



First Word

The newsletter of First Lutheran Church • Sioux Falls, South Dakota



*Pr. Jason Burggraff,
Senior Pastor*

“Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.”

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ at First Lutheran. I write to you from family camp in July at Mount Carmel on Lake Carlos, Alexandria, MN. For over 13 years, Erin and I, and eventually our kids, have joined other families for a week of Bible Camp together at Mount Carmel. These weeks have provided many gifts: time spent together being surrounded by biblical preaching and teaching, wonderful programming for the kids, and a beautiful lake setting. I'd love to talk more about the family camp experience to anyone who would like to know more.

The teaching topic for adults at family camp this year at Mount Carmel is Jesus' parables. This is a welcome pump primer for preaching and hearing some upcoming Gospel readings. In our worship life together at First Lutheran this month of August, we will hear Gospel readings

from Matthew chapters 14 and 15. The first verse of the first reading we hear on August 5 and 6 is Matthew 14:13—it tells of Jesus' attempt to get away by himself on a boat. On the surface it sounds much like what we all try to do in the fleeting months of summer—to get away.... perhaps even on a boat. Maybe this month you are planning one last getaway before school starts or the nights start getting cooler. In Jesus' case, however, he does not get the solitude he seeks at the lake (Galilee). First, Jesus is followed by the haunting news of John the Baptist's death. The phrase “after Jesus heard this” at the beginning of the verse refers to the news that John the Baptist (Jesus' cousin) has just been beheaded by Herod for his preaching the truth about Herod's sin. Second, Jesus is followed by many of the people from the surrounding towns. They like what they hear and want more from the one who preaches with a new authority.

So even this one Jesus Christ, who has all authority over sin and death, had to endure the reality of his cousin's death and the demand of the people he was to save. It was in this context that after a long day of preaching, Jesus found himself surrounded by 5,000 hungry people and only five loaves a bread and two fish. That

day, Jesus fed over 5,000 people.

Perhaps you've found restful retreat and wonderful escape this summer. Or perhaps you feel like the things of this life keep following you around, like there is never enough time to get everything on your list done, let alone take time off. I can tell you that this summer and this week at Mount Carmel have felt like both.

Yet as we anticipate and prepare for the many upcoming opportunities to be gathered around God's Word, to learn and make music this fall, I want you to know that God does not wait for you to get everything done on your list, or even for you to be fully rested before he comes to you with his gifts. For that hungry crowd he gave a miraculous meal—one that did not seem likely at all. For you there is something even better—it is a meal of Jesus' body and blood and an overflowing basket of his forgiveness. As unlikely as this may seem to you—it is yours. We will gather around this Word often in worship, Sunday and Wednesday School, Confirmation, Bible Studies, in Choir School, various musical groups, and fellowship opportunities. Please continue to keep in prayer the work of our staff, volunteers, our call process, and staff openings, as we are called to proclaim Christ's death for the sake of sinners.

**Blessed
to be a Blessing**
2023 Bazaar
Saturday, November 4, from 9-3pm
Please contact Sharyl Wolf if you have questions
or are willing to volunteer at 605-521-1026

IT'S BACK!!
STEPPING INTO HEALTH
Join us September through November!
A fun way to connect with other FLC members! Track your steps and report them at the end of each month.
Contact John at johnhegg@sio.midco.net to register!

Committee Updates

August Special Offering: Call to Freedom

Call to Freedom opened their doors in March of 2016. They are a non-profit organization here in Sioux Falls that provides supportive services to victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation by creating a strong network of frontline providers who offer safe housing, mental health counseling, medical assistance, chemical dependency services, transportation, and other supportive services.

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings, mainly for the purposes of forced labor and sex trafficking. As the world's fastest growing criminal industry, it affects every country and every state in the United States. Every 30 seconds, someone becomes a victim of modern-day slavery.

Human trafficking generally takes the form of forced labor or sex or commercial

sexual exploitation. Victims are targeted through the use of force, or are lured by fraud, manipulation, or coercion. Unfortunately, many victims simply never leave, or they end up disappearing. Those



who survive often fall through the cracks. Either they return to "the life" (streets), end up in jail or prison, or simply disappear due to a lack of specialized long-term care for survivors.

