



**Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!**

After the Battle of Waterloo in 1814, the Duke of Wellington from England, who defeated Napoleon of France, was asked at the end of his life if he had any regrets. He said that if he had a regret, it was that he did not give more praise to others. An anonymous writer once wrote, "Flatter me and I may not believe you, criticize me and I may not like you, ignore me and I may not forgive you, praise me and I will not forget you." There is something about praise that never leaves our hearts or minds. Praise is a wonderful thing to hear, and yet, we are called to be encouragers to one another for the sake of the Gospel. One of the great encouragers in the New Testament was a man named Barnabas, a disciple of Paul. Barnabas was one of those people that encouraged people in faith and was a great help to Paul, yet he gets very little notice in Scripture. Maybe that's the way he intended it to be; that he preferred to work behind the scenes and not be an attention seeker. Barnabas actively lived out his faith and encouraged others to persevere in the faith in "remaining true to the Lord Jesus with all their hearts." Barnabas felt that a person's heart would determine the direction of one's life. If the Gospel were to take root and firmly establish one's life, then a person's heart must be devoted first and foremost to Christ. Barnabas never worried about his reputation or about ever-present danger. His concern was living in Christ, building up the Kingdom of God, and furthering the Gospel in order to build up newly converted Christians. He did this through encouragement and praise. He saw the potential in others when those around him saw only danger, problems, and

failure. He retained a positive mindset that was deeply rooted in the Gospel. The question I would ask is this – What is our mindset in terms of building up the Kingdom of God? Where do our hearts lie? On Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, First Lutheran Church engaged itself in the annual "God's Work, Our Hands" service project. It was agreed upon by the Property Committee and the Stewardship/ Evangelism Committee that we work together, as a congregation, to clean up the church building. Rally Sunday had occurred, and the enthusiasm was evident. Then, a meal was put forth before work was undertaken. There were several "stations" in which a person could volunteer, and I was deeply impressed by the effort and enthusiasm of our members by those who invested their time to do so. All the people in our church who engaged in these projects truly did God's work with their hands. It reminded me of the efforts of Barnabas, who did God's work without expecting anything in return. But as for me, I will not do as the Duke of Wellington neglected to do. I extend full praise for the great work that everyone did. It was wonderful to see how many people are really invested in our church, and in building up the Kingdom of God. I thank you all for the great job that you did. And now we can continue to live out the life that Christ intends us to live.

***Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob***



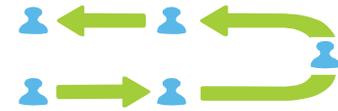
*In memory of ....*

**Memorial fund:**

**John Kirkland** \$150.00

**Building Fund:**

**Ethelyn Basol** \$575.00  
**John Kirkland** \$690.00  
**Belinda Quinel Fadness** \$500.00  
**Stephanie Ryan** \$500.00



**Worship Assistants  
October**

**07 - 9:00 AM**

Reader: Charlotte Schilke  
 Greeters: Einar & Sonja Prestangen  
 Ushers: Brian Anderson/ Kevin Sullivan  
 Comm: Myron & Marcia Hovet  
 Coffee Hr: JoAnne Faulkner

**11:00 AM**

Greeters: Tell Sorenson  
 Ushers: Aubrey Wollan  
 Communion: Kanyon Tschetter

**14 - 9:00 AM**

Reader: Gretchen Stenehjem  
 Greeters: David & Donna Lou Sanford  
 Ushers: David & Celeste Berg  
 Coffee Hr: Marcy Feilmeier

**11:00 AM**

Greeters: Nolan Dahl  
 Ushers: Ethan Evanson

**21 - 9:00 AM**

Reader: Sue Jorgenson  
 Greeters: Gary & Artis Stevenson  
 Ushers: Ken & Carol Sanford  
 Comm: Kelly & Frances Olson  
 Coffee Hr: Arlene Johnson/ Arlys Frazier

**11:00 AM**

Greeters: Derek Holen  
 Ushers: Judd Johnsrud  
 Communion: Neil Dahl

**28 - 9:00 AM**

Reader: Kathleen Johnson  
 Greeters: Cory & Rene Johnson  
 Ushers: Mike & Stef Russell  
 Coffee Hr: Karn Pederson

**11:00 AM**

Greeters: Jory Lund  
 Ushers: Max Paulson





**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual WELCA rummage sale and lunch this year. It was great to see all of the familiar faces, as well as many new ones, both those who helped with the process, and also those who benefited from the tables of items and the delicious lunch. The reasons for our rummage sale are many:

• **Service to the community:**

Stories abound of those who found either the one perfect item to those who filled a cart with items they needed for their family. Heartwarming stories!

