The mission at First Lutheran Church is to bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them grow in the Christian faith.

Tips For Discovering What On Earth Are You Here For?

One of my closest friends in the world is getting a divorce. I have done as much as I can to support him. But ultimately, that is a path you take solo. Every few days he e-mails me questions. They have ranged from “Is God going to forgive?” to “How do I keep the kids from hating their mother (mom is the one leaving the marriage)?” But the most intriguing question these past weeks, “Is it wrong to want to be happy?”

The funny thing about happiness is that it is NOT a worthy goal! In fact, the more you pursue happiness the more elusive it becomes. Happiness is a by-product of the pursuit of worthy goals. In the Bible, the word “blessed” often means happy. For example, in Psalm 1 when the word blessed is used, substitute “happy” and you will get to the deeper meaning. “Blessed (Happy) is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor sits in the seat of scoffers, nor stands in the way of sinners. But his delight is in the law (teachings) of the Lord.” Happiness is a by-product of pursuing purpose and meaning in life.

As Christians, we find our true purpose and meaning in life in relationship to following God’s plan and will for our life. So, how is that going for you? Is there a sense of God’s purpose and will in your life? Have the teachings of the Lord created for you a sense of direction and a plan? If you think you might need a spiritual check-up, read these tips.

**Tip #1: The only thing in your belly button is lint.**
You can gaze at your belly button all you want. You won’t find God’s purpose there. You can reflect, introspect, brood, meditate, naval gaze and soul search all you want. But you won’t find happiness. Happiness is the by-product of doing the will of God. It starts with frequent and sustained worship. And by worship I mean telling God how good God has been to you. Give God the glory, the praise, the honor; God deserves it. And you will be fulfilling your purpose and finding joy.

**Tip #2: God’s purpose for us is NOT a mystery.**
Jesus said clearly that the purpose of each of us is “Love God and Love Others” (paraphrase). Perhaps it’s just too simple. Maybe there isn’t enough drama in it. But, when we live out our love for others our life becomes richer; more meaningful, more purposeful and happier. Investing in others brings a sense of value!

**Tip #3: I, Me and Mine are barometer words.** Count how many times you use these words in a day. An abundant use of these words and your vocabulary might be trying to tell you something. If Toby Keith’s hit song, “I Want to Talk about Me,” makes you feel guilty, there might be a problem. Have you become the sun and everything is orbiting around you? Easy to do. We are designed in such a way that there is to be a center of our universe—Jesus.

Come and explore this topic with us during Lent. What on earth am I here for? Buy the book, join the studies and find the answers.
Noah’s life was transformed by 40 days of rain. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

The 40 days of Lent 2014 are intended to transform your life!

On March 5, Ash Wednesday, we will begin a 40-day journey of Discipleship. Our Lenten theme will draw focus as we use Rick Warren’s book entitled What on Earth Am I Here For? In these 40 days, we will ponder the question of existence; we will explore the question of significance, and wrestle with the question concerning the purpose of life.

Each day of Lent comes with a devotional piece, an audio/video component, three-minute videos that can be accessed via QR codes on your smart phones and finally, discussion questions to ponder. Each week, we will focus on a chapter within the book for our preaching and teaching. We invite you to join us along this 40-day journey!

Wednesday Night Lent Schedule
5:00-5:45 p.m. Dinner in Celebration Hall
6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship in the sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Lenten Pies in the Gathering Place
7:00 p.m. LifeTalk on the lower level
7:00 p.m. Adult Study What On Earth Am I Here For? in the Adult Education Room

Large Group Study Opportunities
Tuesdays at noon, Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., Adult Ed Room
Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Adult Ed Room

Lenten Lunches
Fridays during Lent (March 7-April 11), noon in Celebration Hall. You are invited to gather with us for a meal in the Celebration Hall. One of our pastors, after the meal, will speak about how a particular chapter from our Lenten Study What on Earth Am I Here For? has personally affected them. Please plan to join us each Friday as these lunches are designed to bring nourishment for our body, but also for our spirit.

March 7 Pr. Corey
March 14 Pr. Laurie
March 21 Pr. Marta
March 28 Pr. Corey
April 4 Pr. Laurie
April 11 Rollie

Lenten Musical Offerings
March 5: Cathedral Choir
March 12: Joyful Noise
March 19: Oak Grove Lutheran Concert Choir
March 26: Men’s Choir
April 2: Children’s Choir
April 9: Women’s Choir

Join us for a special showing of Jesus Christ Superstar during Holy Week. Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m. in the Biblemax Theatre

