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.

June, July, August 2014 Newsletter
First Lutheran Church, 619 Broadway, Fargo, ND
701-235-7389 • www.flcfargo.org

This classic folk hymn from the 1920s is a good example of our hope and fascination with life beyond this earth. We sing about heaven; we read about heaven. Recently, a number of books have been written by or about people who claim to have personally visited the place. Some writers of these books profess to be Christians, others do not. Their descriptions of what they experienced varies. Some enter into a dazzling white light, others are greeted by deceased loved ones, some sit in the lap of Jesus, others see angels. Many stories contain information that would seem to be beyond their ability to know.

Yes, we are fascinated with heaven. This is nothing new. Yet it seems that recently, the “heaven” phenomenon has really taken off. Go into any bookstore and you will find the shelves full of books about people’s personal encounters with the heavenly realm.

Our yearning for something more than this world, combined with first-person testimonies that suggest “heaven is for real,” is probably one of the main reasons for this publishing phenomenon. We have unanswered questions about the afterlife. Heaven is talked about in scripture, but there are still holes when it comes to the details and the particulars.

This summer we have the unique and exciting opportunity to hear from Colton Burpo, the little boy at the center of the bestselling book and newly-released movie, “Heaven is for Real.” His entire family will gather at the Fargodome, along with the worship band, “Read You and Me” for a one-of-a-kind event.

This is a great opportunity on a number of levels. First, it gives us the opportunity to have some open conversations about heaven: What does the Bible say about it? Will we have a body? Who will meet us there? Will my beloved family pet be waiting?

As a church, First Lutheran will explore some of those topics a couple of weeks before the “Heaven is for Real LIVE” event through messages and large group studies. See the schedule for details.

Second, this is a great, non-intimidating opportunity to invite new people to experience an uplifting and encouraging faith story. The ministry of “Heaven is for Real” has stated that they are dedicated to sharing their story with “anyone who wants to hear it for the sole purpose of lifting up the name of Jesus Christ.”

Third, this is a great way to support Homeless & Hungry. All profits from this event will be used to support agencies and services through the Homeless & Hungry effort. The goal is to raise $100,000.

While individual stories and descriptions of heaven may vary, the one thing almost all accounts convey is the sense that we are all overwhelmingly loved and cherished. That is the central message of the gospel and a message that we all need and long to hear. Let’s hear for ourselves and share it with others.

Read more about this event on page 2.

Pastor Corey Bjertness

10. I’m gone on weekends. Great. You can always come on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.
9. It’s too hot out. That’s OK. We have air conditioning. And you can wear your shorts.
8. It’s too hard to get the kids fed and out the door. Don’t worry. On Wednesdays, you can come for supper too. We start serving at 5:00 p.m.
7. There’s no children’s ed. What a great opportunity to worship together as a family. You can’t teach kids to eat in a restaurant if you never take them to one. The same holds true for worship.
6. I have an 11:00 tee time. Perfect. Come at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday or 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.
5. I’d rather be outside. We’ll keep the windows clean so you can look outside for that hour. Also, be sure to attend our three outdoor worship services: June 8, July 13 and August 3.
4. I have a boat. Great. Jesus did a lot of ministry from boats. Come and learn about what he taught from his boat before you launch yours.
3. The lawn needs mowing. Mowing your lawn on Sunday morning is a good way to annoy your neighbor. Instead, invite your neighbor to church with you. The lawn can wait.
2. My parents never went to church on Sunday. Well, this is a great way to embrace your inner teen and do exactly the opposite of your parents.
1. What?! You mean there’s church in the summer? Yup. God doesn’t take the summer off and neither should we. See you in worship!
"Heaven is for Real" is the true story of a four-year-old boy who experienced heaven during emergency surgery. His father, Todd Burpo, first shared his son's story and the family's extraordinary, life-changing experiences in the #1 New York best-selling book first released in 2010. Since then, millions of people have found encouragement and inspiration from the story.

It was recently brought to life on the big screen in a Sony Pictures movie starring Greg Kinnear and Kelly Reilly. "Heaven is for Real LIVE" gives you the opportunity to hear the story straight from the family. This uplifting stage show features energetic musical performances from Colton and the "Read You and Me" band, along with personal messages about heaven from Todd and Colton.

