

Volume 48 No. 9
September 2019
Watford City Area Parish-ELCA
P.O. Box 441
Watford City, N.Dak. 58854

the Clarion

PERMIT 48
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
Watford City, ND 58854

Return Service Requested

Pastor Rob Favorite
rfave@ruggedwest.com
Phone: 701-842-4589

Pastor Mark Honstein
pastorhonstein@gmail.com
Phone: 701-842-4074

Office Phone: 701-444-3244

Church Phone: 701-842-3349

E-mail: ardycealveshere@gmail.com

Our website:

www.wclutheranparish.com

Listen to Sunday Worship Service

KTGO 1090 am @ 11:00 AM

Click on "Listen Live" OR

Listen over the internet at

www.BakkenBeacon.com OR

watch on Facebook at *Watford City*

Lutheran Parish (can be watched live at service time or anytime after that).

Women of the
ELCA



Rummage Sale!



The Annual Rummage Sale will be held at the Veteran's Building on Thursday, September 19th from 2:00 to 7:00 PM and Friday, September 20th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Veteran's Building. Lunch will be served on Friday until 2:00 PM. Dollar bags Friday, 1:00-3:00 PM. LYO will also be selling baked goods during the sale.

Donated items are to be brought to the Civic Center on Thursday prior to 2:00 PM. When bringing items for the sale, please remember to:

1. Bring only clean clothing in good condition (no rips, tears, knees out, stains)
2. Size tags are helpful, especially on jeans and pants (waist/inseam on a tape on the outside of the waistband)
3. It is helpful if clothing is separated by sex and by size
4. Please remove tags from previous rummage sales (but not size tags)
5. Please plan to lay out your items on the appropriate tables
6. No large appliances or large items of furniture. We will post notices that are provided that include name, phone number and pictures of the items.

We are having this rummage sale to be:

1. A service to the community
2. A service to our members (clean out your cupboards and closets)
3. A fundraiser for WELCA projects
4. A great opportunity for all circle members, active and inactive, to work and fellowship together



Rally
SUNDAY

IS September 8th!

Sunday Worship Times:

Sept. 1st – 10:00 AM Banks

Starting Sept. 8th –

11:00 AM – Banks

(1st 2 Sundays of Month)

11:00 AM – Garden

(Last 2 Sundays of Month)

Sept. 1st & 8th – 9:30 AM – First

Starting Sept. 15th –

10:00 AM – First

**Come
Worship
with us!**

All are Welcome!



Grace, peace and greetings to all of you!

I hope that you have had a great and blessed summer. As we head into the fall, change is in the air, not just in the weather, but what we will begin to see in worship as well. Our church's Worship Committee has proposed going to a singular service for the coming year, a bold step in transitioning to, I hope, a brighter and blessed future for our church family. And with this united worship service comes a theme, "TOGETHER." We are coming together so that all of us can begin to know each other as one family rather than two separate families. The music that will be played and sung will be a blending of both services. Some services will include the PowerPoint presentation, and some may not. This will be a work in progress, and we will invite your feedback on what the worship experience is like for you. Suggestion boxes are in place, so please let us know what you think. Or, you may come to Pastor Mark or me in person to express your thoughts. Believe it or not, we invite constructive criticism. The service will be at 10am starting on September 15. Worship will be at 9:30 up through the 8th of September, which is "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. After the service on the 8th, there will be a gathering of willing hands to clean up various areas of the church including the Sunday School rooms downstairs. Sunday School classes will begin officially on the 15th at 11am, but children are to come to church on the 8th as part of Rally Day in which games and other activities will be provided as the adults and older children help to clean up the church. I am looking forward to a very interesting year ahead.

Every church, it would seem, has its own mission statement, values statement, values, or beliefs. They are rarely as original as we think they are. Much of the time, we don't think about it and just show up for church. We may expect much, and then wonder what happened. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote something quite revealing in his book called, "Life Together." On page 27 of that book, he expressed this thought, "God hates

visionary dreaming!" Bonhoeffer explained this by saying, "It makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal of community demands that it be realized by God, by others, and by himself. He enters the community of Christians with his demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God himself accordingly. When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure." I think we may all imagine the ideal church situation, and we become disappointed when the results do not seem to measure up to the vision. It, then, becomes easier to blame. Change can be hard. Some first-call pastors are full of idealism and are eager to implement their own vision of what a church should be, and often fail miserably. It is, and will always be, a collaborative effort between clergy and laity – and the hand of God. As Bonhoeffer wrote, "He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial." Instead, Bonhoeffer suggests that we become "thankful recipients" of what God has planted and build each other up in community. I hope we are doing that with God's tender hand guiding us.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rob