The mission of Call to Freedom is

to bring wholeness to all individuals impacted by sex and labor trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation by navigating a healing path through a continuum of care model.

Their vision is to create a comprehensive Community model of care for individuals, and support communities while educating and advocating to combat sex and labor trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Please consider supporting Call to Freedom by visiting their website at calltofreedom.org or

mailing a contribution to 1915 E 8th St Suite 100, Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Your gift will help provide safe housing, counseling, legal services, medical assistance, transportation, addiction assistance, life coaching, and much more.

CARE & HEALTH BOARD NOTICE

The FLC Care & Health Board is no longer accepting or loaning gently used medical equipment. If you have medical equipment you no longer need, consider donating to Hope Haven International Ministry for distribution to third world countries. Thank you for your past support of this FLC ministry.

Holy Land Tour to be featured at FLCW September 7 Meeting



Marcia Huffman, WELCA Co-President

Have you ever yearned to visit the places Jesus and other Biblical figures walked and wondered how it would feel to be there?

If so, you will want to join us for our FLCW/WELCA meeting on September 7 at 12 p.m. in the Gathering Room. Elizabeth and Dorcas/Martha Circles will serve a noon luncheon, and we will have devotions and a time of music and song. Then we will

be transported back in time and place to enjoy a slide show and hear the stories and experiences of our First Lutheran friends who traveled to the Holy Land this summer.

In the July *First Word*, Jean Eidsness shared an interesting summary of their trip. Please join us September 7 to hear additional first-hand accounts from her fellow travelers and to have a chance to ask questions about their feelings, impressions, and life-long memories. It will be your opportunity to visit the places we have read about in the Bible through their eyes and voices! The FLCW Board will meet in the Den at 10 am.

Lowell Elementary Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Sarah Herbert, Evangelism and Outreach Board

Would you like to find a rewarding, worthy opportunity at First Lutheran Church? Maybe you miss the days of helping at your own children's school activities, or your grandchildren are too far away to be able to volunteer at their schools? Try dipping a toe into the vast pool of activities going on at our neighborhood partner school, Lowell Elementary!

FLC, through the Evangelism and Outreach Board, offers support for the teachers and students in various capacities at Lowell, as its PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is extremely small. The staff truly appreciate all the assistance we have been able to provide over the last few years.

Some of the activities we have sponsored are Movie and Bingo Nights to help build community with families. FLC volunteers have helped as Reading

Buddies, Classroom Helpers, and Tutors. We have provided assistance during special events such as Dr. Seuss Week, picture day, and holiday parties. We have



also provided meals for teachers during their evening conferences and Teacher Appreciation Week. Our latest activity, which has been wildly popular with the kids, is our help with the Neighborhood Soccer League on Saturday mornings.

(NO knowledge of soccer is needed! We're there for registrations and hospitality!) Financial donations go toward school supplies, backpacks, extra coats and other clothing to have on hand during emergencies, the Book Vending Machine, and a washer and dryer.

We need more people of all ages to be involved with this valuable mission! Whether you can volunteer one time this school year or on a regular basis, we would love to add you to our SignUp Genius Volunteer e-mail to look over the various opportunities as they come up. You only "Sign Up" if it fits into your schedule. Please e-mail Sarah Herbert at herbertj@sio.midco.net to receive more information and to be added to the volunteer list.

Thank you for supporting our ministry at Lowell by volunteering your time and donating and praying for the staff, students, and families at Lowell Elementary School!

June FLC Council Updates

Parental Leave Policy

Michael discussed the presented parental leave policy that the Exec. Committee approved for presentation to the council. Lori W. and Jaci A. have some style and form changes that will be addressed before implementation. Discussion was opened on the policy, which provides for six weeks of paid parental leave for employees who become parents through birth, surrogacy, or adoption. Deb N. asked if the six weeks needed to be taken consecutively, and the intent is that no, it does not need to be taken consecutively but does need to be arranged with the immediate supervisor, per the policy. Colin B. asked where the six weeks came from and if it was industry standard, and it was discussed that this comes from the SD Synod recommendation. Lola C. asked if this is part of the MSP, and Pr. Jason said it was not a formal part of the MSP but could

come about in conversation and reflect positively on FLC.

