

First Things First

January 2010

Newsletter of:
First Lutheran Church, 120 5th Avenue NW, Minot, ND 58703

(701) 852-4853
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Gather in Faith - Grow thru Grace - Share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

“Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; and keep watch over the door of my lips.” (Psalm 141:3)

“The one who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.” (Proverbs 22:11, NIV)

Jesus said, *“The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45, NRSV)*

The apostle James writes to his friends in faith, *“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (James 1:26—see also 3:3-12)*

We should fear and love God, and so we should not tell lies about our neighbor, nor betray, slander, or defame him, but should apologize for him, speak well of him, and interpret charitably all that he does—The Small Catechism, explanation on the 8th commandment regarding bearing false witness.

“The Gift Of...”—A monthly Body-building article on tending to the atmosphere of First Lutheran Church.

The gift of charity—Probably the first thought with which we associate with the word “charity” is with regard to giving, and probably mostly toward giving to the needy. Perhaps we think of the church as a charity. Or the Salvation Army. Or the food shelf.

The word “charity” comes from the Greek word *charis*, which simply means “grace.” Thus, we think of those to whom we give as charities. That is, we are grace-ful, we are gracious when we give to those who are in need. These thoughts alone would serve our congregation well, whether we are thinking about the financial gifts we give or our time or how we dole out the resources our congregation has marshaled for the sake of mission and ministry.

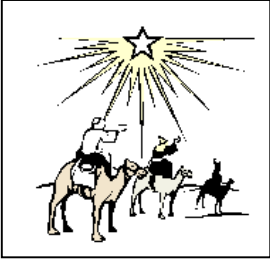
But there is a more expansive understanding of charity toward which Scripture and our traditions of interpreting Scripture point, and that more expansive understanding invites us to consider how charity, how grace flows from our lips...not just in WHAT we say but also in HOW we say it. Tone of voice, posture, eye-contact, facial

expressions—all of these have a way either of contributing or not to the grace-fullness of our words. Simply by changing the tone of my voice, the words “I love pizza” can either be received in the truthful intent of expressing what I like to eat or as a facetious and sarcastic expression of just the opposite. The words are the SAME, but the message has been changed.

King David prays that God would keep guard over his lips. Solomon, the writer of most of Proverbs, connects the purity of heart with charitable speech and advises that both can go a long, long way in winning friends and influencing others. Jesus shines light on the content of our hearts and what comes out of our mouth. James most especially in his pastoral concern for the congregation recognizes the ability for the tongue either to damage or build up. In chapter 3 he reflects on how a small spark can torch a great forest—so too, the tongue is a fire capable of great mischief and damage and discord. Luther understands “bearing false witness” not just in terms of lying—not only in terms of “Don’t do this”—but also in terms of explaining what we don’t know about people in the kindest way possible—do this, instead. That is, we engage grace both in what we say and don’t say, as well as in the manner in which we say it.

Of course, we can all recognize the great potential for discord among groups of people, especially even congregations, who are supposed to be people united under a common cause for Jesus Christ. (Our common cause, our mission, of course, is to *Gather in faith; grow through grace; share the good news of Jesus Christ*—there are some assumptions here about our speech.) Especially in a congregation our size, charity in speech and understanding needs to be our first momentum. There are too many individuals, each with his/her own opinions and ideas and speculations...too many trees in the forest... for the spark of an uncharitable tongue to torch. Here is a common and ordinary way for us to be apprehended by and in turn, to be partners in the grace of God in Jesus Christ: to have words that seek to clarify and to understand, to speak well and to support, to interpret charitably and not to enflame in all that we say and in the ways that we say it. With words full of grace, I bid you peace this new year.

--Pastor Mike



FIRST ANNUAL "12TH DAY" PARTY

"On the Twelfth Day of Christmas..." we sing in the popular carol, but the 12th Day usually gets short shrift when it comes to the celebrating! Unfortunately, the presents and packages are opened, the wrapping paper and ribbons discarded or stored. The trees are hitting the curbs or stuck back down into the basement. It's almost as if the "day-after Christmas post-holiday sales" are really our signal that the holiday is over, and it's back to work, back to school, back to the day-in-and-day-out grind.