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 5
1:30 p.m. in the chapel
6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Communion and disposition of ashes
Our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on earth. "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is the beginning of the season of Lent, which is a time of penance and reflection as we prepare for Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Each night at Wednesday worship our kids will collect a noisy offering that will go toward sending kids to Luther Crest Bible camp this summer. Proceeds from the pie sales will also support this vital ministry.
Why do you look for the living among the dead?
-Luke 24:5

HOLY WEEK
Wednesday, April 16
7:00 p.m. Seven Last Words of Christ Dubois Cantata in the sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 17
1:30 p.m. Worship in the chapel
6:00 p.m. 5th grade Seder Meal in Celebration Hall
7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18
12:00-3:00 p.m. The Seven Last Words of Christ Worship in the sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service in the sanctuary

EASTER MORNING
Sunday, April 20
7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship in Celebration Hall

Won’t You Join Us?
In order to celebrate all musical expressions of worship, the music staff is scheduling most musical groups to participate in Sunday worship at 9:00 in the Sanctuary and 11:00 in Celebration Hall. This means expanding membership to all worshippers. We would love to have you join us as we give God glory through our gift of music!

Men’s Choir
Singing Wednesday, March 26 and Sunday, May 11
For the Lenten worship on March 26, rehearsal will be at 5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rehearsal for May 11 will be on Wednesday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Women’s Choir
Singing Wednesday, April 9 and Sunday, April 27
For the Lenten worship on April 9, rehearsal will at 5:15 p.m. on the sanctuary. Rehearsal for April 27 will be on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Preschoolers Sing on Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 11 at the 11:00 a.m. worship in the sanctuary and Celebration Hall
It is always a delight when our little ones share their love of God with us through a song. Join us for this special treat—you won’t be disappointed!

Children’s Choir
Rehearses Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in Celebration Station
Singing shapes a child’s spiritual life and they learn scripture because they sing it. This delightful choir is directed by music educator, Kathy Ferreira.

Rehearses Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the chapel
Anyone in grades 7 through 9 is invited to come and sing along with our newest musical group, Joyful Noise! They will perform in worship occasionally and with other FLC musical groups. No audition needed. Boys and girls welcome.

The Seven Last Words of Christ
A Sacred Cantata by Theodore Dubois
Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
For about 20 consecutive years, First Lutheran Church has presented The Seven Last Words of Christ cantata during Holy Week. This year is no exception. Three professional vocal soloists and an orchestra of nearly 30 people will take part. The First Lutheran Cathedral Choir will be singing as well under the steady hand of David Ferreira. There will be a freewill offering to defray expenses.
If you would like to sing in the cantata, join us in rehearsals (March 12 through April 9) following the Lenten services.

Our Cathedral Choir has performed the Cantata for many years. For me it was a devotional time as I experienced in song the joys, sorrows, pain and agony Jesus suffered and then the glorious news that death is now beaten forever. He did that for me – for you. If I can give him a little praise in song in return—I am blessed in doing so. My mom and I were fortunate to sing together in the choir for many years and we thoroughly enjoyed singing the cantata. Last year she was unable to join us in the choir but was sharing with us in the audience. This year she will be listening and watching from Heaven—with a smile and singing along.

-Bettye VanErem, Cathedral Choir Member

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We hear on Easter Sunday these words from the empty tomb, “He is not here. He has risen.” The disciples began to run towards the dawning of a whole new world. The early church was shaped and formed by its engagement and participation in God’s world. Mission is not what the church does but who the church is. Jesus said, “You will be my witnesses!” Because really, how can we not?

One thing is certain; we have been blessed to be a blessing!

Mission Matters
In December, 20 women went to New York to do mission work through CityMeals on Wheels and St. Francis Xavier Church soup kitchen. Pastor Laurie received the following letter from one of the participants, proving that helping others can often impact the giver more than the receiver and that connections made through the mission work have a personal impact.

Dear Pastor Laurie,
Isn’t it amazing that a simple yes/no decision made months ago can have such a positive impact on one’s life! This [New York City mission] trip was one of the best things that has happened to me in a long while. You and the wonderful ladies that I traveled with have allowed me to take a huge step forward in my journey through grief. The kindness and compassion shown by everyone toward the less fortunate and the homeless and also toward me has been a humbling and rewarding experience I saw God through so much of what you do. Thank you for renewing my faith at a time when it seemed to be faltering. I wonder if each of these ladies know how special they are? Lots of silly things make me cry these days but the kindness of others seems to top the list! I did not get a chance to talk with each of them at the airport at the end of our adventure, but maybe you would let them all know, if you get a chance, that I will always remember them as a great group of friends that helped me through a difficult time! You are all inspirational! Thank you again! -Mary Ford

First Lutheran Blood Drive
Tuesday, March 25, 2:30-6:00 p.m. in Celebration Hall
A Blood Drive is coming to First Lutheran Church! Please consider being a “Heavenly Hero.” A Christian view of blood donation can be described this way: We give our blood; Christ gave His. We give a pint; He gave His all. Our blood may be “O” positive, His is positively for all. Ours at best will prolong a life for a while; His without a doubt can save all forever. For an appointment, contact LaVonne Rustad at 701-235-8416 or go to www.bloodhero.com, sponsor code: flcfargo.

