Somebody once told me that if you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time. As a leader in the church, I often am forced to sit back and analyze if we (the church) are aiming at the right thing. It is amazing how fast we can lose focus and chase after the flavor of the month that dances by and entices us. The Bible is literally filled with stories of people and peoples who lost their way and wandered away from God. In Isaiah it says:

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way.” (Isaiah 53:6)

Perhaps, that is a warning to all of us to keep our eye on the ball and to make the main thing, the main thing. So, what is the main thing for each of us as individuals and the church as a whole? The Bible gives us an almost inexhaustible amount of things that we are supposed to do. How do we choose what is the main thing? Well, I think God has told us pretty clearly what the main thing is to be.

The scriptures have a common theme, a red thread, a main character and a singular person of grand importance. Perhaps, Martin Luther said it best, “The Bible is the cradle that brings us JESUS.” Our job is simply that, to bring or to even be Jesus.

In our midwestern humility, it seems a little grandiose and maybe a little arrogant to think of ourselves as being Jesus in the world. Who am I that I would claim to be Jesus? Good question. Except it is not your claiming to be Jesus in the world that makes you Jesus in the world. It is that you have been claimed to be Jesus in the world. Read on...

1. “But when it pleased God...to reveal his Son in me.” - Galatians 1:15-16
2. “I am crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” - Galatians 2:20
3. “My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you.” - Galatians 4:19
4. “That Christ may make his home in your hearts through faith.” - Ephesians 3:17
5. “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” - Colossians 1:27
6. “Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.” - 1 Corinthians 12:27

You are Jesus in the world NOT by effort, accomplishment, or self-appointment. You are Christ in the world because God has made it so. As such, it should be our highest goal to fulfill this calling. Being Jesus in the world is not one of the many jobs a Christian has to do and NOT some exercise that somehow makes us a better disciple. It is the whole of Christianity. Christianity offers nothing at all to the world if it does not offer Jesus. 2BJESUS4U – our highest calling and our true identity.

God Bless,
Pastor Corey
FaithTalk Christmas Programs and Rehearsals

1-4 Grade Christmas Program
“The Nativity Story”
All Student Final Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 6, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
Presentation: Sunday, December 10, 10:15 a.m., Sanctuary
We’ve all heard the Christmas story many times, but there is something special about hearing it told by children. Come and experience the joy of the nativity story from our 1st through 4th graders.

PreSchool/Kindergarten Christmas Program
“The First Christmas Night”
Presentations:
Sunday, December 10, 11 a.m., Celebration Hall
Wednesday, December 13, 6 p.m., Celebration Hall
Our pre-schoolers can’t wait to tell you about the joyous night when Jesus was born! Be prepared for the cuteness factor to be off the charts as they sing about the first Christmas.
NDSU Messiah Performances

Friday-Saturday, December 1-2; 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Tickets available through NDSU Box Office, 701.231.7969. Adults: $17; Seniors $12; Students $7

Conducted by Dr. Jo Ann Miller, Baroque Festival Music Director, over 200 students in five choirs and the Baroque Festival Orchestra will present Handel’s monumental piece, which has become a holiday tradition throughout the world. Premiered in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, Messiah combines Old and New Testament texts in one of the most memorable works of Western music.

Mass Choir

Sunday, December 17, 9 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary and Celebration Hall; Wednesday, December 20, 6 p.m., Celebration Hall

Everyone looks forward to all the FLC choirs coming together to sing. It really gets us all into the Christmas Spirit. Come and enjoy the Crusader Choir, Joyful Noise Choir, and Cathedral Choir sing “Carol of the Manger” (a wonderful arrangement of “Away In a Manger”) and “Peace, Peace” (which incorporates the first stanza of “Silent Night” at the end).

Jazz Sunday

Sunday, January 21, 9 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary

You can't help it, but when Jazz Sunday comes along, it gets your heads swaying and your feet tapping! During the cold winter months, it is wonderful to have some jazz music to warm your soul and heart and body.

Spreading Christmas Cheer AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Men's Choir

Sunday, December 3, 9 a.m., Sanctuary and 11 a.m., Celebration Hall. Rehearsal-Sunday, December 3 at 8:15 a.m. in the Celebration Station (Choir Room)

Sunday, February 4, 9 a.m., Sanctuary and 11 a.m., Celebration Hall. Rehearsal-Sunday, February 4 at 8:15 a.m. in the Celebration Station (Choir Room)

Looking ahead, the men will also sing on Wednesday, March 21 and Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 13—save the dates!

Women's Choir

Sunday, January 28, 9 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Rehearsal-Sunday, January 28 at 8:15 a.m. in the Celebration Station (Choir Room)

Wednesday, February 21, 6 p.m. Lenten service, Sanctuary. Rehearsal-Wednesday, February 21, 5:15 p.m., Sanctuary

Looking ahead, the women will also sing on Sunday, April 15—save the date!