If you loved the book and movie, you won't want to miss "Heaven is for Real LIVE." You'll also be helping your community neighbors who have fallen on hard times because all ticket proceeds from this show will be donated (via FM Homeless and Hungry) to local agencies who serve the homeless. The goal is to raise $100,000 so please invite your family friends, youth groups and everyone you know to enjoy this fantastic, feel-good show benefiting a great community cause.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
Tickets available at FARGODOME Box Office and InFormTix.com. $15, $20 and $30 (additional fees apply). Visit heavenlive.org to see video clips of the LIVE show.

**Heaven is for Real LIVE** event.

Go into any bookstore and you will see a variety of books telling the stories of people who claim to have gone to heaven and back, just as Colton Burpo in "Heaven is for Real." Join us as we spend two Sundays and Wednesdays exploring what scripture has to say on the matter of heaven. A perfect lead-in to "Heaven is for Real LIVE" on Thursday, July 31.

Sundays, July 20 and 27
at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship
with large group study at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays, July 23 and 30
at 6:00 p.m. worship
with large group study at 7:00 p.m.

First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran will have the book, "Heaven is for Real," available to purchase at the front desk of the church office.

www.flcfargo.org
SUMMER DAY TRIPS

Try the Trip-A-Month Bundle!
Pre-register for all three day trips below and save! Total cost $160.
Chaperones needed, contact Graham at gsibley@flcfargo.org.

Itasca State Park
Tuesday, June 24, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., $15, Grades 7-12
This easy day trip is a great way to get outdoors and enjoy one of Minnesota’s beautiful state parks. We load our bikes at First and head to Itasca State Park to spend the day biking, canoeing, swimming, and eating ice cream at one of the two restaurants on site. We get back to FLC around 5:00 p.m., making this a perfect trip for busy kids.

High Ropes/Paintball Extravaganza
Wednesday, July 23, 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., $125, Grades 7-12
Spend the day on one of the most adventure-filled, jam-packed days of the summer. Head to Park Rapids for the morning to do the Character Challenge Course. Students will participate in both low-ropes and high-ropes courses, challenging themselves, building community, and just having fun. Then eat lunch as we head to Bemidji for Devotion Paintball. Suit up for some head-to-head team paintball matches, capture the flag, and football. This day promises to be a great day full of ridiculous fun.

Crow Wing Canoe Trip
Thursday, August 14, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., $30, Grades 7-12
This is going to be a great day! We’re heading over to Park Rapids and taking a four-hour canoe ride down the Crow Wing River. This relaxing and easy float will promise plenty of time for fun, relaxation, and swimming. What a great way to spend a day on the water right at the end of summer.

Sonshine Music Festival
Wednesday-Saturday, July 16-19, $225, Grades 9-12
Sonshine is an annual music festival in Willmar, Minn. Spend four days camping, grilling, swimming, and listening to music. You can go to all the concerts, some of them, or none of them. It is a great way to get outside and spend four fun-filled days with your friends. Cost covers a ticket and three meals a day. This is a blast of a trip and easily a highlight of our kids’ summer. Register by June 12.

Valleyfair
Thursday, June 12, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., $60, plus food money, Grades 5-12
We’ll board a bus from First Lutheran Church and make our way down to Valleyfair. Spend the afternoon on the rides, hanging out at the water park, playing games, and being with friends. This is an annual tradition for FLC and a great way to celebrate the start of summer! Register by June 9.

Fort Yates Clothing Drive
On June 17, twelve members of the congregation are heading to Standing Rock Reservation on the ND/SD border for a mission trip. We’ll build swing sets and develop relationships with about 30 of the kids in the community. We are looking for donations to the kids and the community on the reservation. Below is a short list of items that will be put to good use. Drop them off at the church office by Sunday, June 15. Thank you for your support. Please keep us in your prayers.

Things we are looking for:
• Crayons/colored pencils/markers used or new.
• Christian coloring books
• Very gently used/new kid’s clothing (socks and shoes too!)
• Books for kids, including children’s Bibles

www.flcfargo.org
ALL KIDS WELCOME!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 9 through Thursday, June 12
Register online www.flcfargo.org
Leaders needed and welcome

At Goofy Animals VBS, kids discover that Jesus’ love is one-of-a-kind. Goofy Animals is a habitat filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences where kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, please be sure to send your kids in comfy play clothes that can get messy.) Kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project by continuing the support of our nine Compassion children—both financially and with love notes and special art projects. Parents, grandparents and other adult friends are invited to help out during these four fun faith-filled days!