Peanut Butter Drive at FLC!
In 2012 Pastor Casey toured the Emergency Food Pantry. When he asked the coordinator, Linda Clark, what her biggest need was, she said, “Peanut Butter. It’s a great source of protein and almost never goes bad.” During the month of March First Lutheran will hold another “Peanut Butter Drive.” Please consider bringing a jar or two to the church. Your efforts will provide nutrition to so many in the Fargo/Moorhead area.

Minnesota Food Share
Be the Hero. Fight Hunger.
Throughout the year, Minnesota Food Share collects donations for the “Food Fund” and distributes money to food shelves statewide based on the food shelf’s March Campaign participation results. This is a great incentive and the more we donate to the Emergency Food Pantry the bigger the share of the Food Fund they receive. So please help support the Emergency Food Pantry during the month of March.

YAK (Young Adult Klub)
This group began when parents of young adult children with learning disabilities recognized similar problems with the lack of positive socialization opportunities after high school or college that were leading to feelings of being isolated, lonely and depressed. These adult children are higher functioning, yet vulnerable and able to learn basic skills for employment. Many have learned to drive a car and live on their own in the community. They enjoy socializing but lack social skills to initiate and nurture friendships. The goal of YAK is to provide social activities as opportunity to help develop skills for high functioning young adults with disabilities to make and maintain friendships in a healthy, safe environment. Parent support is crucial and this is not a recreational respite program.

Meetings have also become a source of support and fellowship for the parents of adult children with disabilities. We shared our concerns regarding job opportunities and job coaching, housing options, awareness of the needs and issues high functioning disabled people face and the fact that this population has much to give to the community despite their disabilities.

If you’d like more information about this group or when the next activity will be, please contact Emily Campbell at emilycampbell85@gmail.com.
REEL Faith Movie Night

The Biblemax Theatre at First Lutheran is like your own private viewing room, with popcorn, pop and candy to boot! If you are a film lover, you’ll love “Reel Faith.” Free will offering.

Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace

Sunday, March 16, 4:00 p.m. in BibleMax Theatre

What is a moral person to do in a time of savage immorality? That question tormented Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran German minister of great distinction who actively opposed the Nazis. His convictions cost him his life. More than just a biographical portrait, this movie sheds light on the little-known efforts of the German resistance and shows the heroic rebellion of Bonhoeffer, who could have kept his peace and saved his life but instead paid the ultimate price for his beliefs.

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Mexico Mission Trip 2014
Called to Serve, Called to Lead

Thursday-Saturday, March 20-29

First Lutheran Church has a long-standing 20-year tradition of leading mission groups to Mexico. We work closely with Accion Ministries to provide a personal and extremely safe experience in which we affect the lives of numerous people in need. This year’s team is heading down to Tinuncah, Mexico in the state of Yucatán. We will be building a church, leading a week long Bible school for the kids, and creating many Christ-centered relationships with the people of the village. We’ll be gone from March 20-29. Please keep all of us in your prayers for safe travel, good health, and a life-changing experience: Hayley Andersen; Sejuru Berisa; Morgan Binfeid; Bobbie Bladhholm; Korie DeBardlabon; Madeline DeLeon; Doreen Gigstad-Stave; Noah Gjesdahl; Jessica Gormski; Ronald Goggisberg; Elly Isaacson; Sydney Johnson; Tucker Lehr; Mathew Meier; Raechelle Sicil; and Audrey Ulliman. Graham Sibley and Rollie Johnson will lead the trip.

Everyone is invited to a slide show celebrating the trip on Sunday, April 27 at noon in the Celebration Hall.

Financial Peace University

Tuesdays, March 4-April 29 at 7:00 p.m., CrossTalk Cafe, $93

Financial Peace University (FPU) is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! Go to www.daveramsey.com/findaclass to register.

You are invited to participate in a one-of-a-kind opportunity! Young and old alike are invited to come together and build four 26-foot long Voyageur North canoes from the floor up. Once they are completed, those who sign up can take them to the Missouri River in Montana and float down the same trail as Lewis and Clark. Anyone and everyone is welcome to build these wonderful vessels.

Canoe building:
Wallwork/Valley Ford warehouse, 4021 Main Ave., just west of I-29 (behind Tubs of Fun). Hours: Monday nights, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; Sunday afternoons, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Canoe trip on the Missouri River, Montana:
Sunday-Saturday, July 6-12. Cost is $390 for those who log in 50 hours of build time; $750 without 50 hours.

