

March ~ 2019

Well, it's cold again. No newsflash for us North Dakotans. But while 2018 brought a relatively mild winter in regard to snow and temperature, January ROARED back with freezing and windy storms and a bit of snow. And this first week of March, we gathered together to plan for the upcoming year of ministry here at First Lutheran and Trinity. And to many, it might seem that our ministry is kind of frozen. At least the funding has been. Our giving hasn't been keeping up with our expenses and now we will have to think of a way to unfreeze the budget! In some ways, it may reflect what happened back in January in Washington DC as many government workers went without pay for a month during the government shutdown. And during that time some businesses have had a tough time and the economy slowed down. YOU MIGHT SAY THAT IT IS FROZEN! So, yes, like the North Dakota country roads, we have experienced a bit of a freeze, but does that mean that ministry has stopped? ABSOLUTELY NOT! We have moved forward. We have tried a few new things and we will keep on trying new things, because if there is one thing that God's church can do, it is adapting. From meeting in the catacombs and sewers of ancient Rome to worshipping in the great outdoors or under simple canopy like our Bible camps and churches in our sister Synod, the Central African Republic, we have been adapting as God's church for over 2000 years and I hope for thousands of years more. So what is God going to inspire us to do in the year 2019? Well, we will continue to welcome people into our community of faith, both by baptism and by welcoming new families to worship.

We will continue to hear God's word preached Each Sunday and we will learn about the Bible in places like confirmation class. We will receive the gift of God's grace in Holy Communion, walk with the sick and the lonely and keep on moving. It may be freezing, we will keep on moving even if we have to move more slowly at times. I am sure that many of you have heard my ministry mantra for being the church in small-town and rural America; "Even Glaciers are Living Water." Even though they are frozen water, they are still moving ever so slowly. May we continue to do God's work even when it is cold outside, or even when we feel "frozen."

May God continue to bless us throughout 2019 and beyond!

Pastor Chris

Prayer Concerns: Bree Hanson, Kenneth Bland, Judy Miller, Shane Gehring, Linda Moe, Evelyn Curtiss, Romell Lawson, the service Men and Women serving throughout the world, and all those named in our hearts.

Because of *Hippa* rules that protect privacy, people who wish to be on the prayer list must themselves ask to be noted in the bulletin for prayer, or, if they are unable to do so, then an immediate family member must ask. This allows people to choose how much information they want disclosed about their health. Please include all members of your parish in your daily prayers as we do not know what is happening in the lives of those around us. May you, too, know the power of prayer in your life!



As brothers and sisters in Christ, God calls us to lift each other up in prayer on a daily basis. Please remember those we've named in our bulletin this week; keep them in your prayers, and also pray for your neighbors in the pews today, as well as those you don't see here! Take comfort in knowing that you, too, are being prayed for every day! God bless!

First & Trinity Lutheran Parish, ELCA

Nicole Skabo, Secretary

(701) 664-2824

firsttrinity@nccray.net

Chris Lenning, Vice Pastor

(701) 312-0447

chrislenning@yahoo.com

Fritz Gehring, Custodian

(719) 342-5092

Date

Usher & Money Counter Assistant

March 3rd ----- Confirmation Class
March 10th ----- Overmyer Family
March 17th ----- Fritz & Rita Gehring
March 24th ----- Jody Moe Family



Ushers

Council Money Counter and
Communion Assistant for **March: Jeff Moberg**

Communion Preparation for **March: Jay & Susan Wolla**

First and Trinity will be participating in Lenten Round Robin services this year on Wednesday evenings. There will be soup and sandwiches at 6pm and a Lenten service at 7pm at First Lutheran. They will begin on March 13th with Pastor Emily Shipman at First Lutheran. Then we will have the following scheduled speakers.

March 20 Pastor Zach Shipman

March 27 Ashley Mesker

April 3 Pastor Mike Olson

April 10 Milo Mel



First Lutheran W-ELCA

February 6th, 2019

**Our mission is to mobilize women to boldly act
upon their faith in Jesus Christ.**

President Nicole Skabo called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Others present were: Diana Thompson, Linda Holmen, Hazel Iverson, Vickie Germundson, and Arlene Grubb.

