

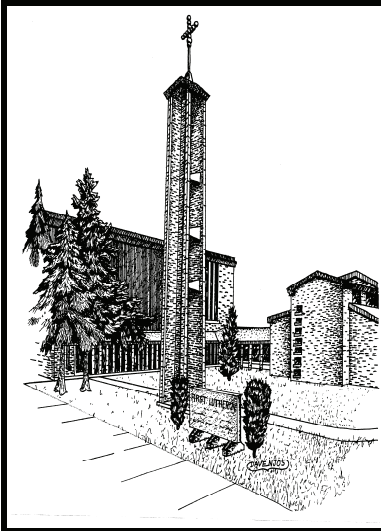


# LACS



## Letter to God's People

Vol. 13, No. 3 A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Williston March 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

Dear Friends of Christ Jesus,

In the Lutheran magazine was an article called “A Cure for Lutheran Laryngitis,” written by David Daubert. The article talked about how hard it is, especially for Lutherans, to share their faith with others, and even more difficult for Lutherans to invite someone to their church. One statistic the author quotes is that the average Lutheran invites someone to church once every 23 years. How often have you invited someone to church?

I should tell you that this isn't just a Lutheran problem; other Christian denominations also have a case of Christian laryngitis. Daubert also makes the point, and I heartily agree, that the renewal of the church isn't likely to happen unless we rededicate our lives to Christ – in other words, live our lives not just as believers but as Christ's disciples.

Often we might feel that it's up to the pastor to spread the Gospel. That's what Pastor Dan and Pastor Marty get paid for. Yes, we get paid to pastor and to preach sermons, hopefully good sermons that in light of the Gospel motivate you, the listener, to carry out the work of the church in the world. Sometimes a good sermon may even encourage laryngitis because it causes the listener to internalize the message too much, or make the listener feel that he or she could never share the word that eloquently.

Here is the key question that Daubert raises in the article: How many of us last Sunday had a significant conversation with someone in church about what God was up to? It stands to reason that if we can't talk about God among ourselves in church, we certainly are going to have a difficult time talking about God during our morning coffee break at Service Drug or in the office. Most of the things that we do in life do not come naturally. We have to be taught how to do almost everything. For example, a great pianist does not just sit down at the piano and give a concert without many hours of practice. It is also a known fact that the more we practice the better we get at it.

As the Christian community gathers at First Lutheran on Sundays or Wednesday nights, this a great time for us to practice. To practice our life of servant hood, praying for others, greeting others, and to tell the story of what God is up to in our life and listening to what God is up to in the lives of our fellow Christians.

I would suggest, rather than chit-chat over coffee and doughnuts about the latest snow-storm, let's talk about what God's up to in our lives. Also, is it possible to let the sermon begin the faith conversation, rather than be the final word before we go home? Here I quote Pastor Daubert: “It's no longer (and never was) enough to simply hear a sermon, eat communion and go home. When people gather as a Christian community we need to gather around word and sacrament but also include checking in on how we have done at mission during the week. We need to equip each other with missional skills and practice using those skills while we're still together, so we can apply them when we are apart.”

The best case scenario for gathering after church is to talk with each other about what God has been doing in our lives, maybe react to the sermon, but for sure, to begin putting our faith into practice.

In Christ

Pastor Marty

**Hymns You Love to Sing**  
is a new program at FLC  
Look for its mailbox at the  
reception desk

All you have to do is fill out the  
“Hymn Request” form

It's a great way to mark a spe-  
cial occasion, makes a super  
gift, and, it helps

Music at FLC  
to better serve you!



\*\* Special thanks to Bob Olson  
for the beautiful mailbox he  
created.

Attention: Faith Finders  
**There will be extra, special rehearsals**  
**for your part in the 11:00**  
**Palm Sunday worship**  
**on Thursdays, March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**from 3:30-5:00**

Did you know?  
Music at FLC will be  
starting rehearsals for.....

## “Lift High the Cross”

a Lenten Cantata by Lloyd  
Larson  
and will present this  
moving telling of the  
Passion to the congregation  
on Palm Sunday, April 5th,  
This contemporary work,  
for voices, instrumentalists  
and readers is **VERY**  
accessible.

FLC's Adult Choir is working on excerpts from the cantata,  
**“The Crucifixion”**

If you'd like to join in learning and singing this  
memorable choral work, speak to Beth or any of the  
choir members. All are welcome.

# CHECK THIS OUT!!!



Women of all ages! If you are a mother, or a daughter, this event is for you! Bring your friend, mother, sister, or daughter and share in a time of laughter and celebration of what a joy it is to be a daughter or mother! We will focus on your relationships and focus them on Christ.

**Dates: March 13-14th**

**Cost: \$50.00 per pair**



Daylight savings time begins on **Sunday, March 8th**. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night so you will be on time for Church on Sunday morning.

