

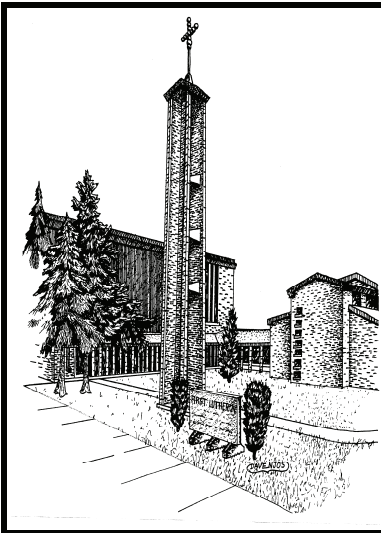


LACS



Letter to God's People

Vol. 13, No. 4 A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Williston April 2009



OUR MISSION AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

To Invite People In With Us,
Relate Us To God,
Nurture Our Faith,
And Send Us To Serve.

First Lutheran Staff:

Pastor Martin Mock
Pastor Dan Maurer
Lori Yale—Admin. Assistant
Charlotte Swensrud—
Volunteer Coordinator
Beth Olsen—Musician
Jodi Germundson—Accountant
Bessie Larmer—Custodian
Lori Schmitz—Custodian
Shanna Hauck— Youth
Ministries

What will the future bring? You may have felt more confident answering that question back before your 401k turned into a 201k and when in your home, along with the sofa, the bed and the flat screen TV, there was something called "equity." Back then, you might have said, "Ahh, the future looks great!"

But, now, ask the woman who just squeaked by the last round of job cuts, or ask the man who didn't, ask them the question--"What will the future bring?"--they'll be certain to answer, "I don't know."

The future is a mystery, and we are people who have little space in our lives for mystery. Mysteries trouble us, confound us, and need to be solved. Look at our human history. It is a testament to solving the mysteries of our world. After all, there was a time when the wind blew where it chose, we heard the sound of it, but we didn't know where it came from or where it was going (John 3:8). But, now, the Weather Channel will tell us there's a high pressure system off to the North blowing that cold wind all the way down to Miami. The wind? We know where it came from and where it goes. Mystery solved!

There was a time that on a birth day there was a shout of surprise, "Ohhh! It's a boy!" But now the sonogram lets us in on what color to paint the nursery months in advance. No longer are we formed in secret in our mothers' wombs. Now we know. Mystery solved.

There was a time when the phone rang and we would ask, "Who is it?" But now the caller ID tells us, "It's your boss!" Now we know to say, "Let it ring." Mystery solved.

Solving mysteries is what we do well, but the ones we cannot solve? They've got us tossing and turning, biting our nails, and chomping down Roloids--that is what the future does well. In his best selling book, *Stumbling on Happiness*, the author Daniel Gilbert, a Harvard psychologist, explains how the future is a mystery, wildly uncontrollable, but that doesn't stop us from trying to control it. When it comes to the future, human beings merely create in our minds what Gilbert called an illusion of foresight. We believe we can see and control the future, and so we set appointments, save for retirement, get our itineraries in order, but the future has other plans. So it is that our appointments run into the flu bug, our retirement dreams are hosted by Berny Madoff. And even though the itinerary says destination "Charlotte," the plane landed in the Hudson. The terribly frustrating reality of life is that we have no control and the future is and will always be for us a trembling, wild, worry wart of a mystery.

Unless...unless you are with Christ. The writer of Ephesians, he calls himself Paul, believes strongly that the future is no longer a mystery, for it has been revealed. He wants to show us our future and so like the ghost of a Dickens' Christmas classic, he grabs us by the hand and pulls us into the future, stopping at our graves and greeting us with those inspiring words, "You were dead..." And then he reads our obituary--it's not very flattering. Listen: "You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air ...the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses...by nature children of wrath...."

In this way, we find that our unflattering present is superseded by our glorious future in Christ. It is, after all, what the message of Lent is all about!

See you in Church, Rev Dan

The Adult Choir will be presenting excerpts from
“The Crucifixion”
a cantata on the Passion, Sunday, April 5th during 8:30 worship

***“Lift High
the
Cross”***



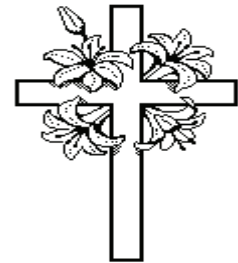
A contemporary cantata on the Passion will be presented by the AWE Ensemble with the Adult Choir and Faith Finders on Sunday, April 5th during 11:00 worship



*Let the TRUMPETS sound!!!!
Easter, at 9 and 11
worship services
Dan Anderson and Daryl Pederson are lending their talents to FLC’s celebration of the Resurrection*

Keep those hymn requests coming!