On **Wednesday, January 6th, 5 – 6:45 PM**, we'll be holding our **First Annual 12th Day Party**. This is a **CROSS-GENERATIONAL** event...meaning we need to have families present of all ages, of course. Dinner & dessert will be provided, as will a whole host of engaging activities that teach us about "the Twelfth Day of Christmas" and about the Light Coming into the World, whose birth was heralded by a star, the One whom "wise men" (and women, of course!) still seek!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to grow! You are invited to share in this ministry!

- ◆ We will meet to knit & crochet & pray together the 3rd Thursday of the month 6:30 to 8:00 in the Kildahl Room (1-21, 2-21, 3-18).
- ◆ Even if you have never knit or crocheted before, you are welcome to join us & learn!
- ◆ If you would like to make a prayer shawl but can't attend our gatherings, Pastor Kari has yarn & patterns available.
- ◆ Thank you to all who have donated money for this ministry. Donations for yarn can be given to the office.
- ◆ We now have many prayer shawls to be given away as a reminder of God's love and peace that surrounds us, and the prayers of God's people that uphold us, in difficult times and in times of thanksgiving. If you know of someone to whom you'd like to give a prayer shawl, please talk to Pastor Kari. We are eager to give these away!!!

ADVENT THANK YOU

"From the Stump of Jesse shall come forth a Righteous Branch" was our Advent theme this year.



We thank Mark Priess and Paul Rasmussen, who together with "artistic director" Luther Hanson made possible the artwork both on the altar and the chancel area. How could First Lutheran have a more aptly named team than Mark, Paul and Luther to bring the faith of Advent alive in our sanctuary? All we need next year is a volunteer named Peter and we'd have it covered! But for their skilled hands and generous hearts, please join the worship board and pastoral staff in giving thanks for their efforts.



CHILI COOK OFF

If you have a good chili recipe, we want to taste it. Our **4th Annual Chili Cook-off is Wednesday, Jan 20th**, at the Parish Center, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to enter their chili or bread or **just come and eat supper with us**; there will be plenty for all.

If you are entering the contest, please bring a **large** crockpot full of your chili. You taste each chili and bread and vote on your favorites. Decorate your area and compete for more prizes. The committee will choose the best theme decorations.

We will play bingo, and also have a piñata this year for the children. A table will be set up for you and we want you to be ready to serve by 5:00 pm. Congregational Life Committee will furnish crackers, cheese, drinks, and ice cream sundaes.

Come and join us for supper. To enter the contest, please call Vicki, at 852-4853, by Tuesday, Jan 19th, so we know how many entrants there are. We want this to be **bigger and better** every year. Whether you enter the contest or not, we still need you to come and be our "tasters" that evening. Join us!

ATTENDANCE

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offerings</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| November 21/22 | 393 | \$ 6,696 |
| November 25 | 159 | \$ 2,918 |
| November 28/29 | 352 | \$ 7,029 |
| December 5/6..... | 380 | \$ 9,158 |
| December 12/13..... | 337 | \$ 7,606 |
| December 13* | 400 | \$ 1,210 |

* Children's Christmas Program at 3:00 pm

INCOME/EXPENSES

as of the end of November 2009

| | <u>Actual</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| November Monthly Income | \$ 49,809 |
| November Monthly Expense | \$ 48,673 |
| Year-to-Date Income | \$ 495,672 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | \$ 539,877 |

SERVICE GROUP #2

Thank you to the people of Service Group #2 for their willing efforts in the service of our Lord and the family of First Lutheran Church.

BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER

DEADLINES

Remember, the deadline for input and articles in the *First Things First* newsletter is the **10th of each month**, unless otherwise noted. The deadline for bulletin items is **10:00 am on Tuesdays** for that following weekend.

PARISH CTR & OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center and Office hours are 9:00—5:00 pm, Monday—Friday. The doors will be unlocked then. *If you need access at other times, you will need a key and will be held responsible for lock-up.* Contact Jerry for more info and a key.

At times other than office hours, please dial the 852-4853 number leaving a detailed message on the answering service. (It takes about 6 rings before it picks up.) *Your message will be reviewed the next work day.* If an emergency should arise during non-office hours, please call Pastor Ken Nelson (837-8783).

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

Miah Mae Mickelson
Grant Erick Swenson

Marriages

None

Funerals & Memorials

Robert Meek
Wayde Abernathy
Clarence Mathson
Hazel Pettys
Mildred Crawford
Bertha Olson
Ray DeGuero

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed all day on Thursday & Friday—December 31 & January 1.

