stadium, we gathered for final devotions and to encourage each of our youth to write in the journals that were supplied to them. And they did. Because none of us adult leaders had access to what they wrote, we

may never know the impact that the Houston experience had on each of them. Every day was planned but allowed for flexibility. We arrived in the late afternoon of June 26, and after hotel room assignments were completed, we gathered to eat and then to come together for team-building activities to get to know each other. Swimming in the hotel pool was part of that. The next day we began to understand what Houston heat and humidity was all about. We walked to the local bus stop, rode the bus, and then spent the remainder of the morning at the Downtown Aquarium, a wonderful place to observe fish life, to touch sting rays, and to take a train ride into a building holding a tank filled with sharks and a sawfish. We walked from the Aquarium to the local train station to take the train down to NRG Park which holds the NRG Convention Center, the NRG Arena, and NRG Stadium, home of the Houston Texans football team. From Wednesday afternoon through Sunday morning nearly all of our activities took place in one of these buildings. In the Arena and Center there were a wide variety of games, opportunities to hear or perform music, exhibits with social and religious issue themes, and, of course, there were concessions. Here is where the opportunities to explore took place. We gathered for Bible Studies, and to hear theologians express their thoughts. In the early evening we walked as a group outside in the heat over to the Mass Gathering in the Stadium to hear music of various types, but all with a Christian message. We heard speakers, many of whom had personal stories of struggle that they had to encounter in their lives, and we got to meet and engage with people from the many states that represented this gathering. It was quite the time. In addition, we were

bussed to a suburb of Houston to do our Service Day project. We were split as a group for the morning. Some stayed at a thrift shop reorganizing store items and moving furniture. Others went to a food distribution center to help with the food and to donate books to those families who had children in their vehicles as they drove up to collect their food. Others entertained the children of volunteers at the site. On Friday, all the youth from the Western ND Synod gathered at another hotel to spend time in worship together. One of our youth, Amelia Honstein, had volunteered to be a part of a band that was put together to play at worship. By Sunday morning worship, we were all tired, and were ready to go home. On Saturday night, after another stimulating day, we gathered for a final time to reflect on what were the best and worst moments of the gathering, to pray, and for each of our youth to know that they were a significant part of God's greater whole as they undertook this journey. I was proud of all of them. Those who went on this trip included Mikka Haugeberg, Avery Sundeen, Gracie Johnsrud, Kaylin Monsen (Arnegard), Shayla Rolla (Banks), Amelia Honstein, Trey Polivka, Jacob Goff, Kaleb Goff, Neil Dahl, Dakota Frick, and Canyon Tschetter. Pastor Alyssa, Hayley Moe, and I were the adult leaders. Finally, the best sentiment about the trip was expressed by Gracie Johnsrud in a letter to the congregation. She wrote, "I feel so blessed to have been able to go on this trip with the most amazing group of people. My life is forever changed because of the memories made in Houston, Texas."

*Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob*



August 2018

**Staff reports:**

Pastor Rob: Karen retiring, need replacement, part time job, Area Council decision

**Motion to adjourn:** Gretchen moved, Jeremiah second, motion carried

Next meeting Mon Aug. 13 @ 7 pm



**First Lutheran Church  
Council**

**Highlights of June**

**Present:** Jeremiah Beard, Pastor Alyssa, Megan Wirtz, Gretchen Stenehjem, Pastor Rob, Craig Paulson, Angie Moe, Jeff Meyer, Keith Helmuth, Glen Beard, Pastor Mark, Steven Holen

**Absent:** Erica Johnsrud, Mikka Haugeberg

**Guest:** John Quade  
Call to Order: Glen @ 7:01 PM

Devotions: Pastor Rob  
Motion to approve minutes:  
Gretchen moved, Jeff second,  
motion carried

**WELCA Report:** Ann Beard-  
Update on Egress windows in the  
Parsonage, WELCA will pay for a  
majority of the project.