Working on a project like this helps grow and deepen our faith in God; it builds relationships and gives people a sense of community, camaraderie, and a sense of belonging. For many it is a project that builds character and teaches us to strive for excellence, commitment, honesty and pride in self and work. This true teamwork is the cornerstone for dedication, respect, discipline and perseverance. If this is something you’ve never thought to do and would like to join in, stop by during one of the open times. Contact Rollie if you have any questions or concerns. Wear clothing that can get stained or dirty as this is very messy, dusty work. Look forward to seeing you there!
A God Story: Myrtle Mattson Receives a Very Special Prayer Shawl

Myrtle Mattson experienced a medical event in May 2013. Myrt is the grandmother of Dianna Woodard’s daughter-in-law and a very important part of the Woodard family. Being a parish nurse, Dianna asked Ruth if she could present her with a prayer shawl. One evening she delivered the shawl that Ruth had chosen. When admiring the shawl, Myrt noticed that a long-time family friend, Joan Esser, had made it. (Joan has been a faithful member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for many years.) This deep connection made the shawl even more special and heart-warming for Myrt. Both Dianna and Ruth firmly believe this was not a coincidence. God’s hand was clearly involved in choosing the perfect shawl for Myrt; Ruth wasn’t acquainted with Myrt or aware of her friendship with Joan Esser. Myrt has since recovered and the shawl continues to hold a special place in her heart.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 4th Thursday each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room

Health Ministry Spring Fling
Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. in the Celebration Hall, $15 in advance; $20 at the door
Back by popular demand! The second annual First Lutheran Spring Fling, in partnership with Sanford Gift Shop, will be held just in time for Mother’s Day. Bring your mom, daughter and girlfriends for a great presentation on faith and how it relates to self-care by Roxane Salonen. This is in conjunction with dessert and a style show. Register and pay online at www.flcfargo.org

BeFriender Ministry
A Listening Presence
You may have seen the BeFriender logo around, but a closer look at the image gives us insight into the values and beliefs of the BeFriender ministry.

Water: The life-giving water pictured near the bottom suggests refreshment, cleansing and healing. After Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan, all baptized Christians were called forth to proclaim the saving power of God and to offer a healing, compassionate presence. BeFriender Ministry is one way to respond to that call.

Hands: The hands are represented in an intentional mutual grasp, suggesting trust and acceptance, as well as dignity and respect between the BeFriender and befriended. The grasp is firm yet gentle, allowing the freedom so essential in support.

Wheat: Wheat is a sign of the Eucharist or Holy Communion. BeFrienders and those they visit often experience a communion, a moment of grace, when in the sharing of the story, they experience a deep connection with one another and with God.

Church Window: The whole picture is in the shape of a church window, a reminder that BeFriender Ministry is a way of being church with and for one another.

If you are interested in becoming a BeFriender or know someone who may benefit from having a BeFriender relationship, please contact Katie Gross, Parish Nurse Coordinator at 701-235-4567, ext. 143 or katie.gross@flcfargo.org.

Welcome to our newest staff member
Bradley Cahill, Maintenance Engineer
First Lutheran would like to welcome Bradley Cahill! Bradley began work at First Lutheran on January 27 as a member of the maintenance/janitorial staff. He has great experience in the area of building maintenance and we feel fortunate to have someone with his knowledge to be part of our crew. Please give him a warm welcome when you have an opportunity.

First Lutheran Church 6th Annual Golden Gala SENIOR PROM
Come and Enjoy • A Delicious Four-Course Meal • Entertainment • Music • Dancing
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 5:30 p.m.
Watch for details to come

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Come and Enjoy • A Delicious Four-Course Meal • Entertainment • Music • Dancing
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 5:30 p.m.
Watch for details to come
**Vacation Bible School:**
**Goofy Animals**
Where Jesus’ Love is One-of-a-Kind!
Monday-Thursday, June 9-12
Preschool 3 to Kindergarten (completed): 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Grades 1 through 6: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
_______________________________________
LutherCrest Bible Camp
Grades 1-2 Day Bible Camp: Thursday, June 26
Grades 3-9 Bible Camp: Sunday-Friday, August 3-8

Shelly, I should be thanking you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of First Lutheran’s Sunday School program! Being able to work with children is one of my favorite things to do, and the fact that I get to help them learn about their heavenly Father makes it an even greater blessing. I’m so glad that I can be a role model for them, I hope that I can be someone they can look up to as they grow in their relationships with the Lord.

-Nicole Thompson, pre-school helper

**Lent Schedule: (March 5-April 16) for Wednesday FaithTalk and CrossTalk kids**

We want our Wednesday FaithTalk and CrossTalk kids during the season of Lent to be actively involved in the Wednesday evening Lenten services from 6:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Instead of going to their classrooms, the children’s “classroom” will become the sanctuary where they will worship with their families.

