

THE MESSENGER



Vol. 4, No. 9 | A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Fremont | September 2009

REFLECTIONS From the Senior Pastor

**A place to belong and
a place to become . . .**

Charlie's Chatter
"Nothing can separate us from the love of God."

What is our calling?

Why has God called us to this place? Why has God guided the work of First Lutheran through the years? It is obvious that God has used First Lutheran as an effective tool for mission and ministry. Naturally, the church has not been without adversity and controversy. Only a few years ago you were called to work through a difficult situation. God guided you, and we are a stronger church for it. It is my prayer the same is true for those who left. I believe all the people involved truly believed that God was leading them.

We now face a possible divisive situation as a result of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. In the bishop's letter which is also the part of this publication, he enumerates on the possible controversial areas.

From what I have heard there are two points of controversy.

A resolution committing the church to find ways for congregations and synods **that choose to do so** to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable, life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships.

A resolution for committing the church to find a way for people in such life long, same-gender relationships to serve as professional leaders in the ELCA.

However, there is another resolution which states the first two are **non binding** to synods and congregations.

congregations and synods have structured flexibility in decision making, so that they may choose whether or not to approve or call people in life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships to serve in the ELCA. (This also applies in the blessing of relationships. Marriage is not a consideration.)

This isn't like building or not building a new church. **We are given the flexibility to act as we choose.**

As for me, I am committed to Christ and committed to you the Congregation of First Lutheran that I love so dearly.

In Christ,

Pastor Charlie

First Lutheran Staff

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LAURIE BARTELS Senior Choir Accompanist	
BARB HANEN Cherub Choir Accompanist	
ROSIE HAIAR Nursery Coordinator	
BILL MILLER & MILT HAVEKOST Maintenance	
ALICE CLAUSEN, IONE POPKEN & MARTIN TRAUTRIMAS Parish Lay Visitors	

Radio Broadcast KHUB 1340 AM
Sundays at 11:00 am

TV Broadcasts Channel 13
Mondays at 10:30am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 2:00 pm

WEB site www.flc-ne.org

PRAYERS Remembering ...

First Lutheran staff prays for five member families at their meeting each week. If you have a specific prayer request for your family, please call the church office to let us know of your concern. The following members and their families being prayed for throughout **September** are:

Gail & Nancy Nielsen, Jeanne Nielsen, Larry & Joleen Nielsen, Leonard Nielsen, Roger & Susan Nielsen, Vera Nielsen, Prudence Nissen, Adam Norenberg, Dick & Jill Norenberg, Tim & Heather Norris, Andrew Olson, Lon & Wendy Olson, Kristie & Dan Ondracek, Nick & Lindsay Osborn, Kurt & Kristy Pafford, Doug & Amy Partridge, Jason Paseka, Keith & Diane Paseka, Mildred Paseka and Steve & Roxy Patrick.

We ask you to include in your prayers the following members and friends of First Lutheran who continue in active service to their country:

Cadet Bryce Christensen, son of Dale & Jeannine Christensen
Specialist Stefan A. Fahrlander, Grandson of Ray & Myrna Meister
Sgt. Andrew Gibson, Friend of Jamie Wolff
LCDC Keith R. Hanson, Son of Jim & Mary Ann Hanson
Michael Harper, Midshipman,
Grandson of Lowell & Mardell Weitzenkamp
Sgt. Sarah Haskins, Granddaughter of Larry & Mary Ann Thomas
CPL Garret D. Heitshusen, friend of the congregation
2nd Lt. Ryan Hurt USMC, nephew of Dave & Kathy Pinkall

Army Spc. Jared Kruse, son of Jeff & Connie Elliott
SFC Eldon Kuntzelman, son of Rex and Vi Kuntzelman
Lt. Col. Randall Morris, son of Diane and Paul Morris
ENFN Chase P. Nickels, grandson of Delwyn & Anita Hasemann
Curtis Nissen, grandson of Clarence & Dee Schakat
1st Lt. Johanna O'Toole, granddaughter of Barbara Lanning
Sgt. Scott Peterson, son of Chuck & Lorie Peterson
Andrew Steffensmeier, nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner
Cody Stickman, friend of the congregation

Average Weekly Attendance through July

<u>2008</u> 693	<u>2009</u> 672
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DEVOTIONS Family Faith Conversations

For the week of September 6:

Monday: Read Colossians 1:13-17. Why should you do what Jesus asks you to do?
Tuesday: Read Romans 10:13-15. Whom do you know who needs to know about Jesus?
Wednesday: Read Luke 8:26-56. How did Jesus help people understand his message?
Thursday: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. What special talents do you have? How can you use them to serve God?
Friday: Read Psalm 23. What can you do to help you remember that Jesus is always with you?
Saturday: Read Colossians 4:2-6. How can you "season" what you tell people about Jesus?

For the week of September 13:

Monday: Read Acts 2:44-47. What can you do this week to help another Christian?
Tuesday: Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. Why do you think Jesus wants us to encourage each other?

Wednesday: Read Titus 3:1-8. Why does being a Christian mean we should be good to each other?
Thursday: Read John 21:12-19. Do you think Peter felt afraid to follow Jesus? Whom do you know who might be afraid to follow Jesus?
Friday: Read John 10:11-18. How did Jesus show that he's the good shepherd?
Saturday: Read Hebrews 3:12-14. How does talking with other Christians help you be strong in your faith?

For the week of September 20:

Monday: Read Luke 12:8. Why should you tell people about Christ?
Tuesday: Read Acts 4:8-12. Why do we need missionaries?
Wednesday: Read Luke 10:1-16. What did Jesus ask his early followers to do? What does he ask you to do?
Thursday: Read 1 Peter 4:12-17. Have you ever suffered for Christ? Would you?

Friday: Read Romans 12:19-21. Why should you forgive your enemies?

Saturday: Read Philemon 1:6-7. How does sharing your faith change you?