Pre-school through Kindergarten: 6-7:30 p.m.
1st thru 6th Grade: 6-8 p.m.

FLCW (First Lutheran Church Women) Meeting: “Living for Jesus”
A special presentation by Nancy Schafer
Thursday, June 5, 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
We welcome Nancy Schafer, former First Lady of North Dakota, as our honored guest speaker. Nancy has traveled extensively throughout the world, especially when her husband, Ed Schafer, was governor of North Dakota and, most recently, as Secretary of Agriculture during the Bush administration. During this time and throughout her life, Nancy has been a witness for Christ and lived for Jesus. She also serves as the chairperson of the Jail Chaplain’s Board of Directors. The title of Nancy’s presentation is “Living for Jesus.” She will share how women of the church have deeply affected her faith walk and inspired her to bring others to Christ.
Special music provided by David and Kathy Ferreira. Devotions offered by Pastor Lauryl Ivers. New FLCW officers installed by Pastor Laurie Neill. Everyone is welcome to attend this inspirational meeting. Men, women and visitors, come and bring your friends!

Women’s Weekend GET-AWAY
Do you enjoy...
• being in God’s beautiful creation?
• relaxing by the lake?
• hiking and boating?
• picnic suppers and campfires?
• leisurely shopping and lunch?
Then this weekend retreat is for you.
Friday-Saturday, June 27-28, $20
Wini Christensen’s Lake Cabin on Bad Medicine Lake
Depart from FLC on Friday at 10:00 a.m. and stop at Summerhill Farms for shopping and lunch before heading to the lake for relaxation and fun.
Meet new friends. Catch up with old friends. Space is limited, so sign up fast! Register at www.flcfargo.org.

New Beth Moore Study Opportunity
Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed: A Study of David
Tuesdays, July 15-August 19, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, $15
Beth Moore is joined by Priscilla Shirer and Kay Arthur. The messages presented by these beloved authors are divided into three segments, two lessons from each author. Each segment focuses on the life of David at a different stage of his life: as a young man (Sessions One & Two by Priscilla Shirer), as a middle-aged man (Sessions Three & Four by Beth Moore), and as a man facing the final third of his life (Sessions Five & Six by Kay Arthur). You’ll laugh with them, cry with them, and learn to love God with them.
Join Pastor Laurie and spend part of your summer exploring how you, too, can be anointed, transformed and redeemed! Register at www.flcfargo.org.

Many women have participated in Beth Moore studies and have found them worth their time. Please consider joining us this summer as we delve into the Bible once more.
“I appreciate Beth Moore studies at FLC so much. Beth Moore has a way of writing and speaking that challenges me. The media portion along with the daily study and weekly group sharing time is the perfect combination to help me to study and learn each time.”
-Donna Unrue, Beth Moore study participant
We are excited for the 68 kids going to camp this summer! First Lutheran paid 50% of the camp fee so that kids could get away for a week and be immersed in God’s creation and Word. FLC was able to provide these camperships because of the help of these generous givers: FLC Foundation, $5,000; Lenten pie sales, $916; Lenten noisy offering, $892.14; and the Spring Bazaar, $1,305.25. Thank you! This year’s Bible camp theme is: God is Good! All the Time! Campers will explore how we live in seasons of HOPE, JOY, GRACE, LOVE and PRAISE as we immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus through the seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

1st-2nd Grade Day Camp, Thursday, June 26
3rd-9th Grade Camps, Sunday, Aug. 3 - Friday, Aug. 8

“Holding Your Family Together” Book Study
Wednesdays, June 18, 25 and July 9, 16 and 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Luther Room, $14 for the book

Rich Melheim is a leading author and expert on youth and family ministry. Join us as we look at his latest book, “Holding Your Family Together.” Melheim asks us to imagine a home where every person feels loved, valued and heard. Imagine a family that seeks God’s wisdom, will and Word together. Imagine an intimate, affectionate community where every night is an experience of caring, sharing, comfort and peace. You can make this beautiful picture a reality in your home. But it won’t happen by accident—you need a plan! This book outlines a workable, powerful plan based on a simple nightly routine: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, and Bless.