- All children (age 3-grade 6) begin in worship with their families.
- Kids age 3 through kindergarten participate in the children’s sermon and then have the opportunity to worship with their family and sing at various services (watch for a schedule.)
- Kids in grades 1-6 participate in the children’s sermon and then are dismissed to Celebration Hall to participate in a new program of “active worship” with Katie and Daniel Damico.

**Sonshine Music Festival**
July 16-19, Willmar, Minn.; Cost $225 (for camping/food)
Spend four days camping, hanging out with friends, and listening to some incredible bands. This trip is open to 9th-12th graders. Register online and join us for a trip that’s guaranteed to be the highlight of your summer!
Wednesday Fellowship is More Than Worship
Every Wednesday there is a gathering of a wonderful, faithful group of people here at First. They are known as Wednesday Fellowship and they gather for worship, hymn singing and prayer. They listen to a faith message by one of the pastors but they, themselves, are a message of faith. They are always looking for a ministry or mission to support with their financial gifts and their talents. They do this very quietly and with no need for recognition or accolade. Such a faith-filled group they are to others and among themselves as well. I know that they all feel very blessed to be part of each other’s lives and to know that if any of them are ever in need of an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or are in need of a helping hand, that they are all there with open hearts to give comfort. This group is as loyal a group of congregational members as you will find and they consider themselves very much a church family. If you have an opportunity, please join them and feel the love and compassion that is so much a part of their gathering. We thank them for all that they do!

-Terry Yoney, administrator

Syttenste Mai Celebration
Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. in the Celebration Hall
This is a great First Lutheran tradition that the First Lutheran Church Women put on for the community! All are invited to come and enjoy lunch, rommegrot, lefse and other Scandinavian delicacies.

RSVP to Becki in the church office at 701-235-7389.

Learn to Knit and Crochet
Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in The Gathering Place
Whether you already know how or would like to learn, you’re welcome to join along a path of reflection and prayer. It’s an opportunity to explore our own imperfections and walk with Christ into victory and freedom.

For individuals there are many devotional books that speak to the Lenten season. In Small Surrenders by Emilie Griffin, the author beckons us to “make a fresh start by letting go, letting down our defenses and coming closer to Jesus”

Gods at War by Kyle Idleman speaks to defeating the idols that battle for glory and control in our lives.

The next church-wide book study What on Earth Am I Here For? by Rick Warren is a 40-day study that you can do with your friends here at First Lutheran. Whatever path appeals to you, take time to be a part of something bigger than yourself and grow closer to Christ in the process.

First Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)
FLCW is a community of women who come together for Bible study, programs, fellowship and mission. Monthly Circles follow this year’s study: In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women. Circle meeting times, board meetings, program events, mission outreach and other information can be found on FLCW is a community of women who come together for Bible study, programs, fellowship and mission. Monthly Circles follow this year’s study: In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women. Circle meeting times, board meetings, program events, mission outreach and other information can be found on www.flcfargo.org or on the bulletin board found just outside of Fellowship Hall.

Every year, FLCW gives benevolences to various missions and organizations in our community. In 2013, over $14,000 helped others in these areas:

**HEALTH & WELL-BEING:** $1,700
First Choice Clinic, Hospice of the Red River Valley, Ronald McDonald House

**SCHOOLS & CHILDCARES:** $2,700
Luther Hall, NDSU Campus Ministry, Nokomis Daycare, Oak Grove

**CAMPS, NURSING HOMES, CHURCHES, CHAPLAINS:** $1,250
Bethany Homes, Church Women United, Lost & Found Ministries, Rosewood, Red Willow Bible Camp, Recovery Worship; Cass County Jail Chaplains, Local Missions

**GLOBAL MISSIONS:** $1,650
Central Africa Republic, Casa de la fe, Haiti Medical Mission, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and other LWR stewardship

**HOMELESS & HUNGRY:** $5,500
Churches United for the Homeless, Dorothy Day House, Emergency Food Pantry, Great Plains Food Bank, New Life Center, YWCA

www.flcfargo.org
Connecting families

It’s Pictorial Directory Time
First Lutheran Church has partnered again with Lifetouch to publish a pictorial directory in 2014. Pictures will be taken in March and April. There is no cost to have your photograph taken and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating.

Volunteers are also needed. If you are available to help with setting appointments, hosting a check-in table, or making phone calls, please call the church office.

To set up your photo appointment, go to www.flcfargo.org and click on the LifeTouch Directory blog under “Featured Events,” or call the church office at 701-235-7389.

