

# 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 Rehwaltd-Alexander....

## GO DEEPER...

### First Lutheran Adult Discipleship

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....

# 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](http://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

### **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!

# 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 Rehwaldt-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	<b>Where in the world is God?</b> Rwanda: with Gorillas, in Schools.	Dean Jacobs, <a href="http://www.travel4life.org">www.travel4life.org</a> , Fremont native, world traveler.
Sept. 20	<b>Looking for God. Thinking about the Body: Embodied Theology in Christian Traditions.</b> 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	<b>Looking for God in Mission:</b> Companion Relationships with Lutherans in Tanzania	Pastor Kathy and the Mowo Team
Oct. 11	<b>Looking for God in Literature.</b> 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	<b>Looking for God in Discernment and Decisions:</b> <i>Call Process — a Basic Understanding and Update</i>	Dave Hanen & the Associate Pastoral Call Team
Oct. 25	<b>Looking for God in Literature.</b> <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	<b>How has God been among us for 125 years?</b> Highlights of FLC History, intersections with today.	Nancy Nielsen and the 125th Anniversary Committee <i>Blessed to be a Blessing!</i>
Nov. 15	<b>Looking for God on the Edges:</b> Learnings from <i>Hipsters</i> . As the Anniversary Committee considers hosting a "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?	Professors Courtney Wilder and Jeremy Rehwaldt-Alexander
Nov. 22		
Dec. 6	<b>Where is God Waiting?</b> Las Posadas — An Advent Conversation. Reflecting on diversity in cultures, mindful	Professor Jeremy Rehwaldt-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	<b>Looking for Jesus in Egypt:</b> Consider our Lord as a refugee, and the contemporary ministry and history of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.	Pastor Kathy

## Nye Square Monthly Study

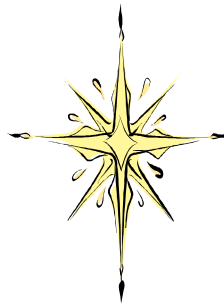
Each month Pastor Norm Freund leads members and friends of First Lutheran living at Nye Square as they gather to study together. Learning through listening to the Holy Scriptures shapes us our whole life long! If you do not live at Nye Square, you are still welcome to drop by and join in this study! 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](http://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.*