A Special Towel

by Shelly Erickson,
Director of Children and Family Ministry

It’s a true blessing to work in a church long enough to be able to be part of kids’ lives and watch them grow in their faith. Last week I had the privilege of interviewing a young man I’ve known since he was three. He has grown up at First Lutheran and is now preparing for his Confirmation. His faith story touched me deeply and I asked him if I could share it. With humbleness he told me yes.

As we started our conversation I noticed something rolled up on this young man’s lap, so I asked him what it was. With a shy smile he held up a well-used towel and said, “This is my Confirmation project.” Really?! Intrigued, I asked him to tell me about it.

With few words, but great depth, he told me his story. ‘I’m a hockey player. During a major game this year, I made a terrible play and because of me we lost the game. I went to the locker room by myself - to be alone. While sitting there I heard this verse, ‘Commit your way to the Lord, trust IN him and he will act.’ Psalm 37:5

“I felt God and so I wrote that verse and the #12 (my jersey number) on my towel so that I would remember God is always with me - just trust. This towel is always in my hockey bag and I use it. Once this project is done it will go back in my bag to use and to remember.’

(A part of our program at First Lutheran requires every 9th grader to complete a final project. The purpose of the final project is to help 9th graders see God at work in their lives.)

Past-Year Reflection

By Graham Sibley, Student Life Coach

As I reflect on the past year of LifeTalk (Confirmation), I have nothing but happy memories. I was incredibly blessed to have such an amazing group of 9th graders as my first class here at First Lutheran. These were 43 of the nicest and most respectful students I have ever had the opportunity to work with. Throughout the year we learned about what it means to be a Lutheran, how to pray, the importance of grace in our lives, etc. We also had a wonderful Spring lock-in at the church recapping the entire year.

The highlight of my year had to be the final projects that all of the students did. I was blown away by the amount of creativity and passion these students put into their projects. They were able to accurately express their faith in creative ways such as poster boards, collages, power points, stories, pictures, and movies. As every teacher seems to say at one time, “I have learned more from these students than I have been able to teach them.” It makes me so excited for my years ahead, as I continue to work with our young people. This class will hold a special place in my heart, for they will always be my first. I know that they will grow up to be incredible adults with unique and glorious paths that God has set before them. The community of First Lutheran can be proud as they have had a hand in forming the faith and lives of these students.
Summer Worship -  
Started May 26
Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. only

Celebration Hall
9:30 a.m. only

Wednesdays (started 5/22)
6:00 p.m.

Office Summer Hours
Monday & Tuesday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday & Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Summer Nursery Hours
Sunday
8:45 - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday
5:45 - 8:15 p.m.

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 Dunnicliff, 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

We were the hands and feet of Jesus in the FM community during the week of First in Mission (April 29-May 4). Our purpose was threefold: (1) it was a visible way of getting the church into the community, (2) it was an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the lost, last, least, and the lonely, and (3) to raise awareness that each person plays an integral part of God’s mission. We connected with six places: Great Plains Food Bank, Churches United, YWCA, Nokomis, Ronald McDonald House, and the New Life Center. We had over 130 volunteers and approximately 400 hours given to our community. We even collected over 200 jars of peanut butter for the local Emergency Food Pantry.

Way to go, First Lutheran!

It was a fabulous week filled with blessing! Diverse groups of people, gathered together around a missional task, worked together for a common purpose. One person voiced how he felt connected to other people at First Lutheran. That connection has not always been felt, he noted, but somehow and in some way, it was realized within a group of strangers working, sharing, and making a difference in the name of Jesus. Another person commented about the value of helping someone in need. In his words, “I didn’t really have time to sign up or to volunteer, due to the busyness of daily life. However, I did volunteer on Saturday morning at Churches United. What a perfect way to reconnect, to focus on what I should prioritize. I needed the grounding that comes from walking in someone else’s shoes, of doing a little bit of God’s work, even if only for a couple of hours.” This First in Mission week made a difference for those who were served and also for those who were serving!

So, thank you to our FLC volunteers. You made a difference and it was a wonderful experience. It was a great week, but I also know that many of you do this kind of work throughout the year. Thank you to everyone for participating in God’s mission and being the hands and feet of Jesus locally.

Pastor Marty

Habitat Build
Want to be involved in a great ministry that will get you outside and in fellowship with others? Lake Agassiz Habitat/Thrivent Build needs our help for this year’s build and our first day is coming on fast. On June 5 we need to bring 10 people to place floor trusses and decking for the new build. This is an activity that we haven’t done before but I know we will be able to do it and do it well. Please contact me at 701-235-7389, 238-4059 or tyoney@flcfargo.org if you can be part of this build day or any of the other build days listed below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
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<td>August 16</td>
<td>Interior doors/trim</td>
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Terry Yoney, Admin.
Blood Drive - Updated News!
Tuesday, June 18
11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

A Blood Drive is coming to First Lutheran Church. It has been several years since FLC has participated in a blood drive and we are excited to offer this opportunity once again. 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.* FLC has set a grand goal of 90 blood donations! And with your help we will reach that goal. Please schedule your appointment for the time that works best for you. You may either call the office at 235-7389 or stop by to sign up. Schedule a friend too! Contact Ruth Hanson at 235-7389 or ruth.hanson@flcfargo.org with questions.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Brunch - New Date!!!
Thursday, June 13
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Per the group's decision in April, the Prayer Shawl Ministry will gather for a spring brunch at the Radisson Hotel, 2nd floor, on Thursday, June 13 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. We will order off their extensive breakfast menu. This would be a great opportunity for new and prospective members to meet the group and learn more about the prayer shawl ministry. Please RSVP to Ruth Hanson, Parish Nurse.

