

Volume 48 No. 1
January 2019
Watford City Area Parish-ELCA
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the Clarion

Listen to Sunday Worship Service
KTGO 1090 am @ 11:00 AM
OR over the internet
www.BakkenBeacon.com
click on "listen live" from KTGO

Our website:
www.wclutheranparish.com

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM First

11:00 AM Banks/Garden

**PERMIT 48
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
Watford City, ND 58854**

Return Service Requested



January Worship Assistants

Jan 6th 9:00 AM

Reader: Ari Johnson
 Greeters: Einar & Sonja Prestangen
 Ushers: Kelly & Frances Olson
 Comm: David & Celeste Berg
 Coffee Hr Arlene Johnson & Arlys Fraizer

11:00 AM

Greeter: Koen Helmuth
 Usher: Nolan Dahl
 Comm: Dakota Frick
 Power Pt.: Max Paulson

Jan 13th 9:00 AM

Reader: Sue Jorgenson
 Greeters: Ken & Carol Sanford
 Ushers: Brian Anderson/ Kevin Sullivan
 Coffee Hr: Robin & Stacey Arndt

11:00 AM

Greeter: Tel Sorenson
 Usher: Derek Holen
 Power Pt.: Tyler Leiseth

Jan 17th 9:00 AM

Reader: Marcia Hellandsaas
 Greeters: Rollie & Judy Dahl
 Ushers: Mike & Stef Russell
 Comm: Karla Quale/ Arden Berg
 Coffee Hr: Marcy Feilmeier

11:00 AM

Greeter: Ethan Evanson
 Usher: Jory Lund
 Comm: Kanyon Tschetter
 Power Pt.: Aubrey Wollan

Jan 27th 9:00 AM

Reader: Gretchen Stenehjelm
 Greeters: Jason & Jenna Bauer
 Ushers: Owen & Laurie Hamre
 CoffeeHr: JoAnn Faulkner/Karn Pederson

11:00 AM

Greeter: Neil Dahl
 Usher: Kanyon Tschetter
 Power Pt.: Dakota Frick



Building Fund

Bill Connolly \$ 500.00
 Grace Lee \$ 1,008.00
 In memory of loved ones \$10,000.00

FCL Choir

Grace Lee \$ 200.00



**Women
of the ELCA Circles**

Tuesday, January 8th

2:00 PM Garden @ the Horizon

Wednesday, January 9th

10:00 AM FLC WELCA General mt
@ church

Wednesday, January 9th

1:30 PM Peace @ the church

Monday, January 14th

5:00 PM Hope @ the Horizon



News from FLC WELCA !

The newly installed officers for 2019 are as follows:

Co-chairs: Anne Beard
Val Swensrud
Secretary: Frances Olson
Treasurer: Sharon Endrud

Our General Meeting is at 10:00 AM once a month at the church (check the newsletter calendar for the date) AND everyone is welcome to attend and bring new ideas to the table.



Arise & Shine!!

We have a wonderful news for the First Lutheran Church and YOU for the opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge of what the paraments and the altar clothes are all about.

A new committee is being formed starting the 3rd of January. The committee will meet the first Thursday each month. A schedule will be set up and duties will be discussed.

Please mark your calendars for **January 3rd**. See you there!

Thank you



Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of December: Gen Hutmacher in memory of her mother, Wanda; the Ollie Brenna family; Gene & Elaine Fedorenko in honor of our Pastors; Ed & Charlotte Schilke sending greetings from sunny AZ.

We need radio sponsors for 2019! 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.



Annual Meetings in January are **Garden on the 20th** and **First on the 27th** if you haven't email/or dropped off your year reports they are due in the office **January 14th**. If you have turned them into the office- I thank you so very much!

Reports include Garden and First Lutheran: WELCA secretary reports; minutes from the last church's annual meeting; Council President;

All Treasurer's reports including the Churches; WELCA; FLC Trust need to be in by **January 22th**

Banks Lutheran will have their annual meeting on February 3rd - please drop/email those reports to the office **by January 26th**.



First Lutheran Church Council

Present: Jeremiah Beard, Pastor Alyssa, Gretchen Stenehjem, Pastor Rob, Craig Paulson, Angie Moe, Keith Helmuth, Glen Beard, Pastor Mark

Absent: Megan Wirtz, Jeff Meyer, Steve Holen, Ashley Holen, Erica Johnsrud

Guest: John Quade, Francis Olson

Call to Order: 6:01 PM Glen

Devotions: Pastor Mark

Motion to approve minutes:

Gretchen moved, Keith second-- Carried

WELCA Report: Christmas Party Dec 5th

Trust Report: Frances gave an update on the Rothe and Iverson trust accounts- need to get file scanned into an electronic document- Craig can help with this

Committee Reports

Finance: (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) – income is up--Expenses are consistent, no major change in daily activity

Property: (Glen/Craig)- new ballasts for the lights in the basement- Glen will take care of this

One front door has a bad seal, a new one has been ordered.

Finance and Property will need to meet to make a list of repairs and costs for the Church.