Join Shelly Erickson for a five-week session where together we’ll invest in our kids and work out a plan for our families! Pre-registration and prepayment are required. Please go to www.flcfargo.org to register. Contact Shelly with questions at 235-7389 or se Erickson@flcfargo.org. Nursery is provided.

New York City
Women’s Mission Trip
Thursday-Tuesday December 11-16, 2014

Cost $1100, includes airfare, breakfasts, unlimited NYC Metro Card, tickets to Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular and Music Hall tour, and 9/11 memorial with tour.

Non-refundable deposit of $200 due August 1

Space limited to the first 20 women who sign up

Led by Pastor Laurie Neill, lneill@flcfargo.org

Register online at www.flcfargo.org

The church at work:
Our mission work partners us with the Seafarer’s International Harbor just a block away from Union Square in lower Manhattan. Through their “City Service” program, we will get a taste of urban ministry by volunteering at a soup kitchen and meal delivery programs.

The church at play:
We will have free time to enjoy and explore all that New York City has to offer, especially at Christmastime. Planned activities include:
• Radio City Music Hall’s Christmas Spectacular and a tour of Radio City Music Hall
• A tour of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum
• Worship Sunday at the Brooklyn Tabernacle
• Staten Island Ferry cruise by the Statue of Liberty
• Time to take in Broadway show(s)
• View the city from the top of the Empire State Building

Please prayerfully consider coming on this amazing trip. Connect with God through service, play and fellowship with other amazing women!
BeFrienders share what they have found:

“As we listen to their stories, we become more aware of our own stories and our faith has been strengthened. I also find that I use my Befriending skills in many other settings. I am a much better listener now.”

“Our bond became very strong on a much deeper level than social friendships. And I have learned to let go of my need to ‘fix’ things and instead to listen and let God do the work.”

“I have found within this ministry that a greater reward is felt by the one who listens. It is truly a gift to be present for someone else in a time of need.”

Would you like to be a part of this powerful ministry? Others need you.

Sponsored by Health Ministry, BeFriender Ministry is a lay ministry program. BeFrienders are volunteer lay ministers who provide pastoral care to people in difficult and transitional situations, such as illness, loneliness, and loss of a loved one. They embody the caring presence of God and serve as a living reminder of God’s love. BeFrienders:

• are trained to provide a listening presence to others, not to be an expert in whatever situation they encounter.
• are trained to provide compassionate, empathetic care.
• accept people as they are without giving advice, and allow others to make their own decisions without trying to decide for them.
• complete a 20-hour training program and a two-month internship.

Thirty members have been trained since the program began in January 2009. First Lutheran BeFrienders have provided hundreds of personal visits to people in need of support.

To learn more, including how to become a trained BeFriender, contact Pastor Laurie Neill (lneill@flcfargo.org) or Katie Gross (katie.gross@flcfargo.org) or call 701-235-7389.

First Lutheran Helps Casa Gabriel

Casa Gabriel is a home that houses boys that used to live on the streets of Quito. The ministry is to share the Gospel with these boys and disciple them in an authentic fashion. In addition, they are taught many social and behavioral skills that they have never learned. The hope is that someday each of the boys who go through this home can become a successful Christian leader and impact the world around him. Below is a picture of much-needed renovations that were made possible by a grant from the FLC Global Missions Committee.

Dear Global Missions Committee,

Casa Gabriel owes you an overdue thank you for your donation to our recent renovation project. The boys are benefiting so much from everything that was fixed and repaired, making the home a better place than ever for them to grow and thrive.

Blessings,
Sonnet Medrano, Administrative Assistant, Casa Gabriel
In March, a delegation of 19 people from First Lutheran Church headed to Mexico, continuing the 20-year tradition of Mexico mission. This year’s team built a church, led Bible school for the kids, and created many Christ-centered relationships with the people of the village.

