



The First Word

**First Lutheran Church
324 North Third Street
DeKalb, IL 60115
815.758.0643**

www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

July 2009

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Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 18

3:30 - 5:30 PM

The congregation is invited for an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social on **Saturday, July 18**, from 3:30 - 5:30 PM followed by worship at 5:30 PM. The Ice Cream Social will include homemade pies, cake, ice cream, music, fun and fellowship.

This event is hosted by the Evangelism Committee. Come rain or shine!! Mark the date on your calendars now and plan to join us and **bring a friend!**

Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church

...

*Hearing, Living, and
Sharing God's Word
Together*

Dates to Remember

Bridgebuilding Focus Group Meetings.....July 5, 12, 19, 26
Family Fun Night at Magic WatersJuly 13
Ice Cream Social and WorshipJuly 18
ELCA National Youth Gathering July 21-27
Blessing of the BackpacksAugust 22
Mission Sunday with the Stubbs FamilyAugust 23

Dear Friends in Christ,

In light of several issues identified in the Bridgebuilding Action Planning Report presented by Paul Wolfe and Sarah Wilson, we thought it may be helpful to clarify several matters.

First, the congregation calls a pastor. The authority to call or not call a pastoral candidate lies solely with the congregation. The Northern Illinois Synod provides the names of candidates and the congregation then interviews and calls. Prior to receiving the call to serve as Senior Pastor of the congregation, Pastor Marilyn Hanson made three trips to DeKalb to meet with groups in the congregation. She was first interviewed by the Call Committee, and then spent an evening with the Church Council, and finally on a Sunday morning in early 2002, she spoke to the congregation as a whole. A vote was then taken by the congregation to extend her a Letter of Call to serve as Senior Pastor.

When Pastor Roy Nelson was called as Associate Pastor, he also went through an interview process. First, he had an initial meeting with Pastor Hanson to talk about their personal views on mission and ministry. Next, he met with the Call Committee for a formal interview. He was then invited back with his family to meet with the Church Council members and their spouses and then met the congregation as a whole on a Sunday morning. Finally, Pastor Nelson's name was presented at a meeting of the congregation and a vote was taken to call him in May of 2007. In both instances, this congregation exercised its authority to call its pastors, without undue influence from the synod.

Secondly, as your pastors, we have specific areas of ministry responsibilities outlined in our Letters of Call. However our specific job responsibilities do change over time. When Pastor Nelson was called, we had a Director of Christian Education on staff. Now, we do not. Therefore, in addition to his other responsibilities, Pastor Nelson now oversees Christian Education. We have coordinators for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and Prime Time Wednesdays, but the oversight for the program is his.

Responsibilities specific to Pastor Hanson's call gives her oversight for the staff, the Church Council, Executive Committee, and the following ministry teams – Stewardship, Finance, Endowment, Personnel, and Mutual Ministry. Pastor Nelson relates to Learning and Growth, Social Ministry, and the Evangelism teams, as well as Mutual Ministry and the Tri-Congregational Association. Other paid staff members relate to Property, Worship, Music and Fine Arts, and Youth Ministry. Worship planning, preaching, visitation, presiding over baptisms, weddings, and funerals is split fairly evenly between the two pastors. With two pastors on staff, we believe we are able to offer quality worship and Christian education, effective pastoral care, and increased outreach to the community.

Thirdly, the Mutual Ministry Committee was formed in the summer of 2007, shortly after Pastor Nelson arrived on staff. The basic function of this committee is to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastors and members of the congregation. They serve in two primary ways: as an

Congratulations to **Michele de Oliveira** and **Tim Gray** who were married at the church on May 23.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Bob Corneille** who passed away on June 19; to the family and friends of **Vi Grosklags** who passed away on June 2; to **Gerry Sanderson** and his family at the death of his brother, **Walter, Jr.**, who passed away on May 29; to **Roberta Burke** and her family at the death of her brother who passed away on May 27; and to **Linda Anderson** and her family at the death of her mother, **Helen Rolf**, who passed away on May 26. May God comfort those who mourn.