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%.

Ten Area Churches Celebrate BeFriender Ministry's 30th Anniversary

Ten area churches have planned a workshop to celebrate the 30th anniversary of BeFriender Ministry on June 11 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church. BeFriender Ministry is a national program, based in Bloomington, MN, and has programs in over 40 states and several international sites. The core principles of BeFriender Ministry are:

1. God is present in every encounter.
2. The gifts of presence and empathy are extended to the other person through active listening and a nonjudgmental attitude.
3. BeFriending is about caring, not curing.

The workshop will feature Kim Wagner, a professional writer and inspirational speaker. Her topic is "Got Joy!" This workshop is tailored for Parish Nurses and BeFrienders. Registration fee is $15. Call Ruth Hanson at 235-7389 for more information. Atonement Lutheran Church is located at 4601 South University Drive in Fargo.
Wyoming Climbing
Vedauwoo & Devils Tower
August 7-13
Cost: $300

Information Meeting -
Monday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m.
Adult Education Room

Training Dates -
Sundays: June 9, 16, 23, 30
YWest - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Climbing Devil’s Tower is well within the reach of ordinary people.
It’s a chance for ordinary people to do extraordinary things! You just need to learn the basics of safe rock climbing, lots of practice, some basic conditioning and most important, a strong desire, motivation and positive attitude. You will be taught all aspects of safe climbing; no previous experience necessary!
(This trip is not part of the Travel Ministry schedule.)

The Music Man
Frostfire Theatre, Walhalla, ND
Wednesday, July 17
Cost: $75, prepaid, includes tickets, transportation, a healthy noon meal and performance at 2:00 p.m. Sign up and pay at the church office.

We’ll leave FLC at 9:00 a.m. have a meal at noon, watch the performance at 2:00 p.m. and come back to FLC.

All travel ministry trips must have at least 20 people signed up no later than two weeks before the date of the event or the trip will have to be canceled.

Shrek
Friday, July 19
Cost: $30

Leave FLC at 7:30 p.m. performance starts at 8:30 p.m. Sign up and pay at the church office.

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

Only 20 spots still open!

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, Tours of Niagara Falls, Boston and Massachusetts.

12 days/11 nights.
Brochures are available at the church with more information.
Teen Trips For This Summer

Itasca Day Trip
Friday, June 21 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Grades 7-12
Cost: $10, plus optional rental costs

Celebrate the first day of summer at Itasca State Park! You can go biking, kayaking, canoeing, or just walking around the park. Bring your own bike (we'll have a trailer) or rent a bike onsite for $4.25/hour. Also for rent are canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats for $8/hour. Bring your own lunch and cooler or grab something to eat at either of the two restaurants on the lake.

Signup at www.flcfargo.org.

Sonshine Music Festival
July 17-20
Grades 9-12
Cost: $225 (plus spending money - food is included)

Sonshine Music Festival in Willmar, MN is one of the biggest Christian musical festivals of the summer! We'll spend four days camping and listening to some big-name bands. The lineup includes Toby Mac, Family Force 5, Lacrae, Skillet, Rapture Ruckus, Newsboys, and many more.

Signup at www.flcfargo.org. Registration must be completed and a non-refundable check for $100 needs to be dropped off at the church by July 1.

Christian Education Wrap-up and Registration

As we wrap up class time for children and youth ministry, the first thing we want to say is "Yea God!" for an amazing year. This year saw new curriculum, new spaces and new faces and God was found in each of those. So it is with joy and thanksgiving that we close out our 2012-2013 year.

The second thing we want to say is, "We can't wait to see you again in the fall!" To save you time and energy, if your child was in any class this past year, you are already registered for next year's Christian Education program. All you have to do is show up in September! Each family will receive a letter with contact information as we have it on file. If anything changes between now and September, we just ask that you let us know. Otherwise, you are set to go!

