



First Lutheran Church  
Newsletter for Members & Friends  
May, 2010

## Evangelism: Not a Program but a Way of Life

You may not know this but the official name of First Lutheran Church is “First Evangelical Lutheran Church.” For convenience we leave out the “Evangelical” part. But maybe we need to revisit that convenience. Maybe we need to be reminded that evangelism is about what the church is about.

At the CRE this spring, our main speaker was Dr. Craig Nesson of Wartburg Seminary. One of the problems he illustrated was that most churches have an evangelism committee. And so do we. Our committee hosts fellowship opportunities, organizes the Pack the Pew Sunday which is a good program for evangelism. And they help make us a more welcoming place with nursery, brochures and busy bags. But what Dr. Nesson wanted us to think about is that Evangelism is not just a program or a committee. It is the way we all live our lives in proclamation of Jesus Christ.

The familiar statistic that a Lutheran will invite a person to church once every 22 years does not bode well for outreach. There needs to be a new identity where by each person sees in their Baptism a calling to share Jesus Christ with the people around them in their words and actions. Evangelism is not a program or a committee. It is a way of living out our faith in Jesus Christ.

In the month of May we have several Bible verses that can direct our witness and give us encouragement to be intentional in our sharing the Gospel. The Easter church was built on evangelism. Pentecost is the celebration of the Spirit giving us power and direction for Mission.

We have wonderful resources here at First *Evangelical* Lutheran Church to share Jesus Christ. Pray for the Spirit to give us another Pentecost.

*Peace, Pastor Greg*

### **Council Highlights: April, 2010**

The council met with: 12 members present, Pastor Olson and Rosemary Sibley. The secretary’s report was approved. The treasurer’s report was approved.

Pastor’s Report: He reviewed the plans for the Pack the Pew Sunday and anniversary. Helpers for the Pot Luck dinner were

arranged. Those who went on the Congregational Resourcing Event shared their stories and enthusiasm for the experience. Pastor asked for a “paper” adjustment to his salary so that money would be transferred from his salary to his furnishing allowance for tax purposes. The motion was made and passed to do this. He

announced his vacation times in May (3-6; 25-31). Kai Swanson will be here on the 30<sup>th</sup> to speak about Augustana's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the role of the college in the life of the church. Pastor described his educational events that he has taught in response to the education committee recommendations. Easter and Lent services were discussed.

President: A letter was shared from the Synod concerning the new congregation. It was decided to send \$100 to the new church in Loves Park for their start up gift.

Property: Floors were waxed on March 25-27. Tiles have been bought to refurbish the narthex bathroom. The cross tower and eaves around the church need to be painted. The furnace leak was fixed as well as repairs to the parsonage furnace.

Worship and Music: Plans were made to celebrate Pentecost with the Sunday School youth as this will be their last session. New members for the committee were received. The video camera was discussed.

Christian Education: Sunday School was discussed, attendance has been good. The committee discussed the problem of the funds for youth trips with the loss of Thrivent Funds. It was agreed to set aside \$1500 from the Blessing Savings for the Sr. and Jr. High trips and for the sending of youth to the Synod LYO convention in June. We will be in charge of the pre-school youth during the VBS in July.

Evangelism and Social Ministry: Pack the Pews Sunday was discussed. Nursery assignments were made and the reception for graduates was planned.

Stewardship and Finance: The committee discussed the financial report and the first quarter summary of expenses and income. A video will be shown in July.

Youth and Family Ministry: VBS is scheduled for July 25-30 at Advent Christian. On April 24 Jr. League will raise money from a Rummage Sale for their trip

to Peder Eide at LOMC. The last FLUBBER session will be in April as well as conclusions for the Pizza & Prayer and Prayer Breakfast. Rosemary will be on vacation from May 8-22.

Old Business: Donna Roland will step in along with Dave Meyers to be our representatives at the Synod Convention on June 18 & 19.

We have received the \$1000 from Olin Mills in the form of an American Express Gift Card.

The Council Meeting ended with prayer.

### **Next Council & Committee Meetings**

Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

Committee Meetings @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

### **March Financial Report**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building</u>
Beginning . . .	<b>\$1,005.26</b> .....	<b>9,050.30</b>
Income . . . . .	22,526.57 .....	1,015.50
Expenses . . . . .	16,959.95 .....	1,230.30
<b>Balance . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 6,571.88</b> .....	<b>8,835.50</b>

### **Men in Mission Breakfast Meeting**

All men of the church are invited to join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, served by Ken Cocking. Pastor will lead a Bible Study on Acts 2. We ask that you RSVP. Bring a friend.

