



THE PARISH NEWS



January, 2018

First Lutheran Church
PO Box 218, 709 5th Ave
Washburn, ND 58577-0218

Pastor: Rev. Erik Johnson

Phone:
701-462-3775 Church
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701-315-0255 Cell Phone
701-462-3785 Fax
E-mail address:
flc@westriv.com
Web-site address:
www.flcwashburn.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

OFFICE & NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF:

Jeannette Rost, Administrative Secretary

CUSTODIANS:

Jared & Sharon Hendrikson

YOUTH DIRECTOR:

Laura Gardner

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rev. Erik Johnson, Pastor
Brent Petersen, President
Dick Bickert, Vice President
Alyson Teigen, Secretary
Donna Sommer, Treasurer
Aaron Vorland, Property Trustee
Suzanne Swanson, Worship Deacon
Brenda Suckow, Education Chair
Emily Retterath, Evangelism Deacon
Kathy Keller, Stewardship Trustee

**NEWSLETTER INFORMATION/
ARTICLES DEADLINE is 20th of each month.**

Our Mission. . . "Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service."

"The Parish News" a monthly publication of First Lutheran, linking Church and members' homes, is mailed from Washburn, ND 58577, Bulk Postal permit #39.

**Pastor Erik's
Message
for the**

NEW YEAR



I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that while at boarding school in Madagascar, part of our Bible Study we memorized some of the Psalms. One of them was Psalm 90. As you consider the words to this Psalm they are appropriate for thinking about the transition from one year to the next. I would encourage you to read (maybe even memorize) the whole Psalm.

Here are some of the verses that can speak to us.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

These verses put things in perspective for us in God's timeline. We are aware that one year moves into another. Sometimes it seems like the year just passing has been a long one. Some have struggled with health issues and some with jobs or relationships. There are other issues that make life difficult for us. All of that makes the time seem to crawl by. But these words show us that in God's time it is just part of the whole and through everything that we have experienced, not just in the last year, but throughout our lives God is God and God has been with us. Through all that is to come God will continue to be us.

Another verse is certainly appropriate for the beginning of a new year. "¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." We certainly need the wisdom which comes from God for living in this world.

Finally, Psalm 90 includes a prayer for the new year.

- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

May the Lord bless your New Year in a special way! See you at worship!

Pastor Erik Johnson



Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

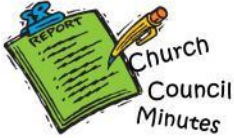
Psalm 90:14, NRSV



Sunday School Christmas Program - Top picture Preschool - K, Middle picture Grades 1-6

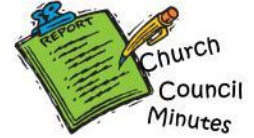


First Lutheran Choir Cantata



DECEMBER 18, 2017

(Please note that minutes are not approved until voted on by the council at the next month's meeting.)



- President Brent Petersen called the meeting to order.
- Members Present: Pastor Erik Johnson, Brent Petersen, Aaron Vorland, Dick Bickert, Alyson Teigen, Brenda Suckow, Kathy Keller, Donna Sommer also present was Jeannette Rost. Absent: Emily Retterath, Suzanne Swanson
- Pastor Erik led in devotions.
- Correction made to the November minutes changing the date Aaron will be traveling to Pine Ridge from December 17th to December 23rd. Donna/Brenda motioned to approve the corrected November minutes. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Donna Sommer

- Aaron/Kathy motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried. The balance of accounts as of December 18, 2017 is as follows:

Checking	7,909.61
Building	27,661.73
Cemetery	617.40
Interest	1,637.70
Music	974.24
Parking Lot	36,321.11
Worship	1,544.56
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney	11,992.40
TOTAL ASSETS	\$88,658.75

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastoral Acts
 - o November 30: Minkota Mission District Pastor's Meeting in Devils Lake
 - o December 3: Baptism of Sarah Anderson, Confirmation of Haley Anderson
- Visitation
 - o Home – 2
 - o Nursing Home – 4
 - o Hospital – 3
- Pastor is thinking of taking a few days following the annual meeting to visit family.
- Pastor asked the council if we would consider being part of a round robin with other congregations for Lent this year. The Council said that would be fine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP – Kathy Keller

- Kathy thanked our congregation for all donations to the roof fund. There was an anonymous donation(s) to pay the roof off. Kathy would like a blessing of the roof possibly on annual Sunday and told Pastor she would help if needed.

WORSHIP – Suzanne Swanson

- n/a

EDUCATION – Brenda Suckow

- Nothing to report

EVANGELISM – Emily Retterath

- Gifts were given to the new members.

PROPERTY – Aaron Vorland

- Aaron presented a proposal for purchase and installations of new windows in the basement. The quote was for \$16,913.00.
- Aaron and Monte Carvell did a walkthrough of the parsonage to see what repairs it needs. There is a garage door that needs replacing, the foundation has a few chips that need to be patched, the air conditioner may need replacing in the next few years, a new shower stall is needed, the carpet on the front steps should be replaced, there is a broken window tile in the basement and the deck needs to be resealed. It was figured the repairs will cost around \$7,000.00. Aaron also said he would get the trees and bushes trimmed up.
- Weber Electric came to look at the fans and flag light. Aaron is waiting for the quote.
- Jeannette mentioned there is a chunk of curb missing out front of the church.
- It was noted the carpet in the Narthex will need to be replaced in the next few years.

Old Business

- We have \$868.13 in Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- Fall church cleanup – Dick will contact Jared and review these items with him.
- Three Days of Prayer is January 2-4. The FLCW is heading this up.

(Continued on next page)

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- The council is still working on finding someone for snow removal for the sidewalks.
- The annual meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2018. Committee reports are due to Jeannette by noon on January 9, 2018.

New Business

- The following are benevolences that will be paid out in December:
 1. Relief Missions - \$250 – The Salvation Army
 2. World Hunger - \$125 – Water Mission
 3. Global Missions - \$375 – Friends of Madagascar Mission
 4. US/Local Missions - \$375 – McLean County Family Resource Center
- There was a request to light up the poinsettia tree. Pastor said he would bring a light for this.
- The Labor of Love committee would like to have a monthly community meal. They requested to use the church every third Sunday of the month. The council agreed it would be fine other than they will have to work around the annual meeting. Dick/Aaron motioned to approve the request. Motion approved.
- The ND Teen Challenge would like to come in again and have a free will donation. The council agreed.
- The council reviewed the 2018 budget.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Transfer In:

- none

Transfer Out:

- none

Next meeting will be held Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

President Brent adjourned the meeting.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Alyson Teigen
Secretary



Sarah Grace Anderson
Baptized December 3, 2017


We welcome Sarah as our
newest member of
First Lutheran.