Deb N. moved to approve the parental leave policy, as amended, seconded by Lola C. Approved unanimously.

Capital Campaign Fund Misallocation

Michael presented that we are closer to having a full, accurate number for the amount misallocated. It is likely to fall within the \$180,000-200,000 range, but this is not finalized. The Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) will be brought in to review the process, along with the auditors, to confirm the numbers are accurate and to ensure the process is remedied going forward. Randy and Michael will be meeting with the FOC on Monday.

Synod Assembly Recap

Pr. Jason presented on the Synod Assembly. He indicated that among the

council, Deb N. was present. The theme was Cultivate. Nothing significant/dramatic was up for a vote. Ministries were advertised and the budget was approved for the SD Synod. Next year's assembly will be in Rapid City, which happens every few years. Pr. Jason indicated that Lutherans Outdoors presented that one of the camp weeks at Outlaw Ranch is for LGBTQ-identifying kids, and some of the rhetoric used toward people with differing opinions was concerning. Deb N. discussed the session she attended on rural ministries and the struggles those congregations have with getting pastors to come to those communities, where they might serve more than one congregation.

While FLC is not a rural ministry, Deb realized that those churches have to be

COUNCIL continues on next page

strong and keep their youth engaged. Those youth are likely to come to Sioux Falls, so it is certainly important for us to understand this issue and its relation to our congregation in the future.

Youth & Family Positions/ Communications

Pr. Jason expressed his delight to have Val Pherson on staff. He said that he and Val and some interim help has been instrumental in keeping the program moving in the right direction. Val has moved into the role of Youth & Family Team Lead. We now are looking for an office coordinator and an individual largely focusing on children's ministry, with some overlap in other Youth & Family areas. They are also grateful for the help of two summer interns, Mollie Brown and Lauren Williams. Val's biggest request is for prayer that we find the right people to help share the Gospel with our youth. Val is excited to see the plans she has for the next year start to be put into place. She feels like even if the positions are not immediately filled, she is confident they can still do ministry well for FLC. Sunday morning will look similar to this year. Sunday school will be between services but for a shorter period of time, after having snack/fellowship time with family. On Wednesdays, starting at 6:30 p.m., after the optional meal, it will begin with a worship service and then follow with classroom work 7-7:30 p.m. The focus will be the Small Catechism. Kristin S. presented that the Y&F board will work to support Pr. Jason and Val and engage others who are interested in helping in the area even if they don't have children in that age group.

Pr. Jason Out of Office Plans

Pr. Jason's family has moved into their home this month, and he is looking forward to some time off this summer. He will be gone for four weeks total this summer, generally one week on, one week off. Coverage for preachers is arranged,

as well as pastoral care. One of the other weeks will be continuing education at Mt. Carmel family camp. Preachers include Chris Croghan, supported by Val; Sarah Stenson, supported by Bob Chell; and Bob O'Connor.

Directories Update

Deb N. said the Welcome & Community board wants to do another church directory this year. A couple of businesses have contacted us with interest. One is an older, traditional format that sells packages of pictures. Lifetouch is no longer in business. The other business has a different model that relies on FLC to take the pictures, which can come from anywhere, and then they put them into a paper directory, and we can determine the information we want to be included. FLC can also place these online in Planning Center. She anticipates going with the newer model option, but it has not been decided yet by the board. She will keep the council updated. Lola C. asked if individuals who do not have a picture would be able to have someone from FLC work with them, and Deb said they would have to work that out.

Financial Report

Randy O. presented that net, we are \$61,000 better, even with the \$148,000 misallocated. Chris N. asked if there was a surplus last year, and Randy said there was \$121,852 last year, but it was applied to this year's budget. Randy has no concerns about revenue and said it is coming in even better than projected on a seasonally adjusted basis. We will still need the historic big November and December giving in order to have this trend continue.