Windows and carpet are done at the parsonage, WELCA to share costs

Worship: (Erica/Angie) - November 28 at 5PM is Christmas decorating

Stewardship-Evangelism:

(Gretchen/Angie)-Christmas boxes were delivered to Williston, left over boxes will be used for other groups locally. Revamp FLC membership list and do another Directory

Youth & Education:

(Ashley/Megan/Craig/Steve,

Angie) – In need of 3 Sunday school teachers (1st&2nd grade, Teen Ministry, music leader)

LYO youth ski trip to is March 8th-10th 2019

Old Business: None

New Business: Hayley Moe's pay for September has been approved.

Sound system equipment is deteriorating, Glen will look at specs and check into the warranty on the system, may need to change out the ethernet connection to the box.

Pastor Rob proposed changing the committees around a bit, Worship and Hospitality, Stewardship and Finance.

Looks like we will need 4 new people for council starting 2019, Nominating committee is working on this.

Annual Meetings: FLC Jan 27

Garden Jan 20 Banks Feb 3

Keene First Feb 10

Staff reports:

Pastor Rob: Area Parish met and approved budget for 2019

Keene Parish meeting is on 11-26 to go over contract, hopefully will renew again.

Dec. 2nd at 2pm will be a get together for Karen in honor of her retirement WELCA is handling the details

Pastor Mark: Kirk Wold has a time capsule from the CE building, will plan on opening it at the annual meeting

Pastor Alyssa: Is a ¾ time employee as of current, which means no benefits or paid time off and also not alleageable for maternity leave. Requesting full time, or some help with maternity leave pay

Craig made motion for the Finance committee to ask the trust committee for the funding for 3 months of maternity leave pay for Alyssa - Keith Second-motion carried

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Angie, Gretchen Second- motion carried

Devotions next meeting: Gretchen Closed with Lord's Prayer
Craig Paulson, Secretary



Our intern, Hayley Moe has

arranged to put in place a winter break to give both parents and kids a break from the Holiday chaos. There will be NO Sunday School in January. In its place, Hayley assembled a small packet of fun Bible-lessons, crafts, and activities for parents and kids to do together that can be picked up at the church. On February 3rd, we will kick off our Sunday School with a massive Winter Rally Day at 10:00 AM! Depending on the weather, we are even planning to have winter sleigh rides! Since it is also **SOUPer-bowl** Sunday, we will be having a soup meal and team competitions for the kids and parents to show which football team they are supporting.

February thru April, Hayley will be leading be a parent/young-adult Sunday School class at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings open to everyone. After parents have dropped their kids off at Sunday School, we encourage them to join Hayley for coffee, treats, and conversations in the down-stairs fellowship hall. Hayley plans to discuss material such as: bringing Christian education into the home; how to revive our spirituality in the midst of a growing secular world, how to kindly have controversial conversations, and so much more! All are welcome; bring your friends!

Sonshine Kids will start up again on January 16th at the Presbyterian church and again on February 6th at the First Lutheran church.

LYO will continue with monthly events. Please note that the Ski Trip roster is full. If you'd like to be on a

waiting list, please contact me, Pastor Alyssa, at 605-467-0374.



Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!

I want to extend a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year to each and every one of you as we set our sights on 2019 and what that might bring. As I think ahead, there are times when a little instruction is necessary for many of us who may or may not be regular church attendees. I thought of this as I gave a presentation of church symbols at the WELCA Christmas party last month. As the ladies sat in the sanctuary, they observed the symbols that are always present, but they were not sure what those symbols stood for. If a stranger to Christianity were to walk in, what would he or she ask about those symbols. Some of those questions might be: What is an altar? Why are there candles? What do the different colors of the paraments represent? What is IHS? What about the symbols on the paraments? Where is the chancel or the nave? What does narthex mean? I tried to answer these questions, but it was also suggested to write an article about this, so that is what I am doing.

Candles

For practical reasons the early Christians held services, often in secret, at night time. Candles were used because that was all there was. Later, its symbolism stressed that Jesus was the Light of the World, and that the presence and power of God was ever present in worship.

Altar

The word "altar" comes from the Latin word "altus" meaning "high."

Traditionally, an altar was a high table used for sacrifices of animals in order to seek God's forgiveness. Jesus, who was our ultimate sacrifice, is ever present. The altar represents that table, or sacred space, to which we come and worship, and receive the forgiveness of sins in faith.

IHS

On the front of the marble altar at First Lutheran are the initials, IHS. In the Greek, the word, Jesus, is spelled IHSOYS (or IESOUS). The IHS comes from the first three letters in the Greek.

Paraments

The colors of the sanctuary are symbols according to the Sunday or season of the year.

White is a symbol of the purity of Christ, light, and joy. Christmas, Easter, and Christ the King Sunday are examples of those times when white is displayed.

Red is a symbol of energy, blood, and fire. Pentecost Sunday and Reformation Sunday are those days when red is displayed.

Blue represents hope. In medieval times, purple was too expensive to use as a dye, so blue was substituted. Advent is the time when blue is shown.