Paula, Brandon, Haley & Sarah Anderson



Haley Anderson
Confirmed
December 3, 2017

	<p>Rev. Owen & Kay Gaasedelen Ecumen Seasons @ Apple Valley 15359 Founders Lane Apple Valley, MN 55124</p>
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LCMC's Sixth Annual

THREE DAYS OF PRAYER

January 2-4, 2018

www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer



Three Days of Prayer – A GUIDE January 2 - 4, 2018

Lutherans throughout the LCMC will be beginning their new year in prayer. You are invited to join fellow Lutherans on January 2, 3rd, and 4th. Each day has its own focus. Below is a description of each day along with passages from scripture pertaining to each day's focus. As you read the passages, ask God to help you understand them and bring your prayers of confession, petition, and vision to the Lord.

Day One: Tuesday, January 2 - A Day of Confession

This is a day focused on **confession**. We have made our lives, our relationships—and even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy. *Suggested readings: Psalm 51; 1 John 1:1-10; Colossians 1:11-14; Luther's Small Catechism in Confession*

***First Lutheran would like church family's to use the Sanctuary to pray at any time that fits your day. The church will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A list of Prayers and scripture will be found on the table in the Narthex.**

Day Two: Wednesday, January 3 - A Day of Petition

This is a day of **petition**. Pray for your congregation, for the pastor, for the leaders, for those who carry out ministries, for the Sunday school teachers, for the Confirmation leaders, for those leading adult Bible studies and for those leading small groups. Pray for those in hospital and nursing home ministries. Pray for all those connected to your church that they might know God's redeeming love for all in Christ.

Suggested Readings: Philippians 4:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer (and explanation) from Luther's Small Catechism

***First Lutheran will have a "Prayer Walk" within the church at 8:30 a.m. Meet in the Sanctuary.**

Day Three: Thursday, January 4 - A Day for Vision

This is a day for **vision**. Pray that the Holy Spirit will again move through the hearts and minds of leaders and pastors that God's vision for His church might be revealed and fulfilled. This is a time of prayer for renewal, revival and encouragement. Pray for God's vision.

Suggested Readings: Jeremiah 18:1-6; Ephesians 1:15-23; Hebrews 10:23-25; The First, Second, and Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer (and explanations) from Luther's Small Catechism

***First Lutheran invites church families for a lunch – 11:30 a.m. There will be a guest speaker.**

SUBMIT YOUR REPORTS

Please have all committee reports for the annual meeting booklet to the church office no later than noon on January 9, 2018.

Drop them off at the church office or email them to flc@westriv.com. Email is preferred.

Annual booklets will be ready to pickup by January 14, 2018 to look over before the annual meeting on January 21, 2018.



January 25, 2018
9:00 AM
QUILTING GROUP



Community Dinner

Sit down with a stranger ... leave with a friend

FLC Women are joining forces with Labor of Love and will be serving a monthly Community Dinner. This meal is keeping with the same theme as Thanksgiving, it's for anyone and everyone! We want to bring people together to enjoy good company and good food.

Our first dinner will be on Sunday, January 21st from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. We are putting a call out for 'your best casserole'! If you are interested in making a dish or would like to help in any form with this month's meal, please contact Judy Beaudry @ 462-3433 or Laura Gardner @ 315-0212.



2018 offering envelopes are ready to pick up.

Have you picked yours up yet?

If not, please stop in the narthex and take yours for use during the 2018 year.

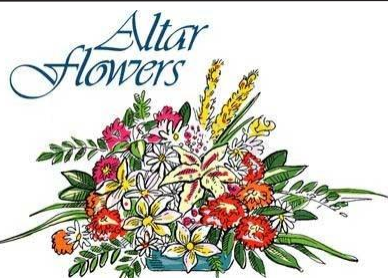
There should be one for all member families.

If you do not find a set for yourself and would like one, please talk to Jeannette in the church office. It makes it easier for the money counters and administrative secretary if you use your envelopes.

Also, please remember to check your mailbox in the narthex. Almost all boxes have something in them.

Your box is the one under your name.

If you are a member of First Lutheran and do not find a box for yourself, please see Jeannette in the church office.



A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex for altar flowers from January 7 thru April 29. Sign up for the Sunday you wish for before it is taken.

Remember, you furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church.

2018



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

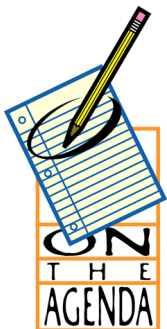
11:45 AM

Soup, Bread, Salad, Fruit & Bars
(Served by the Church Council)



Annual meeting follows the meal

If you are a confirmed member of First Lutheran, you are considered a voting member and encouraged to attend this meeting to show your support of your church.



- We will look back at 2017 and forward into 2018
- Adopt a 2018 Budget
- Elect new representatives to serve on the council
- Thank those leaving the council
- Welcome new council members

*"Let us pray that God continues to work in this place – for the spiritual growth of us all
and for the good of the community around us."*

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH

By Laura Gardner

Happy New Year! We hope that this finds you are doing well and staying warm! 2017 was a great year for our group. We had many adventures, served multiple meals together, traveled to Pine Ridge, SD, and grew closer as a group. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in 2018!

We ended the year on an extremely high note, with you being a big part of that. Thanks to your generosity we were able to send down a ton of supplies, clothing, Christmas gifts, winter gear, toys, and everything in between. What a humbling experience for our youth to see such a huge outpouring for so many people we've never met! I heard a saying years ago that went something along the lines of "a single snowflake is not very powerful but when you have a ton of snowflakes working together, they can stop traffic"! So thank you for banding together with us to love on our brothers and sisters in Pine Ridge!

With February quickly approaching we are making plans and getting ideas for our annual Valentine's Cake and cupcake sale. We will be taking orders after church on Sunday, February 4th and 11th. All items will be available for pick up starting on Monday, February 12th. We'll have more details in next month's newsletter.

Pizza Day again has been a big success. It costs between \$140 and \$180 a month to host this event and I do feel it's become a very important tool. We have had multiple youth who come from atheist homes or either never been or haven't darkened the doorway of church since they were little, coming faithfully the 1st Wednesday of every month. This year we are routinely serving between 20-25 youth every month. It's truly my favorite day of the month! If you are interested in donating please contact Laura, 315-0212.