ANNUAL MEETING & REPORT

The annual meeting is coming up soon. It will be held on January 31st, starting at 12:00 noon with a potluck lunch. As you know, it's a big job getting everything ready and the booklets made in time (two weeks prior to the meeting). Therefore, if you are responsible for including something in the report, please get your inputs to the office by January 5th. Thank you!

ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD?

If you are going someplace warmer for the winter, please let the office know your new address. We'll do a temporary address change and continue to send you the newsletter. If you don't know the address, let us know anyway so we can put a temporary hold on your church mailings.

Even better, get on our email list and you can receive the newsletter by email no matter where or when you go.

Also, remember to call us when you return so we can change it back!



First Lutheran Adult Education Opportunities

There's something for everyone. Join us!



Sunday Forums - 9:45 am - Forum Room (in the basement of the church)

Jan. 3 — *No Forum Today* (one Sunday worship service at 9:30 am)

Jan. 10 — **“Jesus, The New Way” Series** will begin January 10. It is a magnificent account of the life and message of Jesus with N.T. Wright, one of today’s leading New Testament scholars. He is featured regularly on the History Channel. This study will intrigue and inform students of all ages.

Jan. 10 — *Jesus, The New Way Series—“Getting the Kingdom Started”*

Jan. 17 — *Jesus, The New Way Series—“Startling Surprises”*

Jan. 24 — *Jesus, The New Way Series—“Longing for a King”*

Jan. 31 — *Jesus, The New Way Series—“Why Did Jesus Die?”*

Feb. 7 — *Jesus, The New Way Series—“Who Was Jesus?”*

Feb. 14 — *Jesus, The New Way Series—“The New Claim”*

Sunday Classes - 9:45 am - Kildahl Room (in the basement of the Parish Center)

Jan. 10 — ***Making Sense of Reading the Scriptures***

“When I read the Bible, what am I supposed to be listening for?”

“How DO I read the Bible?”

“When our pastors read a text, how are they reading the Bible?”

“What are they listening for?”

These are all questions that lay in the background of this month’s 4-session forum, led by Pastor Mike. No previous experience is necessary with regard to reading the Bible.

Men’s Breakfast Group - 2nd & 4th Thursdays - 7:00-8:00 am - Charlie’s Café (Jan. 14 & 28)

We invite all men to join us for conversation and fellowship.

Thursday Men’s Bible Study - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Thursdays - 7:00-8:00 am - Conference Room (Jan. 7 & 21)

We will start out the new year with a study of Romans, one of the most important books of the Bible. This discussion will reveal the major theme of Romans and its applications to many of today’s most important faith questions. Please join us. Coffee...donuts...and great conversation await. Contact Pastor Ken Nelson for more info.

Search Bible Study - Fridays - 9:30 am - Conf. Room - (starts again on Jan. 8)

Join us in studying different books of the Bible in 8 week sessions. No previous study is necessary and materials are provided. We are currently studying the book of Genesis.

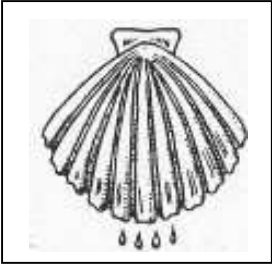
NEW MEMBERS

Next New Members Classes and Reception -

We will have a new member class on January 17 & 24, at 9:45 am, in the Bride’s Room.

Then the new members will be received on January 31, at the 10:45 service,

with a reception preceding in the Friendship Room, at 9:45 am.



A Reminder to Those Anticipating Birth and Baptism—

If you are anticipating **either the birth of a child** and/or **the baptism of a child**, please take a look at our policies for preparing for that baptism on our website at www.firstlutheranchurchminot.com/baptisms.php.

Beginning **January 1**, we will be fully implementing a few changes in those policies that are intended to build up our congregation by...

- ♦ **being more thorough in our teaching time** with families with regard to the meaning of baptism and things they can do at home to fulfill the promises they make to grow faith in their children;
- ♦ making wise use of our pastors' time in this teaching; (**We average nearly 3 baptisms per month!**)
- ♦ **drawing the at-large congregation into the joy and excitement** of up-coming baptisms;
- ♦ **increasing the congregation's role in welcoming and supporting** our baptism families and all of our families;
- ♦ giving the congregation opportunity to **live-out the partnership between congregation and household** when it comes to living faith.

