



Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!

Courage – what is it, and why is it so important? A theologian named Charles Swindoll wrote this, “Courage is not limited to the battlefield or the Indianapolis 500 or bravely catching a thief in your house.

The real tests of courage are much deeper and much quieter. They are the inner tests, like remaining faithful when nobody’s looking, like enduring pain when the room is empty, like standing alone when you’re misunderstood.”

As faithful servants of Christ, from where do we find the courage to live each day? Luckily, we have Scripture to guide us on our journey through life. Biblical courage is the ability to do something brave out of a motivation of the heart. This kind of courage relies upon the power of God to strengthen each of us believers, and then realizing that each of us is blessed as a child of God, which no one can take away.

There are verses that inspire me to face each day as it comes. For instance, one of these verses comes from Deuteronomy 31:6, which says, *“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”* Another similar verse comes from Joshua 1:9, which says, *“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* And there is one from Psalm 27:14, *“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.”*

Upon self-examination I can imagine that we would all admit to ourselves that life can be hard. For some, it is harder than it is for others.

We need to be mindful of that as we serve those for whom life is very hard. And “be not afraid,” as Jesus would say to each of us.

However, fearing God did not mean to be afraid of the Almighty. Absolute reverence for all things Godly was something that all of us need to consider deeply as we pray. A man by the name of John Newton considered this many years ago. For him, all it took was to be out at sea on a ship for nine terrifying hours, as a storm raged, to learn to pray. He said, “I concluded my sins were too great to be forgiven. I waited with fear and impatience to receive my doom.” He figured out that his fear was God’s means to get his attention. Later, he wrote the words to the familiar hymn, “Amazing Grace,” in which he included the verse, “It was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.” For the remainder of his life, Newton became a man who lived without fear of what others thought of him. He had turned his life over to God, and lived in the world, but was not of the world, because it was grace that taught his heart to have absolute reverence for God and to live his life accordingly. He gained the right kind of courage.

In Acts 3-4, Peter and John had already been transformed by the gift of the Holy Spirit which gave them uncommon courage to preach the Gospel without fear of being arrested or beaten, which they were anyway. When released, they praised God that they had suffered in the name of Jesus. And yet, for us, what will enable us to be strong and wait for the guiding hand of God in our lives?

That might be something we all need to reflect on.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob



Happy Fall!

People of Watford City-I need your help. This Thanksgiving, there will be a community meal held at the Intermediate School ON THANKSGIVING DAY and we need volunteers! This meal will be free to the community and happen from 11:30 am – 4:30 pm. Volunteer duties would include anything from helping ask for donations and turkey sponsors, asking companies and businesses for donations or potential volunteers before and during the event. Duties also include working the event itself, asking friends, congregation members, classmates and co-workers if they would like to volunteer or advertising a free, warm meal on Thanksgiving. Knowing that it is a lot to ask of people to work on Thanksgiving, I will try and remember that if we can provide a true community meal for anyone whose families aren’t able to be in Watford; it’s worth it.

If you are up to the challenge, please email me at haylmoe3@gmail.com or show up to one of our four volunteer meetings to learn more about what we need and what you can do to help.

Volunteer meeting dates are:

Monday, October 29 at 5pm

Tuesday, October 30 at 12 pm

Thursday, November 1 at 5 pm and 6 pm (choose one)

Sunday, November 4 at 5 pm

Can’t be there on Thanksgiving Day but can give a donation or have materials we might need? Email me at haylmoe3@gmail.com.