**Committee Reports**

**Finance:** (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) No motions, met and everything seems to be pretty much in order

**Property:** (Glen/Craig) No Motions—Egress windows will be installed in August at the Parsonage, John Quade is doing a good job with the grounds

**Worship:** (Erica/Angie) No motions

**Stewardship-Evangelism:** (Gretchen/Angie) No motions-

**Youth & Education:** (Mikka/Megan/Craig/Steve) No motions—VBS coming up, Texas LYO trip coming up

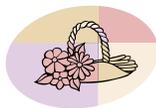
**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Need to start thinking about who will replace Mikka



**Text study with Pastor Rob**

Each Tuesday at 1:30 PM at FLC, a study of the following Sunday's scripture texts. All are welcome to come and explored the lessons for Sunday's service.



**IN MEMORY OF.....**

***Building Fund***

Merle Daley \$ 680.00  
Jay Van Dyke \$ 500.00

**WELCA Quilters**

Merle Daley \$ 100.00



**We would like to welcome the newly baptized member of First Lutheran Church:**

Noelle and Amelia Bulzomi daughters of Monty & Chelsea Bulzomi



**McKenzie County Food  
Pantry**

There are different ways to donate to the Food Pantry.

Monetary Donations can be **mailed or dropped off** at the McKenzie Co. Extension Office or First Lutheran Church.

**Food Donations:** if it's a large donation, call 444-3451 and someone will meet you at First Lutheran Church or drop off small amounts at the church.





## Growing together in Christ

*“I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, & did not let my foes rejoice over me.*

*<sup>2</sup> O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, & you have healed me.*

*<sup>3</sup> O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit*

*<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.*

*<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. (Ps 30:1-5)*

One of the most popular hymns in Germany, second only to “A Mighty Fortress” is the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God.” It is a wonderful hymn of praise that came during one of the darkest times in Germany, the Thirty Years War. And it was written by someone who endured the worst of what the war had to offer, a German Lutheran pastor by the name of Martin Rinkhart. Pastor Rinkhart first wrote it as a table prayer, but it became widely sung at many state functions including the Peace of Westphalia which ended the war.

*“Now thank we all our God, with hearts & hands & voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers’ arms, has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love & still is ours today.”*

Martin was born in Eilenburg, a neighbor town to Luther’s Eisleben, & became a pastor in 1610. In 1617, to mark the centennial of the Reformation, Pastor Rinkhart wrote 7 dramas & 66 hymns to commemorate the event. All of these were lost during the 30 Years War which started the following year. In 1630, at the height of the war, Martin wrote this hymn as a table prayer, reminding his flock to thank God, even in hard times.

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all harm in this world and the next.*

In 1637, Pastor Rinkhart was the only minister left in Eilenburg. The walled city was a place where people tried to take refuge, but it was also a prime spot for a base camp and was constantly being overrun by the opposing armies of Sweden (Lutheran) & Austria (Catholic). The city was decimated from constant seige, starvation, and plague. In the course of one year, pastor Rinkhart performed 4,500 funerals, burying as many as 40-50 people a day including his own wife. It was a monstrous task that likely gave the second verse of his hymn new meaning where death seemed to be the only escape from harm in such a perplexing time.

*All praise & thanks to God, the Father now be given, the Son, the Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth & heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

What better way to take one’s eyes off of their suffering than to put them on the Eternal God in Heaven? King David used the same approach in Psalm 30. He was near death and God restored him, which brought on David’s praise and a reminder to us all that *“weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning!”* David knew that when seasons of grief come, they do not last. Whether it is an invading army, a terrible illness, or the consequences of our own sin, the suffering we endure in this life does not last, and it pales in comparison to eternity.

So, sisters and brothers in Christ, let us reach out to those who are hurting from the storms of July, from difficult diagnoses from the doctor, or simply from the consequences of mistakes they have made, and let us give them hope as well as a hand up. And if you are the one hurting, take comfort in God’s word and do not be too Norwegian to let us know, we’d like to offer you hope and a hand up as well.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Mark