These changes include participation in and completion of a couple of events:

- ♦ An **Enrollment Sunday**, which will briefly introduce the congregation and our registered baptismal families to each other in a brief ritual that will mark the beginning of the baptismal journey. Our next scheduled enrollment Sunday is **Sunday, February 7th**.
- ♦ A group teaching time in preparation for baptism called **"Preparing for Walking Wet"**, which includes...
 - ...teaching about what baptism means and how to live it out in daily family life so that faith is nurtured and grown;
 - ...a meal provided by the congregation for you, for your family, and your baptismal sponsors;
 - ...fellowship with other members of the congregation, including those who have recently received baptism;
 - ...childcare for children 3rd grade and younger. (Kids older than 3rd grade are encouraged to come!)

Our next "Preparing for Walking Wet" event is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, February 13th, 6:30 PM** at the Parish Center.

All necessary forms to get the ball rolling, as well as a more thorough explanation of our process and expectations for baptismal preparation, can be found on our website.

Both Enrollment and Preparing for Walking Wet can be done even in anticipation of birth—why wait?

See you at the font!—Pastors Ken, Mike & Kari



HEALING SERVICE TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

On Sunday, January 31, 2010 First Lutheran will be offering a new ministry in the form of a *Service of Prayers for Healing*.

From Scripture, we might be familiar with Jesus' ministry of healing and perhaps even with the apostles' ministry of healing recorded in Acts. But we may be less familiar with the regular ministry of prayer for healing that was also historically a part of the post-apostolic church's way of life, even up until the 1700's. Beginning in the late 1600's or so, teachings and thought from outside of the church's teaching began to influence a rationalized separation between "things of the material body" and "things of the spiritual soul."

Nonetheless, a ministry of healing prayer is being integrated once again into both the medical and religious arenas. Even elements within scientific research have demonstrated that prayer aids in healing, and many secular doctors have come to value and encourage spiritual practices as part of the healing processes. Throughout the world, movements within the Christian church are reclaiming their historic and God-given role in the healing process.

In order to understand and to value a ministry of healing prayer, it might be important for some to **know what it is, to know what it is not, and to know what to expect.**

What It Is—both intentionally individual AND intentionally communal:

- ♦ An intentional and individual time—either apart from or part of the general prayers of the church—to come before God in prayer to seek healing for emotional physical, relational, and spiritual distresses, as well as the healing of memories which continue to hurt us. **In other words, this may be an intensely intentional way to come to the table of the Lord to pray for one's own healing with one of the pastors.**
- ♦ An intentional and individual time—again, either apart from or part of the general prayers of the church—to come to the altar to pray for other people in our lives who are in need of the Great Physician's help but are unable or unwilling to come before the Lord on their own. **In other words, this may be an intensely intentional way to come to the table of the Lord to pray on behalf of healing for others with one of the pastors.**
- ♦ An intentional time as a community of faith, to recognize, to support, and to encourage those who seek healing before the Lord, **whether we ourselves in the congregation at large are in need of it or not.**
- ♦ An opportunity to add to the healing process with the resources of the Church as the Body of Christ, **including elements we already employ, such as Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer & Holy Communion but also potentially unfamiliar yet nonetheless Scriptural resources as Laying on of Hands and Anointing with oil.** Doctors and nurses use their tools and gifts. The people of God use theirs.
- ♦ An opportunity **to join in Jesus' ministry (and that of His disciples) to invite the Holy Spirit to work healing power in and through us.**
- ♦ A quiet, respectful time in prayer and worship, opening our spirits to the flow of the Holy Spirit, again, being supportive and encouraging of those from our congregation who do seek healing and prayer.

What It Is NOT:

- ♦ A substitute for medical care or clinical counseling.
- ♦ A way to escape personal responsibility (i.e., wanting to be healed from respiratory problems while refusing to stop smoking, or wanting to heal a marriage without changing your own behavior.)
- ♦ A remake of the healing services most of us envision when we think of what we have seen on TV.

We May Or May Not:

- ♦ Be healed in the way we expect.
- ♦ Be cured of a physical disease. (Even Jesus died from His physical trauma on the cross. His healing was the Ultimate Healing of the Resurrection. The Apostle Paul suffered chronically from a "thorn in this flesh" throughout his ministry.)

We Can Expect:

- ♦ To be somewhat anxious the first time we go to the altar rail. It is a new and unknown experience for most of us.