For the week of September 27:

Monday: Read Job 26:7-14. Is it good or bad that we can't understand everything about God?
Tuesday: Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:3. How do you feel knowing that God created everything from nothing?
Wednesday: Read Daniel 6. How did Daniel help the king know about the living God?
Thursday: Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-6. In what way are you a message to people about God?
Friday: Read Psalm 29. Is anyone else like God? Why or why not?
Saturday: Read Jeremiah 10:2-13. What are some of the false idols in your life?

The **MINISTRY CENTER** is available to current members as well as visitors and will include sign-ups for current ministry opportunities sponsored by First Lutheran Church as well as community events. Currently patterns and yarn are available for persons interested in knitting or crocheting baby hats. Be sure and check this ministry center to see what is "going on" and "soon to happen" and be sure and volunteer to be a part of it.

The First Lutheran Church **WELCOME CENTER** will be staffed on Sunday morning and available with information for a newcomer or visitor. Visitor bags are available and if you have any questions, please direct them to the individual at the Center. General information is available for the newcomer or visitor and includes copies of previous announcements, current Messenger and highlights of the ministry here.

MEMBERS

Births, Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages

Baptisms:

Elliot Jacob Vech August 9, 2009
Parents: Franklin & Sara Vech
Sponsor: Jessica Rathje

Kennedy Jane Mruz August 16, 2009
Parents: Andy & Ashley Mruz
Sponsors: Nathan McElroy & Chrissy Mruz

Marriage:

Venessa Watts to Eric Eldridge August 22, 2009

Births:

Micah Meyer July 19, 2009
Parents: Trent & Shelly Meyer

The Ministry of Healing:

Please remember to let our church office know when you are facing a health concern or hospitalization so that our pastoral staff might be in touch with you and you can provide information to share with our whole faith community. When you request, a prayer chain will also be activated. First Lutheran members known to have health concerns this month included:

John Gard, Larry Thomas, Diane Morris,
Hilary Mecham, Sam Guy, Norma Lindgren,
Bill Christensen, Tammy McKenzie,
Marg Christensen, Linda Wiese, and Pastor Del Wiemers.

Deaths:

Our sympathy to family and friends of:

Marjorie McDuffee on the death of her husband
Lloyd McDuffee.

Larry & Marjorie Ludvigsen on the death of Larry's
brother Douglas Ludvigsen.

James & Jane McElroy on the death of Jane's mother
Laura Englebart.

Please welcome the following new members of First Lutheran.
A place to belong and a place to become...

Kristen Beran is employed at Fremont National Bank. She is a native of Fremont and enjoys running & reading.

Host family ~ Gaylord & Vali Mussman

Brock Kinning is the Assistant Live Stock Manager at TBC Farms. He has lived in Fremont for 10 years, and enjoys sports. Host family ~ Dan & Nancy Wright, Elena & Elizabeth

Jerry Luby is employed at Nebraska Machine Products at Region 4. Jerry enjoys Golf and NU Football. Host family ~ Kris & Marsha Johnson, Myia & Kallie, Roger & Linda Revis

Anthony Moos is employed at Pave-the-Way Concrete. He is a native of Fremont and enjoys biking and camping.

Host family ~ Gaylord & Vali Mussman

Brenda Riley has lived in Fremont since 1992 and is employed at Region 4 as Director of Human Services. She enjoys spending time with friends and NU Sports. Host family ~ Kris & Marsha Johnson, Myia & Kallie, Roger & Linda Revis

Bonnie Strauss

Jeannette Tank is retired and has lived in Fremont for 10 years. She has 3 grown children and enjoys reading, bicycling, cooking and family activities. Host family ~ Gary Tomasek & Garrett

Jodi Thomsen (daughter Mckenzie) is a full time Dental Hygiene student. She has lived in Fremont for 21 years. Jodi enjoys outdoor activities and softball. Host family ~ Dan & Nancy Wright, Elena & Elizabeth

Scott & Andrea Wagner (daughter Madeline) have been back in Fremont for 1 year. They both teach at Fremont Public Schools. They enjoy running, hiking, parenting and working with kids. Host family ~ Dale & Jeannine Christensen

Craig & Jennifer Wells (children ~ Tanner & Kaitlenn) have lived in Fremont for 1 year. Craig is employed at Wal-Mart and is also a student. Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom. They enjoy softball, singing, reading & teaching Sunday School.

Host family ~ Grady & Lori Wells, Dakota & Jordan, Joy Horn

Frank Wilson Host family ~ Charles Smith

CAMP NEWS

Carol Joy Holling

Camp Fest - Sunday, September 6 - Fall Festival from 1 - 5pm - Remedy Drive Concert at 6:00 pm.

The Camp Classic - Monday, September 14, at 12:00 pm. Prizes for the top team in each flight. Iron Horse Golf Course, Ashland, NE.

Contemporary Worship Workshop - Saturday, September 19, from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. For lay and professional church leaders, this one-day workshop will lead you through the basics of Contemporary Worship.

Fall retreat "*I Love to Tell the Story*" on October 5 - 7 and the camp's Swanson Retreat Center.

UFO Retreat - October 25-27. For crafters of any kind. Bring your own unfinished objects and use this time away to get caught up or do new projects!

For more information visit on any of these events visit www.nlom.org or call 1-888-656-6254.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Special Occasions

Wednesdays

Beginning September 9th

Wednesday Night Suppers	5:15 - 6:30 pm
Cherub Choir (K-2)	6:00 -6:30
Junior Choir (3-5)	6:30-7:15
Confirmation (6th -8th)	6:30 pm
FLYS	7:30 pm

Thursdays

Beginning September 10th
Table Talk Worship 6:30 pm
in the Heritage Room

Fall Worship Schedule

beginning Sunday, September 13

8:00 am - Traditional Worship

Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays

8:30 am - Sr. Choir

9:30 am - Sunday School

9:30 am - Blended Worship

Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays

(please note this is different from last year)

11:00 am - Contemporary Worship

Communion on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays

Sunday, September 27

FREE Cholesterol & Blood Sugar Screening

7:30 - 11:00 am

Seasonal flu immunizations

9:00 - 11:00 am



First Lutheran Church

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THE MESSENGER is published monthly by First Lutheran Church of Fremont. Deadline for the September Messenger is Monday, September 14. Contact Tammi Wolff, Editor, with submissions or comments at 402.721.2959 or tammiw@flc-ne.org.