"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

(1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, it's clear they are divided over many things. The first division mentioned is over the people's preference of pastor. Some followed Paul, the founding pastor of the

church, others followed Apollos, the current charismatic pastor, and still others said they follow Jesus (aren't they special.) Personal preferences are normal, but when they cause division, then it becomes unhealthy.

At First Lutheran in Watford we went to two services on Sunday years ago with a praise band at the second service to appeal to people's diverse interests and different needs. Over the past years though, there have been concerns about it being more like two different churches as neither service knows who is attending and what is going on in the other service. So this year they are coming back together as a blended service at 10AM. The key word this fall is together, worshipping together, serving together, etc.

Growing, Together, in Christ has been the title of my articles for the past six years because togetherness is where my heart is in ministry. A favorite author of mine, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote Life Together, or Gemeinsames Leben in German, which was translated into English in 1948. It has had a large influence on my approach to ministry. Pastor Bonhoeffer opposed the Nazis, joined a separate denomination, and went so far as to try to assassinate Hitler. He was tried and executed in 1945 by the Nazi Party.

In his book, Bonhoeffer starts with Psalm 133:1 *"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"* He then talks about the benefits of being together as Christians. "It is by God's grace that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly around God's word and sacrament in this world. Not all Christians partake of this grace." Bonhoeffer knew that truth all too well for in his own country the Nazi party had taken over the state church and perverted it towards its own ends. Many pastors in Germany refused to swear allegiance to the Nazi party and formed the Confessing Church after the Augsburg Confessions, the founding documents of the Lutheran church.

Pastor Bonhoeffer went on to write, "The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.... Therefore, the believer praises the Creator, the Reconciler and the

Redeemer, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the bodily presence of other Christians.... Let them thank God on their knees and realize: it is grace, nothing but grace, that we are still permitted to live in the community of Christians today." Powerful words from a pastor that personally saw those privileges taken from his own people.

For Bonhoeffer, and for me, Christian community means community through Jesus Christ, and in Jesus Christ. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ. This means first, that Christians need others for the sake of Jesus Christ. In Bonhoeffer's words, "God has willed that we should seek and find God's living Word in the testimony of other Christians, in the mouths of human beings. Therefore Christians need other Christians who speak God's Word to them. They need them again and again when they become uncertain and disheartened because, living by their own resources, they cannot help themselves without cheating themselves out of the truth." Martin Luther often said that God's Word was the only thing that could penetrate our hard hearts and tangled defenses to make our need for salvation clear again.

Community through and in Christ means second, that we can only come to others through Christ. Without Christ God and humans are at odds, and human beings are at odds with one another, but in Christ and through Christ we are reconciled to God and one another. "He is our peace" Paul write in Ephesians 2:14. Because of what Jesus has done for all of us, we are all equal and united under Him. We are adopted into the family of God and bound together as the body of Christ through our Lord's work and sacrifice which is the third way we are together in Christ.

When Jesus took on flesh, he truly and bodily took on our being, our nature, ourselves. And, we came into being through Him. "All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people." (John 1:3) We belong to Him because we are in Him. That is why the Scriptures call us the body of

Christ. Pastor Bonhoeffer concludes this section of his book with the reminder that, "We who live here in community with Christ will one day be with Christ in eternal community. Those who look at other Christians should know that they will be eternally united with them in Jesus Christ." So, may God bless this new season of togetherness for First Lutheran and the rest of the parish!

Together in Christ, Pastor Mark



The First Lutheran Church Council did not meet in July as there was not a quorum in attendance on the date that the meeting was scheduled.



Building Fund Campaign



The Building Fund Campaign deadline has been extended!! If you have not yet had a chance to take advantage of this special 2 for 1 funding match from the FLC Trust Committee, you still have time! Our goal of paying off the building loan is very close, and any donations are greatly appreciated!! Remember to mark any contributions "Building Fund" so it can be matched by the Trust Committee and applied to the loan principal. Thank you for your donations!