Congratulations to **Kyle and Terri Kuhns** on the

Ordination

Elizabeth Mascal, daughter of **Brad and Jane Manning** and a former member of First Lutheran Church, was



ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA on June 19 at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in Rock Island. She is pictured here with our synod bishop, Rev. Gary Wollersheim, and the presiding bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Mark Hanson. Elizabeth has been called to serve as pastor to First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mount Carroll, IL.

celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary on July 13 and to **Jim and Dana Varga** on their 20th anniversary on July 15.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Jane Fay, Sue Grafe, Barbara Lindus, Perry Larsen, Rodney**

Lothson, Ken Pumfrey, Al Ritzman, Ruth Smith, Wendy Stern, Emmett & Dorothy Youngren, Curtis Cole (son of **Jesse and Doris Cole**), Elaine Lawrence (sister of **Gerry Sanderson**), and Chris Setchell (daughter-in-law of **Ron and Jan Setchell**).

(Continued from page 2)

advisory group to the pastors and as support for the pastors' leadership. As an advisory group, the committee shares ideas, dreams, hopes, and expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastors. As support for the pastors, the committee interprets roles, functions, and needs of the pastors to the congregation.

The Mutual Ministry Committee differs from the Personnel Committee in a significant way. The Personnel Committee deals with policy, salary, and benefits for all members of the church staff, including the pastors. They work with the staff to ensure a positive working environment exists, to offer support and encouragement to them, and to provide for their annual reviews.

As we move through the Bridgebuilding process, there may be more need for clarification. Council members and pastors are always open to having conversation with you about your questions and concerns. Just stop by and talk with us. Our doors are always open!

On the journey with you,
Pastor Marilyn & Pastor Roy

Sunday School News



As the summer gets in full swing, I come to you excited to begin the 2009 - 2010 Sunday School year. We are beginning the transition from traditional Sunday School to the rotational workshop model of Sunday School. In this new model, students will experience Bible stories and concepts through such workshops as art, cinema, games, storytelling, cooking, dramatics, newsroom, and puppetry, reliving the same story each rotation through these different modalities. Teachers will not be seen in the same way either. They will have different roles as shepherds (shepherding the students all year through the workshops as their faith guide) and workshop leaders (seeing all students within a three - four week rotation by leading one of the workshops listed above).

As we begin this endeavor, we are asking you to prayerfully consider what you can give (time, talent, supplies, etc.) to help transition to this new workshop model. Following you will find an "Angel List" showing what we need to get our workshops up and running as we envision them. Any angel in our congregation and community willing to help out in any capacity would be truly appreciated by our Sunday School students and staff.

Our first rotation will focus on Moses and the Burning Bush and will highlight the cinema, games, and art workshops. The shepherds' commitment will last the entire school year, and his or her teaching focuses on the Bible story and

concepts. The workshop leader's commitment for this rotation will be from September 20 - October 4, and his or her teaching ties the Bible story to the workshop mode. Even though we are only focusing on cinema, games, and art for this first rotation, please feel free to put in a reservation for one of the other workshops for which you have a gift that you would like to share with our students and I will let you know when that workshop will be featured. Both shepherds and workshop leaders will be expected to attend training workshops, teacher meetings, team teach with each other, attend worship services regularly, and ask for help when needed.