Here's a few dates to jot down;

- January 3rd Pizza Day
- January 7th Sundae Sunday
- January 14-15th Winter Adventure to Cross Ranch State Park



FLY members preparing goodie bags and sweet treats for Pine Ridge.

- If we don't teach our youth to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to. -

FLCW NEWS

January, 2018

Executive Board:

Cathy Sheldon
Val Swanson

Secretary:

Marlys Knell

Treasurer:

Sylvia Thompson

Action (Quilts, LWR Kits):

Sylvia Thompson

Altar Guild:

Theresa Petersen

Audit:

Kathy Keller
Norma Petersen

Camp of the Cross:

Peggy Moran

Community:

Kathy Keller
Meals on Wheels
Lions Bake Sale
Alli Sheldon
Goodies From the Heart

Good Cheer:

Mary Ann Beeks

Growth (Confirmation & Graduation Tea and 3rd Grade Bibles):

Donna Gunderson

Kitchen:

Arlene Schwarz
Becky Heringer
Nancy Fuchs
Linda Zeller

Kuchen, Lefse, Cards, etc.:

Donna Kroll
Marlys Knell

Library:

Sharon Chrest
Sande Wagner
Norma Petersen
Arlene Schwarz

Prayer Chain Chairmen:

Sande Wagner
Arlene Schwarz
Norma Petersen

Receptions/Bulletin Board**Decorating:**

Donna Gunderson

Service Secretary:

Sharon Chrest
Melissa Chrest

Many area First Lutheran women and friends enjoyed an “**Advent Breakfast with Martin Luther and Company**” on a Saturday in December. We were entertained by the presence of Martin Luther (aka Dewy Oster) and musical selections by vocalist Gwen DeMontigny, trumpet players Hannah Retterath and Abby Tweeten, and mandolin player Orlin Larson. Special thank you to them as well as program director Kathy Keller, decorator Donna Gunderson and work group 5 for serving.

THANK YOU to Sonja Bergstedt for her loving, faithful service of FLCW for 3 years!!

THANK YOU to Work Group 5 for serving the Christmas Cantata.

2018 FLCW Books are in your church mailbox. Please stop and pick yours up.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- * Meals on Wheels
- * January 2-4: Three Days of Prayer:
 - Tuesday, January 2 - 12 Hours of Prayer - Sanctuary open 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 - Wednesday, January 3 - 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Walk in Sanctuary
 - Thursday, January 4 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch - Guest Speaker – Work Group 1 serves
- * Thursday, January 25 - Quilting - 9:00 a.m.
- * January 7 -10:30 (following church service) Meeting with “Labor of Love” community group. All interested women welcome!
- * January 21 - Community Meal - “Labor of Love” community group has invited the area church women to share their helping hands and feet to prepare and serve this meal. Served from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- * February 4 - Secret Prayer Partner Tea – 2 p.m. Work Group 2 serves

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

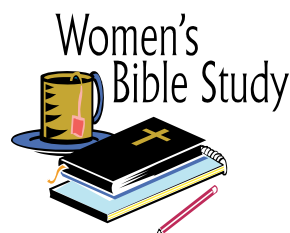
Cathy Sheldon and Val Rae Swanson, Co-Chairs

Hannah Bible Study

January 16, 2018

2:00 PM

Marlene Slagg's

**Deborah Bible Study**

January 18, 2018

9:30 AM

at the Church

Sande Wagner &
Helen Samuelson Host

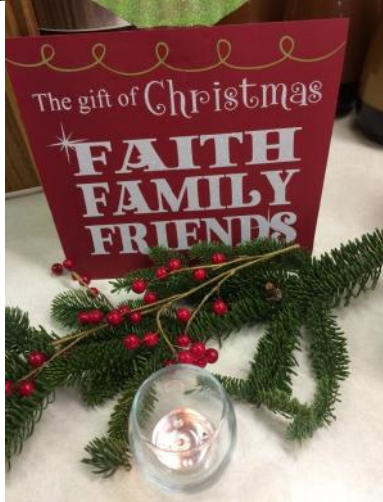
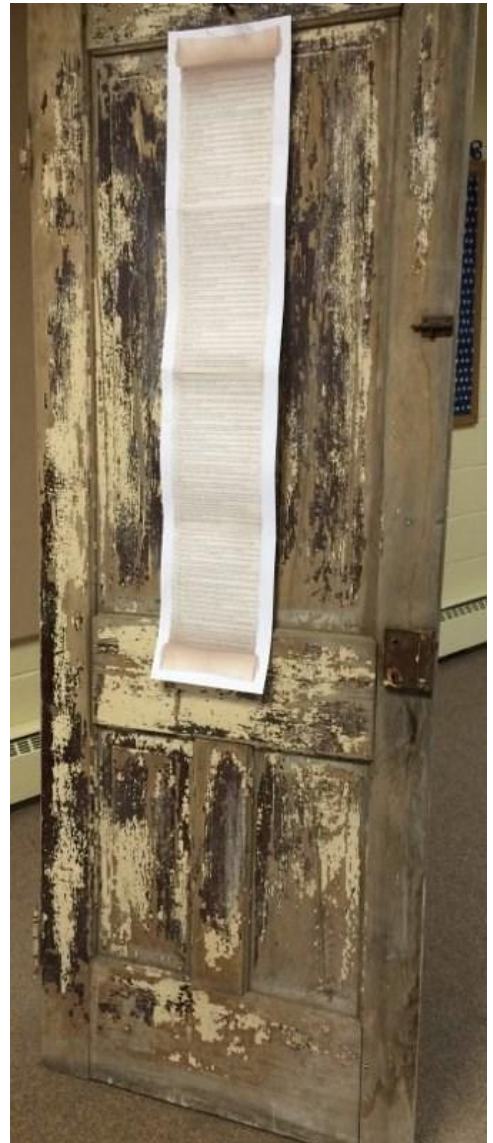
Please let your hostess know whether or not you will be attending each month.

*Advent
Breakfast*

with

Martin Luther

And Company





STEWARDSHIP CENSE



“Halleluiah, Amen!”

This was the comment that was posted on our thermometer in the narthex a couple weeks ago! It was posted after a generous parishioner(s) (of which we have many!) made a donation to pay off the roof fund! To which I might add “Praise the Lord for all His benefits to us!” Another Keller, by the name of Helen, wrote: “We can do anything we want to if we stick to it long enough!” In this case, we only had to “stick to it” for a bit under two years! To raise over \$67,000 in this amount of time in a congregation of our size, is nothing short of a small miracle! God bless you all for knowing what needed to be done and having the faith to see it through in record time! (The thermometer will be coming down shortly).

