It's Time to Celebrate!

In 1996 the members of this congregation could not have imagined all of the uses and possibilities for ministry that the addition of the Celebration Hall would offer. This space is home to contemporary worship, congregational meetings, meals, funeral lunches, weddings and so much more. We are blessed to have this functional space, but now need to improve certain aspects of it so that we can further the ministry of First Lutheran even more.

With the passage of time, we are working with outdated visual equipment, namely a projector and screen that are not adequate for the uses that we now have. We would need an upgrade in the equipment before long, so it was decided that we should propose a package that would include new and improved projection equipment and a screen, along with some minor architectural changes on the south wall of the room. The plan is to move the cross up to the window level and install a new cross that will silhouette the existing cross that is in the window sash. The wall in the large alcove will be extended down to the stage level and a permanent High Resolution screen (16x9 ratio) will fill the full area where we now have the roll down screen. On the lower part of the new wall, we will install wood-relief as you see on the side walls, which will preserve the architectural integrity of the room. All of this will add to the room’s function and will offer more of a worship feel to the space.

This proposal was brought to the Property Committee and then to the Church Council, where it received their approvals. There was a grant request prepared for the FLC Foundation asking them to consider being part of the financing of the project and they overwhelmingly approved the grant request. The 20/20 Club was also made aware of the project and the group agreed to be a partner with the Foundation in helping finance the project. This means that the project, which totals $29,400, will be totally funded by the generous gifts from the FLC Foundation and the 20/20 Club. We are so blessed to have two wonderful organizations such as these that are committed to helping enhance the ministry of First Lutheran Church. This is truly something that we need to CELEBRATE!

The project will be split into three phases with the woodwork to be completed the week of May 6, the cross to be completed by the week of May 27 and the technical phase to be installed the week of June 10.

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful support of this project.

Terry Yoney, Administrator
Nate Koppenhaver in Recital

Nate Koppenhaver, piano student of Judy Dietzler and organ student of Michael Olson, will present two recitals during the month of May. His piano recital will be on Wednesday, May 8 at 12:45 p.m. in the Celebration Hall. Nate will play the organ on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come and hear Nate play some wonderful music at both recitals, and bring a friend along with you! If you’re able, stay for Wednesday Fellowship at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Men’s Choir to Sing on Mother’s Day

The Men’s Choir, under the direction of David Ferreira, will sing for Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 12 at the two sanctuary services. Rehearsal will be on Wednesday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please come and sing and enjoy the fellowship. Bring a friend along with you!

Zumba Fitness

Wednesdays, 5:15 p.m.
$5/session in the gym

We begin with a short scripture devotion and then move into a fantastic, fast-moving, energetic exercise! Zumba Fitness combines traditional Latin dance styles with traditional fitness moves to create a fun-filled and calorie burning aerobic workout! No experience is necessary. Open to men and women of all ages! Join the fun!

Luther Crest Bible Camp

(Limited availability!!)

This summer, First Lutheran Church is providing the opportunity for children who have completed Grades 1-9 to go to Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minn. This is an awesome opportunity for kids to have fun, meet new friends and learn about God. Kids can invite their friends, so reserve your spot quickly so that they don’t miss out on any of the fun!

First Lutheran will provide the transportation and a FLC staff member will attend with the children. **Plus, FLC kids get a 50% discount!**

Grades 1-3 Day Camp - June 20
(Bus leaves FLC at 8:00 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m.)
Not quite ready for a week at camp? This one-day camp will give kids a taste of camp as they sing songs, play games, have crazy worships, learn about Jesus through Bible studies and fun crafts.
**Cost includes lunch, t-shirt and snack. Cost: $15 each (Non-FLC kids: $30)**

Grades 3-5 Leapers Camp - July 14-19
(Bus leaves FLC 7/14 at 1:30 p.m. & returns 7/19 at 3:00 p.m.)
Enjoy meaningful worship, active Bible talks, crazy games, arts and crafts, fun at the beach and the low-ropes course. Go to www.flcfargo.org and click on Summer camps to get a packing list.
**Cost: $175 each**