“The trip to Mexico was such a blessing to be able to go on. You go to help these people and find God, but the absolute opposite happens. God finds you through these people, and you get more out of it than you could possibly give. You struggle to communicate, but these people still touch you in a way that communication doesn’t really matter. This trip builds so many relationships, with the villagers and between the travelers. This trip is such a great opportunity that has helped a lot of people find God.”

-Noah Gjesdahl, mission participant

Mexico Mission Trip was “¡Fantastico!”

2014 Mission participants: Hayley Andresen; Sejun Berisa; Morgan Binfei; Obbie Bladh-Om; Korie DeBardlabon; Madeline DeLeon; Doreen Gigstad-Stave; Emma Gjesdahl; Noah Gjesdahl; Jessica Goroski; Ronald Guggisberg; Elly Isaacson; Tucker Lehr; Alex Light; Mathew Meier; Raechelle Sickels; and Audrey Ulliman. Graham Sibley and Rollie Johnson led the trip.

“Getting a manicure and building relationships. Surrounded by beautiful faces—all God’s children.”

-Doreen Gigstad-Stave

“Raechelle making a new friend.”

-Raechelle Sickels, mission participant

“Celebrating a job well done.”

“Obbie sits with kids during Bible school.”

-Obbie Bladh-Om

“Emma’s second trip to Mexico. She’s not afraid of hard work!”

-Emma Gjesdahl

“The experience I had in Mexico was awesome. I really enjoyed seeing the kids’ and villagers’ smiling faces every day. Whether it be on the worksite, playing soccer and other games, or when we watched movies during Bible study. I made a connection with the villagers that I cannot explain. When I would make the kids laugh or smile I felt like I was accomplishing something that God wanted me to. When we would work on the house or church with the villagers and they said “good” in Spanish when I asked if I did it right, I felt like I was also accomplishing something. It was something greater than myself; I felt proud for the work that I was doing and that I was able to help these people in a way that I don’t think I can imagine. I don’t think I truly understand how much us going to Tinucah really meant to the people. I just had an awesome feeling the whole time I was there. Overall it was the best experience of my life and I cannot wait to go on the next one.”

-Raechelle Sickels
**Spend the weekend walking a mile in the shoes of those who are homeless.** Participants fast for 24 hours, sleep in a cardboard box, take part in a food drive, as well as share in a meal celebrating participants and service agencies together. On the website you’ll also find ways to volunteer, a list of things that participants need to do, and more information about the agencies we support.

Register at www.fmhomelessandhungry.org

You can also support Homeless & Hungry in these ways:
- Go to the *Heaven is for Real LIVE* event at the Fargodome on July 31. See page 2 for more information.
- Golf in the annual *Homeless & Hungry Golf Scramble* on July 28. Register by July 5 by going to the H&H website.

**Happy 107th Birthday Eiline!**

Last April my wife, Konnie, and I attended the birthday party for First Lutheran’s oldest member. Eiline Nelson turned 107. She still has a radiant smile and a remarkably clear memory. Eiline also knows what is going on in the world. She talks of computers and iPads and the internet. She is aware of the trouble spots in the world and says that she prays for people in those places of turmoil.

She relates that at times the workers at her care center stop by her room and they share some of their troubles with her. She says, “I try my best to cheer them up.”

I think it is appropriate to share some of the words of wisdom I have gathered from Eiline’s lips in the years I have known this amazing woman.

She points to her small quarters and says, “This is my mansion, but someday I am going to a bigger mansion,” as she points heavenward.

“This getting old isn’t for kids.”

“I am pretty well, but those who are sick have a hard time to jolly up.”

“Every night about 9:30 someone, perhaps angels or Jesus, comes by and sings to me the words of the hymn ‘I’d Rather Have Jesus.’”

“Some folks say they live one day at a time. I live one minute at a time.”

“I go right to sleep at night knowing that Jesus is sitting right here in this chair next to my bed and he will take care of me all through the night.”

“Pastor Jim, is there a construction gang in heaven?” I replied, “What makes you say that?” Eiline said, “Well, Jesus must be adding on because so many of my friends have gone there.” Where does this aged woman come up with her unique sense of humor? Over and over she blesses me with her outlook on life. Does God send angels to earth? I rather think he has in the person of Eiline Nelson.

