

Volume 48 No. 3

March 19

Watford City Area Parish-ELCA

P.O. Box 441

Watford City, N.Dak. 58854

Pastor Rob Favorite

rfave@ruggedwest.com

Phone: 842-4589

Pastor Mark Honstein

pastorhonstein@gmail.com

Phone: 842-4074

Alyssa Quade

pastor.alyssaquade@gmail.com

Phone: 605-467-0374

Office Phone: 444-3244

Church Phone: 842-3349

E-mail: ardycealveshere@gmail.com



Sunday Worship Times

9:00 AM - First (Traditional Service)

11:00 AM - First (Contemporary Service)

11:00 - AM Banks/Garden

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

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ORGANIZATION
Watford City, ND 58854

Return Service Requested



The Path Forward, for Building Loan Repayment...

First Lutheran Church Trust Committee has pledged up to one million dollars from the Endowment Trust Fund, matching two dollars for every one dollar the congregation can give towards the Building Fund between now and June 30th, 2019, with no limit on individual contributions.



Please clearly mark "**Building Fund**" on any contributions so your offering will receive this special 2 for 1 funding match that will be applied directly against the building loan principal.

**Example: Your Building Fund Donation - \$100
Endowment Trust Fund Match - \$200
Total Loan Principal Payment - \$300**

**Thank you for
Your donation!**



Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!

As we approach the Lenten season with its theme of repentance and renewal, I look at this time as a period of re-evaluation. Lent seems to parallel the early growth of Spring and can mirror the new growth that may occur inside of us, even as we have weathered the strains of winter and the battles within our own souls. As we evaluate ourselves once again, we remember to whom we belong and to recall how blessed we really are. How well off are we in comparison to our neighbors or peoples around the world?

I read this article about a young man who was converted to the Christian faith, and he wondered what were the top 10 things for a new Christian to learn. As I read this article, I began to think that this could apply to all of us as we begin to re-evaluate for Lent. The article, "10 Things Every New Believer Should Know" by Brian Mavis, points out some items that we, as "veteran" Christians, can consider as we approach the season of Lent. Item#1: **The one thing that the Bible emphasizes more than us loving God and people is that God loves us.** This is unconditional regardless of where we stand in faith or even lack in faith. Item#2: **Your motivation for and the purpose of learning, serving, worshipping, giving, reaching, praying, etc. is to grow relationally more in love with God and people.** Item#3: **You are not only saved by grace, but you grow by it, too.** We rely on God's grace wholeheartedly. We cannot clean up our lives on our own. Item#4: **Don't trample all over the Great Commandment (loving God/loving neighbor) trying to obey the Great Commission (making disciples).** We lead people to Jesus by loving people

to Jesus. Be humble, but share your faith when asked. Practice what you preach! Item#5: **Love your neighbors – your actual neighbors – the ones you have, not the ones you wish you had.** We live out our Christian faith regardless of how we are treated, even if it is hard to love your next-door neighbor. Item#6: **Focus on Jesus, His cross, His resurrection, and His kingdom.** All the world's greatest gifts – love, life, truth, grace, etc. – are personified in Jesus. He is our role model. Item#7: **God cares about your whole life, not just your "spiritual" life.** God cares about us 24 hours a day in all aspects of our daily living. God loves our "whole" beings. Item#8: **Love other Christians who go to different churches (or no church at all) and who aren't like you.** Watch the attitude! Avoid becoming self-righteous or prideful about faith. We may think differently, but strive for unity in the body of Christ by praying humbly and thankfully for other Christians, and for all others as well. Item#9: **Pray with your Bible open.** Have an ongoing prayer life. Listen and learn about God through Scripture. Attend Bible study, if possible. Item#10: **Find a Christian mentor.** Seek encouragement from someone you trust. Be a blessing to them in return.

The Lenten theme this year will be on "Explaining Liturgy." For the five weeks following Lent I will break down our typical Sunday service into five parts and examine the different areas of worship, and why we worship the way we do. I hope it will be instructive for all of you.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob



Please join us Wednesday evenings during Lent at First Lutheran Church for soup & sandwiches, starting at 5:30. **All are welcome!**



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

- ❖ Brady & Larissa Bertram
Children: Slade & Frankie
- ❖ Jen & Nate Christensen
Child: Hayden
- ❖ Rachelle Elphic
Child: Ryan
- ❖ Tammy Evanson
- ❖ Karen Hirschhorn
- ❖ John Quade
- ❖ Barb Mathis Quale
- ❖ Seth & Samantha Roscoe
Child: William

Thank You To Our



SPONSORS

Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of February: Ed & Charlotte Schilke in honor of loved ones; Donna and Sydney Slais in memory of Randy Slais; Owen & Laurie Hamre in memory of Helen Hamre; In memory of Connie Wold from Connie's family.

