



First Word

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

Marriage, Martyrs, and Mysteries of the Faith: Echoes of the Reformation in 1523, 500 Years Later



Jason Burggraff,
Senior Pastor

Lent at First:
Grasped by the
Gospel Echoes of the
Reformation

**“The most precious
gift of the Church
is God’s Word. Not
our power, our**

**numbers, our money, our reputation
before men makes the church great. But
the church is great because it speaks the
Word of God. That Word is that Jesus
Christ died for our sins and rose again.
Through that Word God moves mightily
among us to save and keep us and to
save all the men who are His.”** Richard
Caemmerer, Secretary and Dean of
Chapel at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Missouri, 1960.

At one point in my previous call here at First Lutheran Church (FLC), our church library records were being cleaned up. Being more of a saver than a thrower, I “rescued” from the trash heap a folder that contained a collection of 11 letters from well-known Seminary Professors of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. These theologians were invited to write imaginary letters from Martin Luther to pastors of the ALC on the jubilee occasion of the formation of the ALC in 1960 (to which FLC belonged). All 11 letters are interesting, but there is one that I keep coming back to which I believe has much to say for us today, 63 years after it was written, and 36 years after the

ALC merged with the LCA to form the ELCA. That is the letter I quoted at the beginning of this article.

Some of you may remember the First Lutheran of 1960. In this quote, Caemmerer astutely observes that in 1960 (and today, I would add!) while there are many parts of the institution of our church to which we will pay attention (our power, numbers, money, reputation before people), none are as precious and central as God’s own Word, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The Lutheran reformers were so clear about this point that they taught that the true unity of the Church is based solely on the pure preaching of the Gospel, and the right administration of the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. (Augsburg Confession, Article VII). Can you imagine that through all these years, this alone is what makes the Church (by the power of the Holy Spirit, of course)? If you can, then you might be a Lutheran!

And so along with God’s children through baptism here at First, I take great joy in the call to teach and preach God’s Word for you and with you, because I know that when God’s Word goes out, it does not come back empty, but accomplishes that for which it is sent. (Isaiah 55) It is effective at forgiving sin and bringing new life to your old Adam or Eve, where you may see only difficulty and death around you. What joy it is to have been given this hope of new life through Christ! And while the echoes of this proclamation come to us not only from 500 years ago and 2000 years ago, it is brand new as we

preach and hear it today!

In that vein, as we are brought into the season of Lent, I invite you to read the devotions and attend our midweek services this Lent. Each week we’ll be taking a look at a slice of the Reformation in the year 1523. (preaching themes include: marriage, martyrs, baptism, hymnody, and Luther translating the Old Testament) Come, see, and hear how with scripture, preaching, and music, these services will speak to our day and our situation now in 2023.

Sinners like you and me are bound to try to trust all sorts of false gods in this old world, and so we need this new life in Christ. Know that it is here for you.

Caemmerer concludes in his last point: **“The world will not last forever. The kings and princes of the world must fail. The entire world, however great and noble, goes to its end. Our business is to keep each other firm in the faith through the Word of God, in our families and churches, until Christ returns to take us home.”**

While this world will not last forever (nor our power, numbers, money or reputations), as you hear God’s Word, you are home already in faith, in Christ’s promise for you today. May you hear it clearly and often in the days ahead, for Christ has moved mightily to give you eternal life!

More information on Lent,
schedule inside!

LENT AT FIRST LUTHERAN



"Marriage, Martyrs, and Mysteries of the Faith:
Echoes of the Reformation in 1523, 500 Years Later"

Lenten Midweek Services

Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday-"Dust to Dust: Still Sinning, Still
Forgiven"

March 1-"Escaped Nuns and the Beauty of Marriage"

Guest Preacher Sarah Stenson

March 8-"Martyrs for the Faith: the 1st Lutheran Martyrs"

March 15-"Baptismal Gold: Luther's Teaching on Baptism"

March 22-"The Birth of Lutheran Hymnody"

Guest Preacher Dr. Nicholas Hopman

March 29-"The First Five: Luther begins Translating the Old
Testament"

Guest Preacher Dr. Chris Croghan

Holy Week Services April 2-9

Palm Sunday: 9am and 11am

Maundy Thursday: 11:15am and 6:30pm (Communion is served)

Good Friday: 11:15am and 6:30pm

Easter Vigil: 5pm

Easter Sunday: 7, 9, and 11am services (Communion is served)

Let us break bread together

Meals will be served in Reformation Hall.

