

OCTOBER MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church—Fergus Falls, MN

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SAUL STENSVAAAG

Angels Came! The older I get, and the longer I'm in ministry, the more I find myself drawn to the writings of Gerhard Frost, who, for over 50 years, expressed his compassionate concern for people as pastor, professor, and freelance writer. He understands and articulates grace and the love of God as well as anyone I've read.

If you've never encountered any of his books, I urge you to find and read something, anything by this amazing Christian author. You can find some online at Amazon.com or Alibris.com. I share here a piece from his, "A Second Look."

And behold, angels came and ministered to Jesus. (Matthew 4:11) Angels

came. Our Lord experienced this, and my heart says, "Me too!" Has life sometimes seemed to you to be so tightly packed with pain that you couldn't go on? Have you felt suffocated by circumstances which you were powerless to alter? But then your feelings changed. The circumstances were the same but somehow you were different.

I've experienced this and wondered, is this just a matter of moods? Now I believe that there is a better answer. Angels came!

We affirm an invisible kingdom where God is at work and where wonderful things happen. We acclaim the power of intercessory prayer. We believe that

prayer can make a difference.

Each sunrise tells us that God hasn't given up on us. He is still willing to do his good work on us, forgiving and renewing. Today, too, we can expect that when evening comes we will be able to say, "angels came!"

My friends, may God send his angels to minister to you in your struggles, and remind you that, as Frost puts it, "each sunrise tells you that God hasn't given up on you."

In Christ,

Pastor Saul

Saul Stensvaag



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INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW BOOKKEEPER: KATRINA JOHNSON

Hello!! My name is Katrina. I have spent most of my life in and around the Fergus Falls area. I graduated from Fergus Falls High School and grew up playing hockey. I was a bit of a band geek playing trombone in every band possible (Wind Ensemble, pep, marching, jazz etc.). I also grew up just down the road at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. I spent many youth years being an active member

and was lucky enough to attend two National Youth Gatherings. After high school, I immediately continued my education at M State in Fergus Falls and received my Practical Nursing Diploma. I married my high school sweetheart Travis Johnson a year later. Together we are raising two active boys Zachary and Griffin. They are 5 and 6 years old and are active with soccer and hockey.

I wear many hats in life right now and love each one. I have been a LPN for over ten years. I have always loved helping and supporting people. I feel very privileged being able to be a support for people in some of their most vulnerable times. Some of you may already know, nursing can also be very demanding and wearing on a person. With my passion for people in mind, I went back to school and obtained my Real Estate li-

cense. I feel I am able to continue helping and supporting others, but I get to experience more of the happy moments in their lives. I have also been very lucky to have Leslie Flugstad as my mentor at Century 21 and now as your new bookkeeper!! I still "play" nurse from time to time and will continue in real estate as I serve here. I'm so excited to get to know all of you and be a part of First Lutheran Church.

Katrina Johnson

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OCTOBER WORSHIP THEMES

October 4

:Made for One Another"

Text: Genesis 2:18-24

God has given us the gift of love to share with one another.

There are no easy answers to the questions raised in the readings today. Yet we live and grapple with the questions and rejoice in the gift of love that God has given us to share with one another.

October 11

"The Old, Old Story"

Text: Mark 10:17-31

Today's Gospel story is our story. Like this decent, religious man, our many possessions and self-reliance hold us back like an immovable anchor. Can our loving savior free us from our "stuff" and pull us through the needle's eye and into his kingdom? Hear again the old, old story of grace and find out.

October 18

"The Servant Leader"

Text: Mark 10:35-45

What does a Christian leader look like? Is a leader the most wealthy, the most demanding, the most bossy? Today we learn about Servant leadership and how to follow Jesus with our actions.

October 25

Reformation/Stewardship Sunday

Guest Preacher— Pastor Jimalee Jones
"I Don't Want Your Money"

Text: John 8:31-36

Today's Gospel speaks of freedom for those who "...continue in my word," and are truly Jesus' disciples. As disciples of Jesus, we will explore together what freedom means for us and for the world in which we live. Does Christian freedom mean that we do what we should do? Does it mean freedom to do just anything? Or does it mean something else altogether?