LETTERS What You're Saying to Us

I want to thank you for the beautiful altar flowers and a special thank you to the pastors for their visits & prayers. Your thoughtfulness & concern was appreciated.

Carol Wackel

Thank you very much for the ministry meal you provided for our family. I also would like to thank the pastors for their calls, visits, prayers and words of encouragement at this difficult time. We are so blessed to belong to such a caring "church family". Thank you,

Tammy McKenzie

Thank you for the visits, cards and phone calls while I was in the hospital. They were very much appreciated. **Norma Lindgren**

Thank you for praying for me as I went through surgery. Thanks also for the great meal! **Hilary Mecham**

Thank you for letting me go to camp Carol Joy Holling. **Monika Zuch**

Thank you so very much for helping pay for the camp fee. I enjoyed going to camp and am very excited to go next year. It is a good learning experience & helped me in my growing faith life. Thanks again.

Sarah Young

Kevin and I would like to thank you for the meal you provided, flowers that were delivered to our home as well as thank the person who delivered them. I would like to thank you for the prayer shawl also. It was a very unexpected surprise and I was truly touched by

this thoughtful and spiritual gift! To the individuals behind these beautiful creations, know that your generosity of time and love that you put in to your prayer shawls is helping me feel God's grace every time I use it. Much appreciation.

Amy & Kevin Meyer

Please know how much we deeply appreciate you hosting us Sunday morning, August 2, in worship as we brought to you the message of the Tour de Rev's and the ministry of the ELCA World Hunger Program. The Nebraska Synod World Hunger team is making a generous donation to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in your name as our way of expressing our gratitude for your participation in this event. You are truly a blessing and we thank our Lord for you!

Tour de Rev's

A special thank you to the pastors for the prayers and visits during my stay at the hospital and Nye Legacy Rehab Center. I appreciate and also thank all of those who were so kind as to send cards. I especially would like to thank the Bible study group that I have been a part of, for their visits. The altar flowers were such a wonderful surprise and I was so very grateful for them. Thank you so much.

Marlice J. Sebade

Thank you for all of your support throughout the years at First Lutheran. I really appreciated all of your thoughts and prayers. I

want to thank all of the people from First Lutheran who attended my Commissioning service as Associate in Ministry at Faith Lutheran in Seward Nebraska. Last of all I want to thank everyone at First Lutheran for the gift card to Parables. Thank you for remembering me on this special day in my ministry. God's Blessing on everyone at First Lutheran, **Carl E "Rick" Strong**

Hello from St. Paul, Minnesota! Nathan and I have been busy unpacking and turning our apartment here at Luther into "home" for another year. Today as I was attempting to organize the kitchen, I came across some of the handmade dishcloths that we were given last summer at the Garden Market. Welcoming a break from trying to decide from which cupboard the coffee mugs would be most easily accessible, I sat down at the table to reflect for a few more minutes on the love and generosity of an entire congregation that those gifts symbolize. Nathan and I have been blessed beyond what we could ever have imagined by the friendship, care, and encouragement that you have offered to us this past year. We will carry the beautiful quilt, Nathan's stole, the cards, and the memories we have of our time at First Lutheran wherever God calls us to be. You are an extraordinary congregation, and may God continue to bless you for all that you are. Thank you so very much. In Christ's love, **Nathan and Emily Clements**

SERVICE How You Can Help



Operation Shield is collecting the following items to send to our soldiers serving overseas. Items may be dropped off at the Ministry Center.

Body wash (no bar soap please)
packages of baby wipes
hand sanitizer
snack foods
books & DVDs

cards for seasons (holidays, birthdays)
puzzle books (crosswords, sudoku)
UNO cards, Skip Bo cards
domino sets

beef jerky
Crystal Light/Kool-Aid single packets
tape
Icee/freezer pops
paper & envelopes

First Lutheran serves a meal once a month at **Care Corps Homeless Shelter** in Fremont. This month will be Tuesday, September 15, at 5:30 pm. Watch the green sheets for ways that you can help or donate food.

Low Income Ministry of Dodge County will be collecting the following items: Children's socks, underwear, games, puzzles, books. They are also in need of canned goods. Thank you for helping the families of our community. Donations may be dropped off at 549 N. H. Use glass door on south side of the building.

The **Crisis Center** is in need of the following items: Paper towels, diapers (4 & 5), cell phones, conditioner, batteries, stamps, monetary donations, cleaning products, kitchen garbage bags, laundry baskets, new toys, calling cards, laundry soap, toilet paper, gas cards & light bulbs. Any questions call 721-4340. If you are experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault, call our confidential 24-hour hotline 727-7777 or 1-888-721-4340.

The **Jefferson House** is still looking for suitcases to send belonging home with the kids when they leave the house. Donations can be dropped off at church in the grocery cart in Fellowship Hall.

Greetings from your Call Committee

The Call Committee continues to work on the search for a new Associate Pastor for First Lutheran Church. This process was slowed during Pastor Charlie's illness because of the difficulty to recruit an Associate Pastor, with the Senior Pastor situation in a state of uncertainty. Now that Pastor Charlie has returned, the Committee is working at a much faster pace to fill the position. Meanwhile, we have Pastor Kathy to fill in until we are able to recruit the new Associate.

The position that we are recruiting for is called Associate Pastor of Discipleship. The person who fills this position will most likely be responsible for such areas as evangelism, outreach, adult education, and small groups. They would report to Pastor Charlie and would work closely with the rest of the staff. Obviously, we are primarily looking for someone with skills in those areas but will consider all available candidates.