-Pastor Jim Hulberg

**China Service Ventures**

Rev. John Peterson coordinates missions in Xinyang, Henan, a rural village in China. Global Missions supports John and CSV at $250/month. The summer camp program for the Bo Ai (which means “boundless love”) high school students has grown. Local high school students are screened by CSV for financial need and support to complete high school and to eventually attend college. Without financial support, these young people would not go to school since their families are too poor to pay the costs for their room and board.

**Dear friends,**

We received your gift of $250! Thank you so much. This kind of faithful giving sustains our work and builds God’s Kingdom, and we truly appreciate it.

It is an exciting time to be working in China. God has opened doors that were not open even a few short years ago. Pray for our work, that the love of Jesus might change hearts and lives.

Again, we say thank you. May God bless your work for Him, and we hope you will continue to support us in the future.

In humble service,
Tom Stertz, EdD, President

**Annual Meeting Sunday, August 3**

Sunday, August 3, Noon in the Celebration Hall

Q & A Forums, Sunday, July 20 and 27, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

The annual meeting will follow the 11:00 a.m. outdoor worship. The budget for the year 2014-2015 will be published by July 16. Open forums will be held to answer any questions people may have concerning the new budget on the two Sundays preceding the annual meeting.
The First Lutheran Canoe Shack is open for building our four 26 ft. long Voyageur North Canoes. Anyone and everyone is welcome. This is messy, dusty work. Please wear clothing that can get stained or dirty. Contact Rollie Johnson if you have questions at rjohnson@flcfargo.org.

First with “Heaven is for Real LIE” making an appearance at the FARGODOME in July, check out the book if you haven’t had the chance yet. This is the real story of Todd Burpo’s son and his near death experience. With the innocence of a child he relates firsthand knowledge of meeting deceased relatives he had never met or even heard of. His descriptions of a better place are truly exciting. For an experience that’s out of this world, check out the book and the production. We have a few copies available.

Regular Canoe Shack hours:
- Mondays 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Sundays 3:00-6:00 p.m.

CANOE SHACK OPEN FOR BUILDING
4021 Main Avenue
just west of Tubs of Fun

With all your summer fun, how about hooking a good book from your church library? Our summers are coveted, we try to put six months of living into three months of summer, but curling up with a book is a great way to relax. Here are a few suggestions and always feel free to browse the collection as well.

From the best selling author of “The Shack,” “Crossroads” is another great story. Anthony Spencer is very proud of his self-made success as a businessman. Then he is involved in an accident and “awakens” from a coma in ICU, finding himself living in a surreal place that mirrors dimensions of his own life. When he realizes his house of cards is built on a foundation that’s breaking, will he have the courage to set things right?

We also have copies from all the book studies that have been done at First in the past couple years, so if you were unable to participate then, you might want to “catch” one of those to see what your friends at First have been up to. If you come across a book on your faith journey that you think would be a great addition, let me know!

Lastly I’d like to remind you to be mindful of the suggested check-out periods so others can enjoy our collection as well. Happy reading!

-Becy Audette/Volunteer Librarian

Dear Pastor Bjertness, Thank you very much for the opportunity to report on the outreach ministry of the Gideons International. Through the support of churches, the Gideons are able to provide scripture for people to read. Through reading this scripture, many become Christians.

The offering totaled $870. This will provide 696 New Testaments, 174 Bibles, or some combination in between. Historically, 40% of the scriptures have been placed locally in schools, hospitals, motels, colleges, jails, and professional offices. The other 60% has been placed into countries where the demand for scripture exceeds the ability to supply it.

Sincerely,
Gregg Webster, The Gideons International

The Gideons International is an association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through sharing personally and by providing Bibles and New Testaments. While they are known worldwide for their work with hotels, they predominantly share Scriptures in schools, colleges, prisons and jails, hospitals, and medical offices. To date, they have placed 1.9 billion scriptures.

www.flcfargo.org
A year-to-date total of disbursements in the amount of $86,821.99 has been granted by the Foundation-Praise the Lord! The beneficiaries include those in our community who are in dire straits because they are homeless and/or hungry. Other worthy projects have encompassed mission outreach, our church home and education. As a result, lives have been changed, and the work of reaching out beyond ourselves is thriving.

Thank you for embracing the mission of your Foundation with your prayers and your treasure!