We need your help! Do you have extra pumpkins, squash, and gourds?

First Lutheran decorators could use them to spruce up the church during the fall season. Please bring them into church and leave them in the planter by the main doors in the New Narthex.

Thank you for thinking of us!



REMINDER:

First Lutheran Church Foundation will meet on Monday, October 5th, at 5:15 PM in the Conference Room.

OCTOBER SERVICE UNITS

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PEOPLE IN THIS UNIT
PLEASE SAY "YES" WHEN YOU ARE CALLED TO HELP!

Donna Andstrom

Eldon & Margaret Kratzke

Wendy Schiesser

Jay Bjorgum

Brad & Cindy Larson

Eric & Rachel Shelstad

Renae Eide

Gertrude Larson

Pam Slifka

Luella Estenson

Glenda Meister

Mark & Judy Stock

Cindy Eull

Joel & Allison Myhre

Brenda Swedberg

Chad & Kelsey Felstul

Robbie & Karen Olson

Sean & Anne Taylor

Dale & Jody Hanson

Carl & Diane Prischmann

Chris Toso

Mark & Joyce Hjelle

Rod & Jill Rolfs

Bob & Karla Wynn

Cindy Larson

OCTOBER MILESTONE EVENTS

- 2nd grade Blessing in worship
- 3rd grade Class, "Family Devotions" with Parents
- 3rd grade Blessing in worship

2nd grade
Milestone
Blessing
In worship

**OCT
4**

3rd grade
Milestone
Class
w/parents

11

Butterflies
(infant-3 yrs)

11

No Sunday
School

18

3rd grade
Milestone
Blessing in
worship

25

Stewardship /
Reformation
Brunch

25

Sunday School News

OCTOBER 2015

SHINE

"Let your light shine before others" Matthew 5:16



We've changed! Our Sunday School has adopted a new curriculum that coincides with the SPARK Bibles that are used for Sunday School! We are rotating our students through five workshops that encourage students to explore a Bible story in depth. The workshop

options for Grades Kindergarten-6th grade include Art, Bible skills and games, Cooking, Creative Drama and Video. There was a lot of movement in the Sunday School wing over the last couple weeks! This active hands-on model has been a fun and exciting change. As important to us are the Preschoolers. The Preschoolers experience an in-room rotation with Storytelling, Art, Snack, Music and Games. They still attend "Butterflies"

once a month with their parents or other adults. Please note that the "Butterflies" now include Preschool 2! Parents, please come for the fun and fellowship with other families!

**There will be
NO Sunday
School on
October 18**

October 25, Reformation/Stewardship Sunday

Sunday School will carry on !

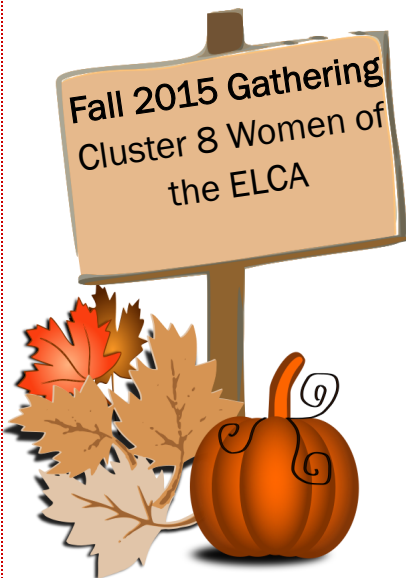
There will be a ton of added activity in the Education Wing, but we will still have Sunday School. Families will be invited to a brunch /dinner that day in Fellowship Hall. The Stewardship Committee will be

asking for an RSVP to plan for food. Parents can take their children out of Sunday School and bring them back after the meal if they plan ahead.

Sunday school teachers are invited to bring their remaining students to the meal.



OCTOBER MESSENGER



Presents
"Exploring God's Creation"

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Heidi Manning
New Life Church

102 w. Main Ave., Rothsay, MN
Saturday, October 24th, 2015

Registration & Coffee: 9:00 AM

Meeting & Program: 9:30 AM

Noon Meal &
Fellowship following

Sign up in the First Lutheran
Church office by Sunday, Oct. 11th.

