

First Lutheran Church

Newsletter for Members & Friends

July, 2010



Northern Illinois Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Website - nisynod.org

Synod Assembly Highlights and Life in the Church

The synodical assembly has ended and reports were given but here are a couple highlights I would like to share with you.

Dr. James Echols of the seminary in Chicago asked us, "Do we really 'Love to Tell the Story of Jesus and His Love?'" Each of the Gospels ends with a call to mission, to share the story of Jesus our Savior. Do we invite people to FLC to be a part of a program or to encounter the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord? Or do we invite people at all?

President Steven Bahls of Augustana College talked about giving and shared this reflection: I grew up in the Boy Scouts. I support their work even today. I do not agree with all the stands the Boy Scouts take. I wish they were more inclusive. But I do not stop giving to the Boy Scouts even if I don't agree with them. And the same is true with the church. Don't wait for your church to be perfect before you give. Remember, Jesus does not wait for you to be perfect before he gives to you all his blessings and love. To live graciously is to give for the benefit of others, even those who are hard to love.

Those two comments struck home for me. The call to witness and the grace of God that opens up our life to be gracious to others is a theme so needed today.

I wish you could have been there to see the reception of the new church, the ordination of a new pastor, the election of our beloved bishop on the first ballot, and to see the signs of recovery taking place in our ELCA.

The ELCA is not perfect and neither are we. But God continues to bless it with his Spirit to witness to the salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. And for that we are very thankful.

Peace, Pastor Greg

Council Highlights: June 2010

The council met with: 11 members present and Pastor Olson, Rosemary Sibley and Ken Cocking. Devotions were given by Andy Cruse. The secretary's report was approved. The treasurer's report was approved.

Endowment Committee Report: Ken Cocking reported for the Endowment

Committee. He reported that the house of Robert Hanson has been sold and the proceeds will be received into the Fund sometime this fall. The Committee has also elected to move the funds into more income producing investments now that the fund has recovered the base line investments from donations. The hope is to be able to count on \$8,000 - \$10,000 a year for the funds to be distributed. The fund will be providing a

scholarship to send one of our people to the Diakonia Program next fall.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reflected on the suggestions for the evangelism discussion and offered that two or three of these become priorities to begin in the fall. The Sunday of July 18th has been reserved for the Worship and picnic in the State Park. Food, music and games will be organized. Also, we are adding a worship service on Saturday, July 3rd at 5:00 p.m. for the 4th of July weekend. Pastor is working with the Youth and parents for the canoe trip. Men in Mission met last Sunday with two new men attending. The group will take the summer off. There will be two more Adult Catechism classes in June. The Memorial Committee report was given (see below) and the Mutual Ministry committee will meet in June.

President: Jason reported that the church has received another blessing gift of \$25,000 from a member of the church to be used as we see fit. It has been deposited with the other gift from last year in a savings account. The council spent some time thinking about ways that these funds could be used. More will be reported on this at the next meeting.

Property: The committee has completed the remodeling of the bathroom off the narthex. The men also spent time making the shelves for the quilters. It was suggested to get Vanex to help with the rodent problem around the organ.

Worship and Music: There will be a hymn sing on August 15th. Hymn suggestions will be received until July 10th. There is a basket in the back of the sanctuary to gather hymn suggestions.

Christian Education: Kim Purvis, the Sunday School superintendent, shared the results of the pole with the teachers and reported that most will return to teach again. There was a general approval for how things were handled. There may be a need

for chairs for the chapel singing before classes. Rally Day will be September 12th. Teachers will be installed. VBS is coming in July. They will supply games for kids at the picnic. They made \$300 during the brunch in May. The funds will be divided between the after school FLUBBER program and Sunday School.

Evangelism and Social Ministry: Hosted the graduates reception in May. Committee will provide meat for the picnic. Busy bags were refilled.

Stewardship and Finance: Reviewed the financial situation. In July a stewardship video will be shared.