### **Prophetstown HS Graduates:**

Ty Breitbach, Barbara Duffy,  
Cody Hungerford

Congratulations to our three seniors who will be graduating from Prophetstown High School this month. All three seniors have been very active and an important part of FLY and will be missed. Our prayers are with you on your new life's journey, Go With God.

## **Blessing For Seniors & Parents and Reception: May 16<sup>th</sup>**

The last step in the Stepping Stones program is the blessing for seniors, their parents, mentors and baptismal sponsors. A special service is being planned with a reception for all after worship hosted by the Evangelism Committee.

## **Baccalaureate - May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Prophetstown Ministerial Association invites all graduating High School seniors, their family and friends to a worship service on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Prophetstown.

## **Graduates from Tampico Middle School:**

Patrick Kelly, Breanna Sandrock

## **Confirmation Class**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their mentors will meet on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Greg to begin their Faith and Life program. During the summer the youth will meet with their mentors, complete the worksheets and then meet with Pastor. The worksheets deal with how we exercise our faith in the areas of worship, work, school, friends and family. This is a vital preparation for their confirmation next October.

## **Adult Catechism to Continue**

The second half of the adult catechism class will continue on two Monday nights. Bring your questions.

May 10: Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

May 17: What is a Sacrament?  
Baptism and the Lord's Supper

## **Memorial Committee Meeting**

On Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Memorial Meeting. Committee members are asked to meet in the narthex.

## **Sunday School**

This has been a fantastic semester of Sunday School with a new, bible-based curriculum, a group of devoted teachers, and our outstanding students! The "Bible In Life" curriculum we have been using this semester has just been completed. We have a short month in May with several special days planned:

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Sunday School students will be going to the Good Samaritan Nursing Home during regular Sunday School time to sing to the residents. We would like your permission to drive your child to and from the nursing home. If you would like to join us and be a driver, please email me at [kimpurvis@essex1.com](mailto:kimpurvis@essex1.com).

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Mother's Day, and because all of our Sunday School teachers are mothers, we will not be having Sunday School that Sunday in honor of our teachers.

**May 16<sup>th</sup>:** We will do a review of the memory verses learned this semester.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Finale day of classes. We will play games and make homemade ice cream to celebrate the end of great year of Sunday School. Your child is encouraged to bring a friend this day and dress comfortably, as we will hopefully (weather permitting) be outside.

Have a wonderful and blessed summer, and thanks for your support.  
Sincerely,

*Kim Purvis,  
Sunday School Superintendent*

## **Thank You for Youth Programs**

It has been an extremely busy and exciting school year for the youth, community, and First Lutheran. Pizza & Prayer, Prayer Breakfast and FLUBBER have touched many lives and opened our doors fully to the community. Building our programs on the word of God, prayer, enthusiasm and volunteers have given us successful and important programs. Thank you to the congregation for your support, to everyone who provided food and monetary donations, and to the many volunteers who donated their time and gifts. Programs will resume in September.

## **FLY**

Gabe Larson and Rosemary Sibley will be attending the youth part of the Synod Assembly in June. We have not had a youth involved for a number of years and are very excited. Thanks Gabe.

## **Red Geraniums for Pentecost**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> red geraniums will decorate the sanctuary, please have plants at church by 9 am on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Plants may be taken home following the worship service or leave your plants here to be planted outside around the church sign. Forms are available at church to complete with your information for the bulletin and please return to the office by May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **WELCA**

The general meeting will be held at the Good Samaritan Center on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Loretta Bohnert and Shirley Jensen.

## **Lydia-Miriam Circle Meeting**

The circle meeting will be held on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Glenda Sampson.

## **May Friendship Day**

Church Women United will hold their annual May Friendship Day – *Living the Vision* on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. here at FLC with an offering for the Least Coin. A salad lunch will be served.

## **Nat'l Day of Prayer – May 6<sup>th</sup>**

The National Day of Prayer will be held at Eclipse Square led by the Ministerial Association at 12:00 pm. Prayers will be offered for our troops in Iraq, for peace, for our leaders, schools, community, churches, farming, and other aspects of our daily life.