If you'd like to volunteer to bring bread or desserts, please contact the church.

Lunch, \$6 per person

- March 1—Chicken noodle soup
- March 8—Vegetable beef
- March 15—Knoephla and chicken noodle
- March 22—White chicken chili and beef chili
- March 29—Broccoli cheese with chicken

Dinner, \$5 per person

- March 1—Lasagna, salad, French bread
- March 8—Chicken strips, potato wedges, green beans
- March 15—Ham, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots
- March 22—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, California blend
- March 29—Roast beef, baby reds, corn



First Lutheran is excited to welcome two incredibly talented choirs this month. Please see below or visit our events page for more information!

Concordia Choir:
Tickets \$20 available at FLC Reception, **must purchase in person**

National Lutheran Choir:
Tickets \$20 **Online only**
Purchase at nlca.com/tours

Youth & Family

March: Gearing up for Spring/Summer events



*Skylar Schwab,
Youth Minister*

The fun in Youth and Family just doesn't stop! You'll soon find out how busy we continue to be in ministry of all ages throughout the month of March.

It is quite a blessing to serve a wonderful and loving God in this way.

Youth and family has three Milestone events this month! We are excited to welcome our fifth graders and their parents into a time of learning as they prepare for their First Communion Milestone. Pastor Jason, Valerie, and I have been eagerly planning what classes will look like beginning Wednesday, March 8. Over the course of four weeks, they will grow in their understanding of the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, baptism, and the Holy Sacrament of Communion. The fifth graders will then receive their First Communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service as it commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover Meal with his disciples.

Kindergartners will be learning about the Ten Commandments. First graders

will be learning about the Lord's Prayer. Ninth grade youth will attend their Faith Statement retreat to prepare them for their Affirmation of Baptism. I invite you to pray over our youth and these important milestones they are reaching. Each one is just as important as the others. We are



teaching God's beautiful truth and love-which is so dang awesome to do!

During the Lenten season, Wednesday School and Confirmation students will continue to meet. A change with Wednesday School is that they will begin in the Chapel instead of the Sanctuary. All of our confirmation students will meet in the Gathering Room for a time

of fellowship and then attend worship together in their small groups. Following the Lent worship, the senior high youth group will continue to gather.



I continue to be overwhelmed with all the support our congregation shows our youth. You understand how important mine and Valerie's ministries are to youth of all ages. We appreciate it greatly!

We are also nearing our time to sign up for camps this summer before registration prices increase! The early bird deadline is March 15. There are bible camps available starting from second grade all the way through our high school seniors throughout the month of July. Please make sure to register your child(ren) as soon as you are able. Spots are filling up at camps! You can visit flcsf.org/camp or contact the Youth and Family office for more information.



SCAN ME

Committee Updates

Capital Campaign Update



*By Jean Hoff,
Campaign
Coordinator*

We received great news that the sound system design will be received at First Lutheran on Wednesday, February 8. A team led by James

Moore and Zachary Brockhoff will review the plans with the sound design team. If changes are necessary, they will be made and reviewed again by First Lutheran. Then the sound design plan will go out for bids. The bidding process takes 30 days. At that point the sound

design company will review the bids and check references from the bidders. The church will receive the bids and the review made by the design company. The church will make the final decision regarding the bidder that best fits First Lutheran. After the bidder is selected, then the implementation time window will depend on equipment lead time and contractor scheduling. The project will be completed in 2023, hopefully no later than September/October.