We need radio sponsors!

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

The cost is \$110.00 per broadcast.



QUILTING FUND

Grace Lee \$100.00
Linda Richardson \$20.00

BUILDING FUND

Linda Richardson \$525.00



“²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

(Ephesians 4:29-32)

Have you ever heard of an alligator in church? The South Florida Sun Sentinel for February 20th, 2019 had an article about a gator waiting outside Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church that Sunday in West Boca, FL. The article began with the words, “Maybe reptiles attend church too.” This literal gator got me thinking about two other kinds of “gators” we see in churches. The first is the project that causes division in the church, takes forever to complete, and drags the morale and enthusiasm of everybody in the church down. The second is the person that critically obsesses about a person or issue in the church, latching on and dragging everyone down along with the person or issue.

For an example of the first kind of alligator, the building project for the expansion of First Lutheran in Watford was a bit of an alligator. The cost caused some division in the church, and the project itself had a load of issues that drug everyone down. It took a full year longer than expected to complete, required some things be redone, and other things that were done wrong were just left the way they were. On top of it, the church took out a loan to complete the project and then the contactor wanted more money than what was agreed upon because of the increased time it took to finish. In short it was an alligator that drug everyone down for a while and we were very glad when it was completed.

The second kind of an alligator is trickier to spot and sometimes we have to even look in the mirror to see them. We all can find ourselves obsessing about issues in church, especially during huge building projects, and we all can be a bit “bitey” from time to time, especially with long, dark, cold winters. Ephesians 4 is a good checkup for us when we begin to feel what Pastor Rob refers to as “the snakehead” popping up inside us. But those momentary instances of reptilian behavior are different from the second type of alligator in churches. And the behavior is not limited to church goers.

I believe part of the reason so many of us avoid the news these days is because the broadcasters are so critical and obsessed with one issue or another. There doesn’t seem to be any balance in their approach, no matter which side of the fence you watch. Politics is the same way, whatever the issue, each side latches on and drags the other party down along with the rest of the nation. This behavior is so contrary to what Jesus calls us to do and what Paul talks about in his letter to the Ephesian church.

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.” This is how Martin Luther defined what is meant by the eighth commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” Most often this is shortened to “do not lie,” but Luther took it much farther than that. The first application Luther gave was that everyone should help their neighbor maintain their rights. We should let right remain right and not pervert it based on money, property, position or power.

The second application of the commandment has to do with godly preachers and Christians being called heretics or apostates because of their faith. But Luther says, “Let this pass. It is the blind world’s nature to condemn and persecute the truth.” Which brings us to the third application of the eighth commandment and, as Luther says, it applies to all of us. “It forbids all sins of the tongue by which we may injure or offend our neighbor.” And I can hear you now as clearly as I hear myself, “But pastor, they said such and such

about me!” And I believe you. The problem is, does Jesus want us to examine a neighbor’s sins or our own? When Peter heard how he would suffer, he asked Jesus, “What about John?” And Jesus said, “What is that to you? Follow me.”

The third use of the eighth commandment calls us to examine when we have spoken ill of our neighbor or of an issue in church that is overseen by a neighbor and calls us to repent. How often have we focused on a person or issue to the point of embarrassment, latching on and dragging everyone down like and alligator on its prey. Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we enter the season of Lent, may it be a time of cleansing and healing as we confess those times we have been less than gracious, and accept God’s undeserved grace for us. We have all been filled with the Spirit and marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Let us look upon our neighbors in that regard, and let us give grace to one another as God has given grace to us.

Together in Christ, Pastor Mark



Deadline for Clarion articles is by the 15th of the month.

Please drop off or e-mail any articles to the office at First Lutheran Church.



Women of the ELCA Circles

Wednesday, March 6

6:00 PM--WELCA General Mtg. at FLC

Monday, March 11

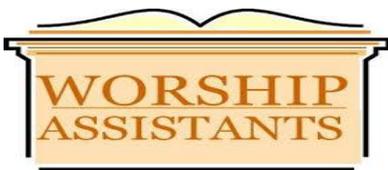
5:00 PM -- Hope at the Horizon

Tuesday, March 12

2:00 PM – Garden at the Horizon

Wednesday, March 13

1:30 PM -- Peace at FLC



9:00 AM March 3

Reader: Valerie Williams
Greeter: Joyce Hovland
Ushers: Matt & Kathleen Beard
Comm: Jim & Jan Riely
Coffee Hr: Diane Defoe

11:00 AM

Greeter: Nolan Dahl
Usher: Max Paulson
Comm: Neil Dahl
PowerPt.: Koen Helmuth

6:15 PM March 6 Ash Wednesday

Ushers: Confirmation Students

9:00 AM March 10

Reader: Anne Beard
Greeters: Larry & Debbie Larsen
Ushers: Dave & Lynette Hansen
Coffee Hr: Gen Hutmacher