- ♦ Far from the extravagant spectacles of televangelists, a **Service of Prayer for Healing is quiet and contemplative, filled with meditation, individual prayers offered privately from the congregation, and private, pastoral care between those who choose to come forward for prayer.**
- ♦ Everyone to be in need of healing in some way, **though not everyone may choose to come forward for prayers and anointing.** When we confess our sins, when we come to altar for communion, we acknowledge our need for a healing Savior.
- ♦ For those who do come forward for prayers of healing on their own behalf, **the ancient practices of blessing—laying on of hands on the head and anointing with a small bit of oil or balm on the forehead—are offered.** In fact, these intentionally physical acts recall and draw us back to the promises God gave us in the waters of baptism.
- ♦ A future possibility for an opportunity for growing in lay ministry through the possibility of intercessors (folks who would pray on behalf of others) and/or a prayer team that might continue one-to-one contact with those for whom we pray.
- ♦ Jesus to honor our prayers and respond in a way which will bring glory to God.

Some Scriptures Relating to Healing for Your Own Bible Study:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Isaiah 35:1-10 | <i>“...strength to feeble hands and steadiness to knees that give way...”</i> |
| Isaiah 42:1-7 | <i>God’s desire “...to open the eyes of the blind, to set the captive free...”</i> |
| Isaiah 53:3-5 | <i>The healing power of the wounds of God’s Suffering Servant</i> |
| Isaiah 61:1-3 | <i>The mission of God’s servant to bind up the brokenhearted, to set the captive free, to comfort those who mourn</i> |
| Acts 3:1-10 | <i>Peter heals the crippled beggar.</i> |
| Acts 5:12-16 | <i>The ministry of healing of the apostles and the early church</i> |
| Acts 10:36-43 | <i>Peter’s teaching, connecting Jesus’ ministry of healing with the ministry of the church</i> |
| Acts 16:16-18 | <i>Paul casts out a demon from a girl.</i> |
| James 5:(13)14-16 | <i>James’ understanding of the church’s ministry of healing and prayer</i> |
| Matthew 8:1-3, 5-8, 13-17 | <i>A number of healing accounts from Matthew’s gospel</i> |
| Mark 1:21-34 | <i>A number of healing accounts from Mark’s gospel</i> |
| Mark 2:1-12 | <i>A connection between healing and forgiveness</i> |
| Mark 6:7, 12-13 | <i>Jesus sends his disciples out to heal.</i> |
| Luke 17:11-19 | <i>Healing vs. wellness</i> |
| John 5:1b-9 | <i>Jesus heals a blind man.</i> |
| John 9:1-41 | <i>Jesus heals another blind man—a connection with spiritual blindness</i> |

This is by no means an exhaustive list about what Scripture has to say about healing or the church’s role in healing and wellness, but it is a good start.

The Service Itself:

The *Service of Prayer for Healing* will take place as part of our regular weekend’s services in a truncated version of our regular liturgy. Of course, Confession & Forgiveness, Holy Communion, and our Prayers of the Church will be a part of these services, so integral are they to the reality of the realization of brokenness and the hope and promise of wellness extended to us through Jesus Christ.

Even if you yourself do not desire to come forward for Prayer for Healing, do not perceive yourself to be needful of Prayers for Healing, or are uncomfortable with coming forward for Prayer for Healing either for yourself or on behalf of others, **there is still a role for you in this service to offer prayer from your place in the sanctuary.**

As your pastors and Music & Worship Committee, we simply ask you...

...to be aware of this service;

...to be somewhat knowledgeable about the history and Scriptural background for this ministry;

...to be open-minded and open-hearted about this that will strike many as “different;”

...to be prayerfully supportive and encouraging of those who seek healing and wellness.

from
Angie Speiser,
Worship Coordinator

Worship Corner



Jesus said, *"Let the little children come unto me..."* (Matthew 19:14)

FLC says, *"Let the children sit up in the front where they can see and hear."*

FLC says, *"Let the parents relax, the sound of children in church is beautiful."*

FLC pastors say, *"Let all FLC members love our kids to pieces!"*

CALLING ALL KIDS IN GRADES 3-6 – Do you like to sing, act, praise and perform? First Lutheran has started a worship group just for you! Come join in the fun! Please note that we are now including children in third grade also.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, at 4:30 pm, in the church choir room. We'll be done in time for supper at 5:00 pm. For more information, contact Angie Speiser at 839-6005, or send an email to thespeisers@gmail.com.