Being as this is the newsletter for January, I thought I would give you a few of my “New Year Resolutions” and see how many I keep throughout 2018! Perhaps you may agree with some of them!

1. I resolve, every week or so, to try to give something from the heart, in the form of visits, baking or tasks that someone may need.
2. I resolve to take time to listen! Respond when appropriate and not in the middle of what someone else is saying!

3. I resolve to take more time for my devotions each morning and evening.
4. I resolve to tell more people how much I love my spouse! (And him! I don't tell him nearly often enough!)
5. I resolve to remember more birthdays and anniversaries and write down those I may not have.
6. I resolve to take time to cuddle with my grandchildren more and spend more quality time with them.
7. I resolve to smile more and frown less.
8. I resolve to try and keep these resolutions by looking at them occasionally and throughout the year.

While I don't know exactly how my resolutions will turn out, I do know of some things, I will pray for all of you in 2018! May you be surrounded by God's love, comforted by His grace, blessed by His peace, be aware of His presence, and filled with His abundant joy!

Happy New Year!

See you at the annual meeting on January 21!

Kathy Keller
Stewardship Chair



As of December 25, 2017:

Our envelope giving is \$195,753.25 with a yearly budget of \$180,000.00
The plate giving is \$8,971.20 with a yearly budget of \$7,000.00

Thank you for your giving.

THREE QUESTIONS

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, “Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?”

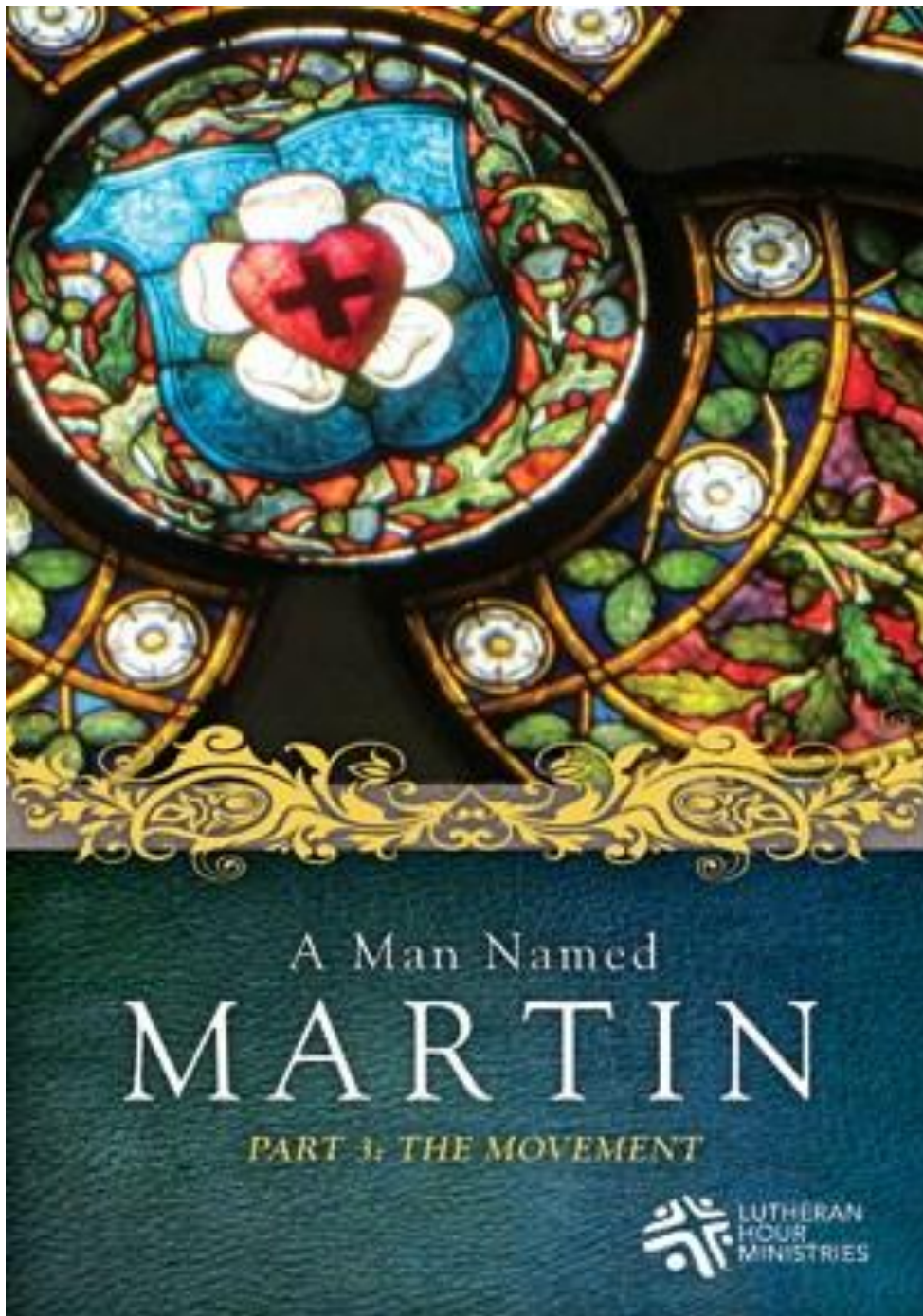
Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the new year ahead. For

Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? “I'm a child of God!”
- Where are you going? “I'm going out into the world!”
- Why are you going there? “I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me.”

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing “whose” you are and what your purpose is.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Begins
Sunday,
February 4

8:30 am
&
10:45 am

Pick up your
book at the
church office or
when you come
to the Bible
Study.

A Man Named Martin - Part 3: The Movement will show how the Reformation accelerated the transformation of a world already in flux. While armed conflicts, theological disputes, and heated controversies marked segments of society throughout medieval Europe, the march of the Reformation left its imprint on the face of culture and citizen alike. Everything from education, politics, science, theology, marriage, and the family-and even extending to one's view of vocation and his relationship to God-came under the shaping and seminal influence of the Reformation.