Youth and Family Ministry: Rosemary was on a spirituality retreat last week. She is preparing the middle school students for the servant trip in Davenport this month. She will be attending the LYO convention during the Synod Assembly with one youth. The Council Meeting ended with prayer.

May Financial Report

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building</u>
Beginning . . .	\$ 5,457.83	\$ 9,604.00
Income	13,614.51	1,419.50
Expenses	16,665.22	368.90
Balance	2,407.12	\$10,654.60

Next Council & Committee Meetings

Tuesday, July 13th

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

Saturday Night Worship July 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

We will offer worship with communion on Saturday night, July 3rd at 5:00 p.m., due to the community Fourth of July events on Sunday. Worship on Sunday will be held at the normal time of 9:00 a.m.

Worship in the Park: July 18th
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Picnic

We have reserved the shelter and picnic area in the State Park down by the river for Sunday, July 18th. Worship will be at 10:00 a.m. and a pot luck picnic will follow. The Evangelism Committee will provide drinks, meat and buns to serve (donations would be welcomed). You are invited to bring a dish to share. The Education Committee will be hosting games for the young people. There is also a rumor that a certain council member will sponsor a "Corn Hole" tournament. Plus the ever popular "Egg Toss" will be held. Worship Committee is organizing the band to play and use our new outdoor sound system. So, join the celebration outside. "Let us gather by the River". And, if it rains, the times will remain the same only we will hold everything at the church.

Hymn Sing

Plan to join us for a Hymn Sing on Sunday, August 15th during our regular worship service. We need help to pick the hymns! Please email your suggestions to the church office or write it out and put it in the basket at the back of the church. There will be a sign there to guide you to the spot. In order to plan the service, the Worship and Music Committee needs your suggestions by Saturday, July 10th. Thanks for your suggestions!

Vacation Bible School

Son Harvest County Fair VBS will be held at the Advent Christian Church on Sunday, July 25th to Friday, July 30th at 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. nightly for ages 4 through 5th grade. Registration forms can be filled out ahead of time and will be found on the table

in the narthex. First Lutheran will be doing the Preschool part of VBS with Rhonda Bohms and Rosemary Sibley as co-directors.

We know how busy everyone is so we are asking for a commitment of only ONE NIGHT to help as adult leaders (Jr. High to 100 years of age). Please contact Rosemary or Rhonda if you can help for a night - it would really be appreciated.

Youth Trips

Jr. League will be going to the Quad Cities at the end of June for a week long servant trip in the "hood". They will be working at the homeless shelter, soup kitchen, food pantry, and Salvation Army serving others as Jesus taught us to do. Please keep everyone in your prayers. Bob Bohms and Rosemary Sibley will be accompanying the youth.

FLY: Pastor Olson and Drew Emery will be helping FLY members experience God and the beauty he created as they portage and canoe in upper Minnesota.

The group will work together as a team, have self reflection time, Bible study and worship each day in an outdoor setting. Please keep everyone in your prayers.

We also thank the FLAG and WELCA groups for giving financial assistance to the groups this summer.

July Birthday Celebrations

We wish to send a "Birthday Greeting" to all of our members celebrating this month. A special greeting is extended to our members who are 80 or over.

Marjorie Gardner – 14th

Please refer to your church directory for the entire birthday list of our members.

Thank you's....

Again, thanks to the property committee for their fine work in finishing up the bathroom off the narthex and for building shelves for the quilters in their storage area downstairs. Thanks to Mark Melton, Gary Hinrichs, Steve Kuelper, David Strike, Jason Robshaw, and Jason Schanze.

Thanks to the adults who are accompanying the youth on their trips this summer (taking time off from work to make these trips possible): Bob Bohms and Drew Emery.

Thanks again to Nancy Arians and the Mississippi Valley Credit Union for the donation of food for the brunch in May. \$300 was raised for the Sunday School and after school program.