Crusader Choir (grades 1-6)

Performing with the Mass Choir on Sunday, December 17, 9 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary and Celebration Hall; Wednesday, December 20, 6 p.m., Celebration Hall

Additional Christmas and upcoming performances include:

» Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 5 p.m., Sanctuary

» Sunday, January 28, 9 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary

» Lenten service, Wednesday, February 28, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

If you are interesting in joining any of the musical groups at First Lutheran Church, please get in touch with Michael Olson, molson@flcfargo.org, or 701.235.7389.

Joyful Noise Choir (grades 7-12)

Performing with the Mass Choir on Sunday, December 17, 9 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary and Celebration Hall; Wednesday, December 20, 6 p.m., Celebration Hall

Upcoming performances include:

» Sunday, January 28, 9 and 11 a.m., Celebration Hall

» Wednesday, January 31, 6 p.m., Celebration Hall

First Lutheran Chamber Orchestra

The FLCO’s winter schedule includes:

» Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m., rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

» Sunday, December 17, Prelude and Mass Choir accompaniment, 9 & 11 a.m. Sanctuary services.

» Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m. rehearsal in Celebration Hall.

» Sunday, January 21, Prelude and Worship Band accompaniment, Celebration Hall 9 & 11 a.m. services.

» Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m., rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

» Sunday, February 18, 9 a.m., Prelude and Cathedral Choir accompaniment, 11 a.m. Prelude, Sanctuary services.

If you are a string player and are interested in ‘stringing’ your praises along with us and sharing the gifts God gave you, contact Mary Weisser at mbeissner@hotmail.com.
The Soloist

These titles are all being added to the Tuesdays, January 9-March 6, 7 p.m., wide audience:

"Rebel in the CrossTalk Cafe, $129

Pastors Endorse Book Choices for Winter Reading

I thought it would be fun to find out what our pastoral staff would suggest if you were in the mood to curl up with a good book as we face the colder days ahead.

Pastor Laurie suggests "The Soloist" by Steve Lopez. She followed up her recommendation with these thoughts: "I liked this book because it challenged my notion of what it means to help people. So many times, we swoop in and think we know what another person needs. This story of a journalist who helps a violinist he discovers on skid row is a powerful example of how our moves from 'saving' another to walking alongside them instead. It is one more example of how every person has a story and we knew it, would hopefully not be so quick to judge."

Pastor Corey shared a title that sounded very appealing to a wide audience. "Rebel in the Ranks" by Brad S. Gregory. "I'm not an expert on Martin Luther but I don't think he was thinking about how he could start a revolution when he published his Ninety-Five Theses in October 1517. Yet it started the Protestant Reformation and this sounds like just the book to understand the tremendous impact it had on ushering in the Reformation Era."

Pastor Dave recommends: "51% Christian: Finding Faith after Certainty" by Mark Stenberg. "In confessing that I am a 51 percent Christian, I'm trying to tell you that you have permission to doubt, to question, to stand on a barren heath on the coast of Denmark, floundering in the fish of anger at God. But in the end, it's not about you. Faith is about relationship, and that is, the only way it makes even a lick of sense."

These titles are all being added to the Fireside library collection for your reading enjoyment.

Becky Audette, Volunteer Librarian

Financial Peace University

Every Sunday, 10:10 a.m. and Thursday at noon (lunch available). Adult Ed Room

Financial Peace University (FPU) is the most important step to changing your financial life. 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 steps on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! Go to www.daveramsey.com/findaclass to register.

Pancakes and PJs Party

5th and 6th Grade

Friday, January 26, 5:30-11 p.m. First Lutheran Church, $10

Operation Christmas Child

Regional Shoebox Packing Trip

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9, Minneapolis, $40

Want to know where all those Christmas shoeboxes go? Come help package them to send around the world! We'll pack most of Friday afternoon and evening and spend Saturday morning exploring and exploring the Cities. The trip is open for 7th-12th graders. Contact Meggie for more information. (Worth 2 SLA credits)
People of the Lie

Women’s Event

Thursdays, January 4–February 8; Noon or 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall (lunch provided for noon study)

Satan, the father of lies, loves it when we allow ourselves to believe negative and distorted statements about ourselves. Yet this wrong thinking produces wrong emotions, wrong reactions, and wrong behavior and steals the abundant life Christ came to give us. Learn how to identify these lies and replace them with the truth of who we are in God. Recognizing these misbeliefs for what they are is the first step on the road to freedom. “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32). This study was written, and will be led by, Pastor Laurie.

IF: Gathering

Women’s Event

Friday, February 9, 5:30–9 p.m., Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Avalon Event Center, Fargo. $50

Please join us in unity and humbleness for the 2018 IF Fargo-Moorhead Local Gathering. As a community we will gather, worship, pray, and grow, celebrating all that God has done, and what he will do next through IF and the women in attendance. Along with watching the live-stream of the event, we will be having faith discussions in small groups, learning more about community resources in the area, and having fellowship with other women. For more information, contact Pastor Laurie at lneill@flcfargo.org.