• **Service to our members:**

Our church members - and other members of our community - are able to donate items that can be repurposed and appreciated by others. Thank you for your time spent in organizing your closets and helping to fill tables for our sale!

• **Fundraising**

The sale and lunch are fundraisers for WELCA projects. The unofficial proceeds this year are about \$ 1313.00 from the lunch and \$ 4987.00 from the rummage sale, the expenses still to be subtracted from these amounts. Our silent auction items have not been reported yet.. WELCA members have discussed several uses for these funds, both in our church and parsonage, and will be working on those projects going forward.

• **Fellowship**

Our church members can gather, work together and enjoy catching up over a cup of coffee (or over tables of items to be sorted and marked!) How we appreciate those of you who donated food, took a shift in the kitchen, emptied boxes and filled boxes and smiled through it all! A special thank you to the men of our congregation who gave their time to set up and clean up. All very gracious and giving examples of fellowship and stewardship. Thank you for a very successful event!



Operation God's Child Samaritan Christmas boxes will be available in the Narthex of the church. Please consider this ministry to bring happiness to a needy child's Christmas. The boxes can be filled with small items, not expensive, as a family project, spreading love and joy to a child in need.

Please return your box to the church by Sunday, Nov.18<sup>th</sup>. Boxes will depart from Watford City by noon on that day. Please check the table in the narthex of the church for more information. YOU will be helping a child have a wonderful Christmas!



**Women of the ELCA**

**Circles to meet in October**

**Wednesday, 3**

10:00 AM FLC WELCA General mt.@ church

**Monday, 8**

5:00 PM Hope @ the Horizon

**Tuesday, 9**

2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon

**Wednesday, 10**

1:30 PM Peace @ the church

2:00 PM Banks @ Sue Wold's

**Thank You !**



**SPONSORS**

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of September: Kevin & Jackie Sullivan and Duane & Melissa Frick in memory of Levi Kenneth Frick, Darlene, Jeff & Kelly Sullivan and Kenneth Thomas; Scott & Jane Swenson in honor of our Sunday School teachers; the Ollie Brenna family; Craig & Barb Sorenson in memory of Homer & Alice Sorenson, Emile and Mabel (Botner) Sorenson; JB & Donna Johnson in memory of loved ones.

Please check your special dates and call the office (444-3244) to sponsor a Sunday in 2019.

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast.





## Hayley Moe as the newest member of the staff at First

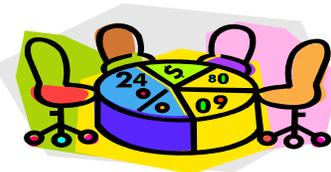
While I have lived in Watford City for most of my life, reinventing my life since graduating college has been both a smooth transition and a rollercoaster! I graduated in May from Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia with a degree in Religious Studies and a minor in Communications. Throughout college, I was provided many opportunities to stretch my mind and understanding. I went with a class to Israel where we walked and talked where Jesus preached and lived his ministry. I lived in Washington DC and worked in shelters and food kitchens, learning perspectives from people with different experiences than me. I visited Nicaragua with a professor who used to live there, and we built latrines while interacting with his family. This class focused on what it means to help and how helping can hurt if approached with the wrong mindset.

As the intern at First Lutheran, I will be following the pastors through their many jobs in and around Watford City. I will be attending Grief Share, helping in the office, visiting congregation members and seeing what life is like in this profession. I will be preaching and leading Bible studies as well as learning from everyone I encounter. During my last five months of the internship, I will be with the youth!

While I am here, I also hope to provide another perspective of what I've learned throughout my experiences.

I want to tell you about the people I hung out with in DC who showed me the unintentional ways I judged or categorized people. I want to tell you why the Peter walking on water story my favorite from the Bible and I want to tell you the funny things my middle schoolers did during my time at a church in Salem. I want to hear your stories on when you were the happiest or when you were the angriest at God. I want to share questions about God with you and talk about what it's like to live on this earth because I think that this all is super amazing and super hard, all in one. I'm not here to flip everything upside down, but I will definitely be making mistakes and probably make a few people uncomfortable. However, I hope by talking with you and living life with you, our perspective and conversations will transform. I believe in a radical God that loves us and proves it with Grace for all of us. Let's talk about it.