The W-ELCA creed was recited.

Diana read the minutes of the past meeting; they were approved as read.
There was no treasurers report.

Correspondence was reviewed.

The Council has set the date for the Annual Meeting part II to be held March 3. Honor Circle will be calling for servers at the potluck.

Vice President position is still open.

First Communion service will be February 12, 7 p.m. Discussion on Thrivent Choice dollars, none received.

Also discussed honoring the high school graduates on Mother's Day with the gifts and potluck meal after church.

Spring Cluster Meeting will be hosted by Tioga W-ELCA April 6, 2019. Theme and speakers have been arranged by the Cluster Board. Decorations, name tags, menus, and music will be up to our Unit. Love offering and money offerings have also been arranged.

Upcoming dates are the Circle Bible Study at LTC February 13, 2019 at 1p.m.

Messenger articles deadline 2-19-2019

Messenger folding 2-26-2019 by Honor Circle

W-ELCA Board meeting 3-6-2019 at 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 3:20 p.m. With the Lord's Prayer.

Arlene Grubb, Acting Secretary

First Lutheran Council Minutes

February 12th, 2019

President Moberg called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm. Members present include, Jeffrey Moberg, Justin Nelson, Kevin Hove, Harlan Germundson, Jon Hersel, Ashley Mesker, Nathan Germundson, Joy Sparks, Jayme Jorstad, Sarah Moe, Ronica Pederson, Hazel Iverson and Pastor Chris Lenning. Visitors present were Rod Berry, Richard Schmidt, and Linda Schmidt. Rod asked for a moment of the council's time and shared an article with us that is titled Church is Hard. After reading it, he asked if he could share it some Sunday during church and the council approved and told him that it could be printed in the Messenger.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chris reported that Bishop Narum is hoping for 1 graduate from the seminary will be placed in the Western ND Synod. The selection pool for seminary students is small and continues to encourage us to support people in the GIFTS program in any way we can. He had a hospital visit with baby Maximus Steele in Minot. Pastor Chris will be on vacation from February 14th – 19th.

Secretary's Report: Ashley made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as written, 2nd by Kevin, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Hazel presented the financial report for January. Motion by Joy, 2nd by Ronica to approve the report as presented, motion carried. Hazel asked what to do with the insurance premium, if we wanted to pay the entire year or pay it in installments. Motion by Jon, 2nd by Harlan to make 1 payment on the premium in its entirety, motion carried. Julia Crisman has expressed interest in the treasurer's position. There was motion by Joy, 2nd by Jayme to offer the treasurer's position to Julia Crisman at \$15/hr. with a 90-day probation period, motion carried. There was discussion again on the external audit. Pastor Chris had talked to someone and the price to have it done is going to be very expensive. This will continue to be looked at and see if there are any other reasonably priced firms to complete it. No action taken. There was discussion on our safety deposit box. It has not been accessed since 2013 and the bank would like us to go into and make sure the lock works since it was relocated in the bank. Nobody knew for sure what is in it. Jeffrey and Hazel will go into the safety deposit box and do an inventory of its contents. Susan Wolla and Tim Sundhagen will do the year end internal audit and provide the report for the annual report. There was discussion on best practices for counting money, deposits and storage of records. Justin will look see what we need to add to these practices moving forward.

Property Management and Administration: We will hold the first reading of the updates in the constitution at the annual meeting. Also, on the agenda for the annual meeting will be the dissolution of FTUM (First Trinity United Ministry). Justin has been working on adding to the bylaw of the church regarding communications and trust building communications. He presented a draft proposal. It will be tweaked a little and then presented for approval. Harlan received a quote from Fran Stewart and Morgan Brewster for painting the sanctuary. This will be just the walls and not the beams on the ceiling. A few ladies from WELCA and suggestions of the colors. Motion by Pastor Chris, 2nd by Ronica to set a

budget of \$2500 for painting of the sanctuary, motion carried. Harlan also talked a little about the parsonage. Bob Anderson will be starting on some framing of walls in the basement and Gary Spooner will do the electrical work in the basement when he gets home in the spring. Harlan also mentioned that maybe we should think about doing some updates in the kitchen of the parsonage. There was a committee formed to come up with some ideas. Members include, Ashley, Jayme and Kevin.