Write your check for \$10.00 to
First Lutheran WELCA

On Saturday, Oct. 24th, we will meet in
the west church parking lot at 8:30 a.m.
to share rides to New Life Lutheran
Church in Rothsay, MN.



Love Days Quilters
Every Monday
9:00-3:00
JOIN US!

WELCA Board
No October Meeting

CIRCLES
Sarah—Wed. Oct. 21st
9:30am @ Pioneer Point

Hannah -Wed. Oct. 21st
1:00pm @ Church



WELCA FALL CAMPAIGN

"Coins, Cash & Checks Change Lives"

Each Fall, the Women of First Lutheran Church reach out to each of you asking for financial support of Missions that are important to all of us. Therefore the product of this Campaign is Coins, Cash and Checks. The product of a generous culture is Changed Lives locally and Around the World.

We helped financially to
Change Lives in these ar-
eas in 2014:
KBRF Morning Watch,

Jail Ministry, Lutheran
Campus Ministry, A Place
to Belong, WELCA Schol-
arships, Lakeland Hos-
pice, Luther Crest,
PioneerCare Chapel
Fund, OBA Scholarships,
OBA Shule Funds, OBA
Mama Naomi Clinic, Haiti
Medical Mission, Haiti
School Children(Soaring
Unlimited) and Haiti Mis-
sion Fund (wells).

You are asked to place your
coins, cash, or checks in an

envelope marked WELCA Fall
Campaign and either put
it in the offering plate or
bring it to the office be-
fore the end of October.

We are all called to
Grow in faith, to Support
one another and to En-
gage in Ministry and Action.
Thank You for your Support
of this Campaign. Because of
your Actions, we will be able to
help Change Lives again this
year.

-WELCA Board



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

The Christmas Giving Trees are coming! This is a wonderful, annual outreach program for First Lutheran. Each year, local organizations provide us with a list of "Christmas Wishes" ranging from personal items for their members or clients to items for the organization as

a whole. The items are collected at First Lutheran and then distributed to the groups the week before Christmas.

Someplace Safe and A Place to Belong are the selected organizations in 2015. Please contact Rick West at 218-205-6963 or rick.west52@hotmail.com

if you are interested in being a volunteer for this big project or becoming a member of the Outreach Committee. This is a great opportunity to serve others during the Christmas season.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
Romans 15:13



THANK YOU SO MUCH!



I want to send a big thank you to all the ladies at Stavanger Lutheran Church who have made dresses for the girls in Haiti! They have 33 dresses all done and they have

also collected soap and wash clothes for each girl. What a Blessing, God is Good! Not only that, they want to do it again. Now we have a "Partner in making the Haiti Dresses." Just think

about the happy girls, who had only an oversized tee shirt, who now will have pretty dresses to wear. Thank you so much.

Jane Willett

CHILDREN'S OFFERING—ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Related to our Sunday School Theme, "Shine," our Children's offering collected during worship will be given to one of our benevolences, ELCA World Hunger. Specifically, a project to provide mosquito nets to help eliminate Malaria in Africa.

"To most of us in the United States, mosquitoes are nothing more than a

nuisance. But in many countries, especially in Africa, just one bite from an infected mosquito could transmit malaria and lead to death. A mosquito net treated with long-lasting insecticide, coupled with instructions and education on how it is used, helps ensure that families are protected from this life-threatening disease each night as they sleep."

One mosquito net is \$10 and mosquito nets for a small village is \$250.

All money given during our Children's Offering will be sent to ELCA's World Hunger Appeal. If you would like to designate your offering

to this cause, please write "World Hunger" on your offering envelope or memo line of your check.



CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING... OCTOBER 25TH, 2015

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year. New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the



need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive.

"Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship."

New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Stewardship
Chairperson,

John Demuth



*May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine on us
and be gracious.
May God look on us with favor
and give us peace.*

October FLY News



Fly K4 and Fly 57 Schedule

(4:30 pm-5:15 pm)

October 7 Fly K4

October 14 NO FLY
(MEA Weekend)

October 21 Fly K4

October 28 Halloween Party

for grades K-7!
Wear a costume and get ready for a good time!