Green is present during the Epiphany, representing growth in Christ, as Christ grew to maturity after his birth. Green is present during the Pentecost season as we grow in faith.

Purple is a royal color as we remember the kingship of Christ, who sacrificed himself for all of us. In the season of Lent, purple represents repentance and solemnity.

Pulpit

The word comes from a Latin word, "Pulpitum," meaning a "raised stand."

Lectern

The word comes from a Latin word, "lectrum," meaning a "reading desk."

Nave

This is the main body of the sanctuary where all the pews are located. The name, "nave," comes from navy or naval, because the main body of the church resembles a ship, and we are on this ship as we embark on our spiritual journey.

Chancel

This is the area surrounding the altar. In some churches the chancel is enclosed by a lattice or railing. The word "chancel" comes the Latin word "cancelli," meaning lattice.

INRI

On the top of the cross these initials can be seen. They come from the full Latin phrase, "IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM" (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews).

Narthex

It comes from the Greek word, "narthex" meaning an "enclosed porch." It is our entrance area of the church.

I hope this was helpful for many of you. Looking forward to a great, new year ahead.

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



First Lutheran Church Annual meeting on Sunday, January 27th following the 11:00 AM worship. A potluck will be held before the meeting. WELCA will provide the main course and we are asking you to fill in with side dishes.



³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²*For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*
(Matthew 6:31-33)

I recently came across this letter from a college student:

*"Dear mom and dad,
It has been nearly three months since I left for college. I have been remiss in writing, and I am very sorry for my thoughtlessness in not having written sooner. I will bring you up to date now; but, before you read on, please sit down. You are not to read any further unless you are sitting down. Okay.*

Well, then, I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and the concussion I got when I jumped out of the window of my dormitory when it caught fire shortly after my arrival are pretty well healed now. I only spent two weeks in the hospital and now I can see almost normally and only get those sick headaches once a day.

Fortunately, the fire in the dormitory and my jump were witnessed by an attendant at the gas station near the dorm, and he was the one who called the fire department and the ambulance. He also visited me at the hospital; and, since I had nowhere to live because of the burnt-out dormitory, he was kind enough to invite me to share his apartment with him. It's really a basement room, but it's kind of cute. He is a very fine boy, and we have fallen deeply in love and are planning to get married before my pregnancy begins to show.

Yes, mom and dad, I am pregnant. I know how much you are looking forward to being grandparents,

and I know you will welcome the baby and give it the same love and devotion you gave me when I was a child despite its mixed race. We will set the wedding date when Michael has paid off some of his debts from his two previous marriages. He is a hard worker and often comes home late after unwinding with his friends at the bar, but he promises me that will all change when we are married.

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you that there was no dormitory fire, I did not get a concussion or skull fracture, I was not in the hospital, and I am not pregnant. I am not engaged and there is no significant other in my life. However, I am getting a D in History and F in Science, and I wanted you to see these grades in the proper perspective.

Signed, Your loving daughter."

The first month of the year is traditionally a time of reevaluating and setting priorities, so we have the proper perspective starting the new year. We often make New Year's Resolutions based on those new priorities, and we look forward to a fresh start from the previous year's troubles. 2000 years ago, Jesus preached to his disciples on the Mount of Olives, an olive grove on a hillside opposite The Temple. With the grandeur of Herod's Temple in view, Jesus spoke to his followers about priorities.

In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus speaks about the importance of helping the poor and of prayer, the importance of self-control when it comes to ones health and wealth through fasting and tithing, and finally the importance of seeking God's will above our own worry. He reminds those around him that God cares more for them than wildflowers, and that God knows their needs. Jesus encourages his disciples not to worry, "*But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well,*" as if to say, if we have our priorities about God straight, then life's other concerns won't seem so daunting.

Now that I have a sophomore who is active in band, art, and has a job, I have a new appreciation for busy parents trying to balance priorities with their kids. Throw in the need to have kids involved in the kinds of things that get them scholarships, so they can go to college, and you add another layer of complexity to priorities. My wife and I are constantly pulled in several directions between work, ministry, kids, and activities, and we find it hard to have quality time for our marriage. And that is why Jesus' words are so important! We have to remember and work at putting God first in everything.

Putting God first is the litmus test, that little piece of paper in chemistry class that changed color depending on if you had an acid or a salt solution, of being in His will. As we are heading to that away game, we can ask, "How can we put God first in this?" The answer may be a simple family prayer, a devotional reading, or attending church in the town the away game is held. Just before a concert, same question, and the answers are much the same. Read a passage of scripture about praising God through music so our hearts are tuned to praising God during the concert.

Putting God first is something that requires effort, but it is the most important thing we can do! That is why it is the First Commandment and is repeated by Jesus as the Great Commandment. Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength means being just as creative with how to put God first as we are with how to get our tasks accomplished for the day. And when you retire, things don't slow down. It is just as important in our later years to ask the question, "How can I put God first in this?" as it is to ask when we are younger. So, New Year's resolution, "How can I put God first in this?"

Together in Christ, Pastor Mark