Grades 6-9 Witnesses Camp - July 14-19
(Bus leaves FLC 7/14 at 1:30 & returns 7/19 at 3:00 p.m.)
Spend a week with wacky, faith-filled counselors. Take part in amazing campfires, active Bible talks, arts and crafts and fun at the beach. Plus you’ll have fun on the ropes course. Go to www.flcfargo.org and click on Summer camps to get a packing list.
**Cost: $175 each (Non-FLC kids: $350 each)**

Contact Shelly at 235-7389, ext. 139 or serickson@flcfargo.org with any questions. More information is on our website at www.flcfargo.org. **Camperships are available.**

Welcome to our Newest Employee, Kay Yonemura

Kay Yonemura started working at FLC on April 23 as a fulltime janitor. Her duties will be to clean the facility as well as serve as a staff person to open and close the building on occasion. Kay will help with security on Wednesday evenings as well as on the weekends.

Kay moved to Fargo from Tacoma, WA in 2001. She was born in Thailand and has two daughters, one son, and 2 grandsons.

**Welcome, Kay! We’re glad you’re here.**
9th Grade Retreat

by Graham Sibley, Student Life Coach

Despite last-minute rescheduling (because of an April blizzard!!!), the 9th Grade Retreat was a success! Students spent Friday and Saturday in the basement of First Lutheran playing games, doing team-building activities, and most importantly, learning about what it means to affirm their baptism.

As Confirmation quickly approaches for our 9th graders, we took the weekend to watch and discuss the movie *Luther*, review the Apostles’ Creed, and work on their memory verses for their upcoming family service. **We had a great time connecting and getting to know each other as they prepare to be confirmed.** It was also easy to host a retreat in such a wonderful space. Sometimes we forget how much room there is for us to utilize in our beautiful church. I’m looking forward to many more retreats in the years to come!

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**Travel Ministry - Fall Splendor**

September 27 - October 8, 2013
Hosted by Craig & Julie Johnson
Cost: $1,995/person, Double Occupancy

Sign up through Judy’s Leisure Tours
701-232-3441 or 800-598-0851
Or Craig or Julie Johnson - 388-4781

Travel to see the fall splendor in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

12 days/11 nights.
Brochures are available at the church with more information.

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**Celebrate with us!**

**Syttende Mai**
A Norwegian Holiday

Friday, May 17, 2013
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Celebration Hall
Cost: $10, tickets at the door

Come and enjoy lunch, rommegrot, lefse and other Scandinavian delicacies.

Entertainment by the Sons of Norway Accordion Band.

**Abigail Circle will meet at Touchmark on Wednesday, May 8 at 9:30 a.m.**
**Touchmark is located at 1200 Harwood Drive in Fargo.**

**Combined Circle Potluck**
Thursday, June 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

On Thursday, June 6, our circles will meet for a combined Bible Study and enjoy a potluck salad luncheon starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Ruth Dunnichoff**, our education director, will lead us in our Bible Study.

We look forward to seeing you for this time of study and fellowship with all of the circle members.

First Lutheran Church Women
Sandwich Making

In April the Salvation Army once again asked First Lutheran to partner with them and make sandwiches for the volunteers who were fighting the local floods. One hundred twelve people came forward to volunteer their time, making 19,395 sandwiches over seven days.

Our volunteers came from First Lutheran Church, other local churches, a few organizations, and people who just happened to see Terry Yoney interviewed on TV. Thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped. Everyone worked hard to get the job done.

Summer Book Read

Summer is a time to relax, read books and enjoy the great outdoors. This summer our congregation is encouraged to read the book An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor, a gifted writer and preacher, is convinced that God’s presence is all around us. She writes, “Earth is so thick with divine possibilities that it is a wonder that we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.” This summer, as we are out and about, Taylor reminds us that we swim in a sea of God. God is everywhere and Taylor draws and alerts us to the presence of God in our daily life.