Pastoral Acts - January thru June

Baptisms

1-24-10	Mya Megan Haggard
3-28-10	Austin Richard Shipp
4-11-10	Ellie Gibson Glasgow
4-18-10	Lauren Marie Malone
6-27-10	Mason Franklin Minssen

First Communion 4-1-10

Madison Purvis, Lexi Rangel, Corrin Sonnenberg, Jacob Scott, Kasey Batten

Funerals

1-13-10	Charles Douglas Sandrock
3-8-10	Robert Kuelper
3-10-10	Robert L. Hansen
4-18-10	Josephine Dykema
4-22-10	Florence Jacobsen

Thrivent Members "Choice Dollars"

If you have a Thrivent policy, you will be asked to vote on how to use your "Choice Dollars" sometime in July.

In the past, the church has received funds directly from Thrivent. These funds have usually been used to support the camping ministries, youth trips and mission trips. This amount was usually around \$1,000.

Now, each member will be notified as to how much they can designate for a variety of causes that have been approved by Thrivent. First Lutheran Church is a designated recipient for this money and you may choose to give part or all to the church. These funds can be distributed by the church council.

So, if you are a Thrivent member, keep your eyes open for mailings about "Choice Dollars."

To Love is to Give: The Basics of Stewardship Theology

(from the Giving magazine, an article by Pastor Genunhee Yu - Disciples of Christ)

The psalmist provides a pivotal text that can help us understand this concept: "The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1). God the Creator is the owner and Lord of all things in heaven and on earth. God put Adam and Eve into the Garden of Eden to rule over all of God's creation. Adam was the first manager, i.e. steward, of things that belonged to God. Therefore God is the owner, not only by right of creation but also by the redemption of all creation in Christ. A human being,

especially a redeemed Christian, is the steward of all she or he is and has.

It is common practice to talk about Christian stewardship in terms of three Ts: time, talent and treasure. In reality, however, stewardship involves much more, and among these three Ts, treasure, or money, is of special interest. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matt. 6:21).

Consider the holistic understanding of stewardship, specifically tithing, among Asian Christians. There is a proverbial saying in Asia, which means: "a spoonful of rice from ten persons makes a bowl of rice for one."

Originally and literally, it means that ten people united may easily help a person in need. Korean Christians have adapted the words to mean that a tenth of one's treasure or money will contribute to make God's treasury whole (complete and sufficient) for its mission and ministry. It means a tenth of all things, not just the three Ts, but all other gifts entrusted to us by God.

Living as a steward is not an option but an entrusted duty for all Christians. It is not a duty in the sense of a legalistic obligation. Instead, living as a steward includes a free and grateful attitude toward God's redeeming love in Christ. The Lord defines our attitude in that sense: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). It is out of our love of God and his people that we freely and gratefully give.

Biblical stewardship of Money is not about a percentage or amount. Instead it is a matter of the heart (Mark 12:41-44). Living as a steward of money includes a mindset of giving out of devotion rather than out of duty. Simply put, financial stewardship is a way of worship.

Giving in general and tithing in particular is an act of testifying to what is most important in one's life, plus recognizing that all resources belong to God.

Assisting in July

Ushers: Phil & Sally Schultz, Carl & Marilyn Melton, Marilyn Skromme

Greeters: Jean Allen, Jean Milnes, Mary Roland, Rosemary Sibley

Altar Committee: Marilyn Skromme, Nancy Cruse, Stephanie Bohms

Assisting Minister: 18 – Nora Kelly

Blood Pressure: 25 – Joan Johnson

Communion Bread: 4 – Marilyn Skromme

Cantor: Cathy Hinrichs

Readers

4 – Doug Jensen 11 – Kent Olsen
18 – Megan Haggard 25 – Lynda VanDyke

Acolytes

4 – 11 – Patrick Kelly
18 – Breanna Sandrock 25 – Mary Chapman

Nursery

4 – Amanda Schanze 11 – Nancy Cruse
18 – Judi & Erin B. 25 – Becky Emery



Pastor & Staff

Pastor Greg Olson . . . Home: 815-537-2363
Cell: 815-535-3181
Youth & Family Ministry–Rosemary Sibley
Home: 815-537-5326

Sunday Worship . . . 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary's Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

How to Reach Us

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