You will begin to see art work going up on the walls of the Atrium in the near future. The reception desk will begin sometime in the first 2 weeks of March. We are getting closer to completing the priority list of projects for the campaign.

FLCW/WELCA host Pr. Jason New Members Welcome!

As the new co-presidents of the First Lutheran Church Women (WELCA) we, Lola Coon and Marcia Huffman, want to invite the women of the church to join us at our first General Meeting of 2023 when we will welcome Pastor Jason Burggraff as our guest speaker. Pastor Jason will visit with us about his life and ministry in Rochester, about his family, and share with us his vision for the future of First Lutheran and how he sees the women of the church as partners in his vision. We will meet at 10:00 am on March 2 in the Gathering Room and coffee and a breakfast treat will be served. Please join us for food, fellowship, singing and to hear Pastor Jason's message. Perhaps he will want to invite feedback from us as well.

There have been many changes recently

at First Lutheran including welcoming our new Senior Pastor, and we anticipate some changes in our women's group as well. We will meet for our General Meetings in March, May, September and December and we would love to have



you join us. Our Bible Study Circles will continue to meet monthly for fellowship and to study God's Word. Please prayerfully consider joining us in 2023 as we start a new year of ministry with Jesus as our co-pilot. We as FLCW/WELCA participate in many activities to share our gifts with others. Please call Lola at 605-201-5703 or Marcia at 605-360-4168 if you would like more information about FLCW/WELCA and how you might fit in to this group of dedicated women. All ages are welcome!

March Special Offering: Emmaus Road Scholarships (Colombia)



*Val Peters, Evangelism
and Outreach Board*

The March Special Offering supports Emmaus Road Foundation (formerly known as LIZWAN). This organization is a scholarship ministry started by Pastor Nate

Lizarazo and Pastor Barbara Wangness, who previously served at First Lutheran Church.

Emmaus Road Foundation operates with the mission that "education is the passport to a better life." Evangelism is a large part of their mission with the goal to share God's love through evangelical witness, make visible the process change caused by the Gospel in all human beings, and help others in becoming aware of the deep meaning and value of their lives in the eyes of Christ. They fulfill all of their missions by providing scholarships for students in Colombia, South America, to attend formal education ranging from elementary to the university level—including formal technical education.

Additionally, Emmaus Road Foundation provides opportunities for Christian Leadership development and mission relationships through Casa Emmaus (Hospitality House). At Casa Emmaus, national and international groups (including groups from First Lutheran Church) experience hospitality, mutual reflection, and shared mission commitment.

As you keep this missions in your prayers, please consider financial support by using the Special offering envelopes which are included with your regular offering envelopes or in the worship pew. If you do not have one, bring your donation to the Information Desk at church, using "March Special Offering, Emmaus Road Foundation" on the memo line of your check, or visit flcsf.org/give to donate online.

Committee Updates Continued

Walk to Ukraine with us!



John Hegg, Care and Health Board

Like our successful walk to Jerusalem last year during Lent, another challenge is before the members of First Lutheran as we attempt to walk or bike a straight line

5,226 miles to Kyiv, Ukraine, during the six weeks of Lent, 2023.

This will be another meaningful way to work together as First members to

complete a task. During our Lenten journey, it is a time to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ. If we follow his teachings, we our mindful and concerned about others, especially those who are suffering in Ukraine and also those who now call Sioux Falls their home. We also encourage all walkers and other members of First to sponsor the walk by a donation to Lutheran World Relief.

Olga Davidyuk, a former resident of Ukraine now living in Sioux Falls, will give a presentation about Ukraine during the Senior Lunch on February 28.

Simple instructions

1. To Indicate your commitment, including individuals, groups and families, register with John at 605-339-2582 or email at johnhegg@sio.midco.net.
2. The miles walked or biked will be reported each Tuesday during Lent.
3. Pedometers to track miles can be purchased with John if needed.
4. Checks to support the journey should be made out to First Lutheran with Lutheran World Relief in the memo line.

More detailed information will be shared with all those who register for the Walk to Kyiv.