## THINK SPRING



“Mange Takk” to everyone who helped in any way during Lutefisk week. As usual you made it a big success!

The Steering Committee:  
Ron Lund, Bruce Conway, Mark Stenehjelm, JoAnn Olson, and Lorna Easton.



Prayer Shawl

### WANTED

Good used 11x14 inch gift bags and white or colored tissue paper. These bags will be used for delivery of Comfort/Prayer Shawls. Please leave at receptionist desk.

## STEWARDSHIP

<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>02/19/09 YTD Budget</b>	<b>02/19/09 YTD Actual</b>
\$527,000	\$70,942	\$67,833

### WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE

<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Wednesday</b>	
01/25/09		01/28/09	22
02/01/09	349	02/04/09	57
02/08/09	332	02/11/09	19
02/15/09	240	02/18/09	18

## LEADERSHIP

### PASTORAL ACTS

**Funerals**

**Baptisms**

# MORE NEWS



Once again Easter Lilies will be ordered to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter morning. The cost for an Easter Lily is \$7.00. They can be donated or given in Memory of, or in honor of a loved one. The form is located at the receptionist desk **or** fill out the form below and mail it to the church. **The last date to order will be April 1st. Please print.** Thank You.



## Men In Mission

All men are invited to Men In Mission on Thursday, March 5th, at 12:00 noon in the Parlor.

## Council Update!

Tina Hanson - President  
Tate Cymbaluk - Vice President  
Lowell Sandvik - Treasurer  
VeAnna Selid - Secretary  
Ruth Benson, Jeff Strand, Susan Streitz,  
Greg Everson, Joel Wilt, Lori Helstad  
Dale Haugen, Janice Arnson, David Bauer,  
DaVee MacMaster, and Beth Boyeff

Thank you to the outgoing council members; Paulette Bauer, Glenn Boyeff, Jane Dube, Denise Suess, and Ken Kjos.

As we approach the month of April, we think of Easter. It is a tradition at First Lutheran Church to display Easter Lilies around the altar during the Easter season. If you would like to share an Easter Lily, either in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person, it will be placed with others for Holy Week Services and then it is yours to take home **AFTER THE EASTER DAY SERVICE.** Each plant purchased this year comes in a 6 inch covered pot for \$7.00. Please fill out the form below and bring it in or mail it to the church office **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1ST. PLEASE PRINT!!!**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Attached is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ lilies.

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice: A sign up sheet will be also be located at the receptionist desk if you would rather stop by the church. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and in the memo line please put the word Easter Lily. Thank you.**

## Attention: All Parents

Want to go to the movies, attend a sporting event, visit the lodge, shop, dine or just relax?

Go ahead...make those plans!

We'll watch the children!

Where? FLC

When? Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9pm

Your child(ren), age 5 and up, will be well taken care of

by Beth and Toby Olsen

We'll make supper together, do a simple craft, sing, play, and watch a film

This is the first of what will be a monthly program called

"LAST FRIDAY"

It's free, and guaranteed to be fun!

Questions, contact Beth

"Remember, you're a guest. Behave yourself accordingly. Take a hint from Jesus!" That was a direct quote from a letter to me, years ago, from Miss Frances Goldstein, my teacher, my friend and my mentor from my early childhood (7) at Juilliard Pre-College, through my studies at the college, and, thereafter, until her death. Miss Goldstein, whose age no one ever really knew, was always old, always brilliant, always prim, always demanding, always respected, and ALWAYS RIGHT! Not long before her death, in that letter, she, in her singularly brusque style, had been giving me unsolicited advice, or maybe even orders, about life, the world, and how to live in it. And, she'd taken the trouble, sick as she was, to put it in writing: heavy, purple, felt-tipped marker, large, scrawly hand, as close to blustering as one might get with pen and paper.

Those three, enigmatic, troubling, thought-provoking sentences are never far from my conscious thoughts for very long, and, with the selection of "At the Table" as the title and theme of our Wednesday Lenten series, I thought I would share them with you. Why? There's a connection, quoting from a communion liturgy frequently used by a pastor/ friend in NY:

"He was always the guest. In the home of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him.....So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.."

May Miss Goldstein's 3 sentences give you pause in your journey.

See you in Church

Beth

W	Bishop	March
O	Celestine	Missionary
R	Celtic	Monasteries
D	Chieftains	Patrick
	Clover	Pirates
S	Confessio	Shamock
E	Druidism	Shepherd
A	Dublim	Snakes
R	Emerald	Trinity
C	Ireland	Tuatha
H	Legend	
	Limerick	

# YOUTH SCHEDULES



There will be an Earth Day Planning Meeting for 9th – 12th graders on Wednesday, March 4th, at 7:30 pm. Please try to attend.