Worship Assistants

November calling chair, Sylvia Leiseth

Nov 4 9:00 AM

Reader: Matt Beard
 Greeters: Doug & Lori Nordby
 Ushers: Mitch & Lynn Haugeberg
 Comm: Jim & Joyce Tveter
 Coffee Hr: Marcia Hellandsaas

11:00 AM

Greeter: Koen Helmuth
 Usher: Tyler Leiseth
 Communion: Kanyon Tschetter

Nov 11 9:00 AM

Reader: Dale Washburn
 Greeters: Steve Sanford
 Ushers: Tim & Sue Jorgenson
 Coffee Hr: Pete & Donna Rauser

11:00 AM

Greeter: Tel Sorenson
 Usher: Aubrey Wollan

Nov 18 9:00 AM

Reader: Barbara Curren
 Greeters: Mark & Jess Anne Knutson
 Ushers: Mark & Tracy Christensen
 Comm: Bob & Deb Wisness
 Coffee Hr: Val Swensrud

11:00 AM

Greeter: Nolan Dahl
 Usher: Ethan Evanson
 Communion: Neil Dahl

Nov 25 9:00 AM

Reader: Joy Patten
 Greeters: Dale & Brinda Kleppen
 Ushers: Steve & Val Williams
 Coffee Hr: Dennis & Kathleen Johnson

11:00 AM

Greeter: Derek Holen
 Usher: Judd Johnsrud



First Lutheran Church Council September 11, 2018

Present: Pastor Alyssa, Megan Wirtz, Gretchen Stenehjem, Pastor Rob, Craig Paulson, Jeff Meyer, Erica Johnsrud, Glen Beard, Pastor Mark

Absent: Jeremiah Beard, Angie Moe, Steven Holen, Ashley Holen, Keith Helmuth
 Call to Order: 6:05 PM Glen; Devotions: Jeff; Motion to approve minutes: Erica moved, Jeff second, carried

WELCA Report: none

Committee Reports

Finance: (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) Break even month, Trust committee and Finance committee going to meet about building loan payment

Motion to approve monthly statement-moved by Megan, second by Erica motion carried

Property: (Glen/Craig) Work day on rally Sunday was very productive Maki going to do the striping in the parking lot

Waiting on bell tower and insurance company to reply on questions of how much insurance we

actually, have Windows at parsonage are waiting on the contractor

Need to possibly get corner guards for the inside of the church

Worship: (Erica/Angie) Picked music through October

Stewardship-Evangelism:

(Gretchen/Angie) Rally Sunday was a success; Look at making workday on rally day Sunday a tradition

Youth and Education:

(Ashley/Megan/Craig/Steve)
 Having a table at the welcome to Watford event at the RR center on September 14, LYO paintball set for the 16th Confirmation has started, and Sunday school starts September 16

Old Business: none

New Business: Ardyce has expressed interest in taking on the Secretary role for the parish, applications are open until October 1 Stain glass windows are going to have to be re-glazed, painted and sealed in the near future

Staff reports:

Pastor Rob: 2 Weddings Teacher recognition Sunday September 16, past and present

Medora retreat was a good experience

Pastor Mark: Medora Retreat was good Ready for confirmation, Gifts program

Active shooter class at neighboring church on the 14 and 15 of September

Pastor Alyssa: Snap Devo's on Wednesday,

Young adult bible study with Hayley 20 tickets available to the concert in October, need permission slips back

Motion to adjourn: Erica moved, Megan second, motion carried

Devotions next meeting: Keith, Sunday October 14 at 6PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Craig Paulson



Healthcare Systems

Auxiliary's famous homemade doughnut making to be held at the Civic Center on Tuesday, November 13th starting at 8:00 AM. If you would like to help with this call Cheryle Faulkner 570-4439. The doughnut sale will begin at 3:00 PM and continue until sold out. There will be not early sales or pre-orders.





YOUTH & EDUCATION

Last month our Youth & Education program was packed with fun adventures. Our Sonshine Kids learned about Jesus feeding the 5,000. They got to have a tour of our Food Pantry facility and practiced being our servers. At the next FLC Sonshine Kids, we will have a guest speaker from the Police department to teach us how to stay safe and how to help others stay safe.

Our Sunday School program is now parent lead. Craig & Katie Paulson lead memory verses, Deb & Phill Riely lead music, offering and prayer. Our Sunday School teachers are: LaRissa Bertram, Molly Soleim, Ashley Holen, and Lindsay Peterson. We are still looking for a full time 1-2nd Grade teacher. If you know anyone who is able/interested, please share their name and info with me, Pastor Alyssa.