So, you are invited to pick up the book in the church office (Cost: $11) and read it throughout the summer. You might grab a couple of your friends and meet at the local coffee place and discuss this book together. You might form a small group in the backyard and learn together how we each gather at a particular altar of life. You might join a large group conversation at First Lutheran. We will gather each Tuesday morning in the month of June at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. after our worship service. Both opportunities will be held in the Gathering Place and will be met with some good Starbucks coffee (Hmmm..!) So, pick up a book and join the conversation this summer!

Pastor Marty

Tae Kwon Do

On Tuesday, April 23 students of Tae Kwon Do had their first belt test for the class. These folks started with F.I.T. Academy in January of this year and were ready to show what they got as well as break their first board. It was a ton of fun.

Is this something you think you’d be interested in? You can start anytime and the first four sessions are FREE! Stop by on Tuesday or Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the gym and check it out! All ages, sizes and shapes are welcome.

The philosophy of Tae Kwon Do is to build a more peaceful world. To accomplish this goal Tae Kwon Do begins with the foundation, the individual. Tae Kwon Do strives to develop the positive aspects of an individual's personality: Respect, Courtesy, Goodness, Trustworthiness, Loyalty, Humility, Courage, Patience, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-control, an Indomitable Spirit and a sense of responsibility to help and respect all forms of life.
First Lutheran Foundation News

YTD Foundation Gifts

The year is off to a great start for the Foundation providing needed help for FLC key partners and priority projects at First Lutheran. The gifts and earnings growth have allowed the Foundation to increase the grant support towards the mission of First Lutheran Church. To date, $30,227.11 has been gifted. Gifts of $11,500 were given to key partners, including:

- University Lutheran Center
- Churches United for the Homeless
- Lutheran Campus Ministries - MSUM
- Park River Bible Camp
- Mount Carmel

FLC Mexico Mission trip received $3,727.11 which completed an earlier request from 2012. The most recent grant approved is $15,000 to FLC towards the remodeling of the stage in the Celebration Hall and new A/V equipment.

Reminder - Tax Credits Available to ND Donors

In past years, the Foundation created an endowment fund enabling ND businesses to qualify for a 40% North Dakota income tax credit - a direct reduction in the tax. Please remember that individuals can now also qualify for this credit with gifts totaling $5,000 or more per year to our “tax credit fund.” Many individuals will receive an overall tax reduction of 55-60% with such gifts to this Foundation fund. Please contact one of the Foundation Board members for more information.

Habitat for Humanity

Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is looking for a partner family that might qualify for a Fargo home. **The family must fit into a 2-bedroom home with stairs.** This is a rather small home with two bedrooms in the lower level and limited space on the main floor. Income guidelines are approximate: **$15,000 - $35,000 gross annual income,** depending on the family size.

If you know of someone that you feel might be interested, please contact Terry Yoney at 235-7389 or habitat@lakeagassizhabitat.org or call 218-284-5253, ext. 2.

FLC Funds

Three Wells in Ghana

(How to turn $1 into $61)

The FaithTalk youth at First Lutheran Church have partnered with the FLC Global Missions Committee, Wellspring for the World, and World Vision to raise funding for three deep water wells in Ghana, Africa. The Lenten “noisy” offerings raised $7,984.04 and the Global Missions Committee agreed to match the funds raised with another $7,984.04 from the Fred Scheel Gift. These funds are being donated to “Wellspring for the World”, a local organization that will forward these funds on to World Vision. At World Vision these funds are matched by the Conrad Hilton Foundation and another anonymous donor, creating an impact of $47,904.24. **Every dollar you gave was turned into six dollars.**

World Vision has an excellent track record of drilling fresh water wells. In a 12-year study of drilling water wells in major world countries, 30% are not operating after 3 years and 80% are not operating after five years. With World Vision’s inclusive approach to a community, 95% of their wells are still operating after 5 years and their well lifespan is 20-25 years. Statistics show that when a community gains access to clean water, its child mortality rate drops by half and every new water well impacts between 300-400 people. We have impacted many people in Ghana. Thank you for your generosity!