Executive Committee Report

In addition to items that were on the Council agenda, Michael updated us that the Washington Pavilion issue with school buses using our parking lot was remedied through a positive meeting with Darin Smith. These buses will not be parked in

our lot anymore, after we presented a map that has been provided to these drivers from Washington Pavilion staff, indicating our lot was a recommended place to park. The discussion was positive and one of partnership, and Michael offered that in a pinch, with 48 hours' notice, we would be happy to accommodate when possible. Darin indicated they have other parking arrangements that will be used and that a new map would be developed.

Pastor Jason Updates

Pr. Jason presented on the email scam that hit some members of FLC. Staff is looking into it and is trying to address it at church services and as inquiries are made. He reminded everyone again that "sending" email addresses should be checked carefully every time. He also updated the council on the call committee process. The Synod has provided some names and they found candidates in other ways as well. He feels they could have a couple strong possibilities. He requested prayers to continue for this process. He said the number of baptisms have been picking up even with one happening today during the staff devotional service. He pointed out that Mason and Andrea Van Essen welcomed baby Crosby recently! He also mentioned that the staff is hoping to celebrate the Atrium remodel completion on Sunday, July 30.

Other Business

Colin B. indicated that the Finance, Property, and Administration board has an individual who would not be completing their term and inquired as to what they should do to fill that term. Lyle E. indicated he thinks a name should be presented to council and the nominating committee could be of assistance. Colin will see if there are names that would be interested in serving. Even without filling the position, there are still eight remaining members.

The Council (and many boards) will not meet in July.

Youth & Family

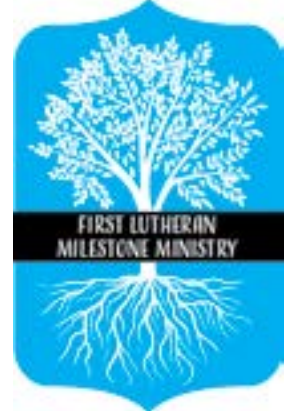


Sunday School
Wednesday School
2023-2024



Confirmation
2023-24

YOUTH GROUP 2023-24



The staff has been busy this summer preparing for fall programming for First Lutheran families! To help us prepare, we are asking parents to register *all children preK through 12th grade* for education and music programs:

- Sunday/Wednesday School, preK-5th grade
- Confirmation, 6th-9th grade
- Youth Group, 9th-12th grade
- FLC Choir School, 1st-12th grade

We look forward to another year of learning God's Word and building relationships.

Read more and register in the Church Center app or at flcsf.org/youth.



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Around The Church

Capital Campaign Update



*Jean Hoff,
Capital Campaign
Coordinator*

The roof projects are complete. The church is thankful to Colin Barron (Finance, Administration, and Property Board

Chair), Jeff Hartnett, and Kent Wilson for the help they provided on this project and to ARS.

The sound system is coming along. Members of the congregation have wondered what is taking so much time. The owner of the sound design company had a heart attack, and that set the process back a few months. We are thankful that the sound designer has had a full recovery. The church is especially grateful to Dave Palmer and the broadcast team

members for the work they have done looking at cameras and the placement of them. Dave has also been instrumental in working with the sound designer on changes that will benefit First Lutheran. The last hurdle was trying to locate a place in the sanctuary for the subwoofers. Dave Palmer worked with Jeff Harnett on this part of the project. By the time you read this article, the hope is that the bids will be in process. The team from the church including Zachary Brockhoff, James Moore, Pastor Jason, and Dave Palmer will review the bids and will make a recommendation of which company to award the bid for the sound system.

Currently, the cost of the equipment will be \$240,000, and we have all the funds for the equipment in the Capital Campaign sound system account. The cost might vary a bit depending on any changes that are noted now in the design

after the review of the cameras and placement of the subwoofers.

The Chapel will also receive an updated sound system. Whether you worship on Saturday in the Chapel or Sunday in the Sanctuary, every member will be impacted by this digital sound system.