## **Birthday Party for Arnold Frank**

On May 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. there will be a birthday reception in honor of Arnold Frank's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday given by his family. All are welcome to share birthday wishes with him.

## **May 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.

Arnold Frank – 14<sup>th</sup>  
Wilma Johnson – 26<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Thank You**

FLY and Jr. League would like to thank WELCA for two very generous donations to run our programs. Thank you to WELCA and FLAG for your donations for FLY's trip to Minnesota. Thank you for always supporting us and helping us reach our goals.



Greetings,

Wow, the floors are so clean and waxed that I can slide all over the place downstairs and in the sanctuary. Thanks to our floor cleaning and waxing people: Carl & Marilyn Melton, Mark Melton, Jason Robshaw, Ken Cocking, Gary Hinrichs, Lory Wirth, Drew Emery, Steve Kuelper, Dave Strike, and Pastor Olson.

Thanks to the Evangelism Committee for setting up the anniversary day and pot luck dinner. I love pot lucks!!! Thanks to Ben Sandrock, Donna & Randy Roland, Darla Rangel, Ken Cocking, Rosemary Sibley, Andy Cruse, Greg & Chris Sandrock, Steve & Brenda Wankerl, and Stan & Luanne Urban.

Thanks to Wankerls and Emerys for the ham dinner in March. Many people really enjoyed it. And thanks to all the parents and FLY members who worked so hard to do this. I know Rosemary appreciated it.

Thanks to the worship committee for hosting the Seder Dinner for the congregation and for the first communion class. Thanks to Rita Olson and Rosemary Sibley for the cooking. It was a great event.

## **Letter from Nathan Clements**

(Excerpts from his letter)

Dear Friends at First,

This has been a very busy and exciting semester, and four weeks of classes are now left before I complete my degree.

I am currently in the approval process to continue my preparation for ordained ministry, but from my last letter you know that I will not be seeking to serve

a parish immediately after seminary. Instead, my strongest sense of call is to return to outdoor ministry in a full time capacity. I am incredibly excited to share with you that I applied for the Program director position of Badlands Ministries in Medora, North Dakota, and they officially offered me the job. I accepted it without hesitation. The camp has a tremendous amount of energy and vision for witnessing to Christ, and I am excited beyond words to join in their ministry this July. Emily and I will be relocating to the Dickinson, ND, area this summer as we begin this new chapter in our life together.

Graduation is right around the corner, and I can't help but feel a little nostalgic for these last four years at Luther....Just as important has been my relationship with you and your generosity that greatly assisted me in completing my education. I will never be able to express fully the many ways that your prayers and support have helped and encouraged me. Thank you so much for accompanying me on this journey.

Luther's graduation ceremony will be held in Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 30th, and there is open seating. If you happen to be in the area you are welcome to join us for the occasion. Otherwise I hope to see you this summer by joining you for worship. It has been far too long since I last saw you.

I pray that the joy we share in Christ's promises continues to strengthen you in the ministry and mission we share.

*God bless,*

*Nathan Clements.*

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## Assisting in May



**Ushers:** Gordon Zschiesche, Bob Bohms,  
Jason Robshaw, Darryl Gibson, Chris  
Breitbach

**Greeters:** Jason & Christa Robshaw,  
Mark & Gayle Melton

**Altar Committee:** Connie Johnson, Nora  
Kelly, Kerry Meyer

**Assisting Minister:** 16 – Aaron Johnson

**Blood Pressure:** 23 – Lelia Gibson

**Communion Bread:** 2 – Rita Olson

**Cantor:** Ellen Pannier

### Readers

2 G. Zschiesche  
9 – Andy Cruse  
16 – Darrel Sampson  
23 – Darla Rangel  
30 – Karen Buck

### Acolytes

Breanna Sandrock  
Mary Chapman  
Erin Heflin  
Meghan Scott  
Heather Strike

### Nursery

2 – Darren Erickson  
9–Marcia Erickson  
16 – Judy Johnson  
23–Kerry Meyer  
30 – Heather Minssen

### 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.

Sunday School . . . 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

### Parish Secretary's Hours

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

### How to Reach Us

Office Phone . . . . . 815-537-2758

Fax Number . . . . . 815-537-5919

E-mail . . . . . [flcptown@frontiernet.net](mailto:flcptown@frontiernet.net)

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