The call process requires that we assemble a profile of the congregation to be shared with potential candidates. This publication is nearly complete, and we feel that it does a good job of representing both the congregation and the position for which we are recruiting. Once this has been finished, it will be shared with the congregation so that everyone is well aware of the process.

The next step is to work with the Nebraska Synod to identify potential candidates. This process has already begun in the very preliminary stages. As candidates are brought forward, it is the job of the Call Committee in conjunction with Pastor Charlie, to review and select those to be interviewed. This can be a very time-consuming process, depending on the availability of qualified candidates.

Once interviews have occurred and a candidate is felt to be a good fit for First Lutheran, a recommendation will be brought forth to the Congregational Council to issue a call. If

the Council concurs with the recommendation and the Nebraska Synod is in agreement, the call will be issued.

While your Call Committee has a good start, the upcoming processes can happen very quickly or be very lengthy. Our hope is to have an Associate Pastor in place this fall, at which time Pastor Kathy would be able to return home to Iowa. In the meantime, we are working hard at the process, and we are fortunate enough to have Pastor Kathy to serve as our Interim Associate Pastor.

Please keep our Committee in your prayers. We appreciate your support. If you have any questions about our Committee or its status, please feel free to contact any of us.

Thank you.

The First Lutheran Church Associate Pastor
Call Committee

Dave Hanen, Jon Ludvigsen, Alyce Wilke,
Steve Pike, Shawn Bridgman & Sarah Brune

HEALTH Of Special Concerns

Information from Three Rivers Health Department for Seasonal Flu and H1N1 Vaccinations as of August 13, 2009

New guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been issued regarding seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccinations. The CDC recommends that the seasonal flu shot be given in September before the H1N1 vaccines become available in late October. Seasonal flu vaccinations will be given earlier this year compared to previous years because of the expected availability date for the H1N1 vaccinations. Everyone should be aware that upcoming seasonal flu vaccination clinics will begin sometime after Labor Day in September. (Getting the flu shot earlier will not make it any less effective. As with all previous years, the effectiveness of the vaccine depends on two things: 1) the age and health of the person getting the vaccine, and 2) the "match" between the flu strains in the vaccine and those strains being spread in the community.)

First Lutheran will be hosting a seasonal flu immunization clinic on **Sunday, September 27 from 9:00 to 11:00 am**. Three Rivers Health Department staff will administer immunizations to individuals twenty years of age and older who desire to take advantage of this service. The cost will be \$20 per immunization. Bring your Medicare card if you are on Medicare. Three Rivers Health Department is offering this service to several of the large churches in Fremont in an effort to have the seasonal flu immunizations completed three to four weeks prior to the H1N1 vaccine being administered. If you wish to receive a seasonal flu immunization please take advantage of this service.

Further information from Three Rivers Health Department states H1N1 vaccines will be ready in late October, and based on the initial supply, certain priority groups will be given the vaccine first. These groups include pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare providers and emergency services personnel, children between the ages

of 6 months and 24 years, and people between the ages of 25 and 64 years who are chronically ill or have comprised immune systems. Then the vaccine will be available to everyone else. The vaccine will be given in a series of 2 injections with the second injection given three weeks after the 1st injection.

Locations for administering the H1N1 vaccine will likely be at vaccination clinics throughout the community. Three Rivers District Health Department is working on partnering with the schools as possible locations for vaccine delivery also. Other locations include most healthcare providers' offices and private settings such as pharmacies and workplaces. There is no charge for the vaccine; however, there may be a possible administration fee around \$5.00.

September is National Cholesterol Education Month, a good time to get your blood cholesterol checked and take steps to lower it if it is high. National Cholesterol Education Month is also a good time to learn about lipid profiles and about food and lifestyle choices that help you reach personal cholesterol goals. In conjunction with the flu immunization clinic on **Sunday, September 27** Three Rivers Health Department will be offering FREE blood cholesterol and blood sugar screenings at First Lutheran from 7:30 to 11:00 am. For accurate results please fast (no food or drink except water) after midnight. A health assessment survey will also be available.

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute high blood cholesterol affects over 65 million Americans. It is a serious condition that increases your risk for heart disease. The higher your cholesterol level is, the greater the risk of heart disease. You can have high cholesterol and not know it. Lowering cholesterol levels that are too high lessens your risk for developing heart disease and reduces the chance of having a heart attack or dying of heart disease.

FEATURING Of Special Interest

Christian Fellowship will meet September 4th at 12:00 pm. The menu will be BLT's, chips, pickles and surprise desert.

The **FLC** will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

Second Monday Men & Women meet on the second Monday of the month (September 14). Both groups now meet at 9:00 am for coffee and then tackle some of the tasks needing to be done here at the church. Both groups always welcome newcomers.

L.I.F.T. (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) Potluck Group will meet Thursday, September 17, at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and your own table service and be ready for fellowship and games. Please join us!

The **2009 Radio (\$150) and Altar Flower (\$35) charts** are up. Available dates are for the Radio Broadcast are: September 13, 20, 27, November 29 & December 6. You can sign up for your special day. Groups are always welcome to sponsor a broadcast. Charts are available across from the reception desk.

Are you a church member in need of a ride to an evening event, a doctor's appointment or maybe a worship service? **YOU ARE IN LUCK!** We have an **"Over the Road" Gang** in place to assist you! Please call Jill (in the church office; 721-2959) to make arrangements. Please let us know how we can best serve you!

Lost and Found: Many items have been left behind from ZOE, Spoudazo, FLYs, and the New Member retreat. Items not claimed will be donated to Low Income on September 21st. Check the tables located in Fellowship Hall.

The next **Congregation Social Ministry** meeting will be held September 13th at 12:15 pm. There will be much to discuss.