European politics changed in that state-to-state relationships were increasingly governed by political concepts of state and not by notions of Christendom. Ultimately, the Reformation contributed a number of ideas that traveled across the Atlantic which, in turn, influenced our Republic via ideas of individual rights and representative democracy. According to Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, program host and Speaker for **The Lutheran Hour**, "The greatest thing about the Reformation are the solas: grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone because, in reality, what it does is it establishes the worth of a human being before God in a way that can't be done by people; it's done by God in Jesus Christ."

JANUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY USHERS/GREETERS - 9:30 AM

- 7 - A.J. & Doddie Kuntz
Mac & Judy Beaudry
- 14 - Becky Heringer, Jon Sheldon
Dick & Carla Bickert
- 21 - Randy & Janet Hanson
Arden & Sande Wagner
- 28 - Cody & Erica Meadows Family
Rick & LeAnn Richard

ACOLYTES

- 7 - Preston Beckman & Dawson Erber
- 14 - Karter Hansen & Preston Hinson
- 21 - Bradon Kraft & Armani Martinez
- 28 - Emily Westrick & Cassidy Sommer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 7 -
- 21 -

ALTAR CARE

Char Syverson & Theresa Petersen

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READERS

- 7 -
- 14 -
- 21 -
- 28 -

COFFEE HOUR SERVERS

- 7 - Mac & Judy Beaudry
- 14 - Mac & Judy Beaudry
- 21 - Mac & Judy Beaudry
- 28 - A.J. & Doddie Kuntz

SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS

Mac & Judy Beaudry

THANK YOU

☺ Thank you to Peggy Wollmuth & Sharon Nelson for helping fold and tape the December newsletter for mailing.

☺ Thank you Maybell Job for going through the pew cards & pencils.

☺ First Lutheran Church:

I am DeAnne Finken, Treasurer of Camp of the Cross Board. I would like to thank you for your continued support! CCM touches the lives of many people.

Thank you for being a part of CCM.

DeAnne Finken

☺ Thank you Kitty Tweeten, Claudette Ness & Kathryn Johnson for helping with the choir robes.

☺ Thank you Dewey Oster for reading at the cantata.

☺ Thank you First Lutheran family for the kind words and thoughts during the loss of my dad, Clyde Klosterman.
Dale & Julene Klosterman

☺ Dear First Lutheran Family:

Thank you so much for all your gifts, cards, pictures, goodies and greetings that we have received from you wonderful people this past year and at Christmas. Thank you to the church council and members of First Lutheran for the Painted Woods Golf Course gift certificate. All is enjoyed and appreciated. Thank you for your prayers, support, and friendship. You are all a blessings. May God richly bless you.

Pastor Erik & Kathryn Johnson

☺ I would like to thank the members of First Lutheran for the gift of money I received from you. Also all the other gifts I received from individual families. You are a wonderful group of people to work with and I appreciate all the help I get from everyone when I call and ask. I couldn't ask for a better place to work!

Blessings to you all!

Jeannette Rost

☺ Thank you to Pastor Erik & Kathryn for everything you do at First Lutheran.

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- ☺ Thank you to Suzanne Swanson for making sure the Christmas tree was put up and decorated.
- ☺ Thank you to Dick & Carla Bickert for putting up and taking care of the Poinsettia tree and everyone that bought Poinsettias.
- ☺ Thank you to everyone that donated money for the outside greenery.
- ☺ Thank you to the preschool and kindergarten for their Christmas program "Silent Night" and to the first through sixth graders for their program "A Silent Night with Martin Luther". Thank you to Kristi Jaeger, Suzanne Swanson, and Sue Winter for directing the programs. Also thank you to Kathryn Johnson for playing the piano, and all the teachers and parents that helped out.
- ☺ Thank you to the choir for their presentation of "Hope". Also for all your special music throughout the year and to Randy Hall, Kathryn Johnson and Dick Bickert for directing the choir.
- ☺ Thank you to the bell choir for their special music throughout the year and to Gwen Hall for directing them.
- ☺ Thank you to Laura Gardner for leading our youth and helping Pastor Erik with confirmation.
- ☺ Thank you to Ardee Kurle and her helpers for decorating the church throughout the year.
- ☺ Thank you to Donna Gunderson for decorating for special events for the FLCW.
- ☺ Thank you to the choir, Wendy Miller, and the Brent Petersen family for providing special music during the Christmas Eve services. Also to Kenady Hansen for the special music Christmas Day. Also to everyone else that provided special music throughout the year.
- ☺ Thank you to Jared & Sharon Hendrikson for all the work you do at the church.
- ☺ Thank you to Mary Ann Beeks for baking the communion bread.
- ☺ Thank you to the church council for all you do to lead the church.
- ☺ Thank you to Cathy Sheldon for leading the Sunday morning bible studies.
- ☺ Thank you to Maybell Job, Donna Gunderson, Nadine Berger, Ruth Borlaug, Janice Hammling, Gayle Johnson and Julene Klosterman for taking care of the flowers by the church.
- ☺ Thank you to everyone that served coffee, was a communion assistant, read scriptures, ushered, the acolytes, helped with altar care, and also to everyone that was or is in charge of finding these people.
- ☺ Thank you to the Sunday school teachers, subs, music people, and those that helped with VBS.
- ☺ Thank you to the FLCW that served funerals, potlucks, etc.
- ☺ Thank you to the women that served on FLCW committees.
- ☺ Thank you to our FLCW quilters.
- ☺ Thank you to everyone that helped make lefse and kuchen and everyone that purchased it.
- ☺ Thank you to everyone that supplied flowers for the altar throughout the year.
- ☺ Thank you to our organists: LeAnn Richard, Kathryn Johnson and Theresa Petersen.
- ☺ Thank you to our money counters: Arden Wagner, Deb Wisdom, Sharon Chrest, Mary Ann Beeks, and Wes Sauer.
- ☺ Thank you to everyone that helped Jeannette out in one way or another this past year.
- ☺ Thank you to anyone that was missed or does not want to be recognized for their services at First Lutheran. If someone was missed that should be listed, please let Jeannette know.

The following are from Laura Gardner:

- ☺ Thank you Pastor Erik for helping with Pizza Day.
- ☺ Thank you Aaron Vorland, Mac & Judy Beaudry, Kathy Key and Matt Gardner for helping with the Christmas Brunch.
- ☺ Thank you Aaron for taking the donations with you to Pine Ridge!

NALC BISHOP BRODOSKY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

December 2017

Dear faithful disciples of Jesus throughout the North American Lutheran Church,

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate!

With the birth of two additional grandchildren this year and while contemplating Mary's experience during our Advent preparation, I am reminded of Luther's words in one of his Christmas sermons:

Let us, then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the Baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm. Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother... What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother... Look at the Child knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him....