Just a friendly reminder...

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

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



Sept. 1--12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

Reader: Jean Wold
Greeter: Joyce Hovland
Ushers: Dale & Vicki Karpayak
Comm: Mike & Sharon Endrud
Coffee Hr: Duke & Sharon Olson

Sept. 8--13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

Reader: Marcia Hellandsaas
Greeters: Larry & Debbie Larsen
Ushers: Kelly & Peni Peterson
Potluck: FLC WELCA

Sept. 15--14th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

Reader: Charlotte Schilke
Greeters: Helmuth Family
Ushers: Helmuth Family
Comm: Don & Swany Schmidt
Coffee Hr: Steve & Gretchen Stenehjem

Sept. 22--15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

Reader: Frances Olson
Greeters: Lund Family
Ushers: Lund Family
Power Pt: Jory Lund
Coffee Hr: Jim & Jan Riely

Sept. 29--16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

Reader: Owen Hamre
Greeters: Dahl Family
Ushers: Dahl Family
Power Pt: Nolan Dahl
Coffee Hr: Diane DeFoe



Thank you to the following for sponsoring the Sunday morning broadcast of FLC worship for the month of August: Philip & Caralynn Olson in honor of David & Kylee (Pederson) Hanson married August 3rd; The Ollie Brenna family; David & Donna Lou Sanford in memory of grandson, Dana Ward; In memory of Connie Wold by her family. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the office at (701)444-3244. Cost is \$110.00.



Have you been invited to be a part of Circle? Do you know someone who has not received an invitation to join a Circle or do you have the desire to join Hope Circle or Peace Circle? Please phone Frances Olson at (701)770-8502 or Donna Rauser at (701)842-2264 for Peace Circle or Val Swensrud at (701)770-4820 or Anne Beard at (701)609-8678 for Hope Circle. Hope Circle will be in charge of set up and clean up for the September Potluck on the 8th. Set your calendars for September 19th and 20th for the annual FLC Rummage Sale. This is a great community event and wonderful fellowship. On September 20th we have a scrumptious lunch of slushburgers & home-made pie in the Civic Center -- all are welcome!

Meetings for the Women of the ELCA Circles



Monday, September 9

5:00 PM – Hope Circle at the Horizons

Tuesday, September 10

2:00 PM – Garden WELCA at the Horizons

Wednesday, September 11

1:30 PM – Peace Circle at FLC
2:00 PM – Banks WELCA at the Horizons (Barb Sorenson, Hostess)



Change To Service Times

Beginning September 15 First Lutheran Church will be changing church service times! Instead of the 9am and 11am services, one blended service will be held each Sunday beginning at 10am with Coffee Hour to follow. Sunday School will begin at 11am and parents are welcome to join in Coffee Hour as they wait for their children. The goal of the single service is to unify our members and grow deeper together in Christ, especially as we continue our vision, values, and mission work in conjunction with the Bishop's Office and to be "TOGETHER," our theme for this year. Council will re-evaluate the service several times this year to make sure needs are being met. Music and format for the 10am service will be a blend of the two individual services. The Council looks forwards to your comments and thoughts as we move forward. Please feel free to call any Council member or leave a comment in one of the suggestion boxes.



The 1st day of Sunday School will be September 15th at 11:00 AM. **We are still in need of helpers and would appreciate any help you can give.** If you would like to be a part of helping young minds and hearts grow in Christ, please call the church office or email Jenna at jbauer@watford-city.k12.nd.us



The school year starts, then the church starts with meetings and opportunities for fellowship. The Altar Guild will be having their monthly meetings again starting September 5th at 5:30 PM. We will have a short devotion, followed with any altar news or announcements. Anyone interested in assisting with Altar Guild is welcome. This is a great way to serve your church and strengthen your faith in God.



Confirmation Class News

A note to all 7th, 8th, & 9th grade confirmation parents & students: Confirmation will be starting on Wednesday, September 11th. It will be at First Lutheran Church from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm. You will be receiving a letter in the mail soon with more information.



Healthy Families North Dakota, a program of Lutheran Social Services provides support to parents of newborns as well as those expecting. If you would like more information about infant care and nutrition, parenting skills, child health and safety or if you have questions about the health and safety of your home, visit <https://www.lssnd.org/healthyfamilies> or email healthyfamilies@lssnd.org for more information.