The next question asked by members is “When will the sound system be completed?” At the annual meeting I indicated I hoped by October. However, realistically, it might not be completed until sometime in November but certainly before Christmas.

The church is grateful to the members who designated their gifts to this fund of the Capital Campaign. Please continue your prayers for our church and the improvements that will enhance your worship experience in both word and music, through the new sound system.

June Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to First Lutheran Church

In memory of Ruth Werner
Clara Mae Ranschau

In memory of Elwood Halverson
Karen Lidel, Susan Osthus

In memory of Gerald Bierstedt
Phyllis Day

In memory of Mary Osthus
David and Debra Slack

Media Ministry

In memory of Gerald Bierstedt
Larry and Betty Olson, Janet Halstenson

In memory of Lee Halstenson
Marlys Schmidt, Sharon and Dean Schueler

In memory of Mary Osthus
Joan Hansen, Russell and Betty Kielman

In memory of Valerie Churchill
Larry and Betty Olson

In memory of Andrew Carlson
Jean Hoff

In memory of Elwood Halverson
Karen Lidel

FLC Quilters

In memory of Ruth Werner
Kristine and John Tank

In memory of Gerald Bierstedt
Phyllis Day

Music Ministry

In memory of Mary Osthus
Judy and Don Erickson

Volunteer Shop

In memory of Norm Ekeland
Kristine and John Tank

Thank You, June Media Sponsors!

June 4, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Ardeen and Cindy Mulder in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary on June 15.

June 11, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in honor of Lyle and Jean Eidsness' 60th wedding anniversary on June 8.
- The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Albert and Esther Berdahl, who were married at First Lutheran Church on June 11, 1937, by their family.

June 18, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Joyce M. Ashley's parents through earnings from her gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM and live stream on YouTube were sponsored in memory of Doris Salem, who would have celebrated her birthday on June 23, by her family.

June 25, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of David and Susan Lankford by the earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation from their family and friends. David and Susan would have celebrated their anniversary on June 23.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Ralph and Priscilla Hillgren and in memory of their daughter, Sonja Dorothy Hillgren. It was made possible through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.
- The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in honor of what would have been Ardis and Orville Hill's 75th wedding anniversary on June 26, by friends and by their daughter and son-in-law, Arlys and Ken Reitan, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

**LOWELL NEIGHBORHOOD
SOCCER LEAGUE**

First Lutheran Church is looking for volunteers in the Fall to help set up/take down, and coach this league. Stay tuned for volunteer information in the September First Word!

2023 Fall Season begins September 16-October 28

Below are members of our congregation who turn 90+ this month. If you see them around church, wish them a great day!

Happy 90+ Birthday!

August 6—Jerry Hanson
August 17—Charlotte Peters
August 27—Donna Willadsen
August 30—Marlene Thompson



Life Transitions

Marriages

June 17

Tara Jorgensen and
Spencer Gilk

Baptisms

June 10

Rowan Marienau
Skoglund, son of Brady
& Jessi Skoglund

June 11

Thomas Charles Erie,
son of Andrew Erie &
Sara Van Demark
Casey Rose Ahlers,
daughter of Casey &
Chelsey Ahlers

June 25

Elizabeth Joan Morgan,
daughter of Brock &
Kailee Morgan

Deaths:

June 10

Elwood Halverson

June 23

LeRoy (Lee) Halstenson

GIVING STATEMENTS NOTICE

Mid-year giving statements went out in July. Please review your statement carefully to ensure the amounts and funds donated to are correct. If you need to make adjustments or have questions, please contact Jodi, jhoyt@flcsf.org.

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

August Events

August 5—Grieving with Grace, 9:30am,
Friendship Room

August 15—Necessities for Neighbors, 6pm,
Atrium

August 19—Dementia Support Group, 9am,
Friendship Room

August 20—Worship in the Park, 11am,
McKenna Park, picnic to follow hosted by
Evangelism & Outreach Board

August 22—Senior Luncheon, 11:30am,
Gathering Room