First is a place to belong!
Introduction and orientation is held every third Sunday of the month, 9:00 a.m. in the CrossTalk Cafe.
Each week we are seeing more new people in worship! Coffee cups to first-time visitors are on the rise. Inquiries about being a part of our community of faith have become more frequent. We feel, given this reality, that the introduction and orientation for people who would like to belong to First Lutheran should be more frequent so we are welcoming them once a month. We are excited to connect people to the good work that God is doing in and through First Lutheran in a more timely manner.

If you would like to join First Lutheran, please attend one of the monthly meetings. New members are invited to join us for Mission Soup Sunday in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 worship. Contact Shirley Tietz at 701-235-7389 or stietz@flcfargo.org with any questions.

CARING FOR YOUR family
Pre-Marriage Seminar
Saturday, March 22, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
We believe marriage is so important that this seminar is a requirement for all couples wishing to get married at First Lutheran Church. To register, contact Becki Tollefson, wedding coordinator, at 701-235-7389 or btollefson@flcfargo.org.

CARING FOR YOUR body
F.I.T. Academy - Tae Kwon Do
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC Gym
For anyone ages 5 and up. $55 a month or $50 a month if paid three months in advance.

Center Your Core and More
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, $5 per session
Just as we center our lives on Jesus for spiritual health, our physical health is dependent on centering ourselves with strength and agility. Center Your Core is a 60-minute mind-body workout that incorporates yoga and Pilates fundamentals with athletic training for balance, mobility, flexibility, and the core.

CARING FOR YOUR soul
Three-Day Silent Retreat
Thursday-Saturday, April 3-5; $180
Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) is a Franciscan Center of Spirituality called to serve God’s people through prayer and by providing the opportunity to retreat into the silence and solitude of a simple hermitage environment. This experience is for the person wishing to take their faith journey deeper by spending a deliberate and purposeful time alone in silence and solitude with God. First-come, first-served, $100 deposit holds your spot. Contact Rollie Johnson at 235-7389 with questions, sign up at www.flcfargo.org.

Prayer Partners
Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room
This is a dedicated group of men and women who believe in the power of prayer and gather weekly for prayer, song, and devotion.

www.flcfargo.org

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
Tuesdays at 6:45 a.m. in the Adult Education Room
This study is for the early riser! A delicious breakfast is served, followed by a Bible or book study that always promises a great conversation.
In the short time I have been serving in the capacity of Giving Consultant, I have been blessed with the privilege of visiting some of you in your homes and offices, others between services at First Lutheran, others at church-related events and connecting with all of you through my biweekly e-mail blasts. I am grateful for your welcoming attitude and positive responses to my reaching out to you.

In the near future, you will be receiving a questionnaire that will help me determine if you have made a recent or past gift that qualifies you for a specific giving club, a “future” commitment (deferred gift) that qualifies you for the Heritage Circle, or your interest in learning more about specific giving opportunities and/or your desire to make a “future” commitment to the Church or the Foundation.

Your responses will help me to give you proper recognition by including you in the appropriate ‘giving club’ category. They will also provide me with the opportunity to meet with those of you who have an interest in discussing a particular giving opportunity.

I look forward to your responses.

Also, be on the lookout for an announcement about an upcoming Planned Giving Seminar to take place in May. More information about the seminar will be provided in future e-mail blasts. My door is always open to you. Stop by the church for a visit anytime.

The First Lutheran Foundation is a vital component of the ministry of First Lutheran Church. It was established as a separate incorporated extension of the church to accept gifts to be held in an endowment fund. The contribution principal is invested in perpetuity. A gift to the Foundation is a gift that keeps on giving.

Its Purpose
The purpose of the Foundation’s funds shall be “to benefit the mission of First Lutheran Church now, and to continue to sustain its ministry for future generations, and to assist in the perpetuation of First Lutheran Church and its ministry to the congregation, to its community, and to its outreach into the world.”

Perhaps the Foundation’s greatest service lies in its capacity to respond. Often, when special needs arise within the church or community, the Foundation is in the position to meet needs promptly.

Disbursements shall not be made for regular, budgeted operating expenses of the Congregation, or benevolences that would ordinarily be considered a continuing responsibility of the congregation. The growth of this fund shall be accomplished through bequests to First Lutheran Church or the Foundation, through lifetime planned gifts and through outright gifts.

Operation of the Foundation
A nine-member board, elected by the congregation to serve three-year terms, directs the Foundation. The Foundation’s activities are communicated in a report prepared for the annual congregational meeting each year.

Annual disbursements from the endowment fund are determined by the Foundation Board in response to formal grant requests. The amount of annual disbursement is determined by the current formula of 4% of the fiscal year-end valuation of the investment portfolio balance after expenses, or the year’s projected annual income, whichever is greater.