On Easter,
the
AWE ensemble
will lend their
musical talents to
the
7am and 11am
worship services



The Men’s Chorus will be
singing on **Easter**
at
9:00 and 11:00 worship
It’s not too late to JOIN!

The Adult Choir will be singing
on
EASTER
at **9:00 and 11:00** worship
New members welcome!



Have you read from 1 Corinthians 12 lately?

‘Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

In this month’s writing, I’d ask you to consider its application to music’s ministry at FLC, where the above passage is not only quoted, but fully lived! Music at FLC is busy: rehearsals, more rehearsals, cantatas, meetings, rehearsals, bulletins, visiting trumpets, choirs, children, bells, our AWE ensemble, section rehearsals, soloists, extras rehearsals, arrangements, still more rehearsals, compositions, a few more rehearsals, Lenten worship, Lenten supper, preparations for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Did I mention rehearsals?...it’s a regular marathon! Now, I love to be busy, love to serve, and fortunately, that’s my job. However, this month’s focus isn’t on me at all, but on the countless volunteers from the Adult Choir, the handbell choir, the Men’s Chorus, soloists, AWE and Faith Finders who are the ones who actually make it possible for the music at FLC to be so nice. These folks work hard, sharing their gifts, purpose and talents, faithfully attending rehearsals, practicing, selflessly and collaboratively working at giving the Lord and FLC their collective BEST, while, at the same time, striving to make that collective BEST ever better. Keep them in your prayers; I do. Thanks. See you in church!

CHECK THIS OUT!!!

Salute to Mom's



The 13th Annual "Salute to Moms" celebration will be Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Trinity Christian School Gym at 2:00 pm. Come and help us give recognition to Special Moms and their congregations. You will enjoy tasting Mom's Favorite

Dessert, along with entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door or at Bethel Home or Bethel Foundation. It is co-sponsored by Bethel Home Volunteers, Bethel Lutheran Foundation, KUMV-TV and Western Cooperative Credit Union. The proceeds will go towards Bethel Home's Volunteer Pledge to the Assisted Living Building Project. Everyone is invited to attend.

Are you new to the community, or have you been thinking about joining First Lutheran Church? Well, now is the time. New Member Sunday will be held in May. Please call or stop by the church office and fill out the paper work if you wish to join the church. That's all there is to it. We hope to see a lot of new faces in May.



STEWARDSHIP

2009 Budget	03/22/09 YTD Budget	03/22/09 YTD Actual
\$527,000	\$111,481	\$101,314

WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Sunday		Wednesday	
02/22/09	277	02/25/09	135
03/01/09	280	03/04/09	105
03/08/09	259	03/11/09	106
03/15/09	272	03/18/09	123
03/22/09	296		

Are you in grades 3-11? Have you met all of your confirmation requirements? **If you have not**, please contact Pastor Marty at 572-6363 and he will be happy to help you with these requirements so you may be confirmed.



Hi, Mom!

Welcome to the Laos mailing list!

Love, Beth (and Toby, too)



All men of First Lutheran Church are invited to the Men In Mission Luncheon that will be held on Thursday, April 2, at 12:00 in the church Parlor. Come enjoy a light lunch and interesting speakers.

This is a great time for food, fellowship, and friends. Please join us!!

LEADERSHIP

PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals

Shirley Snelson	3/16/2009
Sylvan Sandaker	3/21/2009

Baptisms

Benning Ryker Poeckes	3/1/2009
Lucy Davis Coughlin	3/8/2009
Reilly Kay Daniel	3/15/2009
Aslyn Leigh Engh	3/22/2009

Earth Day Celebration April 22nd at 4:00pm



We did not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
Native American Proverb

On April 22nd you will have an opportunity to care for the creation of this area which God has entrusted to us. Starting at 4pm there will be time for youth to help clean up some of the dirtiest places in Williston. Following clean-up there will be door prizes, a free meal, and entertainment. Invite your friends and classmates to this event that is being hosted with Gloria Dei. Be a part of caring for your home so your children will have some place to live.

All Youth (6th-12th):

*Sign-up to work or bring Muffins to the Easter Breakfast April 12th. There are shifts available for Saturday and Sunday. Sign-up sheets are at the receptionist desk.