### God's Blessings! Hayley



## First Lutheran Church Council August 13, 2018

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

**Call to Order:** 7:08 By Glen

**Devotions:** Glen

Motion to approve minutes: Steve Moved, Jeff second, motion carried

**WELCA Report:** September rummage sale

**Finance:** (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) Things are as they should be for the time of year, pretty normal

**Property:** (Glen/Craig) Waiting on a diagram of the parking lot striping before a decision is made, Insurance is in progress with Pastor Mark leading charge, (making sure we have enough coverage)

Bell tower still needs to be fixed

Rally Sunday is September 9<sup>th</sup> and planning on having a work day at the church after the 11 am service with lunch provided.

**Worship:** (Erica/Angie) Music is picked  
**Stewardship-Evangelism:**

(Gretchen/Angie) Rally Sunday, workday, pizza lunch for those who stay, Gretchen possible sponsor for the pizza.

Direct deposit looks like is more in-depth than we originally thought, still have survey to see if its wanted

**Youth & Education:** (Pastor Alyssa/Megan/Craig/Steve) Pine Ridge mission trip was a success

Motion to approve the T-shirt design for LYO and Rally Day- Gretchen moved, Jeff second- motion carried

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Replacement is picked, it will be Ashley Holen

Still need a replacement for Karen, Area Parish Counsel will do interviews, in October

Looking into putting a conference line in the conference room.

### Staff reports:

**Pastor Rob:** 2 Weddings in Sept.. Medora Retreat

**Pastor Mark:** 2 weddings in Sept. Medora retreat

**Pastor Alyssa:** LYO Pine Ridge trip a great experience, kids were great.

**Motion to adjourn:** Gretchen moved, Steve second- carried Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Devotions next meeting:** Jeff

**Next meeting:** Sunday, Oct. 14 @ 6pm Secretary, Craig Paulson

### Committee Reports





from Pastor Alyssa

**Dear Parents of young children,**

At baptism, we all promise to raise children in the faith through Christian fellowship & teaching. We encourage you to bring your children to worship. To not do so would be like sitting down to family dinner but excluding the kids. Sure, their manners might not be elegant, but we welcome them because they are a part of God's family. Being with family is how we learn to be a family. Worship is no different.

Young people giggle, poke, ask questions, and swing their legs because they are children. They learn about worship and how to participate in worship through experience, observation, and by being welcomed into the community.

- **Children** learn to worship by being taught that they have a place in the community of the Church.
- **Children** learn to worship by seeing, hearing, feeling, and even smelling the sanctuary as a place of welcome and worship.
- **Children** learn to worship by being around other children in the worship space.
- **Children** learn to worship by watching parents & other adults sing, pray, participate, and give offerings.

Bringing kids to church can be frustrating. Their behavior can make it hard for parents and others to worship. Then again, many facets of parenting can be challenging. It's the rewards which make it all worthwhile. While we do not want our children to be disruptive or hamper the worship of others, all of us together need to remember that

children are not only the church of the future, they are the church of the present and are to be treasured as such.

**Suggestions for Adults with Children:**

- If possible, arrive early to find a good place to sit.
- Take advantage of our 'children's bags', located in the back of the sanctuary.
- Bring snacks.
- Worship *with* your child, guiding them through the service so they can feel a part of the worship.
- Sometimes kids need a break from worship. That's why we have created a cry/play room in the back of the sanctuary.

**Suggestions for Adults without Children:**

- Be helpful to parents by not making them feel awkward or unwanted.
- Acknowledge children by smiling or nodding their direction to show you appreciate their presence.
- In fact, make a child's presence a part of worship by inviting them to sit by you, learning their names, praying for them, and taking interest in them.
- Make a special point to share the Peace with them.
- Find a child before or after church, make eye contact, introduce yourself, and tell them you are glad to see them and will be looking for them next week. You might be the reason they look forward to returning.

Jesus said, *"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."* [Matthew 19:14]



**LYO**

Our youth have had a blast with Paintball, Lake Day, Gaga Ball, and 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter events. We hope your youth will join us in October for more activities! Minot day, which includes High Air indoor trampoline and Casting Crowns concert, will be October 6<sup>th</sup>. Normal LYO will continue on Sundays at 7:00 PM.