Our Teen Ministry is led by Amelia Honstien. She has put together some fun scavenger hunts, obstacle courses, and thought-provoking devotions for our 7th & 8th graders. Our 7th & 8th graders have also been incredibly active in their confirmation classes, learning about the Old Testament, from Adam to Moses through games, challenges, hands-on activities, crafts, videos, and more. Pastor Mark is leading our 9th Grade class in lessons on Luther and the Catechism. On October 31st, the kids will have an All Hallows Eve Party, where they go through Martin Luther's story, from his frightening storm experience to the diet of worms! They can expect to feel the same fright Martin felt in the storm!

In October, Laura Dahl and I took the youth to the Casting Crown's concert and the High Air Grounds indoor trampoline park in Minot. The following week they had 5th Quarter

followed by a regular Sunday LYO and then a Girl's Night. We will be having another Girl's Night in November with Mikka Haugaberg; so, ladies stay tuned!

I want to offer a big THANK YOU to everyone who has put their heart and soul into our kids and youth. They are the life and future of the church. It is important that they know they are loved and have a place here at First Lutheran. We are grateful to everyone who helps with our Youth and Education Program. Thank you so much!

Blessings, Pastor Alyssa

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

Hello LYO families!

Our next fundraising opportunity is slated for Monday, November 5th. LYO will be set up at the Holiday Extravaganza vendor show from 4pm to 8pm at the Veteran's Memorial Gym/Civic Center and host a free will offering bake sale like we did last year.

Baked goods can be left at church on Sunday, November 4th when you come to service. You can also leave them at church in the morning on Monday if you would like. I will then be at the gym starting at 11:00 am on Monday morning and you are welcome to deliver your goodies there after that as I will be around there all-day getting vendors checked in.

Pastor Alyssa will be there to help assist in selling, but it would be great to have the faces of our LYO kids there to help in selling as well as letting people know what our group has been doing with donations and what is planned this next year.

Please let Laura Dahl know if you can commit to bringing baked goods, or if you can help sell (and what time).

I have another opportunity for this same night on November 5th, in addition to the bake sale.

Laura Dahl has \$300-\$400 to donate to a group who is willing to be there at 8:00pm and help put tables and chairs away. This can literally take 30 minutes with a handful of people.

So, if you cannot donate baked goods or be there to help sell, bring your muscle and in 30 minutes I'll donate what I have left in my budget to LYO. There are three different ways to participate in this fundraiser.

Please let Pastor Alyssa and I know if your youth can do this....If Laura does not get a committed group to help clean up at 8pm, she will offer it to another group. Our LYO has first dibs on this easy money maker.

Thanks everyone!

Laura Dahl & Pastor Alyssa



Thank You!

RADIO

SPONSORS

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of October: in memory of Owen, Orrin and Dustin Hovland by their families; Nancy Broderson in memory of her grandfather, Didrick Broderson; In honor of Olga Hovet by her family; Agnes Johnson, in honor of her 1st great-grandchild, Olivia Katelyn (7-28-18)

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

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast





“³²In this way all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished; the Israelites had done everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses. ³³Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases; ³⁴the covering of tanned rams’ skins and the covering of fine leather, and the curtain for the screen; ³⁵the ark of the covenant with its poles and the mercy seat, ³⁶the table with all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence; ³⁷the pure lampstand with its lamps set on it and all its utensils, and the oil for the light; ³⁸the golden altar, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the entrance of the tent; ³⁹the bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin with its stand; ⁴⁰the hangings of the court, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting; ⁴¹the finely worked vestments for ministering in the holy place, the sacred vestments for the priest Aaron, and the vestments of his sons to serve as priests. ⁴²The Israelites had done all of the work just as the Lord had commanded Moses.” (Exodus 39:32-42)

Have you ever looked at the front of your sanctuary and noticed all of the things up front? In each of our churches we have a lot of furnishings that help us with our worship just as they had a lot of furnishings in the Tabernacle. And each of these furnishings has a purpose and a holy significance that is often overlooked or seen as simply aesthetic.