Gifts of Time and Talents

- Shepherds (Tiny Tots, PreK/K, First/Second, Third/Fourth, Fifth/Sixth)
- Workshop Leaders
- Assistant Coordinator - collect attendance and offering
- Builders - cinema risers; computer carts or tables
- Artists - murals or banners; create props, scenes for drama workshop or other workshops
- Sewing - costumes for drama; puppets

Gifts of Supplies for Workshops

- Cinema - projection screen; LCD projector; DVD/VCR; speakers; popcorn machine; popcorn
- Cooking - food supplies
- Drama/Puppets - curtains or material to make curtains; large curtain or wooden rod; curtain hangers; animal or people puppets; costumes and props that could be used in biblical stories; robes; walking sticks; life-size animals

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(Continued from page 4)

- Computer Lab - gently used computers, desktop or laptop; projection screen and projector; surge protectors/power strips
- Game Room - Nerf dodgeball; canoe or other large sport/game item to place game room supplies in
- TV Station - video camera; large TV or projector and projection screen
- Story time - beanbag chairs

If you have questions or would like to give something from our angel list, please contact the Church Office. Thank you in advance for your help and support in the upcoming school year.

Stephanie Corn

Prime Time Wednesdays



Exciting things are being planned this fall for

Children's Ministry!! We are working on some changes in programming for three year olds through Sixth Graders, in what is currently known as Prime Time Wednesdays, and for Children's Choir.

Prime Time Wednesday participants will be divided into three age groups this fall: age three through First Grade, Second through Fourth Graders, and a new 'Tween' group for Fifth and Sixth Graders.

In addition, Children's Choir is moving to Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 PM. This year we are expanding the choir to include two groups: one for First through Fourth Graders and the other for Fifth through Eighth Graders. With these upcoming changes comes a need for more helping hands and caring hearts. If you have any of these qualities

we'll be happy to talk with you —

- enthusiasm and patience
- the gift of teaching
- a passion for working with children
- ability to lead singing and/or play piano
- a desire to share your faith in a new and different way
- good organizational skills

Here are some specific needs:

1. a person to serve as the coordinator for Prime Time Meals
2. an additional leader for age three through First Grade
3. two leaders for Second through Fourth Graders
4. two leaders for our new 'Tween Group — Fifth and Sixth Graders

Curriculum is being selected for each group. The format includes Bible based stories, activities and discussions; specific leader dialogues and instructions are provided.

For more information, please contact **Jean Nelson** at 758-0643 or music@firstlutherandekalb.org. Watch for more info in the August newsletter.

Your Christian Education staff, **Stephanie Corn** and **Jean Nelson**, have been busy sorting through and reorganizing the numerous craft supplies and items in our Resource Room, assisted by **Kelly Buhk** and **Teresa Lange**. In addition, the following children have helped test magic markers and pens, sharpened pencils, sorted colored paper, etc. - **Linnea Kothrade**, **Calla Nelson**, **Logan and Bryson Buhk**, and **Alexia Corn**. Thanks to all of you for helping with this enormous task!

Jean Nelson

**YOUTH
GROUP
SCOOP**

Sr. High Meal and a Message will meet on the following dates in July from 5:30 - 7:30: July 1, July 8, July 15, and July 29. There will be no Meal and a Message on July 22. The Bible Study at Ollie's will meet the following dates in July from 7-8: July 5, July 12, July 19. There will be no Bible Study July 26.

For all going to New Orleans, please plan to attend our last trip meeting on Sunday, July 19 after the service (during coffee hour). There will also be a trip blessing during service on July 19 so please make every effort to attend!

If you are going on the New Orleans trip we will also have a get together with the other churches riding our bus on Sunday July 12. Time and place TBA.

There will be a Jr. and Sr. High fun activity on Friday, July 10, from 4:00 - 5:00 PM. We will be ice skating at the DeKalb ice rink. Cost per person is \$8.00. No sign up is required.

Getting to Know Our Youth

This is our first installment of our new "Getting To Know Our Youth" feature. Our July student is **Nicole Billips**. This is what she has to say about her involvement in national ministry:

Peace and greetings to you all!

As most of you may know, I was blest enough in November 2008 to be elected as the female co-chair elect for the CSLYOPs board, part of the National Board of Lutheran Youth Organization. One of my many responsibilities that I have with this position is to help plan the next CSLYOPs event in November 2009. This event, that I worked on planning with my fellow co-chairs a few weekends ago in late May, is a gathering for all (nationally) synod Lutheran Youth Organization presidents. We are being hosted by the Central Southern Illinois Synod and are lucky enough to have a great location of a great camp called Lake Williamson.