The Quest

New Beth Moore Study

Thursdays, February 15–March 22; Noon or 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall (lunch provided for noon study)

In this six-week excursion with Jesus, Beth Moore uses questions from Scripture to lead you into intimacy with the One who knows you best. Learn to dig into the Word, to respond to the questions of God, and to bring your questions before him. Let the crooked punctuation mark (the question mark) be the map that points you into a closer relationship with the Father.

Bible Basics 2

Wednesdays, Jan. 10, 17 and 24; 7 p.m. OR Sundays, Feb. 25, March 4 and 11; 10 a.m.

We cannot know God if we do not know his Word. In this class, we will follow the golden thread of grace from Genesis to Revelation and learn how all of the Bible points to Jesus.

Ethics and Morality

Wednesdays, Jan. 3, 10 and 17; 7 p.m. OR Sundays, Jan. 7, 14 and 21; 10 a.m.

The Ten Commandments seem like a list of “don’ts” but they really are life-giving instructions on how to live at peace with God, our neighbors and ourselves. Even though they were given long ago, they still speak to our ethical and moral dilemmas of today.

How to Pray

Wednesdays, Jan. 24, 31 and Feb. 7; 7 p.m. OR Sundays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 11; 10 a.m.

We cannot have a relationship with someone we hardly talk to, yet prayer is one of the hardest practices we do. Jesus taught us to pray through the Lord’s Prayer. We’ll explore that plus other ways to bring prayer into our daily lives.

Money Matters

Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13; 7 p.m.

In the New Testament, Jesus has more to say about money than any other subject besides the “Kingdom of God.” Why is money so important? Gain some practical advice about money management as you learn about how God wants you to view your money and possessions.

Back to the Future

Wednesday, Dec. 13; 7 p.m

This intergenerational event gives adults the opportunity to share when God became important to them while sharing memories of how things were for them growing up. Adults, bring your high school and college paraphernalia. Students, bring your questions!

Faith and Footholds

Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28; 6–8 p.m.

Climbing Wall (dates may change due to availability of climbing wall at the Y)

Learn the physical skills and techniques of good climbing and belaying but our higher purpose is to grow emotionally and spiritually as men and women of faith. Each training session will involve Bible study, discussion and prayer time. Rock climbing offers multiple parallels to life and our faith journey with Jesus.

You Make Me So Mad!

Sunday, Nov. 12; 10 a.m. OR Wednesday, Jan. 3; 7 p.m.

Anger is an emotion we all feel, yet it can get us into trouble, hurt our relationships, and ruin our day. Is wrong to get mad? What does the Bible say about our anger?

On a Mission

Wednesday, Jan. 3; 7 p.m.

Thinking about a mission trip but not sure how it works? Come explore how mission work can be life-changing for you and for others. We will look at scripture, hear stories of the people who have gone on mission trips, and explore local opportunities.

Who am I Created to be?

Wednesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31; 7 p.m.

We are all created in God’s image and are called to serve him. This course is designed to help you better understand yourself and to listen for that calling. By the end of this course, you will be able to articulate your values and gifts and have a better understanding of how God has called you.

Worried Sick

Wednesday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7; 7 p.m.

If we would go around the room and list all the things we are worried about, it would take a week! If you look at the Bible, you’ll see worrying isn’t just silly, it’s the opposite of what God wants us to do. So how do we stop?
Meet the Staff!

Dave Adams
Worship and Music Pastor
dadams@flcfargo.org

Rollie Johnson
Lay Pastor/
Family Life Director
rolliejohnson@flcfargo.org

www.flcfargo.org

Cottage of Care
Donations for the Cottage of Care are in high demand. Great items for the winter months are adult and children’s hats, scarfs, and mittens. Food and personal hygiene items are also needed (no liquids, due to freezing temperatures). Donation items can be brought to the church front desk. If you have children in FaithTalk, they can earn Bible Bucks for bringing items for the cottage to their classrooms.

Slovakia Mission Trip
Friday, June 15-Monday, June 25, Martin, Slovakia, cost TBD
We are looking to assemble a team of people who have a heart for teaching to work alongside students and teachers at the Center for Christian Education (CCE) in Martin, Slovakia. The CCE has been a catalyst for the rebirth of Christianity, not only in Martin but throughout the region. First Lutheran has been a steady partner in this work. In 2018, we will celebrate with the first graduating class to receive diplomas. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pr. Corey (cjbertness@flcfargo.org) or Pr. Laurie (laurie@flcfargo.org).

ECUADOR Mission Trip
Multi-Generational Mission Trip
Wednesday-Sunday, July 18-29, 2018
This spring will be the 7th annual First Lutheran Summer Mission Trip to Ecuador Intergenerational Mission Trip. We will spend time at Hacienda El Refugio doing building projects, teaching kids through Vacation Bible School, and visiting a few of the ministries that we partner with here at First Lutheran. Please contact Katie Kringstad, kkringstad@flcfargo.org, with questions. Applications are available at the church front desk or online at flcfargo.org. The due date for applications is January 8.