Distribution of Income
Funds distributed from the fund shall be given according to the following purposes:
- Minimum of 20% of the total for outreach into the community and synod, including seminaries, colleges, and social service agencies.
- Minimum of 20% of the total for American and world-wide missions, evangelism and educational ministries.
- Minimum of 20% for capital improvements, debt reductions, or equipment for First Lutheran Church of Fargo, ND.
- Up to an additional 40% for any one or all of the above designated areas in any proportion as determined by the Foundation Board.

If the annual grant requests are less than 20% for the first three categories, the Foundation Board has the discretion to reallocate any remaining funds to other categories in need of funding.

Ways of Contributing to the Foundation
One can contribute gifts of any size to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in a variety of ways, including:
- To honor or memorialize someone through a gift of cash.
- Through gifts of real estate or personal property.
- Through investments, such as stocks or mutual funds.
- By naming the Foundation as the owner or beneficiary of an insurance policy.
- By including the Foundation in your will or living trust.
- Through estate planning, utilizing a charitable gift annuity or a charitable trust.
- By leaving retirement plan assets (IRAs, 401Ks, etc.) or annuities to the Foundation through beneficiary designation.
- Through a gift to the First Lutheran Foundation ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund for individuals or businesses.

Benefits to the Donor
Your gift will give you joy as you provide for the future ministry and outreach of First Lutheran Church. Additionally, there may be specific financial benefits, including:
- An immediate charitable income tax deduction may be claimed.
- Certain gifts may create fixed or variable rates of income.
- Capital gains tax may be totally or partially avoided with certain types of gifts.
- Estate taxes may be reduced.
- One of more individual beneficiaries may receive a life income from your gift.
- ND state tax credit of 40% for a gift to the PLC Foundation Endowment Fund.

Recognition
Those who have made a lifetime gift of $1,000 or more or future commitments of $1,000 or more will be listed alphabetically as “Bridge Builders.”

We ask that all individuals who have made future commitments to the Foundation notify the church financial office as to the specific nature of that commitment. This specific information will be held in strict confidence. Those wishing anonymity will not be listed as a “Bridge Builder.”

Want to be a Bridge Builder?
Commit to contributing $1,000 or more to the Foundation in the following ways:
- One-time gift of $1,000
- $500 over two years
- $250 over four years
- $200 over five years
Other options are also available. Please contact any of the Foundation Board members or the Foundation Giving Consultant for more information.

I would like to discuss the Foundation further:
NAME: ____________________________
PHONE: ___________________________

I am interested in learning more about:

☐ including the Foundation in my will or a living trust.
☐ including the Foundation as a beneficiary of retirement plan assets.
☐ purchasing or transferring a life insurance policy to the Foundation.
☐ making an outright gift of real estate, personal property, or securities.
☐ establishing a charitable gift annuity.
☐ establishing a charitable trust.
☐ becoming a “Bridge Builder.”

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS
Byron Trechman (Chair), Jon Aaravold (Vice Chair), Mary Carlson (Secretary), Larry Audette, Rory Bell, Brad Keller, Janie Olson, Evelyn Quigley, Loren Stahl

EX OFFICIO
Corey Bjertness - Senior Pastor, Jack Rydell - Church Council, Gary Hanson - Financial Manager, Christy Schilling - Church Staff

GIVING CONSULTANT
John Riley Holmen

www.flcfargo.org
Special Events

Ash Wednesday Worship  
Wednesday, March 5  
6:00 p.m., sanctuary

Friday Lenten Lunches  
Fridays, March 7-April 11  
Noon in Celebration Hall

Lenten Pie Fellowship  
Wednesdays after Lenten Worship

The Gathering Place

Blood Drive  
Tuesday, March 25  
2:30-6:00 p.m., Celebration Hall

Katie Gross, katie.gross@flcfargo.org

Silent Retreat - Pacem in Terris  
Thursday-Saturday, April 3-5  
Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

WELCA Spring Cluster Meeting  
Saturday, April 5  
8:30 a.m., Celebration Hall

Call Becki to RSVP at 701-235-7389

The Seven Last Words of Christ Cantata  
Wednesday, April 16  
7:00 p.m., sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Worship  
Thursday, April 17  
1:30 p.m., Chapel and 7:00 p.m., sanctuary

“Jesus Christ Superstar” Movie  
Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m., Biblemax Theatre

Good Friday Seven Last Words Service  
Friday, April 18  
Noon-3:00 p.m., sanctuary

Tenebrae Service  
Friday, April 18  
7:00 p.m., sanctuary

Easter Sunday Worship  
Sunday, April 20  
9:00 & 11:00 a.m., Celebration Hall

Golden Gala  
Saturday, April 26  
5:30 p.m., Celebration Hall

Mexico Slide Show  
Sunday, April 27  
Noon, Celebration Hall

Health Ministry Spring Fling  
Tuesday, May 6  
6:30 p.m., Celebration Hall

Recital with a Cause  
Thursday, May 8  
7:30 p.m., Celebration Hall

Syttende Mai Celebration  
Saturday, May 17  
11:00 a.m., Celebration Hall

Women’s Ministry

Quilters  
Mondays, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Dorothy Nelson, 701-232-6495

Learn to Knit and Crochet  
Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m., Gathering Place

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)  
Wednesdays, 9:10-11:00 a.m.