ALTAR GUILD



We have openings and are looking for people to serve, approximately one month a year, on the Altar Guild helping to prepare for Communion and other duties relating to worship. We also need people who are willing to substitute. If you would be interested, please contact Vicki Stevens at 839-0562, Diann Hanson at 838-8915, or the church office at 852-4853. The following Altar Guild members will be serving:

January —
Cindy Wilhelm, Maxine Leite,
Karen Holte, Nancy Langseth

February —
Michelle Bussard, Becky Ortiz,
Marilyn Kvamme

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

We send out the newsletter and other important church information by email. If you have an email address, and wish to receive your newsletter and other church information that way, please let us know your correct email address by calling the office.

The newsletters are also posted to our website. You can find it under the *Publications* heading.

If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, *please call the church office (852-4853).*

With this change, that we implemented last February, we not only save a great deal in printing and mailing costs, but are doing a small part to help the environment.

from
Julie Benson,
Christian Education Director

Christian Education



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Regular Sunday School Classes: 9:45—10:40 am

January 10, 17, 24 & 31
February 7 & 14

No Classes: January 3 (one Sunday service at 9:30 am)

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL

Regular Wednesday School Classes: 6:00—7:00 pm

January 13 & 20
February 3 & 10

Family Event: January 6

No Classes—Teacher Meeting: January 27

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the grandparents who helped stuff and hand out the treat bags for the Christmas program.

Thank you to everyone who provided cookies and worked in the kitchen.

The “*Rekindle the Spirit*” bags were very much appreciated!

CONFIRMATION

6:00—7:15 pm - Main Church Sanctuary

January 6—Servant Event

January 13—Theme Night

January 20—Theme Night

January 27—*No Class for Students, Guides & Sun./*
Wed. School Teacher’s meeting

February 3—Theme Night

February 10—Theme Night

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010!

As the new year begins, we should look back on 2009 and count our many blessings!

- ◆ We have 253 students enrolled in Preschool - Grade 9 at First Lutheran
- ◆ We have 35 classroom teachers, 3 student music directors, and 20 small group confirmation leaders who volunteer their time, knowledge, and energy to connect with our youth
- ◆ We have 187 families that are involved in First Lutheran Parish Education
- ◆ First Lutheran students continue to be very active in school and community events. You always see names of First Lutheran kids in the paper for positive activities
- ◆ We collected \$1200.00 during the Halloween Carnival
- ◆ We have two new pastors - Pastors Mike & Kari
- ◆ We had 140 students participate in the Christmas Program. It was a fabulous event!
- ◆ We had many grandparents and members of the congregation donate to the “*Rekindle the Spirit*” treat bags for the Christmas program
- ◆ We have had 30 baptisms during 2009
- ◆ We have distributed 1230 “*Alyssa Marie Pratt - Always More Prayers*” bracelets. Our goal is to distribute 1500 bracelets by February 1st, 2010

I know 2010 will bring many more blessings to all of us at First Lutheran!

First Lutheran Church Women

| | <i>Hostess</i> | <i>Place</i> | <i>Day & Time</i> |
|----|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| #1 | Helen Kjellberg | Trinity Ret. | Jan. 7 - 2:00 pm |
| #2 | Doris Slaaten | 1000 20th Ave NW B-4 | Jan. 7 - 9:30 am |
| #3 | <i>No Hostess</i> | Kildahl Room | Jan. 7 - 9:30 am |
| #4 | Bernice Herberg | Kildahl Room | Jan. 7 - 1:30 pm |
| #5 | <i>No Hostess</i> | Friendship Room | Jan. 7 - 1:30 pm |
| #6 | <i>No Hostess</i> | Conference Room | Jan. 7 - 5:00 pm |
| #7 | Peggy Kline | 105 University Ave E | Jan. 7 - 7:30 pm |
| #8 | Karen Meland | 2049 14th St NW | Jan. 7 - 8:00 pm |
| #9 | Shirley Haakenstad & Helen Albrightson | Friendship Room | Jan. 12 - 7:30 pm |



Dates to Remember:

| | | |
|---------|---------|---|
| Jan. 5 | 4:00 pm | Bible Study Leaders |
| Jan. 21 | 1:30 pm | General Assembly—Program presented by Miriam Smette, Executive Director of RSVP |
| Jan. 28 | 1:30 pm | Exec & General Board Mtg. |
| Feb. 2 | 4:00 pm | Bible Study Leaders |

Worship Committee

At its regular December 1 meeting, the committee discussed the following:

Judy Ross was welcomed as a new committee member. Angie Speiser announced her resignation as worship coordinator, although she will continue with some projects. The worship coordinator job description will be reexamined. Angie announced a special addition to the 8:45 worship service on January 10 in support of the Class of 2010 and an effort to tie families to worship. The class will participate in the readings and music, and will bake the bread for communion. They will also have a part in a special service in May.