Vision Slovakia Plans Summer Trip

Six individuals representing First Lutheran Church are planning a June 2014 mission trip to Martin and Priborvce, Slovakia. They will be traveling with a group from Trinity Lutheran Church in Carrington, ND and doing light construction and maintenance work, working with elementary school children at the Lutheran Elementary school, and teaching conversational English to adults and youth. All of these activities will be carried out with a Christian message and perspective. To date, over 65 individuals have given financial support for this mission trip. We very much appreciate their partnership and covet your prayers.

Historical Perspective

Since 1998, the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia, has trained Christian lay leaders for the 21st century. The school offers programs from kindergarten through the graduate school level. Students also grow in their faith and are spurred to pass along their Christian commitment to their parents and grandparents, many of whose Christian commitment waned during the years of the Communist regime.

This school is a catalyst for the rebirth of Christianity throughout the region. Volunteers from the U.S., including First Lutheran, have been a valuable partner. Many hundreds of children and young adults have received the benefits of this volunteer spirit for the past several summers.

Your 2014 Ambassadors to Slovakia

Bjorn Altenburg, Craig Johnson, Julie Johnson, Marianna Malm, Connie Swanson and Larry Swanson

TRAVEL MINISTRY

Nashville/Memphis Get-away

Saturday-Friday, November 15-21, (7 days/6 nights)
Rates per person: $1635 Single, $1280 Double, $1260 Triple, $1240 Quad: ($200 deposit required)
Travel Ministry hosted by Craig and Julie Johnson

Music will be the theme of this tour. You’ll travel to Nashville, considered the Country Music Capital, where you will enjoy their unbelievable entertainment. Reservations taken through Judy’s Leisure Tours, not at the church. See the brochure at the Information Booth for more information or call Judy’s Leisure Tours at 701-232-3441 or 800-598-0851.

A Simple and Convenient Way to Give

It’s Summer and the Giving is Easy
Now would be a great time to consider signing up for electronic giving this summer. First Lutheran relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis while you’re out of town or at the lakes. To give electronically, visit www.flcfargo.org and click on the “Donate” button. For those with smart phones, another simple way to give would be to scan this QR Code. Thank you for your generosity. First Lutheran couldn’t fulfill its mission without your support!

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Now would be a great time to consider signing up for electronic giving this summer. First Lutheran relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis while you’re out of town or at the lakes. To give electronically, visit www.flcfargo.org and click on the “Donate” button. For those with smart phones, another simple way to give would be to scan this QR Code. Thank you for your generosity. First Lutheran couldn’t fulfill its mission without your support!

Thrivent Builds/
Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity

Since 2005 Thrivent Financial members have volunteered alongside more than 2,500 families, working to help them realize the American dream of home ownership. These homes are only possible with the volunteering of your talents and financial contributions. Because of you, families have been given the opportunity of home ownership.

This year, we are again partnering with the local Habitat build in our area and are asking you to help with your contributions and to volunteer for a day. Change a life – maybe even your own. Our scheduled build days are August 5 and 7, and October 9. Join us for a day. Stay in a family’s heart forever.

Contact Terry Yoney at 701-238-4059 or tyoney@flcfargo.org

How Habitat Makes a Difference

The Boatright Family

For Ruth and Derek Boatright, having the opportunity to provide a safe and affordable home for their family was a dream come true. Before partnering with Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity (LAHFH), the Boatrights and their four children lived in a house with leaky walls and cramped rooms. Two of the children had to sleep in an uninsulated basement that was cold during the winter and flooded during the spring. One of their sons suffers from muscular dystrophy, which made it difficult for him to move around in a home with multiple levels. In 2009, their dream became a reality.

Throughout the entire build, the Boatright family always felt like LAHFH was there for them. “We never felt alone,” said Ruth. “With the help of Lake Agassiz Habitat, we always felt so welcome in the community.”

Through their partnership with Habitat, the Boatrights were able to build a home where their children can grow and thrive. Now that their son is in a wheelchair full time, the handicap accessible home provides an opportunity for him to move around freely and independently. For daughter Damara, their old home cannot even compare to their new Habitat home. “It is in a nice neighborhood,” she said. “We’re able to play with friends and feel safe.”

“Habitat helps people achieve their dreams and we will never take that for granted.”