January Gifts and Memorials

FLC Foundation

In memory of Faith Christiansen

Vance & Sherry Goldammer, Russ & Carol Greenfield

Media Ministry

In memory of Faith Christiansen

Cindy & Ron Moegenburg, Kathy Stelzer, FLC Women of ELCA

In memory of John Odney

Sandra Holleman

In memory of Marcene Scully

Dorothy & Jim Christopherson, Gretchen Graves, Cindy & Ron Moegenburg, Mary Ryrholm

In memory of Larry Anderson

Sandra Holleman

In memory of Marlys Bullington

Jeff & Edna Husman

In memory of Pearl DeLorenzo

FLC Women of ELCA

In memory of Angela Gillespie

FLC Women of ELCA, Leroy & Janet Halstenson

Music Ministry

In memory of Mary Ann Hohman

Brent Hohman, Joan Hansen

In memory of Marcene Scully

John Christopherson

In memory of John Odney

Peter & Marilyn Hegg

In memory of John Kittelson

Peter & Marilyn Hegg

In memory of Mel Anderson

Peter & Marilyn Hegg

In memory of Richard Lundin

Peter & Marilyn Hegg

In memory of Robert Mathiesen

Peter & Marilyn Hegg

In memory of Terry Roisum

Peter & Marilyn Hegg

Children's Music

In memory of Marcene Scully

Paul & Madeleine Jahr

FLC Men's Worship

In memory of Larry Anderson

Gerald & Arlene Gackle

Happy 90+ Birthday!

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



Mar 9—Eugene Erickson

Mar 11—Barbara Long

Mar 17—Joyce Sells

Mar 18—John Myers

Mar 26—Patti Erickson

Mar 31—Marilyn Eikanger

Installation of Senior Pastor Jason Burggraff



Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)





First Lutheran Church
 327 S Dakota Ave
 Sioux Falls SD 57104

Death:

January 13 : Marcene Scully

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank You, January Media Sponsors

January 15, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Lutheran Men in Mission in honor of all staff at FLC.
- The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in memory of William Bentzinger Sr., Harold Spitznagel, and Wallace Steele, through earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation, by Spitznagel, Inc. of Sioux Falls.
- The KELO-FM broadcast was given in memory of Samantha Kramer, made possible by earnings from a gift by family and friends to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

January 22, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Stephen Johnson in celebration of Pr. Jason's installation and in memory of his mother's birthday in January.
- The closed captioning on KSFY and broadcast on KELO-FM were sponsored in memory of Dick Matson and Martin & Margaret Summervold by family.

January 29, 2023

- The telecast and closed captioning on the CW was sponsored by Lori and David Melemseter.

Council Highlights: January 2023

- We doubled our offerings in December and therefore came in better than budgeted revenue for 2022.
- Offerings have been on a downward trend for the past few years. Due to current inflation rates, expenses will likely increase. For the 2023 budget, an additional \$113k was added to actual (current) pledge numbers to compare to recent years pledges vs. actual giving. The 2023 proposed budget shows a loss to be covered by the 2022 surplus.
- Council is comfortable with the 2023 budget but has concerns for 2024 and beyond if revenues continue to decline while expenses continue to increase.
- Pr. Dave served with FLC for just over 13 months, and his final day with FLC was January 31. He is looking forward to the Holy Land trip in April and is hoping to take some time off. He noted that in the past year, we've accomplished nearly every task we set out to do. The new security system is almost complete, and the Sanctuary sound system is in the works and will hopefully be in by the end of the year.
- Pr. Jason thanked Pr. Dave for his time here and has appreciated their overlap time. Though his time here has been short, Pr. Jason has been taking a lot in learning the systems of FLC.
- The big construction project left in the Atrium is the reception desk. Ordered parts are now on their way. Construction is expected to begin in March.
- Nominating committee work in the final weeks leading up to the annual meeting was a bit of a roller coaster. Three individuals resigned from the Youth and Family board as did two at-large members for the executive committee. The nominating committee was able to fill open roles in time for the annual meeting.