A GAP Mystery Dinner for grades 1st through 5th will be held on March 15th at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Shanna by March 13th by calling 572-6363 or email her at [shanna@flcwilliston.org](mailto:shanna@flcwilliston.org).

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

April 8th—GAP Easter Egg Hunt

April 17th—Jr. High Lock In

April 22nd—Earth Day

Just a reminder that the youth will be serving the Lenten Meal on Wednesday, March 25th. Please let Shanna know if you will be able to help. The meal will start at 5:00 with worship to begin at 6:30.



### Coffee Fellowship

**All females in grades 6-8**, please join us on Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 am to noon for a “B.U.G Brunch.”

We will have coffee drinks, food, fun and a lot of female fellowship. Hope to see you there and bring a friend. **All females in grades 9-12** will be able to share in the “B.U.G Brunch” on Saturday, March 28th. Be sure to mark your calendars!!

**Congratulations to Scott Olson and Katie Wilt on their confirmation on October 29, 2008. Pictured received on February 16, 2009,**

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 12, 2009

7:00 pm

Members Present: Ruth Benson, Lowell Sandvik, Tina Hanson, Greg Everson, Dale Haugen, Lori Helstad, Susan Streitz, Joel Wilt,

Members Not Present: Janice Arnson, Jeffrey Strand, VeAnna Selid, David Bauer, DaVee MacMaster, Tate Cymbaluk, Beth Boyeff

Others Present: Pastor Mock, Bob Eynon

Tina called the meeting to order.

Devotions—Pastor Mock

Baptisms— February – Lowell

March – Lori Helstad

Minutes/Reports

Secretary's Minutes – Lowell **moved** to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously approved.

2.1 Staff Reports –Pastor Mock reported that the staff is busy getting ready for Lent. The intern application process is getting started. Shanna is working on the National Youth Gathering.

2.2 Committee Reports – Bob Eynon reported for the *Property* committee. He reports that the budget for repairs to the 2 properties on Main St. has been exceeded. FLC needs the certificate of insurance from the renter.

*Stewardship* – working with the Boy Scouts on a tree planting project.

*Memorial* – Lowell **moved** to approve the request that funds be transferred from Memorial to Property to pay for the new cushions in the Chapel. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence – Thank you notes were received form UMM and Bethel Foundation.

4. Unfinished Business- none

5. New Business

5.0 MOPS Tax Status – Joel **moved** that First Lutheran Church sponsors the Williston area MOPS group. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously approved. The first meeting is anticipated in March.

5.1 Personnel committee requested that on the published annual meeting report for the budget of 2010 the salaries be budgeted by pastoral/non-pastoral and not by individual job. This would aid the budgeting process and allow for greater flexibility as needs change during the year. Following discussion, Greg **moved** that the annual budget be set to show the following as the salary line items: Ordained Pastoral, Lay Pastoral (music director, youth minister, intern), and Support Staff (secretary, custodians, etc). Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously approved.

6. Financials – Lowell presented the financial report.

7. Ideas—Exchanges/Reflections –

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Benson, secretary

# MEMORIALS

## Programs

Nicki Mock  
 Floyd & Lyla Semenko  
 Gary & Leora Sukut  
 Robert McAdoo  
 Ron & Kathy Seeley  
 Ron & Liz Lund  
 Lucille Treider  
 Ken & Vam Erickson  
 Ron & Liz Lund  
 Josh Norland  
 Ron & Liz Lund

## Good Sam Fund

William Van Dam  
 Robert Eynon

## Undesignated

Lucille Treider  
 Ruth Treider  
 Mary Solberg  
 Gary & Leora Sukut  
 Duane & Joanne Demars  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Nelson  
 John & Doris Kraft  
 LaVern Gund  
 Virgil Syverson  
 Florence Slais  
 John & Janice Mayfield  
 Mark & Shirley Jennings

Nicki Mock  
 Roger & Sandra Kohlman

## Missionary Fund

Marie Hovland  
 Maxine Duncalf  
 Willis & Ruth Gunlikson  
 Elton Hanson  
 Helene Hagen

## Missionary Calendar

IMO Alfhild Dieterle  
 Orvie Anderson  
 IMO Dick Jensen  
 Carol Jensen  
 IMO Gudlaug Flattum  
 Orvie Anderson

## Media Fund

Lucille Treider  
 Larry & Mary Ann Gaudreau  
 Phyllis Briggs Postma  
 Marilyn Sandaker

## Stewardship Fund

## Property Fund

## 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





# MARCH 2009

**Sunday, March 1, 2009**

8:30 am Traditional Worship—S  
Communion  
9:30 am A.W.E. Worship—C  
9:30 am Coffee Hour—P  
10:00 am Faith Finders  
11:00 am Worship Service—S  
Communion