Education: Tentative date for confirmation will be November 3, 2019. We are still waiting on a contract from UMM for Vacation Bible School. Sarah will work on contacting UMM. The last day of Sunday school will be on April 27th with a program during church.

Evangelism: Joy and Nicole got a new brochure put together and printed. Joy continues with 4-56 group and talked a little about what we can do to offer the older kids, 7th grade through senior.

Worship: There was talk about Lenten services. We will participate in a round robin with, Crosby, White Earth, McGregor, Wildrose, and Tioga. Ashley Mesker has offered to preach for Tioga, so she will travel to the different towns. We will have soup and sandwiches prior to the Lenten Services. Pastor Carter Hill will be here on March 6th for an Ash Wednesday service. This will start at 4:30 pm and Holy Communion will be served. Pastor Chris asked if there was a committee responsible to help with special services, ex: baptisms. Hazel looked in the WELCA book and there is nothing in there. Hazel will bring it up at the next WELCA meeting.

Stewardship: No report

Old Business: Justin continues to work on the website, asking for any pictures that people might have with the church in action, so he can post on the web site. There are a few reports that need to be turned in yet to complete the annual report and a council member contact page is needed at the church office and sent to all council members.

New Business: Richard Schmidt informed the council of the Feed my starving Children Mobile Pack being held in Watford City ND March 15 -16. He asked the council to consider either putting a team together or making a monetary donation. Harlan made a motion to donate \$1200 out of the feed my starving children line item in the savings account, to the Watford City Mobile pack, 2nd by Kevin, motion carried. Jeffrey reported that Arvilla has resigned from her position on the council due to a new job. We will be looking for someone to fill her spot. There was discussion about putting a committee together of a couple people from the different groups in the church to start working on our church profile. Justin and Jayme volunteered to work on this and will contact a couple of youth and a couple of ladies from WELCA to start working on it. Our next meeting will be on March 12th at 7pm. With no further business President Moberg adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Nathan Germundson, Secretary

March Pulpit Supply:

March 3 Jim Hamann

March 10 Ron Dahl

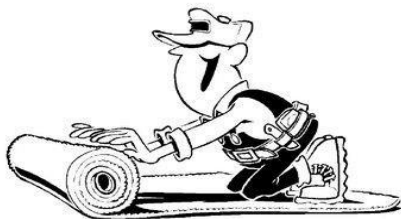
March 17 Jim Hamann

March 24 Milo Mel



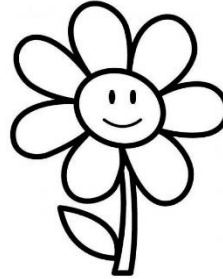
First Lutheran's Annual Meeting part 2 will be on Sunday, March 3rd following worship. Please bring your annual report with you that will be mailed beforehand. There will be a potluck following the meeting!!

First Lutheran W-ELCA will be raising money for carpet/flooring in the education wing and reception area. This Sunday's free-will donation for the potluck which follows the Annual meeting part 2 will be designated for this project. You may also designate your Sunday offering to go to this project by making a note on the offering envelope. If you wish to make your donation tax deductible, make a check out to First Lutheran Church and write "FLC flooring/carpet project". Thanks for your consideration.



Upper Missouri WELCA Spring Cluster Gathering

April 6th, 2019
First Lutheran Church
313 South Torning Street
Tioga, ND



Coffee and registration begin at 9am.
Registration is \$12.00

Theme: In the Garden

Deuteronomy 32:2 - "Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."

Guest Speakers will be Kim Longie,
Dragonfly Floral, Tioga ND
Deb Weisz, Weisz Greenhouse, Tioga, ND

Noon Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Coffee Provided

Love Offering will go to Tioga Food Pantry
(please bring non-perishable items)

Offering $\frac{1}{2}$ to SWO, $\frac{1}{2}$ to Moms and Tots

Contact Nicole Skabo 701-339-1256
for more information.