The beginning of the Christmas Gospel reminds us of Mary's condition. She is pregnant, with child. What she has experienced since the first proclamation from the angel Gabriel was just as miraculous. The growth and development of a baby in the womb from just two tiny cells is a miracle. These cells continue to divide and multiply as the embryo attaches itself to the lining of the uterus. After five weeks, the embryo is the size of a grain of rice. It has a brain and spinal cord. After six weeks, the heart is beating and you can see the eyes, ears and head. After seven weeks, the arms, legs and nose are visible. After eight weeks, the baby is only two centimeters long but you can still see its fingers and toes. The perfect alignment and connection of every cell is a wondrous miracle. In the growth and development of every baby we are participants in God's gracious miracle of creation and new life.

Unlike any other mother, Mary is given the chance to participate in the birth of God's Only Son, the Savior of the World, Jesus Christ. On the other hand, just as in every other mother, the same things that unfold in the growth and development of every other baby are happening to Jesus inside of Mary. Through the joy and wonder, Mary is nonetheless confused, disturbed and filled with questions, yet she responds with faith-filled obedience. Luther comments that there were three miracles on Christmas: the Incarnation - God became a person, Mary remained a virgin and the greatest miracle of all was that Mary believed. She trusted God's promises and held fast to the words of God's messenger. Through such faith Mary is transformed and renewed, a new creation.

Mary heard the proclamation that God wanted her to be in a relationship with Jesus. She was to play a part in His mission to save and redeem this world. This is the way faith begins in every person. We hear the message that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with us. He longs for us to respond like Mary: listening, believing and obeying.

In pregnancy, the changes for Mary or any woman come slowly, but the direction is set and her life will never again be the same. From deep within her body Mary began to make room for Jesus. So it is with faith. When we believe and respond obediently to the call of Jesus to be a part of His body, the Church, we begin to change and others begin to take notice.

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As in pregnancy, so in faith, everything begins to change. Mary's life was transformed physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Viewing this miracle in my own wife, Kristi, four times and in our daughters, I am certain Mary's behaviors, habits and worldview also changed. She had new priorities. She was nurturing a new life inside her body. She was becoming a community, a family. The responsibility and accountability were inescapable and sometimes overwhelming. We live one way before our children are born and another way following their births. Faith in Jesus begins a similar process within us. He transforms every aspect of our lives, and through His word imparts a Kingdom of Heaven worldview. Our lives are changed forever.

Take time this Christmas to observe the intimate connection between a mother and her child. You will see a tender, nurturing relationship marked by sacrificial love. You will see the powerful priority of that relationship. Through faith, the Holy Spirit draws us into an intimate, loving relationship with Jesus. Jesus said that He wanted His disciples to be one with Him, as He was one with the Father. Faith draws us ever closer to Jesus. The relationship with Jesus comes before all others.

We prepare to receive children into our lives by first making a place for them in our hearts. We make a place for that new life in our relationships. Then we make a place for them in our homes: a bed, a crib, a nursery. We prepare by purchasing car seats, changing tables, high chairs, strollers, blankets, clothing, diapers, formula, diaper bags, toys. The list seems endless.

This preparation is a way to practice putting this new life ahead of our own. It is a way to practice the selfless love necessary to nurture a new life. Regardless of the cost, we give all we can. We want to give our children the best life possible.

Our faith starts by making a place for Jesus in our hearts. That's what Mary did when she heard the Good News. We are called to do the same. Jesus has a place in our relationships, a place in our homes. We support the mission of His Church with our offerings so that others will have the same opportunity. It is our way of practicing selfless love, putting Christ ahead of self, an expression of our love for Him.

The Christmas Gospel announces His birth. The pain and struggle of labor produce the delight and fulfillment of new life, a baby. What was invisible is now seen. What was untouchable now reaches out to hold our finger in His little hand. Those same hands created the entire world and sustain everything in it.

With a new life in our hands, more work and responsibility follow: sleepless night, feedings every two hours, changing diapers, burping, comforting, rocking, bouncing, listening to their sounds, observing their smiles and grimaces, watching them grow and change by the minute. Life becomes more complicated, not less. The cost increases until it seems as though we have given everything. So too, in following Jesus we take up our cross in response to His ultimate expression of selfless love, giving His life on a cross for our redemption and salvation.

This new relationship is not something we are meant to engage in alone. We were designed to be in community, and our children were created to be in a family. In our relationship with Christ we need His community, the Church. As our children are baptized we express that same truth. It is only in His community that we continue to grow and mature spiritually, through Word and Sacrament. In community, we live life in Christ as His disciples. We learn how to share this faith in Jesus with others and nurture them in the faith. We become disciples, equipping others to become disciple makers. Through the same Holy Spirit, we are participants in the spiritual rebirth of others who come to know and follow this One born in Bethlehem.

The world tells us that our purpose is to make our life easy and carefree. Jesus says we are called to a

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relationship of faith in Him that is lived out in our vocation and through loving relationships marked by mutual responsibility and accountability. That is the fruit of love. When there is less time for me there is more time for life, for loving others.

This Christmas we move with Mary from pregnancy to delivery, from making room for Him to embracing Him. We move from the hope of promises proclaimed into the reality of an obedient faith. While we have made room for Jesus in our hearts, homes and relationships, Christmas reminds us that the greater reality is that He came to proclaim a far greater truth, that He has created a place in His heart for every one of us.

Those who follow Jesus not only become a part of the Kingdom of Heaven, but the Kingdom of Heaven becomes a part of them. They not only enter the Kingdom but the Kingdom enters them. The life we live is the message we proclaim.

May He who made Himself manifest in the world be manifest in our lives.

Christ is Born! O Come, Let us Adore Him!