**Sonshine Kids:**

October 3<sup>rd</sup> is FLC's Sonshine Kids Service Day from 1:15 – 4:00 PM. We will be cleaning ditches and playing at the park. October 12<sup>th</sup> Sonshine Kids will take place at the First Presbyterian Church from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.



Want to be a part of something fun? Check out joining the FLC Praise Band... practice is 7:00 PM every Tuesday evening.





*“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if it loses its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.” (Mark 9:49-50)*

Salt shows up in some pretty interesting ways in the Bible. In Genesis 19:26, Lot’s wife looks back as they are leaving the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and, for disobeying the angel of the Lord, she turns into a pillar of salt. And we see salt again in Exodus 30 where the Lord instructs Moses to make incense with salt, frankincense and sweet spices, and place it before the covenant in the tent of meeting. And in Leviticus 2:13, the Israelites are command to not omit the salt of the covenant from the grain offerings. But then in Numbers 18:19, this salt of the covenant phrase is changed to a covenant of salt.

Initially the salt was used in incense as a pleasing aroma to God, but in Numbers the use of the covenant of salt seems to refer to the preserved, perpetual nature of the covenant with God since salt was a preservative then as it is now. Then, in Deuteronomy 29:22-23, Moses warns that if God’s laws are disobeyed, then they will see the devastation of the land, *“all its soil burned out by sulfur and salt, nothing planted, nothing sprouting, unable to support any vegetation, like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord destroyed in his fierce anger.”* So, salt was a seasoning, a preservative and a purifier in that day and age.

The Israelites got their salt from evaporating the water of the Dead Sea or by extracting it from the salt beds south of the sea, and in Ezekiel’s vision of paradise in the last days, the prophet saw a stream of water coming up and overflowing the threshold of the Temple, becoming a great river of life as it flows toward the Dead Sea, sweetening its salty waters. But, as the prophet says, “its swamps and salt pans will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt.” (Ezekiel 47:11) I find it interesting that there will even be salt in paradise.

As I said, there are a lot of interesting references to salt in Scripture, then along comes Jesus and he is recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke saying, *“Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?”* In Mathews gospel, Jesus adds, “You are the salt of the earth,” and in Luke’s gospel, Jesus says, *“Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”* This part seems clear, that Jesus is referring to believers as salt, meaning the seasoning and preservative of God’s covenant in the world. We should season our community with the Gospel and preserve it for generations to come. But what does it mean to have salt in ourselves?

Along with seasoning and preservative properties, in the Bible salt also came to symbolize purity. Where leaven would break down what it was put into, salt would counteract the leaven and purify or preserve what it was put into. Salt also signified wisdom, perfection, durability and fidelity. Another custom in the middle east and Russia is to bring bread and salt whenever visiting since salt is a sign of hospitality. Who knew salt meant so much, right? But then, in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus transitions from talking about doing whatever you can to avoid sin and avoid causing others to sin thereby avoiding the fires of hell by saying that everyone would be salted with fire. What does that mean?

In an attempt to explain what Jesus meant, historical copies of the Gospel include references to Leviticus 2:13 by rephrasing Mark 9:49 to say, *“For every sacrifice will be salted with salt,”* or, *“For everyone will be tested with fire.”* What in the world would Jesus mean by this? Well, in light of his warnings to avoid sin and the consequences of it, it seems logical to me that Jesus would call Christians to season the world with the Gospel of Christ, to spread God’s love around and to keep themselves pure because as the Bible says, God is a refining fire and will purify all of his followers. We don’t like to think of being purified by fire, but we do like to be pure in our thoughts, motives and actions. So, it is important that we “have salt in ourselves.” That salt is the Gospel, the truth that Jesus died for our sins, and for the sins of all around us; that God forgives us of those sins, and of all the sins of those around us; and that God has prepared us a place with him in heaven for all eternity, just as God has prepared a place for all who believe in Jesus for all eternity. Living in this truth will keep us pure as we walk and talk with those who are also loved by God.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, may we all be salty characters, sprinkling God’s love in our families and communities, flavoring our lives with God’s love and forgiveness so that all who get a taste of us, get a taste of what Jesus has done for us and all who believe.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Mark



First Lutheran Choir practices on Wednesday evenings –if you are interesting we would love to have you join us. Please check with Caroline Schwartz for the time of practice.