Our theme for CSLYOPs 2009 is Discipleship. We hope to instill and show helpful knowledge and techniques of Discipleship to our presidents attending so that they hopefully can bring back all they learn to their synods and share with their fellow youth and churches. With God's guidance I know all our plans will go well and the joy of his work will come through all of us "planners" and we will be able to be good examples to others and essentially good disciples.

God's blessings and love,
Nicole Billips

Magic Waters' Lutheran Youth and Family Fun Night

Join others from the Northern Illinois Synod on Monday evening, July 13 for the annual "Lutheran Youth and Family Fun Night" at Magic Waters Fun Park in Rockford. The event is a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. Swimming starts at 5:15 PM and the event closes at 9:00. Cost is \$7.00 with advanced registration and \$8.00 at the door. Your admission includes free use of tube (usually \$6.00). Tickets are available from Youth Director Liz Botts.



Council Highlights for June 2009

- Discussed progress we have made on our 2009 mission goals
- Approved the slate of 16 members to serve on the Action Planning Team for the Bridgebuilding Process. Team members include: **Ben Bayle, Debra Burgin, Lynn Cook, Cheryl Countryman, Jack Cress, Carolyn Dienst, Sara Ann Feken, Debbie Fisher, Loren Foelske, Trent Lange, Stan Lindahl, John Longeville, Christine Myroth, Gerry Sanderson, Jill Olson Skinner, and Jim Womack.**
- Approved supporting **Zachary Aase** in his proposed Eagle Scout project to replace the shingles on the parsonage and attached garage. Zach will be submitting a complete plan for the project to the Property Committee and they will then determine the full scope of the project.
- Reviewed the proposed timetable for our Stewardship Emphasis in the fall.
- Reviewed our financial situation and heard that we are currently over \$37,000 behind in income over expenses. As a result, we did not approve a proposal from the Personnel Committee to increase the hours of our church custodian.



Music Ministry Notes

Our second annual Blessing of the Animals and first outdoor worship service of the summer was held on Saturday, June 13 at 5:30 PM. Although the day started out wet and gloomy, the weather cleared up enough for a fine worship experience out on Third Street. Fourteen dogs and one cockatiel received special blessings from Pastors Marilyn and Roy.



Mark your calendars for our next outdoor worship service on Saturday, July 18 at 5:30 PM. Come enjoy ice cream and fellowship **between 3:30 and 5:30 PM**, then stay for worship and nourish your soul.


CAN YOU HELP?? We have an opening for someone to lead music time with our Tiny Tots through Kindergartners on Sunday mornings for approximately 15 minutes during Sunday School. Keyboard skills are not required and age appropriate music will be provided. Please contact **Jean Nelson** for more information at 758-0643 or music@firstlutherandekalb.org.

Coming soon! In order to make it easier for worshipers to find the words of the Apostle's Creed, a copy of the creed will be placed inside the back cover of each ELW (cranberry) hymnal. Also included will be the words for the contemporary version of The Lord's Prayer. We hope that this will be helpful to you as we worship together.



July 2009

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 7:00 - 8:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study at Ollie's	29 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	30 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	1 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM GED Classes	2	3	4  Independence Day
5 Food Pantry Donations 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Bridgebuilding Focus Group 7:00 - 8:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study at Ollie's	6 10:00 AM MOPS Play Date At Huntley Park, DeKalb 12:00 NOON Book Discussion Group 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings	8 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM GED Classes	9 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study	10 4:00 - 5:00 PM Jr & Sr High Ice Skating Activity	11
12 Sr. High Can Collection 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Bridgebuilding Focus Group 7:00 - 8:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study at Ollie's	13 5:15 - 9:00 PM Family Fun Night at Magic Waters 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	14 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council	15 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM GED Classes	16	17	18 3:30 - 5:30 PM Ice Cream Social 5:30 PM Outdoor Worship
19 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Bridgebuilding Focus Group 7:00 - 8:00 PM Youth Group Bible Study at Ollie's	20 10:00 AM MOPS Play Date At Huntley Park, DeKalb 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	22 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 6:00 PM GED Classes	23 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Knitting & Crocheting Group	24	25
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> Youth Gathering in New Orleans - July 21—July 27 </div>						
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Bridgebuilding Focus Group	27 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	29 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM GED Classes	30	31	1