Evangelism
Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Volunteer at the Great Plains Food Bank
Thursdays, January 18, March 22, May 24, July 19, September 20, and November 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 1720 3rd Ave. N, Fargo
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a commodity-based program, providing nutritionally-balanced shelf-stable food packages targeted at low-income seniors. We are thrilled to be able to help with this amazing program. First Lutheran Church has been partnering with Great Plains for many years—helping with the packing of the food products every two months. We need YOU! Each shift requires 40 people to help with the packing. Sign up by registering on the FLC website, at the front desk, or contact Shirley Tietz at 701.235.7389 or stietz@flcfargo.org.

Ring Bells for the Salvation Army
Red Kettle Campaign
Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(2 hour shifts, various locations (all inside))

Save the Date
First In Mission
April 29-May 5
Locations vary and will be announced in March.
This spring will be the 7th annual First In Mission event where we will have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the F-M area. The purpose of First In Mission is to create a unique opportunity to get the church into the community, to connect people to places of service and people in need (the last, least, lost, and lonely), and to raise awareness that we are all part of God’s mission. Watch for details to be announced beginning in February and March. Questions? Shirley Tietz at stietz@flcfargo.org or 701.235.7389.

Prayer Partners
Every Tuesday, 9 a.m., Main Floor Conference Room
This dedicated group believes in the power of prayer! They pray for whatever is on their hearts in addition to praying for the church and its mission, individual needs and for people around the world. The group gathers and begins by singing familiar hymn choruses, then has a time of prayer and concludes with a devotional led by Pastor Jim Hulberg. You are invited to join this wonderful group. Contact Haley Vargas at hvargas@flcfargo.org for more information.

FEED My Starving Children
Meal Packing
Saturday, February 10, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Atonement Lutheran Church
Join us for service work supporting a great cause. FMSC, feeding children around the world. We need 100 volunteers to make this happen. Watch for a sign-up coming in January. Gather your family and friends and let’s fill the room with our Gold First In Mission t-shirts! Questions: Shirley Tietz.

BeFriender Ministry
BeFrienders offer care, a nonjudgmental presence, and active listening. BeFrienders receive training on topics such as:
- Grief and loss
- Spirituality
- Listening
- Confidentiality
- Communication
BeFrienders also participate in regular small group meetings with the supervision of the BeFrienders leadership team. The meetings provide accountability and growth, and assist BeFrienders in their ability to listen, to be nonjudgmental, and to put aside their own prejudices or desire to give advice. If BeFriender relationships are discussed, fictitious details are used and identifying details are eliminated in order to honor confidentiality. BeFrienders through a four-session training program to learn the skills mentioned above. If you are interested in becoming a BeFriender, please contact Haley at 701.235.7389 or hvargas@flcfargo.org.

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Red Kettle Campaign
Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(2 hour shifts, various locations (all inside))

Meet the Staff!
GOD’S WORK
First Lutheran Foundation provides lifelines of financial support for organizations to help them in their respective ministries and missions.

One such organization who received a grant from The Foundation recently is Family Life at First Lutheran. Meggie Bjertness, Middle School Ministry Director, recently gave a “Thank You” note to the Foundation expressing her gratitude for helping students attend Luther Crest this year.

Meggie stated that 28 students attended Luther Crest, several for the first time and several from non-traditional families that would have struggled to pay otherwise. She went on to say that together they learned about the Living Water of Christ and connected camp to both traditional and contemporary worship styles and Baptism.

The students learned much more and were blessed to take this faith-filled adventure.

The surrounding notes are just a few examples of “Thank You’s” from the kids.

Lord, Thou lov’st the cheerful giver
Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river
That refreshes all the land.

Grant us then the grace of giving
With a spirit large and free
That all our life and all our living
We may consecrate to Thee.

Gratefully,
John Riley Holmen
Giving Consultant
First Lutheran Church

Lights of Love
The Christmas season is a time of wonder and delight, but it can also be hard facing the holidays when we have lost someone we love. Lights of Love is a great opportunity to see the light of your loved one shine on throughout the Christmas season. The form below and payment needs to be mailed or turned in to the front desk by Thursday, Dec. 14. $10 per light.

I wish to purchase a LIGHT for the Lights of Love Christmas tree. PLEASE PRINT.

In MEMORY of: ____________________________________________________________

In HONOR of: ____________________________________________________________

From: ________________________________________________________________  (Office use: Payment type_____________________, date___________)

Erik Carlson
Youth Director
ecarlson@flcfargo.org

Meggie Bjertness
Middle School Youth Director/Seminarian
mbjertness@flcfargo.org

Katie Kringstad
Director of Children’s Ministry
kkringstad@flcfargo.org

GIVING TREE OF HOPE
The holiday season is upon us and once again First Lutheran is partnering with FirstLink for the 44th annual Giving Tree of Hope. Gift tags are available for pick-up every Sunday until they are gone, and need to be returned by December 3. Gift tags are intended for children and special needs adults in our community.

We hope you will prayerfully consider being part of this important ministry. It is a wonderful way to help provide Christmas to those who might not otherwise experience it. Thanks to Mary Carlson and Becki Tollefson for helping coordinate the Giving Tree.

Please contact Becki at 701.235.7389 with any questions.

Learn to Knit and Crochet
Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., the Gathering Place
Everyone is welcome to the knit and crochet group on Tuesdays! This wonderful group of ladies gathers together to knit or crochet various projects. Many of their projects are donated to people in need. If you have not knitted or crocheted before, they are the best teachers and would be happy to help you learn! Contact Haley at hvargas@flcfargo.org with any questions.

Habitat for Humanity
House Warming
Our Habitat for Humanity home has been built and the Hagen family has moved into their new home. It is a good feeling to have a place they can call home. But when starting out, there are many items needed.

We need your help with a “House Warming Shower.” Mom and Dad have four children and there is a wide range of items needed from kitchen, bathroom, bedroom dressers, gardening tools, etc. We are suggesting gift cards to specific businesses (ex: Home Depot, Walmart, Slumberland, Lowes, etc) and the family can then purchase the items they need.

If you have items you would like to donate that are not giftcards, please contact Shirley Tietz at 701.235.7389 or stietz@flcfargo.org.

Helping Hands
This men’s group meets Thursday mornings and has been dutifully helping with the upkeep of First Lutheran for some time.

Celebration Center gets set-up and rearranged every week and these guys are a big part of getting that done. With their help the Sanctuary gets a little more TLC, the Gathering Space gets a little tidier, and the church grows just a little bit more.

Thank you Helping Hands for all you do at First Lutheran!

If you are interested in joining this group for food, fellowship, and sharing of faith, please stop by Thursday mornings around 8:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dalen Nettum by calling the church office.

Giving Corner
Economic security is a concern for many people today. Many people who live with limited income are forced to make difficult choices between the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, and clothing. A great big thank you to the donors who generously give their financial gifts of love to the Foundation. An extremely generous estate gift to the Foundation is pending. This gift, along with many other gifts, help to not only increase the corpus of the Foundation, but to also increase the number of grants to worthy organizations such as Family Life at First Lutheran. In addition, the excellent fund management of Foundation monies by Heartland Trust also helps to ensure that grants will continue to be given to many other qualifying Christ-centered organizations for many years to come.

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ECONOMIC SECURITY IS A CONCERN FOR MANY PEOPLE TODAY. MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH LIMITED INCOME ARE FORCED TO MAKE DIFFICULT CHOICES BETWEEN THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE: FOOD, SHELTER, AND CLOTHING. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THE DONORS WHO GENEROUSLY GIVE THEIR FINANCIAL GIFTS OF LOVE TO THE FOUNDATION. AN EXTREMELY GENEROUS ESTATE GIFT TO THE FOUNDATION IS PENDING. THIS GIFT, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER GIFTS, HELP TO NOT ONLY INCREASE THE CORPUS OF THE FOUNDATION, BUT TO ALSO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRANTS TO WORTHY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS FAMILY LIFE AT FIRST LUTHERAN. IN ADDITION, THE EXCELLENT FUND MANAGEMENT OF FOUNDATION MONIES BY HEARTLAND TRUST ALSO HELPS TO ENSURE THAT GRANTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO MANY OTHER QUALIFYING CHRIST-CENTERED ORGANIZATIONS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

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VALENTINE’S GALA

An evening for the whole family!

Saturday, February 10
Social 4 p.m., Dinner 5 p.m.
Dance 7-9 p.m.
FLC Celebration Hall

This year the Gala will feature a winter theme! Join us for a fun, family friendly evening featuring a delicious meal, music by The Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome and dancing.

SPECIAL EVENTS

REEL Faith
Spirited Away
Sunday, January 21, 12:30 p.m. in the BibleMax Theatre

One critic said, “Without doubt one of the greatest animated films I’ve ever seen.” In this animated feature, 10-year-old Chihiro and her parents stumble upon a seemingly abandoned amusement park. After her mother and father are turned into giant pigs, Chihiro meets the mysterious Haku who explains that the park is a resort for supernatural beings who need a break from their time spent in the earthly realm, and that she must work there to free herself and her parents. Rated PG. Kids can attend for a SLA elective credit.

The Spitfire Grill
Sunday, February 18, 12:30 p.m. in the BibleMax Theatre

A beautiful movie with memorable characters and lessons on transformation, judging, and forgiveness. This bittersweet drama centers on the relationship between a young woman and the inhabitants of a small town. With the help of her former warden, ex-con Percy Talbott moves to Gilead, Maine, where she gets a job waiting tables at the Spitfire Grill and tries to rebuild her life. Rated PG-13. Kids can attend for a SLA elective credit.

Meet the Staff!

Corey Bjertness
Senior Pastor/Head Coach
cbjertness@flcfargo.org

Laurie Neill
Servant Leadership Pastor
lneill@flcfargo.org

www.flcfargo.org
Ski Trip
Middle and High School
Monday, January 15
No school on a winter Monday... let’s go skiing! Join us for a day-trip to Detroit Mountain. Watch for details to be announced in December.

High School
Thursday-Monday, February 15-19
Save the date for an five-day ski trip. We are heading to Giant's Ridge Ski Resort. Details to be announced in December.
Contact Erik Carlson, ecarlson@flcfargo.org, with questions on the winter ski trips.

Snow Shoe Sundays
Sundays, January 14-February 11. 4 p.m. at Rollie’s house, 505 66th Ave. N., Moorhead.
Open to all ages
Enjoy the beautiful outdoors without traveling far. We have several sets of snow shoes available for check-out on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve via email to johnson@flcfargo.org. All outings depart promptly at the scheduled time and then we head out to various locations to soak up God’s creation.

Men’s Winter Cabin Retreat
Friday- Sunday, February 9-11, $75
An awesome weekend of adventure, camaraderie, fellowship, conversation, snow-shoeing, prayer, Bible study, quiet-times, immersion in God’s creation, night hikes, and building new friendships.
Limited space. For more information, contact Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org.

High School Men's Lock-In
Call of Duty Night
Friday-Saturday, December 1-2, 8:30 p.m.-8:30 a.m. $20; register online
Games! NERF gun battles, capture the flag, pizza, brotherhood, and some Xbox video gaming await you! For this lock-in, we will be playing real life Call of Duty with NERF guns — utilizing many spaces throughout the church. Following the battles we will recharge with some pizza and a great group discussion and Bible study on the importance of brotherhood and anchor friends. Then the Call of Duty action continues in the BibleMax Theatre with some Xbox action. Erik Carlson, ecarlson@flcfargo.org

Foot Clinic
The first Tuesday of the month, 8:30-11 a.m., lower level FaithTalk room, $25
The purpose of our Foot Care Clinic is to provide foot care in response to the call of following Christ washing the disciples’ feet (John 13:1-17). We seek to serve those who are unable to provide their own foot care, while offering nurse assessments and cares by our Certified Foot Care Registered Nurse. Caregivers also assist with foot care by offering comfort cares, support, and education—recognizing health as encompassing body, mind, and spirit. Adults who have health issues such as diabetes, peripheral artery disease, stroke, gout, Parkinson’s, arthritis, obesity, or congestive heart failure will greatly benefit from these cares. We are receivers of God’s gift of cleansing and service to you.
Services and Cares:
» Foot Hygiene/Washing of the Feet
» Foot Screening/Assessment
» Circulation & Sensation
» Skin
» Early Detection
» L.E.A.P. Program (Lower Extremity Amputation Prevention)
» Toe Nail Trimming and Filing
» Corn and Callus Softening
» Foot and Lower Leg Massage
» Paraffin Wax Dip (optional at discretion of provider)
» Education
» Referrals
Contact parish nurse Haley Vargas to set up an appointment, 701.235.7389.

A Place to Belong
Becoming a member of First Lutheran Church
Two-part class (must attend both), Wednesday, January 24, 5:30-7 p.m. and Sunday, January 28, 10-11 a.m.
Welcome in 11 a.m. worship.

Becoming a member of First Lutheran is not about going anywhere but rather about the journey and those alongside you on it. If you would like to commit to being a part of a people who hear the word of God preached; partake of grace through Communion and Baptism; and commit to loving and looking out for each other, we welcome you to the journey! Please contact Shirley Tietz, stietz@flcfargo.org.

FRC
Minister of Music
molson@flcfargo.org

Daniel Damico
Administrator
ddamico@flcfargo.org

The Comedy Sportz Improv Show!
Take some time out to relax (and laugh!) this holiday season.
Are you looking for something to do with family and friends? Do you want some bust-your-gut laughter? FLC is hosting the talented team of Comedy Sportz to entertain and delight you! You will be amazed at the comedic talent as two teams battle head-to-head playing comedy games. The comedy is based on suggestions from the audience.

The talent is always welcoming, genuine and family friendly. Come and see and be a part of this high caliber, rich flavor, and creative spark of Comedy Sportz!

Wednesday, December 20
5 p.m. Supper
6 p.m. Worship in Celebration Hall
7 p.m. Show
*nursery available
Harvest Carnival
The Harvest Carnival was a chance to celebrate Halloween—church style! Families came to First Lutheran to play fun games, win prizes, and dress up in costumes. The CrossTalk6-8 grade kids made and ran booths and Our Servant Leadership Academy (confirmation) students volunteered with games and booths as well.

Confirmation
On Sunday October 29, 22 students affirmed their baptisms. These students completed the allotted work in the Student Leadership Academy and completed an interview with a staff member about their faith journeys so far, and how they intend to continue that journey. They also completed a faith project. Congratulations to our confirmants! The students are (front row): Julia Zachariason, Ella Walen, Jacob Aarsvold, Emily Malheim, Mya Schumacher, Sophie Mickelson, Samanthia Wilberscheid, Kaitlin Shea, Merritt Beil, Isabelle Settle, and Eden Hauge. (Back row): Riley Hagen, Emily Hanson, Mackenzie Kirkpatrick, Emma Ritterman, Hallie Johnson, Preston Akers, Sadie Wilson, Haley Delaneva, Rhannon Solberg, Sarah Light, and Chloe Bry.

Maah Daah Hey Hiking
Meeting God on the Trail
In October, Rollie Johnson took a group of 19 adventurous souls on a 20-mile hike in God’s creation along the Maah Daah Hey trail in western North Dakota. They experienced the scenery of the Badlands. The open spaces and wide vistas were the perfect backdrops for expanding their faith, challenging their bodies, and refreshing their souls.

Daily Devotions
Did you know you could get daily devotions from your pastoral and program staff? Here’s how they have impacted one person in our congregation:

Dear Friends in Christ,
Regardless of where I am or what I am doing, the first thing I do each morning after I have had my prayer time with our Heavenly Father, I get online to read all of your overwhelming devotions. These devotions help me to set my tone for the day and help me to realize I have a long way to go to understand all the things you all talk about. You all have such wonderful insights into so many things and if I tried to name them, I would for sure miss a lot. Just know I feel so “Blessed” to be a part of your lives each morning. I am also so amazed to realize that all of us are very much alike.

There is no doubt in my thoughts that God is working very hard at First Lutheran and with all of you proclaiming the wonderful message: we are seeing the fruits of all of your labors. I have never been a part of a church that has so many positive things working for all of us.

A very simple “Thank You” does not seem enough, but you offer so much hope and encouragement to all of us at First Lutheran. It is amazing. So, “THANK YOU!”

If you have questions, or would like to receive our daily devotion emails, contact Eric at 701.235.7389 or edying@flcfargo.org.

First Fest
On September 24, we celebrated First Fest, welcoming families and friends back to First Lutheran after being away for First Fest Planning Committee (Shirley Tietz, Pam Larson, Nancy Anderson, Norma Tessmer, Becki Tollefson, Kim Adams, and Missy Froebel) for organizing this great event and introducing a few new events including Donut and Coffee Fellowship featuring 600 donuts from Sandy’s Donuts, and a Chili Cook-Off. 13 FLC staffers brewed up a wide variety of chilis serving up over 80 pounds of protein and 70 pounds of beans. Delan Nettum’s “Norwegian Chili” won by a landslide vote. Congratulations Delan!

This year’s silent auction was bigger than ever. 71 baskets were donated for the auction raising $3,000 for our Global Missions partner—the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia. Thank you to everyone who donated auction items and to the generosity of the auction bidders!

FLC Building Project
Project Leadership Team
The project leadership team has been meeting on a weekly basis to review committee work and to ensure that the project schedule is on task and priorities maintained. This leadership team is comprised of Dr. Bjornness, Kent and Mike Wilc, Dave Rogness, Terry Yoney, and Daniel Damico.

Worship Space Task Force (WSTF)
The WSTF has been meeting each week. Concepts from a road trip to Minnesota churches have been discussed. Design of stage, altar, baptismal font, communion stations are near final decisions. Our architect received permission to paint the church in Palm Springs, California, for structural details of floor and seating concept in model church. They are giving close attention to how space matches FLC current “DNA.” The task force prefers sloped rather than stepped floors but is looking for a combination. Our architect will provide a 3D rendering of various seating space options for review.

Education/Daycare Task Force (ETF)
The ETF has been meeting each Monday. Significant progress has been made in finalizing layout of the classrooms and supporting spaces. Need to discuss how to accomplish a “WOW” factor for space design. Need to identify “check-in” function for Sunday/Wednesday FaithTalk. Daycare needs to be better understood as it drives several key facility and design related issues. Members met with Cass County Daycare Licensing Director to clarify requirements. Nursery task force has combined with the Education Daycare task force as members identified many crossover coordination needs.

Gathering Space Task Force (GSTF)
The GSTF has been meeting each week. Group has identified priorities and options for Coats/Communication/Coffee/Circulation. Coat racks (permanent vs. portable); information booth, signage and monitors; drip coffee and barista style locations; circulation priorities identified. Design team work is nearing completion for determining the overall scope and concept design direction for our architect.

Chapel/Columbarium Task Force (CCTF)
The CCTF has been meeting each Monday. Group has made final recommendations to our architect on the size of worship front, pew, and organ/piano placement. One hundred seat capacity desired. Our architect reviewed options for the west chapel wall. Members traveled to Eckoff Columbarium in Crookston to tour manufacturing plant and view design/material options. Our architect will begin working on design options that fit existing decor.