Middle School (6th-8th)

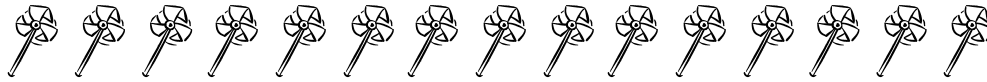
April 3rd-4th Confirmation retreat at UMM. Go to www.campumm.org for more details

April 17th– 18th Lock-in from 7pm-9am.

GAP (1st-5th)

April 29th– Campfire night 3:30-5pm. There will be hotdogs, s'mores, stories, and more! Parents if you are able to attend to help with the event please do so. If you child is in need of a ride from school contact Shanna.

MORE NEWS



Promote Healthy Families in Our Community

(From www.childwelfare.gov/preventing)

What can you do?

Faith communities are a tremendous support for families and children in our area. Supporting families by ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need is an effective way to protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect. Think about ways you as a congregation or an individual can promote healthy families within five protective factors:

NURTURING & ATTACHMENT – Encourage parents to play and talk with their children.

KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING & CHILD/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT –

Talk about what parents can anticipate at different ages and stages.

PARENTAL RESILIENCE – Offer healthy ways to cope with stress.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS – Connect caregivers with others for support.

CONCRETE SUPPORTS – Help families access needed resources.

**PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION –
TURNING TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE FOR EVERY CHILD!**

The Prevent Child Abuse Committee 2009

A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY FOR FIRST LUTHERAN IS IN THE MAKING! The Evangelism Committee is working on getting a new pictorial directory. Portraits will be taken the weeks of April 19-May 2 by Rich Mahar. Another picture taking session will be the week of June 7. A **sign up board will be at the receptionist desk at the church until Tuesday, April 7th. Please stop by and sign your family up for your new portrait at a time that will work for you.** The Evangelism Committee, along with other church members will be calling those not signed up in the weeks following.

COUNCIL MINUTES

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 10, 2009

7:00 pm

Members Present: Ruth Benson, Lowell Sandvik, Tina Hanson, Greg Everson, Dale Haugen, VeAnna Selid, Beth Boyeff, Tate Cymbaluk, David Bauer, Janice Arnson, DaVee MacMaster, Jeff Strand.

Members Not Present: Lori Helstad, Susan Streitz, Joel Wilt

Others Present: Pastor Mock, Jim Yockim, Ken Kjos

Tina called the meeting to order. Jim Yockim present to discuss Bethel Home Assisted Living Project, so will move new business to the top of agenda. Motion to approve agenda as noted by Lowell. Motion 2nd by Tate---unanimously approved.

Devotions—Pastor Mock

Baptisms— February – Lowell

March – Lori Helstad

April---Janice

New Business

2.0 Jim Yockim presented information on Bethel Home's new construction of an assisted living facility. Bethel is launching a campaign to raise funds for the new facility and is asking First Lutheran Church to consider a financial pledge over a period of years towards this project. Jim expressed appreciation of the ongoing support First Lutheran extends to Bethel Lutheran Home.

The council went into an executive session for a period of time

Minutes/Reports

4.0 Secretary's Minutes – Greg moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting. Motion 2nd by Tate and unanimously approved. Lowell moved to approve the February 7, 2009 council retreat minutes. 2nd by Dave and unanimously approved.

4.1 Staff Reports –Pastor Mock reported that Shanna has 40 kids signed up for the ski trip and Beth is considering some musical options for the 11AM service .

4.2 Committee Reports –Mission Committee encourages council members to support the Mission Pot Luck on the first Sunday of the month. Property Committee requests \$333.00 from the Memorial Committee for a needed snow blower. Janice moved to approve the funds for the snow blower. 2nd by Tate and unanimously approved.

Correspondence –

5.0 Pastor Mock has received several calls and written correspondence from Dieterich Spahn Association regarding installation of four stained glass windows in the Chapel. Cost is 19,000.00/window excluding a fee for installation and design. Lowell moved that this information go to Property and Memorial Committees. 2nd and unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

6.0 MOPS—discussed the use of our tax ID # by MOPS. Lowell moved that we reject their request for use of our tax ID number. 2nd Tate and unanimously approved. Tate moved that instead MOPS approach us if they have a need for a tax ID number and we will evaluate requests individually. 2nd Lowell and unanimously approved.