Healing services will be held on the fifth Sundays of the month in 2010: January, May, August, and October, and in 2011: January, May, July, and October. A variety of ideas was shared with respect to how these services would be different, including whether they would be held in the chapel or sanctuary, teaching resources, follow-up pastoral care, deaconess board, and the prayer chain.

Inserts in the bulletin provide readings for Advent; vespers will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, during Advent. Advent kits will be distributed at the first vespers service. The sanctuary will be decorated in stages, supporting the theme of new life arising out of a stump, awaiting the birth of Christ.

An informative presentation was made by Dallas Anderson, Tricorne Audio, Inc., on the sound characteristics of the sanctuary and how it might be improved. His report included concerns about the sound system, technical issues found during an evaluation, items fixed during a one-day service call, and a summary of sound system upgrades with cost estimates and options. Lengthy discussion followed. The committee agreed by acclamation to reconsider the topic at its January meeting, after time to study the options.

Questions and comments about any of these topics may be directed to any of the committee members.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Julie Benson | 852-6251 |
| Clint & Jylann Hanson | 725-4904 |
| Joan Holum | 839-7136 |
| JoAnn Linrud (Chair) | 838-2414 |
| John Mercer (Council Liaison) | 839-9232 |
| Beth Murphy | 839-1011 |
| Pastor Ken Nelson | 837-8783 |
| Pastor Mike Pancoast | 838-8111 |
| Judy Ross | 839-7704 |
| Wayne Schempp | 837-9662 |
| Jeannie Sovak | 839-3706 |
| Angie Speiser | 839-6005 |
| Rick Stevens | 839-0562 |
| Rita Sundahl | 838-8295 |

First Things First

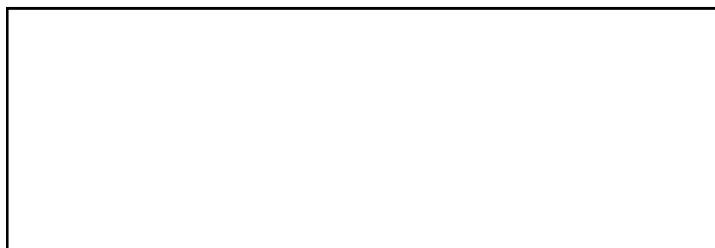
Newsletter of First Lutheran Church

January 2010 Issue

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



First Lutheran Staff

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Senior Pastor: | Ken Nelson |
| Associate Pastors: | Mike Pancoast, Kari Pancoast |
| Volunteer Coordinator: | Vicki Rusch |
| Parish Receptionist: | Becky Ortiz |
| Financial Secretary: | Jennifer Hunze |
| Parish Secretary: | Karen Wing |
| Parish Education: | Julie Benson |
| Worship Coordinator: | Angie Speiser |
| Organist: | Rita Sundahl |
| Custodians: | Jerry & Sharon Heizelman |

First Lutheran Council

| | |
|------------------|--|
| President - | Karen Krebsbach |
| Vice President - | Duane Brekke |
| Treasurer - | Joylea Knutson |
| Secretary - | Rick Haisch |
| Ken Gorze | Lorraine Haugen |
| Doug Mattson | John Mercer |
| Cindy Wilhelm | |
| ~~~~~ | |
| Missionaries: | Katie Narum-Miyamoto—Japan Rev. Dr. Mark Nygard—Egypt |

WORSHIP & EDUCATION SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|--|
| Wednesday: <i>Wednesday School & Confirmation</i> 6:00 PM | Sunday: <i>Worship</i> 8:45 AM |
| Saturday: <i>Worship</i> 5:30 PM | <i>Sunday School & Adult Forum</i> 9:45 AM |
| | <i>Worship</i> 10:45 AM |

NOTE: Sunday—January 3rd—there will be One Sunday Service held at 9:30 am

Nursery provided at Sunday Services *Sunday Radio Broadcast - KRRZ 1390 AM - 8:45 am*

OUR WEBSITE: firstlutheranchurchminot.com