From Our Pastor-

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;
As part of our Wednesday evening Lenten services we used a resource published by the ELCA called “Claimed, Gathered, Sent” which helped us engage in conversation with one another about why being church might matter. Below you will find some excerpts from the resource for your own personal reflection. There are five sessions altogether and so we will continue the series through July.

SESSION 5:
WHAT DIFFERENCE DO WE MAKE?

KEY BIBLE PASSAGE
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” — Acts 1:8

GETTING STARTED
Complete the following quiz.

1. In 2013, how many members did the ELCA have?
   a. 1.2 million
   b. 2.5 million
   c. 250 thousand
   d. 3.9 million

2. How many different languages in which liturgies are conducted by ELCA congregations, including English?
   a. 47
   b. 7
   c. 53
   d. 87

3. How many Lutheran churches in the world are members of The Lutheran World Federation?
   a. 12
   b. 78
   c. 144
   d. 196

4. About how many people worldwide are members of Lutheran churches?
   a. 70 million
   b. 15 million
   c. 45 million
   d. 1.5 billion

5. How many Lutherans live on each continent? Draw a line from the name of the continent to the correct number.
   a. Europe 1.1 million
   b. Africa 13 million
   c. North America 36 million
   d. Asia 7.3 million
   e. Latin America 8.4 million

6. On which continent were The Lutheran World Federation member churches growing the fastest in 2010?
   a. Europe
   b. Africa
   c. North America
   d. Asia
   e. Latin America

7. How many people does Lutheran Services in America serve each year?
   a. 500 thousand
   b. 2 million
   c. 5.3 million
   d. 6 million
**ANSWER KEY**

1. **d**; By comparison, the United Methodist Church is the largest mainline Protestant church in the United States with 8.3 million members. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has about 2.3 million members. The Presbyterian Church USA has 1.7 million members and the Episcopal Church has 1.9 million members.

2. **a**

3. **c**

4. **a**

5. **a,** 36 million; **b,** 13 million; **c,** 8.4 million; **d,** 7.3 million; **e,** 1.1 million

6. **b**; In 2010, churches in Africa added more than 1.2 million members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania is the largest Lutheran World Federation member church on the continent with more than 5 million members.

7. **d**; Lutheran Services in America serves 1 in 50 Americans. Over the course of the year, someone is helped every 5.26 seconds.¹

What surprised you?

**HERE’S WHAT**

Many Lutherans in North America do not realize that Lutherans worship, learn and serve throughout the world. The quiz you just took demonstrates that the Lutheran reach is wide. Sometimes the ELCA extends that reach by working with Christians of other denominations referred to as “ecumenical partners.” Often we collaborate with other Lutherans.

The Lutheran World Federation is a communion that helps Lutherans pool resources to love our neighbors worldwide. Its 144 member churches represent about 70 million people in 79 countries. The ELCA is the communion’s only member church from the United States. Through the communion, Lutherans:

- Sing, share and celebrate the good news
- Pray for the needs of the world
- Share our concerns as churches
- Learn from one another
- Discuss, strategize and work for the healing of the world

Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem is an inspiring example of The Lutheran World Federation’s service work.

“All Augusta Victoria Hospital 2008” (http://lwfjerusalem.org/news/videos/).

If you are able view the above video.

What surprised you?

What does the work of The Lutheran World Federation say about Lutherans?

**SO WHAT?**

Augusta Victoria Hospital primarily services Palestinian refugees — of all faiths. Supported by communion members such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, it demonstrates that working together Lutherans can achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do alone. Our Lutheran sisters and brothers in 79 countries are the Lutheran church where we cannot possibly be there ourselves, they are church for us and we for them as we all bear witness to the Lord.

We might think the role of the ELCA among our partner churches, including those in The Lutheran World Federation, is primarily that “we” offer a helping hand to “them.” However, ELCA mission is rooted in the concept of “accompaniment.” Accompaniment literally means “to take as a companion” and a companion is
“one who eats with another” or “shares bread.” Accompaniment is characterized by interdependence and mutual respect. The image is drawn from the story of Jesus’ walk with two companions on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). It reminds us that as we walk with each other on our journeys, the presence of God is revealed to us.

One of the ways ELCA members can practice accompaniment is by participating in companion synod relationships. Through this program, The Lutheran World Federation member churches connect with ELCA synods and congregations. Each synod has at least one international church companion. Companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

Think of a situation — in your family, at work or school, in your congregation or community, at home or abroad — in which you set out to help someone else and ended up feeling like you were changed by the experience.

Reflect on these questions:

- How might ELCA members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization be changed by our relationships with communion member churches and companion synods?
- How might these changes challenge us?
- How might these changes strengthen our relationships with one another? With God?