SOLOs (Fellowship for singles or those widowed) meet at 11:45 am each Sunday for dinner at a variety of places:

September Calendar

6	Brass Wok
13	KFC
20	Runza
27	Applebee's

Cover Girls will meet NOW meet on the third Wednesday (please note the change) September 22, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. Come early, stay late, come late, leave early. **JUST COME!!!** You will enjoy tying....that is all you need to know...how to tie a knot. Bring whatever you want for a potluck lunch. We are close to our goal of making 150 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local agencies. Right now willing hands are needed to make this possible.



The **Carol Joy Quilt Auction** was a BIG success....raising nearly a \$100,000 for the camp. We donated two quilts. Next year we plan on submitting a very nice quilt. A pattern has been picked. Now three women who like to embroider are needed to get it started. Three embroidered panels will be put together with quilt blocks to make a large wall hanging. If you can help, please call Marilyn at 721-9622. It will be a great fall/winter project! After seeing the quilts at the Quilt Auction, Cover Girls should be very proud of the work they are doing. Our quilts were right up there with the best.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, September 1, at 9:30 a.m. Please bring anything that you have made over the summer for show and tell...prayer shawls, children's hats, etc. Thanks to everyone who kept the needles busy this summer!

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour comes to Dana College in Blair, NE. at the Gardner-Hawks Center on Saturday, September 5, at 7:00 pm. Attendees are encouraged come early to test their skills on the 24' climbing wall which opens to the public at 5:00 pm. For a complete listing of films, visit www.dana.edu/about/banff/films. For tickets sales and information visit www.dana.edu/filmfestival or call 402.426.7385. This event is co-hosted by Backwoods and Dana College.

"Creating an Atmosphere of Hospitality"

Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 pm

Opening the hearts of a worshipping community to newcomers takes more than a simple greeting at the door. True hospitality is about creating an atmosphere which welcomes the stranger.

Pastor Greg Bouvier from Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln has graciously accepted our invitation to present his popular workshop from this summer's synod assembly. Please plan to attend this important event to help unlock our potential to warmly welcome all who come to First Lutheran.

YOUTH Jr. & Sr. High Ministry

FLYs (First Lutheran Youth: 9-12th grade) in the youth room. FLYs meet on Wednesday at 7:30 pm beginning September 9th.

6th Grade Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, at 7:30pm.

All 7th & 8th grade confirmation families MUST make plans to attend an **OPEN HOUSE** on September 2, 2009. You and your student are welcome anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to register for the upcoming confirmation year at FLC. This will be a time for you and your student to complete the needed paper work and pay fees to begin fall classes. This is not a structured event... you come...do paper work...take time for a blessing....leave. Please contact Tami Hall @ 721-2959 with any questions.

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 2009

The August 2009 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President Brian Brodd.

Pastor Kathy Gerking presented opening devotions.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Jon Ludvigsen spoke on behalf of the Call Committee. The profile for First Lutheran Church is complete. The Call Committee will move forward in order to set up interviews for an Associate Minister.

STEWARDS

Consecration Sunday is scheduled for November 8. The counting schedule was reviewed.

DEACONS

The Communion schedule was reviewed.

TRUSTEES

Work projects for yard work were reviewed.

SECRETARY

MSC to accept the minutes as written.

Motion = Michelle Beran Second = Mark McKenzie

TREASURER

MSC to accept Treasurer's Report.

Motion = Lana Larsen Hunke Second = Dave Millie

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Charlie Axness thanked Pastor Kathy Gerking for her assistance as he continues to add hours to his work week.

Pastor Kathy Gerking shared an update on Adult Study opportunities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Council regrettably accepts the Resignation of Rick Strong from the Church Council. Rick has received a call as Associate in Ministry in Seward, Nebraska.

The Church Anniversary Committee continues to meet. The celebration will begin in January 2010 with the theme of "Blessed To Be a Blessing."

Brian Brodd thanked all those involved with the John C. Fremont Days Balloon Glow.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Johnson shared information for a potential Hospitality Team.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Johnson reported information on Church Governance. A plan will be recommended after further feedback is gathered and upon further review.

MSC to adjourn.

Motion = Tom Tamke Second = Lana Larsen Hunke

The Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted

Nancy Christensen, Secretary



STEWARDSHIP

Financial Giving

	General Fund Pledged Receipts			Building Fund Receipts		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
January	45,393.50	53,355.50	49,293.50	12,636.99	10,907.50	5,514.50
February	42,963.50	52,211.80	55,906.00	11,050.50	11,977.82	16,928.50
March	53,460.50	59,293.50	69,420.91	17,086.50	24,000.25	10,675.50
April	64,334.49	52,909.50	53,852.50	31,757.50	19,493.50	8,251.50
May	47,232.50	47,655.50	57,642.00	128,933.67	15,279.50	16,093.50
June	45,392.50	59,112.03	47,096.50	15,509.97	22,959.50	6,717.50
July	<u>55,044.50</u>	<u>47,055.90</u>	<u>56,141.50</u>	<u>70,392.19</u>	<u>20,569.50</u>	<u>6,123.25</u>
Total to Date	353,821.49	371,593.73	389,352.91	287,367.32	125,187.57	70,304.25
	2009 General Fund			2008 General Fund		
	Receipts	Expenses	Net Income	Receipts	Expenses	Net Income
July	58,638.30	51,083.95	7,554.35	52,655.76	54,634.64	(1,978.88)
Total to Date	410,531.00	382,884.99	27,646.01	403,234.80	396,957.24	6,277.56

July was a very good month for this time of year! We continue to hold down expenses and the bottom line is showing it! We really hope that you, as a congregation, will consider making some additional gifts to the building fund to meet the challenge as outlined in a letter to each member included with your giving statement. The debt balance is still at \$75,000 and the Synod campaign is really a worthy cause. I thank everyone for make this a financially successful year so far. Keep it up! Sincerely, Kent Speicher, Church Treasurer.

WORSHIP NEWS Fall

September brings the beginning of our "Program Year" schedule, with Sunday School, Confirmation, Choir rehearsals, FLYs, and many other exciting ministry events gearing up for another wonderful year.