At First Lutheran in Watford there is the blue curtain with gold trim behind the marble altar, which is against the east wall of the sanctuary.

Altars are placed against the east wall, so congregations are looking east when Jesus comes again “rising in the east.” The curtain signifies the mystery of not knowing when Jesus will come and is a reminder of the curtain separating the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle. There is a golden cross surrounded by seven candles on the altar, six tapered and one eternal flame candle. Just prior to service the candles are lit from the eternal candle with a taper, from the center outward, symbolizing the light of Christ’s presence entering the church for the service, just as God’s glory shone when the Lord was present in the Tabernacle.

There are two chairs facing each other for the ministers to sit, as there were chairs for Moses and Aaron, and a side table to prepare communion, as there was a table to prepare sacrifices in the Old Testament. There is a pulpit where the pastor reads the Gospel lesson and preaches, a lectern where the other lessons are read, and announcements are given, and a table, or free-standing altar, where the offering, the bread and the wine are placed. On these last three pieces of furniture, as well as on the altar, there are cloths called paraments which are of the color for the current season of the church year—green at this time. The green symbolizes life and growth in Christ during the season of Pentecost.

Along the south side of the east wall there is a processional cross, the Christ candle, a Bible on its stand and the baptismal font made of the same marble as the altar. All of these things carry significance and help us in our worship. They are part of a holy space and a holy activity. In the Manual on the Liturgy for the old, green Lutheran Book of Worship it reads, “Liturgical worship is often thought to be something said, words to be read and sung and prayed. But liturgical worship is most of all that which is done. The word “liturgical” actually means “work of the people.”

Along with actively participating in the worship service, part of the work

of worship is caring for the things we use in our worship like the pews, the hymnals and Bibles, and all the furnishings up front. Do you know who cares for all those things in your church? Do you know who changes the banners, polishes the gold and silver pieces, replaces the candles, changes and irons the paraments, restocks the pews and straightens the books as needed each week? At First Lutheran in Watford, it is two ladies from Peace Circle and two ladies from Hope circle that alternate each month. With 120 to 150 people coming to worship each Sunday, that is a lot of preparation work for just two people, especially with the number of funerals and weddings we have had lately in which things needed to be changed 3 times each week.

They are asking for some new ladies to step up and volunteer to be a part of this vital work. It is an important and an unseen form of worship that can be done any time of day throughout the week as long as the changes are made prior to the occasions, whether it is a funeral, baptism, wedding or Sunday morning service. And the duties are easy to learn, so if you would be willing to help out, and have an interest in learning the deeper meanings behind the furnishings of our church, as well as their histories, then please sign up for it.

In the country churches, the task falls to the family that are janitors for that month, and the lists of families willing to help is getting short. So please sign up and take part “the work of the people” in a new way. It is not difficult and can help deepen your faith by learning about the meanings behind the things we use in our worship. After all, they are all tools to help us develop our relationship with Christ our Lord. We all know how distracting it is when something is not right in church. Are you willing to help be a part of a ministry that helps other people worship and connect with God in a deeper way?

Together in Christ, Pastor Mark





Women of the ELCA Circles

Wednesday, Nov 7

10:00 AM FLC WELCA General mt. @ FLC

Monday, Nov 12

5:00 PM Hope @ Horizon

Tuesday, Nov 13

2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon

Wednesday, Nov. 14

1:30 PM Peace @ the Church

2:00 PM Banks @ Jody Renbarger's



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.18th. 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!



This past month the Quilting Ladies sent 70 quilts and 47 School Kits. If you would like to experience the journey of LWR Quilts and Kits that First Lutheran WELCA makes and sends to LRW- check out this site:

youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief

