

In the First Place

“Learning the Way, Sharing the Journey”

July 21, 2010

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THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Alma Hazelet (Stormont Vail Hospital), Rick Bender (Stormont-Vail Hospital), Trudi Myers (home), Carolyn Olson (home), Phyllis Krause (home), Bob Papp (home), Verna Engelhardt (home), Tom Sponamore (home), Frank Hoshour (home), David Schmidt (home), Gene Haughey (McCrite Health Center), Elma Cassidy (Clare Bridge), Linda Norland (home), Marlene Rimmel (home), Emma Weber (Presbyterian Manor), Harold Seever (Shirley Perry’s father), Annie Haefke (Laura’s daughter-in-law), Mark Haefke (Laura’s son), Susan Engle (friend of the Engelhardt’s), Verna Shaffer (Julie Bender’s mother), Erma Seever (Shirley Perry’s mother), Issac Weichert (friend of Kevin Eaton), Anita Sharpnack (friend of Ron Bessler), Robert E. Morgan (Travis’ father), Doris Olson (Cheryl Hjetland’s mother), Dr. Dale Gregoriew (former Pastor), Ameer Norman (friend of Anne Jackson), Ed Niles (friend of the Rislove’s), Bruce Baenig (former member), Millard Kefauver (former member), Alayna Hooper (friend of Wendy Sanders), Debra Falchek (friend of Wendy Sanders), Pat Walters (friend of Ben & Shirley Brower), Julia Self (Virginia Will’s nephew’s wife), Sandy Quick (Carol Roach’s sister), Leann Pierce (Wendy Sanders’ cousin), Alan McManus (Craig’s father), Anita Barrett (former member), Earl Brumbaugh (Ruth Denno’s brother), Pat Sanford (Ruth Denno’s sister), Natalie Mott (Martha Donohoe’s sister), Damian Levings (Sylvia’s husband), Camille Engler (Baehni’s daughter). **FORMER MISSIONARIES IN JAPAN:** Aaron & Lynette Albrecht awaiting a call to a congregation in the U.S.A.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of *Herb Nunemaker* who died Monday, July 19th and will be given Christian burial on Friday, July 23rd at 11:00 a.m. here at First.

TRIVIA ANSWER: Matthew 4:21

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE	
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, July 10 & 11 and 17 & 18	
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 218	Tithes and Offerings:
Saturday: 43 Early: 73 Late: 102	\$9,477.00
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 205	Tithes and Offerings:
Saturday: 56 Early: 58 Late: 91	\$4,063.66

CALL COMMITTEE APPOINTED

During its Monday, July 19 meeting, the church Council appointed the Call Committee for a new associate pastor for First Lutheran, naming Evelyn Wilson as chair.

Other members of the committee include: Joan Barker, Ralph Krumins, Nicole Montague, Scott Schultz and Larry Wolgast, with Dru Finney serving as the Council’s representative on the committee. Pastor Lubber also is a member.

The Council considered more than 50 names for membership on the committee and attempted to put together a group that represents a cross-section of the congregation, finding the task challenging because of the large number of strong possibilities. The committee’s members include both parents of young children and a youth person active in the church and its high school youth group.

The committee’s first task will be compiling a profile of the congregation for the Central States Synod to use in searching for possible candidates and screening them. The committee will interview potential candidates and recommend someone to call to the Council. The congregation will make the final decision whether to call the recommended candidate.

Installation ceremonies are planned for both services on Sunday, July 25. The Council asks for the congregation’s continued prayers for the call committee members and for the success of their important work.

The Council also wishes to thank all of the congregation members who made suggestions about potential Call Committee members and those who said they were willing to be considered. The Council was pleased with the large pool of names it had to review.

The Council also wants to thank the members of the congregation who served on the special committee drafting the proposal for calling an associate pastor.

BIBLE TRIVIA: Who was the disciple James’ brother?

- A. Peter
- B. John
- C. Judas
- D. Bartholomew



THE BIRTH AND BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The word **PENTECOST** means “the fiftieth day.”

PENTECOST is “a Jewish festival” occurring 50 days after the **PASSOVER**. It marked the beginning of the offering of first fruits. The New Testament uses the term to refer to the established Jewish feast, but since the gift of the Holy Spirit to Christ’s church occurred on the day of Pentecost, Christians reinterpreted the meaning of it in terms of this event and called Pentecost the “birth of the church” (see Acts, chapter two, for the Pentecost account).

The liturgical color of the **DAY OF PENTECOST** is **RED**. Red is the color of **FIRE**, which symbolizes **POWER**. It also is the color of **LOVE**, the renewed **LOVE** the disciples had after Pentecost.

The color for the **SEASON OF PENTECOST** is **GREEN**. Green symbolizes **GROWTH**, both numerically, as the Church grows in followers committed to their Lord and Savior, and spiritually as individual Christians grow and mature in their faith and in their relationship with Jesus and with God’s people.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

God calls us to share the love of Jesus Christ through the Word with all people and to help them to grow spiritually to love, serve, and glorify God.

DEADLINES

FOR THE NEXT “*IN THE FIRST PLACE*” ARTICLES

AUGUST 1st and 15th

CALENDAR DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER IS AUGUST 15th

A HUGE THANK-YOU to the 31 volunteers who helped with **Day Camp and Vacation Bible School** this past week, especially Phyllis Schmidt and Michelle Black, and thanks to everyone who donated craft items and food. Everyone should take a look at the snapshots that are posted in Parish Hall to see that a good time was had by our 35 preschool Vacation Bible School students and our 46 Day Campers. They planted seeds, ate roots, dirt and worms, made papier-mâché rain sticks and box-art sculptures, heard about Jesus, and learned new ways to praise our Lord in song. *Kris Luber*

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ, I will be faced with having my townhouse remodeled around the time school starts back up for Anthony and they will be gutting my kitchen which will make food prep impossible. I am looking for some folks to open their homes to us at least to **share an evening meal** during this time. Specific dates have not been presented as of yet but I am asking in advance so I can make necessary arrangement accordingly.

Thank you in advance, Joe Cheray & Anthony Tankersley

To Everyone, Just a note to say **THANK YOU** for allowing our community meeting to be held at your church at no cost to us. Our neighborhood was very blest to be able to meet there. Thanks again!

In Gods love, Joyce Cridlebaugh

In our worship services this weekend, **JESSICA ELSEN**, one of our college students at Emporia State, will be briefly **sharing about her time this summer serving in Uganda**. Come and hear about her experiences there.

Please see the **update letter** regarding **FRANK HOSHOUR** on the bulletin board outside Wayne's office.

DOORSTEP'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Doorstep plans to adopt 250 families and individuals for Christmas. For this reason, Doorstep celebrates Christmas in July. Many things that the clients cannot afford to buy but need in their daily lives need to be collected. This includes items for health kits, toys for children (no stuffed animals please), sheets, towels and washcloths, irons, toasters, winter clothing for all ages, jeans for children, youth, men and women (all sizes), pajamas for children (Sizes 12mos-5T & 6-12), blankets (full/queen), boxers for men, underwear for women etc. The full list is posted by the Doorstep cart. Food Items are always appreciated. **Items for Christmas in July can be placed in the marked basket by the cart.** Thanks.

The congregation is invited to **PETER SANDQUIST'S VIOLIN RECITAL** on **Sunday, July 25 at 2:00 p.m.** The recital will be here at church. We hope you can join us!

TRIP TO SCHLITTERBAHN Water Park is July 31.

7th through 12th grade students, you **MUST** have your permission slip and money for this trip to me *no later than worship time* THIS SUNDAY, July 25 – Tickets will be ordered at 11:30 a.m.

There can be no exceptions. -- Kris

AUGUST 8th

Summer tastes sweeter when you drink fairly traded, aromatic Hazelnut Crème coffee. From small farmer co-operatives, its rich, nutty flavor and hazelnut aroma reflects the sweeter side of the season. Try it iced for a refreshing summer drink! Please stop by the Parish Hall during summer brunches or at the Welcome Center after second service when Women of the ELCA will have the **EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE** products for purchase. The recipe for Hazelnut Coffee Brownies and a sample taste will also be available! See you on the second Sunday of each month! Order forms available on the clipboard at the Welcome Center.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED FOR 2010-2011

Would you like to pass on what was given to you by teachers who have been influential in your life? Would you like to make a difference in a child's faithlife? Would you like to get to know other members of First Lutheran better? Don't miss this opportunity. We have opportunities available for you to help with Sunday School beginning in Fall, 2010. All classes are team taught. Teachers are still needed for preschool and 5th & 6th grade. Please contact Kris (272-5302) or Bob Wollin (286-4530).

The W-ELCA Lois Group is again collecting items for SCHOOL KITS. A box for your much appreciated contributions will be in the Welcome Center area **beginning August 1st.**

The following items are the **SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED:**
Wide ruled spiral notebooks (two 70 page notebooks per bag)

Blunt Scissors
Rulers with both centimeters and inches
Pencil sharpeners
#2 pencils with erasers
Erasers about 2.5 inches long
12 sheets colored construction paper
Box of 24 crayons

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDING 06/30/10

YTD INCOME

Actual \$229,056

Budgeted \$230,213

Actual vs. Budgeted - \$1,157

YTD EXPENSES

Actual \$214,634

Budgeted \$236,450

A vs. B - \$21,816

- **Pledged income YTD is \$3,036 below budget, non-pledged giving is \$708 above projections, and other income sources are \$1,175 ahead of budget. For the first 5 months of 2010 pledged income had been running about \$6,000 ahead of budget. In June, however, pledged income was \$9,457 below budget dropping us behind for the year.**
- **As shown above, expenses are down about \$21,800 from budget with \$13,390 of this due to lower salary expenses (unfilled Coordinator of Lay Ministries position for 5 months and Kris not drawing a salary for about 2 months) while property expenses, despite higher snow removal and building maintenance costs, are \$2,694 below budget due to much lower utility expenses YTD. Every committee has done a good job of watching their expenses as all are below budget.**
- **Surplus (income over expenses) is \$14,422 YTD.**

TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY

We have two leadership positions opening within various ministries in the church. *Shirley Perry* our **SCHEDULER FOR LAY MINISTERS** is stepping down and taking a break. *Phyllis Keller* is also stepping down as the head of the **FUNERAL FELLOWSHIP MEAL COMMITTEE**. Both of these women have done outstanding jobs with their ministries and we thank them very much.

If you are interested in serving in either position, please let Wayne know his email is: 1stlutherantopekalmc@gmail.com. You can also contact LaDonna.

ALTAR GUILD would like to know if anyone has a nutritional diet that is to be **GLUTEN FREE** and would need to have gluten free wafers for communion. If so please speak to an Altar Guild Member or call **Altar Guild Chair, Maureen Krumins at 286-0441.** **Altar Guild is always looking for others to help share in the process of preparing the Nave and Chapel for worship with our Lord.** Please come and join us!

FIRST LUTHERAN LEADERS AND MEMBERS

JESUS CHALLENGE

The Adult Learning Committee is challenging our First leaders and members to a book reading and study project between now and Rally Day in September. Here is the challenge: Favorite author, Philip Yancey, has a book, *The Jesus I Never Knew* which some of us have read but we've never had a class for it. The committee would like to challenge our leaders and members to read it during the summer and then we would offer a discussion class for it in the fall. We know that you would find it interesting, educational and stimulating.

To make it easy to access a copy, we are making multiple copies available in our church library for you to check out. They are on the bookshelf below the bulletin board. If you want to have a personal copy, please contact Gary Anderson to arrange. **How many of you will accept our challenge?** We want as many as possible to read it but by doing so you are not required to take the class in the fall unless you choose.

LIBRARY NEWS

A shelf of materials about Family Life and Parenting is right next to the Fiction Section in our library--to your right as you enter the room. **Sherry Hess** has written a review of a book she especially liked. Look for it on a bookstand above the shelves.

"Our family selected **Little Visits for Families** from the church library. This is a wonderful opportunity to be intentional in sharing your faith with your family. It is designed to be a devotion for families with children ages 7-10. We especially appreciated the format; it offers a short story, questions to engage in a value-oriented discussion, a related Bible verse, and prayer. The devotion quickly became a part of our morning routine. I appreciated its family-friendly values, pertinent questions, and the opportunity to delve into the Bible as a family."

HELP!!

The office staff is looking for your assistance.

Economic hard times have been taking their toll on many people in our community. Every week we have people stop by the church seeking some form of financial assistance such as food, gasoline, sometimes even help with lodging.

Since our church budget has no line item for such ministry, we periodically ask members to make a generous contribution to our **EMERGENCY FUND**. Staff then uses the moneys in that fund to purchase food and gasoline for those who need help. If you could make a contribution of \$50 or \$100 or even more, it would be greatly appreciated. Simply make a check out to First Lutheran, place it in a plain envelope, mark it for Emergency Fund, and you will receive credit on your financial statement. Better still, you will feel the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your church minister to the needs of your neighbors in Topeka.

Thanks!! Pastor Luber