This Fall you will also see a few changes at Worship:

- Communion will be served at both 8:00 and 9:30 on the same weeks of the month (the 1st and 3rd Sundays) 11:00 will have communion 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays.
- The 8:00 service will look a little more "traditional", and the 9:30 service at little more "blended".
- The 2nd - 5th grade Sunday School students will be joining us for the opening portion of worship at the 9:30 service, and then be dismissed to their class. This will be an exciting opportunity for the students to be involved in the service, and a great way for the congregation to be included in the Sunday School time! (Families please note: this worship opportunity is not intended to replace your family worship time. Families are encouraged to continue worshipping together during the service of their choice.)
- The 8:00 and 11:00 Children's Time will focus on the different parts of the worship service; you'll notice the Children's Time moving from it's traditional "spot" in the service.
- "Table Talk Worship" with Pastor Charlie and Shawn Bridgman was introduced on Wednesday evenings this past Summer. "TTW" will continue on Thursday evenings in the Heritage Room. Join Pastor and Shawn for prayer, Bible study, and conversation!

September 6

Last Sunday of Summer Worship Schedule
Communion at 9:00

September 13

Fall Worship Schedule begins
Communion at 11:00

September 20

9th Grade Statements of Faith
Communion at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00
Donut Hole Sunday (between services)

September 27

9th Grade Statements of Faith
Communion at 11:00
Midland College Football Team worships with us at 11:00

FELLOWSHIP Women's Ministry

Lydia	Wednesday, September 9	9:30 am
Lesson Leader:	Norma Moxness	
Hostess:	Jan Behrens	
Ruth	Thursday, September 10	9:00 am
Lesson Leader:	Hazel Dillon	
Hostess:	Gloriann Cerny	
Faith	Thursday, September 10	7:00 pm
Lesson Leader:	Laurie Bartels	
Hostess:	Shirley Reker	
Grace	Tuesday, September 15	7:00 pm

Work on the various kits for **Lutheran World Relief & Lutheran Family Services** has started. We can only assemble them with help from everyone at First Lutheran. A table is located at the west end of Fellowship Hall and has details for each kit. Please check it out weekly for patterns, fabric, etc. That is also where the collected and purchased items can be put.

Now is the time to purchase items for the **SCHOOL KITS**. Sales for Back to School have started. Items needed: notebooks of ruled paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches with 100-150 sheets, blunt scissors, rulers, pencil sharpeners, pencils with erasers, construction paper, boxes of crayons. These items are then put into a 12" x 14" cloth bag. (See LCW display for patterns and sample) These kits will be distributed to children whose lives have been disrupted by war or other disaster. Receiving a school kit is a sign that someone far away cares.

In refugee camps, mission hospitals and villages around the world, gifts of **LAYETTES** convey a warm welcome to infants and their mothers. Items needed: Onesies, shirts, gowns, receiving blankets, cloth diapers, sweater, washcloths, bath size soap, diaper or very large safety pins. Garage sales are a great place to get most of these items as they can be "gently used". Sizes up to 24 months are needed. Diapers can be made from 100% cotton L or XL white or light colored T- shirts.

Clean hands, good grooming, bright and shining smiles are brought to children through the gift of a **HEALTH KIT**. This kit consists of a hand towel, washcloth, bath size soap, toothpaste, pick type comb (one of plastic with big teeth), metal nail file or clipper, and Band-Aids. If you have worn towels that are still in good condition, bring them. They can be cut down and serged to make hand towels and washcloths.

If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Klocke, 478-5406, or Evelyn Eldridge, 721-4671.

Heart to Heart a Christian women's group "Quiet Reflection & Sharing" gathers once a month from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. For more information go www.kmscenter.org. or call 402.359.4288.

GOING Deeper

Special Fall Insert to the Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Fremont | September 2009

REFLECTIONS

*They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Acts 2:42

Dear Friends in Christ,

How is God at work in our lives? Where is God's healing and transforming work evident in the world around us? What does it mean to *be* the church, the body of Christ now?

This fall at First Lutheran Church as we walk together through the lengthening days of the season of "Pentecost," we want to invite everyone in the congregation to consider how you are being equipped to be a disciple of Jesus. What does it mean to follow him in your life? In your family? In this community? Pentecost is the season of the church year in which we focus on how the teachings of Jesus shape our life together as his disciples. One of the charges that Jesus gave to the disciples who were in his presence after the power of the resurrection was revealed and before his ascension is known as *the Great Commission*. We read it at the end of the gospel of Matthew: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Sometimes Christians respond to this commission by *going* to some far off place to participate in or shape a community which honors what Jesus' commanded. This fall we suggest you think about "going" as being multidirectional. You can stay right at home and **GO DEEPER** You can grow as a disciple of Jesus as best suits you and your family in 2009. This special publication is intended to help you consider your options and plan to commit to learning opportunities that will work for you.

May God bless your GOING and GROWING!

Pastor Kathy and the Adult Discipleship Formation Team

Meet our fall Guest Teacher/Facilitators for Sunday Adult Discipleship Learning Opportunities at First Lutheran!

Dean Jacobs. "I am far more interested in real things, real experiences and real people than sitting at home watching fantasies on a television screen." In 2001, Dean set off on a series of low budget adventures, propelled by a desire to understand the world we share. Most recently, Dean spent 7 months in Rwanda working for the Dian Fossey project, learning in the midst of the 700 remaining mountain gorillas in the world. Mr. Jacobs will kick off our fall by reflecting on where he saw God at work in this place and the people (and creatures) he encountered.

Dr. Courtney Wilder. Dr. Courtney Wilder has been teaching religion at Midland Lutheran College since 2008. She previously taught at Loyola University Chicago and earned her Ph.D. in theology at the University of Chicago. Her areas of interest include Paul Tillich, existentialist interpretations of the Bible, the Swedish Santa Lucia tradition, and feminist theology. She lives with her spouse and two children in Omaha.