With you following Him, this Christmas and forever,

Bishop John F. Bradosky

First Lutheran January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following First Lutheran members who have birthdays in January. We are sorry if we missed anyone this month. If your name has been missed, kindly report it to the church office so we can get your birth date for our records. Likewise, if we have printed your birthday and you do not wish to have it published in the newsletter, please let Jeannette know in the church office. We will remove it for next year. Thank you!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Maythel Dierks Kara Richards Ashlyn Schmitz	2	3 Michael Fee Wayne Leidholm Eli Schmidt	4 Sharon Hoff Sherry Kinnischtzke Tanner Lundby Bryan Thiel	5 Alyson Knox Nikki Sackman Brittany Schell	6 Bob Frank Noah Holznagel Alyssa Kadrmas Emily Scheresky
7 Erik Johnson Edith Sheldon	8 Preston Hinson Rhonda Johnson	9 Shannon Helm Alex Retterath	10	11 Joel Joersz	12 Candace Law	13 Jaemeson Havig Jill Senftner
14 Gene Rost	15 Braden Ficklin Cameron Hall Karly Smith	16	17 Bowen Gutknecht Arianne Salaj	18 Mike Aull	19 Sonja Bergstedt Ethan Courtemanche Sue Thiel	20
21 Drew Petersen	22 Linda Heger	23 Ryan Dockter Shane Joersz Kithe Malsam	24 Kimberlie Price Mary Schulz	25 Claudette Ness	26	27 Colt Biesterfeld
28 Devin Retterath	29 Jordan Waldren	30 Bradley Hanson Lukas Smith	31 Tana Larsen Ryan Leidholm			



Memorial Gifts Given to Special Funds (Sunday, December to Monday, December 25)



Building Fund	\$370.00
Shirley Nelson	Rita McCreary
Willie & Janell Ziemann	Art Bender
Dewey & Wanda Oster	Marlin Paul Meyer
Dewey & Wanda Oster	Harold Smith
Dewey & Wanda Oster	Connie Muller
Dewey & Wanda Oster	Art Bender
Dewey & Wanda Oster	Debbie Ness
Dewey & Wanda Oster	JoAnn James
Monte & Victoria Carvell	Art Bender
A.J. & Doddie Kuntz	Keith Kuntz
Larry & Kathy Keller.....	Richard Drown
Marlen & Clayton Cook.....	Duane Kisse
Wes Sauer.....	Rick Drown

The following are all in memory of
Geraldine Aslakson:

Sharon Chrest
Mary Ann Beeks
David & Jeneen Loe
Willie & Janell Ziemann
Larry & Kathy Keller
Dewey & Wanda Oster
Wes Sauer
Dwight & Margaret Rasmussen
Monte & Victoria Carvell

The following are all in memory of
Alice Chmielewski:

Mary Ann Beeks
Darrell & Sherry Kinnischtzke

Fund given to & by whom

In Memory of

General Fund	\$1,215.00
Alton & Brenda Krebsbach	Clyde Klosterman
Alton & Brenda Krebsbach	Geraldine Aslakson
Wayne & Julie Petersen	TJ Nelson
Wayne & Julie Petersen	Geraldine Aslakson
Dick & Carla Bickert.....	Richard Drown
Dick & Carla Bickert.....	Geraldine Aslakson
Leif & Rosalind Ravnaas	Tony & Gladys Freidig
Leif & Rosalind Ravnaas	Gordon Rothmann
Leif & Rosalind Ravnaas	Steven Scholl

Music..... **\$295.00**

Wes Sauer.....	Art Bender
Mary Ann Beeks	Bill Beeks

The following are all in memory of

Geraldine Aslakson:
Arnie & Sheila Link
Dean & Sonja Bergstedt
Steve & Peggy Wollmuth
Virgil & Deb Wisdom
David & Ruth Borlaug
George & Val Swanson

The following are all in memory of Rick Drown:

Sharon Chrest
Terry & Norma Petersen
Randy & Janet Hanson
Arden & Sande Wagner
John & Helen Samuelson
Virgil & Deb Wisdom
Mary Ann Beeks

Parking Lot Fund..... **\$15.00**

A.J. & Doddie Kuntz	Keith Kuntz
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Our sympathy goes out to:

- ⇒ Dale & Julene Klosterman and family on the death of Dale's father, Clyde Klosterman.
- ⇒ Monte & Wendy Miller and family on the death of Wendy's father, Richard Drown.
- ⇒ Clark & Jayne Pochant and family on the death of Clark's mother, Ruth Pochant

May God give them comfort in this time of sorry.



Membership of First Lutheran was divided into 12 groups that each took a month to be responsible for ushering and coffee serving. The idea was that we could encourage more fellowship and participation. That would mean that each of us only had to volunteer for one month a year. Please step up and take your turn in service for your First Lutheran community.

The list below is the service group scheduled for **February**. The service coordinators are **Dwight & Margaret Rasmussen**. **If your name is on this list, please check the calendar and see what Sunday(s) in February works best for you and give Dwight or Margaret a call at 462-8245. If Dwight or Margaret calls you, please prayerfully consider how you can help.** If you don't see your name on this list, your month is coming. Please say yes, when called. Thank you for doing your part and participating in our worship service.

Melanie Biesterfeld
Wade & Stacy Boeshans
Edith Bower
Dennis & Gayle Johnson

Ardee Kurlle
Brian & Janet Lazier
Jeff Leidholm
Cody & Robin Lorentzen

Shirley Nelson
Wayne & Julie Petersen
Dean & Sandy Schell
George & Laurie Sheldon

CAMP OF THE CROSS NEWS

January 18-21	Crafting Weekend
January 26-28	Men's Weekend
February 1-4	Crafting Weekend
February 8	Giving Hearts Day
February 10	Snowfest Family Event
February 25	CCM Annual Meeting
March 15-18	Crafting Weekend

Check out the CCM website for more information on these retreats. www.campofthecross.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/campofthecross](https://www.facebook.com/campofthecross)
Twitter: @campofthecross
Instagram: campofthecross

- *** SNOWFEST is for families, youth, and individuals for this fun winter event! There is sledding, skiing, a snowman building contest, hot cocoa, snacks, indoor games, and so much more on Saturday, February 10, 2018.
- *** LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME!" CAMPAIGN – Total to date is \$40,000 plus. CCM was recently blessed with a \$100,000 matching grant for the capital campaign! Please look for ideas in the new year to help attain this gift by matching it!
- *** GIVING HEARTS DAY is Thursday, February 8th! Mark your calendars! Last year, due to the awesome response from donors, CCM raised over \$100,000.

*** The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 25th at 3 p.m. Place to be announced. For voting purposes, each congregation shall designate THREE representatives and their rostered leader. Please consider being a delegate and let Peggy Moran know if you will plan to attend the meeting to represent First Lutheran Church.

*** Would you prayerfully consider donating to our operating ministry? Check for mailings, social media posts or please send it to the CCM office, PO Box 1257, Garrison, ND 58540

*** Time to hire summer staff – in need of a Health Officer and female counselors. There are enough male counselors for the summer sessions. If you know of anyone – please let CCM know so they can be in contact with them.