11:00 AM

Greeter: Derek Holen
Usher: Aubrey Wollan
PowerPt.: Tel Sorenson

6:15 PM March 13 Lenten Service

Ushers: Confirmation Students

9:00 AM March 17

Reader: Jean Wold
Greeters: Dale & Vicki Karpayk
Ushers: Kelly & Peni Peterson
Comm: Steve & Gretchen Stenehjerm
Coffee Hr: Erica Johnsrud/
Justin & Nicole Johnsrud

11:00 AM

Greeter: Tyler Leiseth
Usher: Jory Lund
Comm: Kanyon Tschetter
PowerPt.: Ethan Evanson

6:15 PM March 20 Lenten Service

Ushers: Confirmation Students

9:00 AM March 24

Reader: Frances Olson
Greeters: Rick & Steph Jore
Ushers: Wyatt & LeAnne Voll
Coffee Hr: Duke & Sharon Olson

11:00 AM

Greeter: Kanyon Tschetter
Usher: Dakota Frick
PowerPt.: Neil Dahl

6:15 PM March 27 Lenten Service

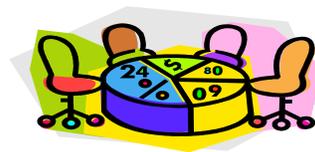
Ushers: Confirmation Students

9:00 AM March 31

Reader: Dale Washburn
Greeters: Neal & Lisa Shipman
Ushers: Scott & Jane Swenson
Coffee Hr: Michon Sax/Jean Wold

11:00 AM

Greeter: Aubrey Wollan
Usher: Judd Johnsrud
PowerPt.: Koen Helmuth



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 13, 2019

Present: Pastor Alyssa, Pastor Rob, Craig Paulson, Angie Moe, Jeff Meyer, Keith Helmuth, Erica Johnsrud, Glen Beard, Pastor Mark, Steven Holen, Ashley Holen

Via Phone: Megan Wirtz, Gretchen Stenehjerm

Absent: Jeremiah Beard

Guest: John Quade

Call to Order: Glen @ 6:02PM

Devotions: Pastor Rob

Motion to approve minutes: Motion to approve December minutes as amended, Erica – second by Angie, motion passed.

WELCA Report: Ordered and had carpet installed at the parsonage.

Committee Reports

Finance: (Jeremiah/Jeff/Keith) –

December attendance and offering were up.

Motion to take Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offering and split it into 3rds and donate to Salvation Army, Lutheran Social Services, and the School Backpack Program - Angie – Second by Jeff, motion carried.

Motion to take 450,000 dollars out of the Iverson Trust account and pay down the 1.9 million dollar building loan note to decrease principal amount - Keith – Second by Erica and motion passed unanimously.

Finance committee will also be taking a look at the options of getting a fixed rate on the building loan, currently we are on a variable rate and it looks like the interest rate is going to increase up to 2%. Will report back to council their findings at a later meeting.

Property: (Glen/Craig) –

Glen will be meeting with RTC to look at a speakerphone in the conference/council room and an update to the radio room phone and connection.

Lighting for downstairs is still on the radar to get updated/ bring it up at the annual meeting.

Worship: (Erica/Angie) –

Music is picked out, next meeting will be about lent.

Stewardship-Evangelism:

(Gretchen/Angie) –

Looking into updating membership lists and directory.

Youth & Education:

(Ashley/Megan/Craig/Steve/Hayley/Angie) –

Teen Dave Ramsey course in February.

Youth is doing subs for super bowl, rally Sunday for Sunday School is February 3rd.

Old Business:

Time capsule has still not been found yet, don't know for sure if there is one but we have an idea of where it is if it exists but won't be able to get to it until spring.

New Business:

Motion for the Executive committee to investigate the hierarchy and job descriptions of the church staff and to report back to the Council at the February meeting and to pause all discussions on additional staff until work is completed - Steve - Second by Erica - motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Rob has made recommendations on restructuring and renaming some of the council committees. Combining a couple of them together and given a suggestion to updates in duties for each. Will need to be addressed at a future meeting with the new council members input.

Staff reports:

Pastor Rob: Annual meeting is January 27th starting at noon with a potluck.

Pastor Mark: Has been staying busy doing pub theology, really good sessions, Scouts, Grief Share, Keene bible study, all going well.

Pastor Alyssa: Women's bible study starting on Thursday's until February. There are 30 kids going on the ski trip. She could use some help with the Teen Dave Ramsey class starting in February.

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Steve - second by Erica – carried.

Devotions next meeting: Glen, February 10th at 6PM.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.