Financial Report presented by Lowell. Motion to approve by Janice. 2nd Jeff and unanimously approved

Ideas—Exchanges/Reflections –

Respectfully submitted,

VeAnna Selid, secretary

MEMORIALS

Programs

IHO Donald & Avis Skjei's
65th Anniversary
Gary & Leora Sukut
David & Linda McAdoo

Good Sam Fund

Media Fund

Harriet Peterson
Dale Livdahl
Lucille Treider
Josephine Stockman

Stewardship Fund

Property Fund

Undesignated

Elaine Garaas
Arthur Garaas
Marie Hovland
Don & Mae Thompson
Loren & Linda Haugen
Erv & Sue Opsal
Pat & Hazel Engberg
Royal & Faye Hovland
Ruthie Wagner
John Treshansky
Ruth Zapalak
Morrill & Annetta Hirsch
Larry & Maureen Laqua
Merle & Mary Ann Lund
Randy Hovland
Pamela Swanson
Ardelle Blattman
Ann & Marilyn Olsen
Wayne & Sharon Berry
Jim & Nancy Sandvig
Gary & Dee Lund
Cleo & Eric Furueth
Steve & Peggy Arndt
Noel & Geri Hanson
Bob Esterby

Undesignated (cont.)

Marie Hovland
Sybil Esterby
Herb & Vangie Parker
Doris Lindvig
Orvie Anderson
Wayne & Donna Slotsve
Chuck & Marilyn Ewan
Harlan & Marge Hohenstein
Carl & Brenda Burchill
Glen & Julienne Aamodt
Lyle & Delia Johnson
Lucille Treider
Robert & Kay Western
Missionary Calendar
IHO Sister Edna's 93rd Birthday
Orvie Anderson
IHO My Family
V.F. Peterson
IMO Janie Peterson
V.F. Peterson

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Worship (Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
And the Rite of Confirmation

Maundy Thursday April 9

7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
First Communion for 5th Graders

Good Friday, April 10

12:00 p.m. Worship (Chapel)
7:00 p.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

Easter Sunday April 12

7:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(Chapel)
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(Sanctuary)
11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(Sanctuary)
8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast





APRIL

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009**

12:00 pm Noon Worship—C
 3:30 pm 5th Grade Pre-Communion
 5:00 pm Lenten Meal—FH
 5:30 pm Bell Choir
 6:30 pm Worship—S
 6:30 pm Faith Finders
 7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:00 am MOPS Steering Committee
 12:00 pm Men In Mission—P
 2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

Friday, April 3, 2009

5:00 pm TOPS—MA

Saturday, April 4, 2009**Sunday, April 5, 2009**

8:30 am Traditional Worship—S
 Communion
 9:30 am A.W.E Worship Service—C
 9:30 am Coffee Hour—FH
 10:00 am Faith Finders
 11:00 am Worship Service— S
 Communion
 12:00 pm Missionary Luncheon

Monday, April 6, 2009

1:00 pm Quilting—MA
 5:00 pm Tops—MA
 7:00 pm Parish Ed Meeting—CR
 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 373—P

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

7:00 am Men's Bible Study—Gingers
 9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR
 5:00 pm Music & Worship Committee
 5:00 pm Evangelism Committee
 6:30 pm Executive Committee—P
 7:00 pm Personnel Committee—P
 7:00 pm Property Committee—CR

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

4:00 pm Seder Meal—FH
 6:30 pm Bell Choir
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, April 9, 2009

1:30 pm WELCA Bible Study
 2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P
 6:30 pm 5th Grade Pre-Communion
 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
 Holy Communion

Friday, April 10, 2009

12:00 pm Good Friday Worship—C
 5:00 pm TOPS—MA
 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship—S

Saturday, April 11, 2009**Sunday, April 12, 2009**

7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service—C
 Holy Communion
 8:00 am Youth Easter Breakfast—FH
 9:00 am Easter Worship—S
 Holy Communion
 11:00 am Easter Worship—S
 Holy Communion

Monday, April 13, 2009

1:00 pm Quilting—MA
 5:00 pm Tops—MA
 6:30 pm ESP Class—P

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

7:00 am Men's Bible Study—Gingers
 9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR
 7:00 pm Church Council—P
 7:00 pm Youth Committee Mtg—CR

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

9:30 am Faith Circle
 12:00 pm Trust Fund Meeting
 1:30 pm Peace Circle
 1:30 pm Love Circle
 6:30 pm Worship—S
 6:30 pm Bell Choir
 6:30 pm Faith Finders
 7:00 pm Christian Concerns Meeting
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, April 16, 2009