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Although we try to be as accurate as possible, all events are subject to change. For an updated and complete listing of all events and for more detailed information, please go to www.flcfargo.org.

Special Events

Heaven is for Real LIVE event
Thursday, July 31
Fargodome

Is Heaven for Real? Studies
Sundays, July 20 and 27, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays, July 23 and 30, 7:00 p.m.
Adult Ed Room

Annual Meeting
Sunday, August 3, Noon
Celebration Hall

Children/Family

Vacation Bible School
Monday-Thursday, June 9-12
Preschool/Kindergarten, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Grades 1-6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Shelly Erickson, ser Erickson@flcfargo.org

"Holding Your Family Together" Book Study
Wednesdays, June 10-25, July 9-23
7:00 p.m., Luther Room
Shelly Erickson, ser Erickson@flcfargo.org

Baptism Training Session
Sundays, June 1, August 3 (no July training)
10:15 a.m., chapel
Becki Tollefson, b’am@flcfargo.org

Family Supper
Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 p.m., The Gathering Place

Youth Events

Itasca State Park Day Trip
Tuesday, June 24, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Graham Sibley, gsibley@flcfargo.org

Crow Wing Canoe Trip
Thursday, August 14, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Graham Sibley, gsibley@flcfargo.org

Valleymoor
Thursday, June 12, 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Graham Sibley, gsibley@flcfargo.org

Adult Bible Study

Is Heaven for Real? Studies
Sundays, July 20 and 27, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays, July 23 and 30, 7:00 p.m.
Adult Ed Room

Women’s Ministry

FLCW Meeting: “Living for Jesus”
Thursday, June 5, 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
President: Sylvia Watkins, 701-232-2360

Women’s Weekend Get-away
Friday, July 15-August 19, 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Pastor Laurie Neill, lneill@flcfargo.org

Bible Study “Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed”
Wednesday, July 23-August 19, 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Pastor Laurie Neill, lneill@flcfargo.org

Quilters
Mondays, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Dorothy Nelson, 701-232-8493

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

Men’s Ministry

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
Tuesdays at 6:45 a.m., Adult Ed Room
Pr. Marty, pmart@flcfargo.org

Helping Hands
Thursdays 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Dalen Nettum, 701-235-7389

Senior Ministry

FLCW Meeting: “Living for Jesus”
Thursday, June 5, 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
President: Sylvia Watkins, 701-232-2360

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Friday, July 15-August 19, 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Pastor Laurie Neill, lneill@flcfargo.org

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

SIGN UP NOW for the Nashville/Memphis Get-away
Saturday-Friday, November 15-21
TRAVEL MINISTRY
See page 10 for details. Don’t let this musical-themed trip pass you by!

SUMMER Worship Schedule

SUNDAY
9:00 a.m. Traditional service in Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Celebration service in Celebration Hall
11:00 a.m. Celebration service in Celebration Hall

WEDNESDAYS
5:00-5:45 p.m. Supper served in Gathering Place
6:00 p.m. Celebration service in Celebration Hall

Support & Resources

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

Health

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Fourth Thursday of the month
2:30 p.m., Heritage Room
Katie Gross, katie.gross@flcfargo.org

Outdoor Worship

Worship God in the brilliance of his sunshine!
At 11:00 a.m. on the following Sundays, we will gather in the parking lot on the west side of the church. Bring your own lawn chair or sit in one of the folding chairs provided. Lunch will be served afterwards. Bring a friend! (There will be no 9:00 a.m. Celebration worship on these days. There will still be 9:00 a.m. Traditional worship.)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
SUNDAY, JULY 13
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3
followed by the ANNUAL MEETING at NOON

www.flcfargo.org

SuNNaY, JuNE 8
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SuNNaY, AuGuST 3
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Welcome to the June, July, August 2014 issue

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**HEAVEN IS FOR REAL**

Song. Story. Hope.

See Colton Burpo and his family live.

ONE NIGHT ONLY
Thursday
July 31 at 7:00 p.m.
at the FARGODOME

**FAMILY Fun FIRST**

Don’t miss out on all the summer fun and service opportunities for youth

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Monday, June 9 through Thursday, June 12

ALL THE INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

www.flcfargo.org