**Monday, March 2, 2009**

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

**Tuesday, March 3, 2009**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Gingers)  
9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR  
5:00 pm Music & Worship Comm-P  
7:00 pm Executive Meeting  
7:00 pm Personnel Meeting  
7:00 pm Property Meeting

**Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

5:00 pm Lenten Meal—FH  
6:30 pm Worship—S  
6:30 pm Faith Finders  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice  
7:30 pm 9th Grade Confirmation  
(last one)

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**

12:00 pm Men In Mission—P  
2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

**Friday, March 6, 2009**

5:00 pm TOPS—MA

**Saturday, March 7, 2009****Sunday, March 8, 2009****Daylight Savings Time Begins**

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

**Monday, March 9, 2009**

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

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

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

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

5:00 pm Lenten Meal (Mission Supp.)  
6:30 pm Worship—S  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
6:30 pm Faith Finders  
7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 12, 2009**

1:30 pm WELCA Bible Study  
2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

**Friday, March 13, 2009**

5:00 pm TOPS—MA

**Saturday, March 14, 2009**

6:30 pm Kensington Chapel Service

**Sunday, March 15, 2009**

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

**Monday, March 16, 2009**

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

**Tuesday, March 17, 2009****Happy St Patrick's Day**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study—Gingers  
9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR  
5:30 pm Evangelism Committee—P

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

9:30 am Faith Circle  
12:00 pm Trust Fund Meeting  
1:30 pm Peace Circle  
1:30 pm Love Circle  
5:00 pm Lenten Meal (Music Comm)  
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, March 19, 2009**

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

**Friday, March 20, 2009**

4:00 pm Jr & Sr High Ski Trip  
5:00 pm TOPS—MA

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

10:00 am Hope Circle—CR

**Sunday, March 22, 2009**

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

**Monday, March 23, 2009**

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

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

**LAOS Articles Due In the Office**  
7:00 am Men's Bible Study—Gingers  
9:00 am Staff Meeting—CR

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

3:30 pm 5th Grade Pre-Communion  
5:00 pm Lenten Meal (Youth)  
6:30 pm Worship—S  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice  
6:30 pm Faith Finders  
7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 26, 2009**

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

**Friday, March 27, 2009**

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

**Saturday, March 28, 2009****Sunday, March 29, 2009**

8:30 am Traditional Worship—S  
Communion  
9:30 am A.W.E. Worship—C  
10:00 am Faith Finders  
11:00 am Worship Service—S  
Communion

**Monday, March 30, 2009**

1:00 pm Quilting—MA  
3:00 pm WELCA Board Meeting—P  
5:00 pm Tops—MA

**Tuesday, March 31, 2009**

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

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009**

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

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

12:00 pm Men In Mission—P  
2:00 pm Pray,Knit/Crochet & Chat—P

# REFLECTION

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Carrollton, Texas, begins its Sunday like most other Lutheran churches—with a traditional, liturgical worship service. By the end of the week, however, they have conducted three more services, each distinct in focus and style, that attract people other than traditional Lutherans. “Each time we added a worship hour,” says Rev. Steve Wagner, “our attendance increased by 20 percent. I am amazed at the power of the worship style to define the character of the congregation attending. Offering distinctive choices simply allows more people to identify with our church and hear our message—the gospel of Jesus Christ.” This churches represent thousands of congregations across America. In every denomination and every part of the country church leaders are wondering about a new services. New phrases are entering our vocabulary: “alternative service,” “contemporary service,” “Saturday-night service,” “multi-congregational church,” “seeker sensitive,” “seeker targeted,” or simply “second service” (or “third” or “eighth”). But the issue is similar: Should we add other services? If so, when? And how? I was recently part of a comprehensive five-year study conducted by Church Growth, Inc. (Monrovia, California) analyzing churches that had added a new worship service. The outcome was a detailed strategy that I believe greatly increases the probability of any church successfully beginning a new worship service. (See *How to Start a New Service*, Baker Books, 1997, reviewed on pp. 46-47.) One outcome of this study was the conclusion that approximately half of the 315,000 churches in the United States could add a new style of worship service to their weekly schedule of activities, and of those, eight of ten will experience a measurable increase in (1) total attendance, (2) total giving, and (3) total conversions. Here are seven reasons why I believe your church should consider adding a new worship service in the next twelve to twenty-four months. Whether you have one service, two, three, or more, the reasons for—and value of—adding a new service do not change. You may resonate to one reason in particular. Others in your church may find a different reason more compelling. In reality, a shared congregational motive for beginning a new service is not important. What is important is a shared congregational goal—namely, to begin a new style of service within the next two years. These seven reasons will be found for the next seven months on this “REFLECTION PAGE”

Postmaster: Dated Material



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
916 Main, Williston, ND 58801-5398  
Phone: 572-6363, Fax: 577-6365  
[first@flcwilliston.org](mailto:first@flcwilliston.org)

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