Various rooms throughout FLC

Oline Kane, 701-237-5822

FLCW Circle Meetings  
FLCW has five circles that meet each month

Meeting times and dates at www.flcfargo.org

President: Sylvia Watkins, 701-232-2360

Support & Resources

Prayer Partners  
Mondays, 9:00 a.m., Heritage Room

Pr. Jim Hulberg, 701-235-7389

Mission/Outreach

Mission Soup Sunday  
Third Sunday of each month  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

HOLY WEEK

Tuesday, April 15  
6:00 p.m.  
Jesus Christ Superstar, Biblemax Theatre

Wednesday, April 16  
7:00 p.m.  
Seven Last Words of Christ Dubois Cantata

Maundy Thursday, April 17  
6:00 p.m.

5th grade Seder Meal, Celebration Hall

1:30 p.m., Worship, chapel

7:00 p.m., Worship, sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18  
12:30 p.m.

The Seven Last Words of Christ in sanctuary

7:00 p.m., Tenebrae Service in the sanctuary

EASTER MORNING

Sunday, April 20  
7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship, sanctuary

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship, Celebration Hall

CrossTalk – 5th and 6th grades  
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., CrossTalk Cafe

Last day of class is May 7

Shelly Erickson, ericksonm@flcfargo.org

LifeTalk – Grades 7th through 9th grade  
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

7th-9th grade, Fellowship Hall

9th grade, Biblemax Theatre

Last day of class is May 7

Graham Sibley, gubleby@flcfargo.org

F.L.Y. First Lutheran Youth-high school  
Mondays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the canoe shack

Graham Sibley, gubleby@flcfargo.org

Open Gym  
Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m., FLC gym

Family Supper  
Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., The Gathering Place

except during Lent it is in Celebration Hall

Bowling Night for Grades 7-9  
Friday, March 7, 7:00 p.m., Red River Lanes

Valleyfair Trip for Grades 5-12  
Thursday, June 12, 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Graham Sibley, gubleby@flcfargo.org

Adult Bible Study

Lenten Large Group  
What On Earth Am I Here For?  
March 5-April 9

Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Adult Education Room

Tuesdays at Noon with lunch, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., Adult Education Room

Music

Cathedral Choir  
Rehearse Wednesdays  
7:00 p.m., Celebration Station

Michael Olson, molson@flcfargo.org

Celebration Band  
Rehearse one hour before Sunday and Wednesday Celebration Worship services

Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

Men’s Choir  
Schedule at www.flcfargo.org

David Ferreira, dferreira@flcfargo.org

Women’s Choir  
Schedule at www.flcfargo.org

Kathy Ferreira, katrinkadf@aol.com

Heavenly Bells  
Schedule at www.flcfargo.org

Michael Olson, molson@flcfargo.org

FLC Orchestra  
Schedule at www.flcfargo.org

Mary Weisser, mweisser@hotmail.com

Wednesday Organ Recital  
Wednesdays, 12:45-1:15 p.m., sanctuary

Michael Olson, molson@flcfargo.org

Children’s Choir  
Schedule at www.flcfargo.org

Katie Ferreira, katrinkADF@aol.com

Joyful Noise Middle School Choir  
Sundays at Noon with lunch, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., Adult Education Room

Floribamalgia Support Group Meeting  
Third Sunday of the month  
3:00 p.m., FLC Fireside Library

Sue Pedersen, 701-235-9359

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Fourth Thursday of the month  
2:30 p.m., Heritage Room

Katie Gross, katie.gross@flcfargo.org

Tae Kwon Do  
Thursday and Thursdays  
6:00 p.m., FLC gym

Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

Center Your Care and More!  
Wednesdays  
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

www.flcfargo.org
Welcome to the March, April, May 2014 issue

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Lent/Easter Theme and Schedules

**Why do you look for the living among the dead?**

-Luke 24:5

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER schedules and celebrations

WHO I AM? WHY AM I HERE?

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

LENT 2014 SERMON/STUDY SERIES

THE CANOE SHACK IS OPEN...

Everyone is welcome!

Connecting families

with a new pictorial directory

SIGN UP NOW TO GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN

ALL THE INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

www.flcfargo.org