*** CCM staff is helping with the shortage of pastors in that with the board's approval, CCM is in partnership with the Congregational, UCC Congregation in Garrison by leading Sunday Worship Services and helping in other areas of the congregation's life. It is another way in which our ministry is helping others who are in need.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS BEAUTIFUL AND FAITH-FILLED PLACE!

Peggy Moran



The following people were prayed for by request at worship from December 3rd thru December 25th. If we missed you or your loved ones, or your prayer requests, please accept our apologies.

Please let the church office know before you enter the hospital for planned surgeries, during any hospitalization, or about your illnesses and any special needs that we may pray for you.

- ◆ Family of Clyde Klosterman on his death
- ◆ Gay Larsen - Sister to Gayle Johnson
- ◆ Jason Beutler
- ◆ Stan, Karen & Jeremy Goehring
- ◆ J.R. - Brother-in-law to Steve & Peggy Wollmuth
- ◆ Bob Miller
- ◆ Verna Ballard - Sister to Ivadell Larson
- ◆ Sheila Miller
- ◆ Laurie Sauer - Daughter-in-law to Wes Sauer
- ◆ Gertrude Boger - Mother of Ardee Kurle
- ◆ David Loe
- ◆ Glenn Goetz
- ◆ Howard Johnson
- ◆ Shirley Nelson
- ◆ Tom Sheldon
- ◆ Jackie Olson
- ◆ Family of Richard Drown on his death
- ◆ Family of Ruth Pochant on her death
- ◆ Brett Bowerman - Nephew to Deb Wisdom
- ◆ Everett Novak - Nephew to Eric & Leilani Olafson
- ◆ Ivadell Larson
- ◆ Samantha Schell
- ◆ To be steeped into the Word of God, for the word to be stored in my heart, so that sin may be forgiven and delivered from us all.
- ◆ Esther Bauer - Sister to Arlene Schwarz
- ◆ Holznagel Family
- ◆ First Responders, Police, Fire Fighters, EMS Members as they respond in poor weather conditions.
- ◆ All branches of the Military



Blessings to you in this New Year from Camp of the Cross Ministries!

We are blessed at CCM by the many people who pray for us, participate in and support our ministries. We are proud and humbled to provide a ministry to all ages that helps each person ***“Live out their Lives of Faith!”***. CCM’s staff and board of directors work hard in our mission that everyone may live out their calling to be “disciples” of Christ’s love!

CCM, during the year 2017, has had a profound influence in the lives of many children, youth, young adults and adults who were touched by our ministry. This could not have been done without our mission partner congregations like yourselves!

This past summer we brought onto our site 512 children and youth for summer camp. Our summer off site ministries (VBS & Day Camps) reached 744 children and youth. Our summer ministry team consisted of 30 high school and college age young adults. We also had over 20 volunteers on-site to assist in the summer ministry.

The year-round retreat ministry to children, youth and adults reached out to over 1,000 participants.

CCM continues to be a year-round ministry that does not see many weekends during the retreat season without groups on-site. Our summers are always filled with campers on-site and off-site.

At CCM, we are proud of how many people “Live out their Lives of Faith”, by being a part of our ministry as donors, ministry participants and prayer partners!

Thank you for praying for us and supporting us! Your mission in Christ is very important to us!

January

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	3 11:50 AM Pizza Day 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Jr. FLY 7:30 PM Choir	4 AM Pastor Erik at Text Study	5	6 Epiphany
Three Days of Prayer						
7 First Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord Holy Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/ Coffee Hour Sundae Sunday Labor of Love Meeting 10:45 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA Meeting	8 10:00 AM Chat & Sew	9 Committee Reports Due for Annual Report by Noon 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	10 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. FLY 7:30 PM Choir	11 AM Pastor Erik at Text Study 7:00 PM Council Meeting	12	13
14 Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/ Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA Meeting	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group 2:00 PM Hannah Bible Study at Marlene Slagg's 2:00 PM Home Health Group Meeting	17 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Jr. FLY 7:30 PM Choir	18 AM Pastor Erik at Text Study 9:30 AM Deborah Bible Study at the Church	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
FLY at Cross Ranch						
21 Third Sunday after Epiphany Holy Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/ Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:45 AM Meal followed by Annual Meeting 4:30 - 6:30 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM AA Meeting	22	23 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	24 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Sr. FLY 7:30 PM Choir	25 AM Pastor Erik at Text Study 9:00 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Infant Support Group	26	27
28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/ Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA Meeting	29	30 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	31 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Jr. FLY 7:30 PM Choir			

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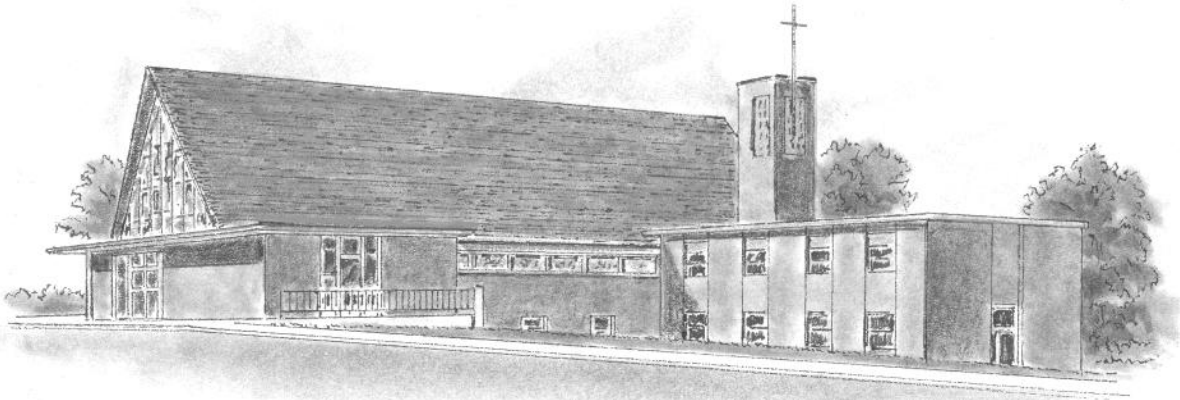
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*“Working hand in hand to
know Christ and make
Christ known through
Worship, Christian
Education, Evangelism,
Caring Ministries, and
Service.”*

Happy New Year to:

January 2018 Newsletter



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service - 9:30 AM
Coffee/Fellowship Hour - 10:30 AM
Sunday School - 10:45 AM
AA Meeting - 7:00 PM