LWR Donations

Please bring any LWR kit donations to the church by Sunday, May 12 as packing day will be on Tuesday, May 14, and all of the items need to be sorted. Thank you for your generosity.
CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Geranium Sale
Abigail Circle will take orders on two Sundays - May 5 and May 12 - for geraniums. Plants can be picked up at church on May 17-19. Cost is $5 each, with $2.50 of each sale going to Nokomis Child Care, one of Abigail’s major projects.

Nokomis Child Care Centers play a unique role in the FM Community. While providing traditional care in a nurturing, safe, stimulating environment for families able to pay for the care, the program also fills a need for families with special needs, both financial and emotional. Nokomis provides a place for all children to thrive and grow, regardless of their needs.

FM Christian Women’s After 5 Club
Thursday, May 9
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
$15, inclusive
Howard Johnson Inn,
301 3rd Avenue North in Fargo

This month’s speaker is Janet Gerjets of Brookings, SD. The title of her presentation is “Dropping off the Edge - from Panic to Peace.” Janet tells how God met her needs through divorce and losing her mother. After discovering that God is enough, she experienced life to the fullest.

Marilyn McDougall of Fargo will provide the music.

Reservations must be made by Thursday, May 2, noon by contacting Mary Ann at 701-232-1317 or Lu at 701-277-3112.

FM Christian Women is a non-denominational organization with no membership dues or fees. All are welcome.

Driving Safety Class
(formerly 55-Alive Class)
June 27 - 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Adult Education Room
Cost: $12/AARP members, $14 for non-AARP

Several members recently asked if First Lutheran was going to host another safe-driving class for seniors. We are pleased to announce that a class has been scheduled for Thursday, June 27 from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Why should you enroll?
The classes are designed to assist you in maintaining your driving privileges and to meet the state approved course requirements. Successful completion of this mature driver improvement allows senior drivers to qualify for an auto insurance discount. The 55-Alive Driver Refresher Course helps you to receive a discount on your auto insurance premiums. Average discount on mature driver improvement course completion would be 10%.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!

Stepping On: Building Confidence and Reducing Falls
Tuesdays, June 4 through July 23rd
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Health Ministry is pleased to announce that we will offer the Stepping On Series again. Participants in the winter series rated these sessions very high and reported healthy changes they personally made because of what they learned. It is a nationally recognized seven-week course designed to teach seniors how to prevent falls and injuries due to falls. The research based series is offered in partnership with the NDSU Extension Service and features local experts in gerontology, physical therapy, pharmacy, community safety, and eye health. Upon completion, participants will experience more strength, better balance and improved confidence and independence as a result of the supervised activities. Each participant will be given and taught how to use ankle weights for strengthening. Research has shown that graduates of the course have a 31% reduction in falls.

The registration fee is $20, which covers the cost of course materials and weights. Light refreshments will be served.

Stepping On “Booster” Class - May 21
9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

As part of the 7-week series that we held in January and February, a “Booster” class is being offered. The goal of the session is to review the exercises that were taught and the safety tips that were covered during the series. It will also be a fun reunion with your fellow classmates and a chance to support each other in your journey toward greater strength, better balance and improved confidence and independence.
**Special Events**

**Syttende Mai Celebration**
Friday, May 17
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Tickets: $10, at the door

**Stepping On Booster Class**
Tuesday, May 21 (one-time class)
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
Ruth Hanson, ruth.hanson@flcfargo.org

**Baccalaureate**
Wednesday, May 22
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Graham Sibley, gsibley@flcfargo.org

**Valleyfair Trip**
Grades 6-12
Friday, May 31
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Cost: $50, plus food & spending money
Graham Sibley, gsibley@flcfargo.org

**VBS - Vacation Bible School**
June 3-6
(see article for times)
Shelly Erickson, serickson@flcfargo.org

**Stepping On Course**
Tuesdays, June 4 through July 23rd
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Cost: $20, includes materials and weights