Turn the page to meet Dr. Alcyone Scott and Dr. Jeremy Rehwaldt-Alexander....

GO DEEPER...

First Lutheran Adult Discipleship At a Glance

Drop in and Join the fun!
See inside for details!

Weekly: _____ Day/Time

Going Deeper.

Drop In Adult Study.

Led by Guests Teachers Sunday a.m.
Generally in the Heritage Room 9:30, 10:45

NEW!

Thursday Evening Table Talk Worship

Generally in the Heritage Room 7:00

NEW!

Wednesdays in October

Renew, Refresh, Reform—4 weeks
Generally in the Heritage Room 6:30

Friday Bible Study

Led by Janice Hansen Friday a.m.
Generally in the Heritage Room 9:30

Bi-Monthly:

Men's Bible Study. 2nd and 4th Tuesday a.m.

Led by Pastor Charlie 8:15
Generally in the Conference Room

Monthly:

Women's Small Group Studies

Led by Members 2nd Wednesday a.m.
Generally in the Heritage Room 9:30

Led by Members 2nd Thursday a.m.
Generally in the Heritage Room 9:00

Led by Members 2nd Thursday p.m.
Generally in the Heritage Room 7:00

Led by Members 3rd Tuesday p.m.
Generally in the Heritage Room 7:00

Bible Study at Nye Square

Led by Pastor Norm 2nd Friday a.m.
10:30

Or check out First Lutheran's Library to find
a guide for your own personal study....

GOING DEEPER

On Sunday Morning

Meet our fall Guest Teacher/Facilitators for Sunday Adult Discipleship Learning Opportunities at First Lutheran!

(Continued from the previous page)

Dr. Alcyone Scott, is a graduate of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Her Masters and PhD. are from the University of Chicago. Some of her academic work was done at the Divinity School at the University. A popular course she teaches at Midland, where she has taught for many years and is chair of the Faculty and the English Department, is "Theology and Literature" which is now called "Looking for God."

Dr. Jeremy Rehwaladt-Alexander, who has taught at Midland since 2002, earned his M.A. at Harvard Divinity School and his Ph.D. in Religion, Ethics, and Society at Vanderbilt University. He is currently on sabbatical from teaching to continue his research on the response of Nebraska churches to immigrants and immigration issues. His area of emphasis is ethics. He and his family live in Lincoln.

SUNDAY BY SUNDAY, 9:30 AND 10:45

Sept. 13	Where in the world is God? Rwanda: with Gorillas, in Schools.	Dean Jacobs, www.travel4life.org , Fremont native, world traveler.
Sept. 20	Looking for God. Thinking about the Body: Embodied Theology in Christian Traditions. Part 1 of 2.	Professor Courtney Wilder, MLC
Sept. 27	How can Christians understand things so differently? Who God is, what God requires, what is sin, how to worship.... The list could go on. Dr. Wilder will open the forum to discussion of decisions made at the ELCA Assembly this summer, providing a context for varying approaches to thinking about issues concerning human sexuality.	
Oct. 4	Looking for God in Mission: Companion Relationships with Lutherans in Tanzania	Pastor Kathy and the Mowo Team
Oct. 11	Looking for God in Literature. Have you read <i>The Shack</i> . Why? Part 1 of 3 (see description below).	Professor Alcyone Scott, MLC Note: reading <i>The Shack</i> will enrich the conversation but is not required to engage in this topic of study.
Oct. 18	Looking for God in Discernment and Decisions: <i>Call Process — a Basic Understanding and Update</i>	Dave Hanen & the Associate Pastoral Call Team
Oct. 25	Looking for God in Literature. <i>The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity</i> , published in 2007 is a cultural phenomenon. Why have people found it so profoundly insightful or so deeply offensive? How does literature address and/or inform or even challenge our beliefs about God as interpreted from Scripture or Church Doctrine? Can the literary imagination enhance our faith life? Are there works of literature that have spoken to your faith questions? What does an active faith life look like? Is it Looking for God? <i>Professor Alcyone Scott returns for each session of this series.</i>	
Nov. 1		
Nov. 8	How has God been among us for 125 years? Highlights of FLC History, intersections with today.	Nancy Nielsen and the 125th Anniversary Committee <i>Blessed to be a Blessing!</i>
Nov. 15	Looking for God on the Edges: Learnings from <i>Hipsters</i> . As the Anniversary Committee considers hosting a	Professors Courtney Wilder and Jeremy Rehwaladt-Alexander
Nov. 22	"hip-hop" concert in 2010 to celebrate the future, our leaders will discuss intersections between Christianity and the social group sometimes described as "hipsters" - typically meaning young, urban adults with cultural and social interests deliberately outside the mainstream. Where is Jesus, where is the gospel in the subcultures we hear about?	
Dec. 6	Where is God Waiting? Las Posadas — An Advent Conversation. Reflecting on diversity in cultures, mindful	Professor Jeremy Rehwaladt-Alexander
Dec. 13	of the journey undertaken by Mary and Joseph looking for a place where Jesus could be born, enter into a conversation about immigrants seeking welcome based on our leader's sabbatical research. How does this question touch your life?	
Dec. 20	Looking for Jesus in Egypt: Consider our Lord as a refugee, and the contemporary ministry and history of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.	Pastor Kathy

WOMEN'S Small Group Bible Study

To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Women — This fall you are welcome dig deeper into the writings of Paul with many Women of the ELCA. Each month in the publication *Lutheran Women Today*, or online at www.elca.org, materials have been prepared for small groups to consider the scriptures together. This year's theme has been prepared by Dr. Sarah Henrich, Associate Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. In her introduction, she writes:

Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing quite like a letter! Even in these days of e-mails, Twitter, Facebook, texting, and ubiquitous cell phone conversations, a letter allows us to express ourselves a little more fully and a little more personally. Through letters, we can be more thoughtful about what we want to say and share lots of emotion. So, like St. Paul, I am delighted to write to you all.