Senior Fly Schedule

(Grades 8-12—
7:30-8:30 pm)

October 7 SR Fly

October 14 NO FLY
(MEA Weekend)

October 21 SR Fly

October 28 Trick Or Treat

(6:30-8:30)
Come in costume and prepare for a fun evening!

Football Season is upon us!

I don't know if you know this about me, but I absolutely LOVE the Green Bay Packers. I know, I know. Packer fans in this area are few and far between. I grew up in Wisconsin and moved to Minnesota 15 years ago now. And I still just can't shake my love for this team. I've honestly tried to cheer for the Vikings. I've even got a Vikings shirt that stays buried in the bottom of my drawer. I'm just a Green Bay fan and expect that that probably won't ever change. My team is just a part of me. I can't shake it.



Do you, like me, like something that not a lot of other people around you like? Do you have a different or unique interest? Do you ever get made fun of because you are a little different from other people?

It's easy to get a little down on ourselves sometimes because we think that we don't quite measure up to someone else's standards, or we feel like we don't exactly fit in. Those feelings are very normal. I have them too, even now as a 35 year old. When I was younger I used to get made fun of because my

hair was so blonde that it looked almost white. I dreamed of the day that I could color my hair just a little darker. But you know, that was a feature of me that made me unique. And over time, God made my hair a little darker.

Do you know how BORING this world would be if we all were the same or all had the same likes and dislikes? Those different things about you are absolutely a part of what makes you YOU. Don't change. Be you. Don't apologize for being a little bit different. God made YOU just the way you are for a reason. That's what makes you special. And there is only ONE of you in the whole world. Nobody else can be you.

See you in church!!

"For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:13-14)

First Lutheran Church

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 Fergus Falls, MN 56537 E-mail: firstlc@live.com
 Phone: 218-739-3348

We're on the web!

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org



TANZANIA TESTIMONY FROM THE OUTDOOR WORSHIP—AUGUST 2014



Karibu. Welcome. The warm welcomes, hospitality, and friendliness we encountered in Tanzania were unlike any other. As I read through my journal, I had just gotten to Wednesday, July 16th, the first day we were actually in Africa and I had written, "I fell in love with Africa only moments after we left the airport. Driving down the streets of Tanzania people seem to WANT to greet us. They were waving and smiling and just seemed genuinely excited to see us. I can already tell this is going to an amazing trip and it literally just started 10 hours ago. God is SOOO good."

Because this was

the first time I have ever been out of North America, and African culture isn't anywhere near the same as American, I was definitely scared, but it was nice feeling so welcomed so soon. It wasn't just people waving at us as we drove by, but it was our Maasai Warriors and guards staying up all night just to make sure we slept safely, or an elderly woman approaching us singing, dancing and having fun despite the language barrier, or the kids at the Plaster House who were so eager to see us and play with us, even though they seemed more interested in our electronics to begin with, or the warm welcome we received at the Maasai Girls School, or the girls giving up their chairs to us at our cultural night so we wouldn't have to sit on the floor, or just all the workers who were will-

ing to make us meals every day.

And not once did I hear anyone complain. At the beginning of the trip this really amazed me. Why are these people so willing to serve us Americans? We have houses for our dogs and some of them share a one room mud shack with several other people. But that's what makes them happy. And so does making sure that their guests are taken care of. Of all the places we went in Africa, all the good, and all the bad we saw, the selfless gestures made by the people there is truly where I saw God.

It didn't matter that we came from a country where we have clothes hanging in our closets with tags still intact just because we don't like them anymore, or where we buy a new phone every two years just to get the latest style. What really

seemed to matter to them is that we are Christians, just like them. We wake up in the morning, just like they do, because God was gracious enough to give us another day. We go the church on Sundays and receive the body and the blood. And we all believe that one day we will all be one sitting in God's kingdom. The people of Tanzania truly exemplify beautiful Christians. Their love for God and their willingness to serve is one thing I will never forget about this life-changing experience. I never thought 10 days would be enough to change my perspective on many aspects of my life, but everyday I think about how welcoming and hospitable the Tanzanians were to me and try to use that to better the way I treat others.

Danielle Freitag