9:00 am MOPS—P
 9:30 am Bethel Home/Holy
 Communion
 2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

Friday, April 17, 2009

5:00 pm TOPS—MA
 6:00 pm Jr. High Lock In

Saturday, April 18, 2009

10:00 am Hope Circle—CR

Sunday, April 19, 2009

8:30 am Traditional Worship—S
 Communion
 9:30 am A.W.E. Service—C
 9:30 am Coffee Hour—FH
 10:00 am Faith Finders
 11:00 am Worship Service—S
 Communion
 5:00 pm Swim Team Banquet—FH

Monday, April 20, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P

1:00 pm Quilting—MA
 5:00 pm Tops—MA
 5:30 pm Path Share & Support—RR
 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 373—FH

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 7:00 am Men's Bible Study— Gingers
 9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR
 5:30 pm Youth Ed & Rec Fund Mtg—CR

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P

6:30 pm Worship—S
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Faith Finders
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice
 7:00 pm Sr. High Earth Day Event

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 12:30 pm Kensington
 2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

Friday, April 24, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 9:00 am Bethel Terrace/Communion
 10:00 am Heritage Manor/
 Communion
 10:30 am Golden Estates/Communion
 5:00 pm TOPS—MA

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits

8:30 am Traditional Worship—S
 9:30 am A.W.E. Worship—C
 Communion
 9:30 am Coffee Hour—FH
 10:00 am Faith Finders
 11:00 am Worship Service—S
 2:00 pm Vangie Parker Piano Recital

Monday, April 27, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 1:00 pm Quilting—MA
 3:00 pm WELCA Board Meeting—CR
 6:30 pm ESP Class—FH

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 7:00 am Men's Bible Study—Gingers
 9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR
 6:30 pm Missionary Support—CR

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 6:30 Pm Worship—S
 6:30 pm Faith Finders
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P
 2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

Friday, May 1, 2009

Pictorial Directory Pictures—P

5:00 am UMDHU Sweet Roll Sale
 5:00 pm TOPS—MA

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Pictorial Directory Portraits—P

REFLECTION

Different Strokes: 7 reasons your church should consider adding another worship service, by Charles Arn

Reason 1: A New Service Will Reach the Unchurched

Of all the reasons to begin a new service, this should be the most compelling. To reach non-Christians should be cause enough for the 152,500 churches in America who did not add a single new convert last year. To reach non-Christians should be cause enough for the 260,000 churches currently plateaued or declining in worship attendance. Why do new services increase the number of people a church reaches with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

A new service focuses your church's attention on the unchurched. Starting a new service has many similarities to starting a new church. Those who have been part of planting a new church know the strong sense of mission, group spirit, and excitement that is found in planning to reach new people with the gospel. These dynamics also occur when a church becomes involved in starting a new service. Like a new church, a new service focuses on people not presently involved in a church. Members must ask, "Who is the new service for?" "Why are we starting another service?" and "How are we going to reach these new people?" These questions—and answers—lead a church beyond its own walls.

A New Service Helps You Repackage Your Message "In order to reach our communities with the unchanging truth and love of Jesus Christ," observes Rev. Arnell Arn Tessonni, "we may be required to remove the cultural wrapping in which we have cloaked the Good News. Frequently it is not the Word of God people are rejecting as irrelevant. It is the outdated clothing in which we have dressed our Lord" (Arnell Arn Tessonni; lecture, Greenlake, Wisconsin, April, 1993).

Certain forms and liturgies become almost "sacred" to those who have grown up with them. For many sincere and well-meaning folks there is only one "right" way to worship, one "right" music to sing and play, one "right" time and "right" day to have church. Anything other than the familiar worship patterns will never seem "right."

Starting a new-style service will force your church to ask an important question: "What are our forms, and what is our essence?" What are the changeable conventions by which we conduct church activities? And what are the essential ingredients that comprise our unchanging message? Starting a new service allows you to shed cultural or sociological forms that may be keeping you from effectively reaching a new group of people.

A New Service Allows Your Members to Invite Their Friends "Research shows that the primary way churches grow is through the invitation of members to their friends and relatives (Win Arn and Charles Arn, *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1998, p. 43). However, too many members of non-growing churches do not invite anyone. Why? Because they don't believe their friends or relatives would find the service interesting or relevant. When a church offers a new service that is relevant, appropriate, and well-presented, church members show a dramatic increase in the number of invitations they extend to others.

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