**FLCW Combined Circle Potluck**
Thursday, June 6
10:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
Sylvia Watkins, 232-2360

**Women's Ministry**

**Quilters**
Mondays, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
This group of ladies meets every Monday and sews quilts for Lutheran World Relief and some local missions.
Dorothy Nelson, 232-8493

**Learn to Knit and Crochet**
Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m., Gathering Place
Learn to knit or crochet. All levels welcome. Come to learn or just enjoy the fellowship while working on your own project.
Eleanor Rensvold, 218-287-3966

**BSF Bible Study**
Wednesdays, 9:10 a.m.
Oline Kane, 367-4926

**Circle Meetings**
FLC has five circles that meet each month.
Sylvia Watkins, 232-2360

**Men's Ministry**

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study**
Tuesdays at 6:45 a.m.
Adult Education Room
Join the men for breakfast and Bible study.
Pr. Marty at mtollefson@flcfargo.org

**Helping Hands**
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Celebration Hall
This group of men start out with breakfast and then take different jobs or projects that need to be done throughout the church.
Dalen Nettum, 235-7389

**Support & Resources**

**Prayer Partners**
Mondays, 9:00 a.m. Heritage Room
Pr. Jim Hulberg, 701-235-7389

**Senior Ministry**

**Wednesday Fellowship**
Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m., chapel
This group starts with a devotion and hymns led by one of the pastors.
Afterwards they move to the Celebration Hall for refreshments, provided by different sets of four people from the congregation each week.

**First Club**
3rd Thursday, 2:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
This group of seniors meets in the afternoon on the 3rd Thursday of each month for fellowship, dessert and a short program.

**Children/Family**

**Baptism Training Session**
First Sunday of each month
10:00 a.m. in the chapel
Required to have child baptized at FLC
Becki Tollefson, btollefson@flcfargo.org or 235-7389

**MOPS**
Tuesdays, 1st & 3rd of each month
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Moms of children ages birth - 5 years old meet for food, fun and fellowship.
Anne Rydell, 388-6650

**FLY - First Lutheran Youth**
Grades 9-12
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Hang out every Monday in the Youth Area
Graham Sibley, gsibley@flcfargo.org

**Christian Education**

**FaithTalk - 3 years - Grade 4**
Sundays, 10:05 a.m.
Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m.
**CrossTalk - Grades 5-6**
Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m.
**LifeTalk - Grades 7-9**
Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m.

**Music**

**Wednesday Organ Recital (Sept. - May)**
12:45 p.m. Sanctuary
Michael Olson, 235-7389

**Children's Choir**
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (Sept - May)
Celebration Station
Kathy Ferreira, ferreira6c@mac.com

**Vocal & Instrumental Groups**
Lend your musical talents to our worship teams or instrumental groups by participating in one of our adult choirs.
Heavenly Bells or Chamber Orchestra.
Michael Olson, molson@flcfargo.org or Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org.

**Health/Fitness**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**
2:30 p.m. on 4th Thursday
Women gather who are crocheting or knitting prayer shawls that are given to members in need of a special touch of love.
Ruth Hanson, 235-7389

** Fibromyalgia Support Group Meeting**
3rd Sunday 3:00 p.m. Fireside Library
Sue Pedersen, 701-235-9359

**Zumba Classes**
Wednesdays
5:15 - 6:15 p.m.
$5/session in the gym
All ages, men and women, welcome
Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org or 235-7389

**Tae Kwon Do**
Tuesday and Thursdays
$55/month
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the gym
Accepting ages 5 years and older
Keith, 701-369-0440
Closed Memorial Day,
May 27, 2013

Summer Schedule - Starting May 26
Sanctuary 9:00 a.m. only
Celebration Hall 9:30 a.m. only
Wednesdays (starting May 29) 6:00 p.m.

VBS 2013
Monday - Thursday, June 3 - June 6
Preschool age 3 (and potty trained) to Kindergarten
6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Grades 1-6
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Registration available at www.flcfargo.org.

Leaders Needed! E-mail Shelly at serickson@flcfargo.org or call her at 235-7389.