NOW WHAT?

All of us — members of ELCA congregations, synods and the churchwide organization; members of Lutheran World Federation bodies; indeed, the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic church” — are members of the whole body of Christ:

“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 .... For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-13)

Reflect on the following questions:

- Reflecting on your conversation throughout the five sessions, what does “church” mean to you?
- In what ways are you part of the community of church?
- How does being church transcend a set of activities and embody who we are in relation to each other and Christ?

WRAP-UP AND BLESSING

What difference do we make as the body of Christ — as the church together?

Pray for the church:

Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hopefully over the course of the last few months you have taken time to read and reflect on the articles focusing on “Does being the church matter? If it does why and how do we as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) make a difference in the world?” When we take time to reflect and pray about the church and our role in being faithful God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, opens us up to new ways to be the body of Christ for the sake of the whole world. Let us grow forth together.

Peace,

Pastor Ellingson
From left to right: Owen Martinson, Camp Councilor, Ben Krump, and Austin Erickson. The three boys have been going to Camp Emmaus for 4 years. It has served as a great way of keeping their friendship intact after Owen moved to Moorhead. They had another great year!
Backdoor Ministry Update
The Congregation voted on May 31 to discontinue the original north entrance building plan and to proceed with improvements to the north entrance and the church. The cost of the project was bid at considerably more than the original cost projection. Therefore the scale of the project has been changed. **Anyone who gave to the North Entrance project and would like their gift redirected can contact Cindy Nord, financial secretary or Lisa Miller, treasure.** Below are the minutes from the congregational meeting.

Faith Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
Not approved
May 31st, 2015 11 AM

The history of the Back Door Ministries project was reviewed. A congregational meeting held in September of 2013 approved the project and the Back Door Ministries members moved forward to obtain construction proposals. The contractor bids came in considerably higher than anticipated and finding contractors to do the work is difficult. In 2013 preliminary bids came in at $160,000, in 2014 contractor bids came in at $190,000 and in 2015 contractor bids came in at $206,000. The Back Door Ministries committee met with church council with a proposed new plan for doing immediate maintenance project construction in place of the original proposal. A motion was made by council to bring the new proposal forward to the congregation for approval.

Dave Matz reviewed the new Project items and the proposed costs as well as the items for future consideration. See attached documents.

To date FLC has received $65,689 for the original Back Door Ministries project. The proposed cost for the new project is $55,500. So FLC does have the funds to move forward with the new project. A motion was made, seconded and approved to move forward with the new project using contributions made to the original project. If members that donated to the original project wish to have the money they donated redirected, they are to contact Cindy Nord or Lisa Miller.

Sincerely Submitted
Pat Freitag, Secretary

Financial Update
Our giving to date (June 21) is $51,651 and ytd budget is $71,282. Thank you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure that make Faith Lutheran’s ministry possible.
Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays
1 Richard Nord
1 Erica Halverson
2 Lois Picotte
2 Colyn Gardner
6 Carter Erickson
8 Harlie Nord
9 Mike Byars
10 Jeremy Maesse
10 Tania Merritt
13 Tony Emerfoll
14 Marie Skoblik
15 Kyle Affield
15 Madison Nord
17 Ben Krump
20 Adrianne Tucker
21 Colton Mastin
21 Mason Tucker
23 Randy Emerson
23 Brendon Skoblik
24 Elizabeth Aigner
24 Kirk Lindblom
24 Kaden Schroeder
25 Christine Gallo
25 Nancy Israelson
25 Lisa Miller
25 Ron Wilner
28 Boden Schroeder
29 Jessica Mastin
29 Lexi Hoefl
30 Chad Erickson
30 Natalie Nelson
30 Darin Smith

July Anniversaries
9 Spencer and Lanette Nord
17 Jay and Cindy Nord
19 Calvin and Tammy Annett
28 Clay and Sue Ellingson

August Birthdays
1 Barb Wise
2 David Matz
4 Kristi Edwards
4 David Israelson
6 Sheyenne Dockter
9 Dennis Bohner
9 Jim Lucke
9 Tim Poppel
11 Scott Billie
11 Jessica Nelson
11 Emma Olthoff
12 Dallas Israelson
15 Tammy Dockter
15 Eric Stark
15 Nev Tracy
17 Adrie Israelson
19 Amanda Nelson
20 Clay Ellingson
21 Claire Aigner
22 Dave Blilie
22 Kiyara Jinadasa
22 Candace Johnson
23 Karen Thompson
23 Hazel Orud
25 Ethel Edwards
26 Mandy Schroeder
27 Grant Israelson
28 Carley Stark
30 Beverly Israelson
31 Delmar Nord