We belong to God in Christ Jesus: the very same one about whom Paul wrote and thought, to whom he prayed, upon whom he relied; Christ Jesus, through whom, Paul says, we have access to God.... The world may be unfair. We may be misguided and resistant to the claims of love on us. But God does not wait until we are strong, healthy human beings with our acts together. "While we were still weak" "God loved us so much that Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6, 8). "Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39). There is the gospel in a nutshell....

Added to Dr. Henrich's insights in this small group study are insights gleaned from the lives of the sisters in faith with whom you will gather. Please find a time to drop in and try out a Women's Small Group Bible Study!

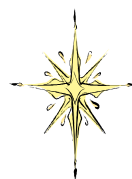
Follow these Monthly Themes:

- ✠ September:
So That We Might Be Mutually Encouraged by Each Other's Faith, Romans 1:16
- ✠ October:
The Obedience of Faith, Romans 4:16a
- ✠ November:
Hope Does Not Disappoint, Romans 6:11
- ✠ December:
Moved to a New Address, Romans 6:13b

MEN'S Small Group Bible Study

Covenant Communities: People of God grow together.

Men — could you schedule your Tuesday morning to join a group attending to scripture? Utilizing the theme *Covenant Communities*, we will study texts from the books of Joshua, Judges, Ezra, Nehemiah, Mark, I Peter and II Peter. You can drop in and join Pastor Charlie for this study whenever you can make it fit, beginning September 22nd.



**GO
DEEPER...**

Why small groups? Why defined by gender?
Smaller gatherings of disciples who have some affinity and identification with one another can frame our discovery of scripture and our support for one another. It is one helpful way to "devote" ourselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship and to know how to hold one another in prayer.

OR, TOGETHER

Wednesdays in October, Renew, Refresh, Reform: The Basics

An Introductory Bible Study and Small Group experience is available to you for a special four weeks. Led by Jeff Miller, these sessions will touch on highlights of a basic introduction to discipleship and being a Christian in our world today. Eat supper at church and stay for the study! Watch for more details in future publications....

October 30-31, Global Mission Formation Event Southwood Lutheran Church, Lincoln

Perhaps you need to find an opportunity to "get away" for your weekly routine in order to structure an opportunity for renewal and study. Want to learn how to give, receive, and serve more effectively in God's mission today?

Join Pastor Kathy and a team from First Lutheran to explore the biblical foundation of global mission, to learn new skills and sing new songs! The cost is \$35 per person and an overnight stay in Lincoln. Let the pastors know if you're open to making this commitment!

Nye Square Monthly Study

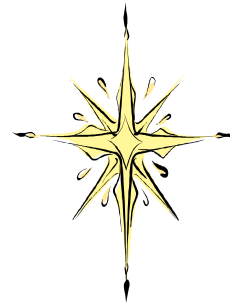
Each month Pastor Norm Freund leads members and friends of First Lutheran living at Nye Square as they gather to study together. Learning through listening to the Holy Scriptures shapes us our whole life long! If you do not live at Nye Square, you are still welcome to drop by and join in this study! 10 a.m. on the 2nd Friday.

TABLE TALK Weekly Worship

Every week *Table Talks* are an intergenerational opportunity to consider topically how the scriptures guide us as source and norm of our life. Martin Luther held *Table Talks* in his home with companions in faith, sometimes on perplexing matters of faith or theology and sometimes on varied aspects of daily life. Join us as Shawn Bridgman and Pastor Charlie prepare topics concerning our contemporary faith and life. Thursdays (beginning Sept. 10) in the Heritage Room....

FRIDAYS AT FIRST Weekly Study

How might Fridays from 9:30-11:00 fit into your week? The study this fall will be on First and Second Peter. All are welcome. First Peter was highly esteemed by Martin Luther, who included it with the Fourth Gospel and the Epistle to the Romans as the foremost witnesses in the New Testament to the gospel which God had brought through Christ. Luther resonated with the triumphant conviction of faith which permeates it and challenges it readers to be in, but not of the world, and to endure unjust suffering in faith, hope, and love. In Second Peter, "the Day of the Lord" is heralded by the character of "the power and presence of Jesus Christ" (1:16). "You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (1:19b). Come and explore these power packed 8 chapters of scripture with this group led by Janice Hansen!



**GO
DEEPER...**

Go Deeper...

None of the options "fit"? Then...

Take Nine at Nine

Form a new Holy Habit that Works for you!

✚ **Take Nine at Nine.**

At 9 o'clock in the morning or the evening, make a plan to stop and open your bible. Read a bit, reflect a bit, pray awhile and go on with your day. Gather with a friend. Nine minutes. Refreshment and insight will surely come to you. Use the monthly Messenger "Faith Conversations" article as guidance about what to read, or simply bookmark a place in the scripture that you read through consecutively. Check out a resource from the First Lutheran Library. Possibilities abound!

✚ **Daily Texts in Your Inbox.**

A full communion partner of the ELCA, the Moravian Church publishes the "Daily Texts." Imagine sharing a devotional with more than 1.5 million Christians in over 50 languages and dialects around the world. First published in 1731 in Saxony (now Germany), this tradition grew out of a spiritual renewal of the Moravian Church that began on August 13, 1727. In those days, Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf handed out a "Losung," ("watchword"), for the next day to each member of the Moravian congregation at Herrnhut. Thereafter one or more persons in the congregation went daily to each of the thirty-two houses in Herrnhut to bring them the watchword for the day. Today verses are chosen for a year are chosen and sent around the world. You can sign up to receive a verse for the day by visiting moravian.org and clicking on "Daily Texts."

✚ **Home Huddle: Take Five with your Family.**

Turn off the TV; put down the newspaper, set the cell phone on silence and invest five minutes with your family. Every night in every home, take time to renew your faith at home: 1) share "highs" and "lows" from your day, 2) read a Bible verse, 3) talk about how God's Word relates to your lives, 4) pray together, and 5) bless one another. Again, refer to the "Faith Conversations" article for an idea of what to read.