We welcome kids for class beginning Sunday, September 15 and Wednesday, September 18, 2013. Since kids will already be registered, we will not have the usual Rally Sunday. Instead we will celebrate our community during FirstFest on Sunday, September 29. More details about this event will come as plans are made. It's sure to be a great, fun time for everyone!
**ELCA Lutheran College Scholarship Fund**

Thank you for all of the support you have shown to our young people over the years. In an effort to encourage our young people to attend one of our 26 ELCA colleges, we are pleased to announce the formation of the First Lutheran Church ELCA Lutheran College Scholarship Fund. This fund has been established to award annual scholarships of up to $1,000 to each and every eligible applicant. The amount of the scholarships will depend upon the number of eligible applicants and the balance of the fund. Anyone may donate to this tax deductible, designated fund; however, we ask that these donations be given above and beyond your regular commitment to our shared mission. Many of our church’s colleges will provide matching funds for these scholarships, doubling your generosity. Checks supporting this fund should be made out to First Lutheran, with ELCA College Scholarships on the memo line. Please contact Christy at 235-7389 or echilling@lcfargo.org with any questions.

**Elderversity**

September 8-13
Mt. Carmel, Alexandria, MN

**Foolish and Bewitched**

A study of Galatians and how this message of the Apostle Paul applies to the church and society today. We will be guided through this challenging look at “Law and Gospel”, as well as the admonition to be clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Teacher - Lloyd Wallace
Preacher - Jim Bjorge

Brochures are available with more details. Sign up through the church office. More details regarding departure times and cost will come soon.

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**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

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**2013 Annual Meeting**

Last January the congregation voted to change the fiscal year of the church from January 1 - December 31 to **July 1 through June 30 of each year.** Because of this change, we have scheduled the upcoming **Annual Meeting for August 4, 2013.** This meeting will cover the happenings from January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013 (the six-month stump year). At this meeting we will be presenting to the congregation the 2013/2014 financial budget for review and approval. Along with this, **we will be holding two Open Forums** on the two preceding Sundays to cover all questions there may be on the new budget proposal. **These meetings will be held in the chapel at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays, July 21 & 28.**

There will also be an outdoor worship service followed by a meal on August 4. **We will then convene in the Celebration Hall for the Annual Meeting.** Please mark your calendars with these dates and plan to attend these important meetings.

Thank you,
Terry Yoney, Adm.
SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Summer Book Read
An Altar in the World,
by Barbara Brown Taylor
Tuesday evenings (6:45 p.m.)
Gathering Place
Pr. Marty, mtollefson@fcflcfargo.org

Blood Drive
Tuesday, June 18
11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Ruth Hanson, ruth.hanson@fcflcfargo.org

Itasca Day Trip
Grades 7-12
Friday, June 21
Cost: $10, plus optional rental costs
Graham Sibley, gsibley@fcflcfargo.org

Driving Safety Class
June 27 - 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Adult Education Room
Cost $12/AARP, $14 non-AARP
Ruth Hanson, ruth.hanson@fcflcfargo.org

Beth Moore DVD Series
James: Mercy Triumphs
Wednesdays, July 10-August 28
7:00 p.m.
Cost: $21 for Participants Guide
Pr. Laurie, lneill@fcflcfargo.org

Sonshine Music Festival
Grades 9-12
July 17-20
Cost: $225 (plus spending money - food is included)
Graham Sibley, gsibley@fcflcfargo.org

The Music Man
Frosthfire Theatre, Walhalla, ND
Wednesday, July 17
Cost: $75

Trollwood Performing Arts School presents Shrek
Friday, July 19
Cost: $30

Jasper's Theater, Park Rapids, MN
Thursday, August 15
Cost: $40

Wyoming Climbing
August 7-13
Cost: $300
Information meeting
June 3 at 6:00 p.m. Adult Education Room
Rollie Johnson, rjohson@fcflcfargo.org

Duluth Trip
Grades 9-12
August 8-10
Cost: $250 (plus money for 3 meals)
Graham Sibley, gsibley@fcflcfargo.org

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

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@fcflcfargo.org.

Helping Hands
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Celebration Hall
This group of men start out with breakfast and then tackle 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 Fellowship Hall for refreshments, provided by different sets of four people from the congregation each week.

First Club
3rd Thursday, 11:30 a.m.
Sons of Norway (summer)
This group of seniors meets in the afternoon on the 3rd Thursday of each month for fellowship, dessert and a short program. During summer months they meet at the Sons of Norway for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

CHILDREN/FAMILY

Baptism Training Session
June 12, July 10, August 14
Required to have child baptized at FLC.
Becky Tollefson, btollefson@fcflcfargo.org or 235-7389

MUSIC

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@fcflcfargo.org or Rollie Johnson, rjohson@fcflcfargo.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

Tae Kwon Do
Tuesdays only during summer months
$55/month
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the gym
Accepting ages 5 years and older
Keith, 701-369-0440
DVD SERIES

JAMES: MERCY TRIUMPHS
BY BETH MOORE

Your heartbreak, sickness and failures are not empty. Those holes in your heart leave space for mercy to fill, making you complete. Your life story is proof of that, just like James. Jesus’ own brother started out as a skeptic. Get to know both the man and the book of James and see how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple.

Wednesdays, July 10-August 28
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Cost: $21, for participant’s guide

Nursery available!

Register at www.flecargo.org by June 24.
Come to as many as you can or all of them!