August Anniversaries
12 Amy and Raymond Traut
16 Jeff and Sue Rasmussen
20 Erick and Cindy Johnson
21 Erick and Ellen Stark
22 Bradley and Vicky Nelson
26 David and Gayle Matz
31 Karl and Karen Thompson

Requests

Jane Buchholz—Sheyenne Crossing West Fargo, ND
Ethel Edwards—at home Moorhead, MN
Louie Gruenberg—River Pointe Moorhead, MN
Marion Israelson—Eventide Senior Living Moorhead
Elaine Johnson—River Pointe Moorhead, MN
Leona Johnson—Rosewood Fargo, ND
Lucille Nelson—ClayCo Barnesville, MN
Keith Nelson—Group home in Duluth, MN
Beatrice Nord—Riverview Place Fargo, ND
Myrtle Nord—the Leach Home Wahpeton, ND

Please keep these people who are under medical care in your prayers. Let Pastor Ellingson know if you would like your name or that of a loved one added to this list.

Faith Lutheran Church is seeking a new LYO Leader. Tina Aigner is going back to school to pursue a teaching degree and feels she won’t be able to commit the time to be the LYO leader. She is willing to help with the transition. If you are interested please talk to Tina or with Pastor.
Meeting Minutes June 3, 2015

NOT APPROVED

Members Present: Mark Miller, RC Stein, Mike Aigner, Linda Lucke, Bev Israelson, Pat Freitag, Scott Smith, Dave Matz
Members Absent: Chad Erickson
Other present: Pastor Ellingson
Prayer: Pr. Ellingson

Opening Devotion: July - RC Stein
Communion Assistant: June 7 – Mark Miller
Communion Assistant: June 21 – Dave Matz
Communion Assistant: July 5 – RC Stein
Offering Counter: All of Council
Food Pantry item July: Beverage mixes

Secretary’s Report - motion made to approve the May 6th minutes. Seconded and passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Discussed budget status. We have spent $12,716 more in general fund expenses than has been collected in general fund offering. The general fund offering is behind last year’s giving by $3,326.

Committee Reports:
Finance - Scott Smith – nothing to report
Property & Maintenance - RC Stein – nothing to report
Education - Chad Erickson – Absent no report.
Music & Worship - Bev Israelson – nothing to report
Youth - Mike Aigner – Nothing to report
Faith Women - Linda Lucke The 2015 Fall Auction date has been changed to Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 PM due to scheduling conflicts with the auctioneer.
Stewardship - Dave Matz - nothing to report.
Endowment - Mark Miller - Scholarship application deadline is June 15th. Applications need to be in the office at Faith Lutheran by then.

Decorating - Pat Freitag – nothing to report

Old Business
North Entrance – A motion was made to have the Back Door Ministries committee move forward with the new project as approved at the congregational meeting. In addition, The Back Door Ministries committee along with members of the Property & Maintenance committee and the Decorating committee plus the council president will provide oversight and coordination of the project. It was seconded and passed.
“Lisa” move this to the committee reports

Other: Discussion of how to provide FLC members that were not in attendance at the congregational meeting the information from that meeting. Members felt putting the information in the monthly newsletter would be the best option.

Cleaning Person – Debbie Price and Karen Anderson have accepted the position and will begin June 5th. A cabinet has been designated for cleaning supplies.

New Business
Discovering Hope – June 27th. The Discovering Hope event is planned for Saturday, June 27th 2015 at 10:00 at Concordia College. This event is sponsored by the Eastern ND, Northwestern MN, Southwestern MN, and SD Synods. This training event is presented by Rev. Nancy Nyland. Leaders in the church are encouraged to attend. Pastor Ellingson, RC Stein, and possibly Bev Israelson and someone from the education committee are planning to attend.

Bertha Otteson Bequeath – Total gift of $197,814.57 has been bequeathed to FLC. Discussion was held to determine the best way for this to be overseen and coordinated. This was tabled till July meeting.

Adjourn
The Lord’s Prayer
July Schedule
July 1—Church Council meeting at 7PM
July 4 Happy Independence Day!
July 19—Guest Minister: Pr. Arlen Jacobson
July 28—Lay Service
JULY FOOD PANTRY ITEM: Beverage Mixes

August Schedule
August 5 Church Council Meeting at 7 PM
August 16—Vacation Bible School 2-5PM

July Ushers
Randy Emerson
Dave Matz

August Ushers
Robert Nord
Wayne Krump

July—September Altar Committee
Judy Getz
Leone Nelson
Lois Picotte