Technology Task Force (TTF)
The TTF has been meeting each Monday since 10/09. Discussion centered on technology priorities including worship spaces (new worship center, chapel, sanctuary and outdoor). ad loop for visitors; security and HVAC management. Level of technology shipper determined to be “mid-level.” Technology must be able to be managed by a single operator. Our architect will identify various potential vendors to meet with TTF. Site visits will take place in the next couple of weeks.
Events

High School Men’s Lock-In
Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2, 8:30 p.m.-8:30 a.m., BibleMax Theatre, Erik Carlson, ecarlson@flcfargo.org

OCC Shoebox Packing Trip
Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9, Minneapolis, Meggie Bjertness, mbjertness@flcfargo.org

Gingerbread Manger Scenes
Sunday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. or Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., How Great Thou Art Studio, Katie Kringstad, kkringstad@flcfargo.org

Comedy Sportz
Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Celebration Hall, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Snow Shoe Sundays
Sundays, Jan. 14-Feb. 25, 10 a.m., Rollies (505 66th Ave. N., Moorhead), Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

Ski Trip (Middle and High School)
Monday, Jan. 15, Detroit Mountain, Erik Carlson, ecarlson@flcfargo.org

A Place to Belong (new member)
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 5:30-7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m., Luther Room, Shirley Tietz, stietz@flcfargo.org

First Grade Milestone
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m. or Sunday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m., Katie Kringstad, kkringstad@flcfargo.org

Pancakes and PJs
Friday, Jan. 26, 5:30-11 p.m., FLC gym, Meggie Bjertness, mbjertness@flcfargo.org

Winter Cabin Retreat
Friday-Sunday, Feb. 9-11, Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

Luther Crest Winter Retreats
Friday-Saturday, Feb. 23-25, Luther Crest in Alexandria, Minn., Meggie Bjertness, mbjertness@flcfargo.org

Valentine’s Gala
Saturday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Celebration Hall, Shirley Tietz, stietz@flcfargo.org

Ski Trip (High School)
Thursday-Monday, Feb. 15-19, Giant’s Ridge, Erik Carlson, ecarlson@flcfargo.org

Serve

Great Plains Food Bank
Thursday, Jan. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Shirley Tietz, stietz@flcfargo.org

Foot Clinic
First Tuesday of each month, 8:30-11 a.m., lower level classrooms, Haley Vargas, hvargas@flcfargo.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Fourth Thursday of the month, 1 p.m. Haley Vargas, hvargas@flcfargo.org

Learn to Knit and Crochet
Tuesday, 1:30-4 p.m., The Gathering Place, Haley Vargas, hvargas@flcfargo.org

Learn

Baptism Training
Sundays, Dec. 10, 3 p.m. and Feb. 4, 10:15 a.m., Chapel, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Financial Peace University
Sundays, Jan. 9-March 6, 7 p.m., CrossTalk Cafe, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
Sundays at 6:45 a.m., Adult Ed Room, Pr. Corey, cbjertness@flcfargo.org

People of the Lie Women’s Study
Thursdays, Jan. 4-Feb. 8, noon or 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

“Quest” Beth Moore Bible Study
Thursdays, Feb. 15-March 22, noon or 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

MomTalk
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 9-11 a.m., Marci, marci627@gmail.com

FaithTalk
Sundays, 10 a.m. or Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Katie Kringstad, kkringstad@flcfargo.org

CrossTalk
Sundays, 10 a.m. or Wednesdays, 6 p.m., CrossTalk Cafe, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Large Group Bible Study
Sundays, 10 a.m. or Thursdays, noon, Adult Ed Room, Pr. Corey, cbjertness@flcfargo.org

Tuesday Men’s Breakfast
Tuesdays, 6:45 a.m., Adult Ed Room, Pr. Corey, cbjertness@flcfargo.org

Men’s Wednesday Night Study
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Old Broadway, Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

FLCW Circles
Various times and places, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

High School/Young Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays, 7 p.m, Erik Carlson, ecarlson@flcfargo.org

REEL Faith
Sunday, Jan. 21 (“Spiritied Away”) and Feb. 18 (Spitfire Grill, 12:30 p.m. BibleMax Theatre, Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Bible Basics 2
Wednesdays, Jan 3-17, 7 p.m. or Sundays, Jan. 7-21, 10 a.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Ethics and Morality
Wednesdays, Jan 3-17, 7 p.m. or Sundays, Jan. 7-21, 10 a.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

How to Pray
Wednesdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 7, 7 p.m. or Sundays, Jan. 28-Feb. 11, 10 a.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Back to the Future
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Meggie Bjertness, mbjertness@flcfargo.org

Faith and Footholds
Sundays, Jan. 7-28, 6-8 p.m., Y Climbing Wall, Rollie Johnson, rjohnson@flcfargo.org

You Make Me So Mad!
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

On A Mission
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Who Am I Created to Be?
Wednesdays, Jan. 10-31, 7 p.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Worried Sick
Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. or Sunday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m., Pr. Laurie, ineili@flcfargo.org

Learn

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