Bridgebuilders Update



Earlier this spring, First Lutheran Church began the Bridgebuilder process, which is a means for the church to gain greater clarity about what is happening, to focus on their resources and strengths, and to move toward a vision for the future. On June 13 Paul Wolfe and Sarah Wilson, our Bridgebuilder consultants, returned to First Lutheran to give their Bridgebuilder Action Report to the congregation at an open meeting to all interested members. This report was compiled from information received at our Bridgebuilder April Learning Event in addition to letters, e-mails, and phone calls from many members. Any member who was unable to attend this meeting is welcome to pick-up a copy of this report in the Church Office.

The consultants then met with the Action Planning Group to begin the start of the Action Plan. The Action Planning Group consists of 16 members of this congregation who have volunteered for the effort and were approved by the Church Council. The members who are on this group are as follows: **Benjamin Bayle, Debra Burgin, Lynn Cook, Cheryl Countryman, Jack Cress, Carolyn Dienst, Sara Ann Feken, Debbie Fisher, Loren Foelske, Trent Lange, Stan Lindahl, John Longeville, Christine Myroth, Gerry Sanderson, Jill Olson Skinner, and Jim Womack.**

Sarah and Paul guided the Action Planning Group through a thoughtful

and reflective process to develop a draft of an Action Plan. The next part of the Action Plan is to involve as many members of the congregation as possible in this process of deciding how, as a congregation, we want to proceed with the Issues of **Mission, Stewardship, Leadership, and Communication.** This process is to be done by forming Focus Groups of eight to 12 members. The Focus Groups' purpose is as follows:

- to allow additional congregation members to review and respond to the Action Planning Process Workshop results
- for additional congregational members to offer suggestions and ideas for the Action Plan
- for the congregation to focus on response, not condition (what they're used to) or reaction
- opportunity for the congregation to look at the future and offer input into new ministries

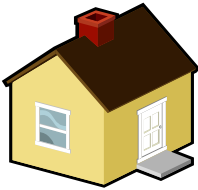
We are asking members to set aside about an hour after church on one of the four Sundays in July - 5, 12, 19, or 26. Additional times may be scheduled if needed. At the end of the entire process, the Action Planning Group's report will be a basis for the church to create and implement some new practices or reestablish/confirm existing practices in order for First Lutheran to move toward our shared vision. Please prayerfully consider talking to one of the members of the Action Planning Group for more information and attending one of the focus groups.

Paul M. Letheby
General Coordinator
Bridgebuilder Process

Hope Haven Needs Volunteers

The Hope Haven chart for volunteers is now posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. Volunteers are asked to help provide a portion of the meal (main dish; vegetable or salad; or dessert and milk). First Lutheran is responsible for the second Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in helping, contact **Carrie Engstrom** at 758-2588 or sign up today!

Update on Thrivent Build with Habitat for Humanity



The lot at 119 Home Drive, off of East Lincoln Highway, is ready and waiting for the weather to cooperate. Currently, First Lutheran is scheduled to help on-site Saturday, August 22 and Saturday, October 3. Thank you to all who have indicated a willingness to participate either as construction workers or as lunch providers. More volunteers are still needed. Susan Callahan will contact you all closer our assigned dates or to our new dates if construction delays alter the schedule. If you want to help on Saturdays other than our scheduled days, please contact Habitat for Humanity of DeKalb County at habitat@tbc.net or call (815) 758-5055. You will get the fastest response if you use e-mail.

Another way to support the build is with a donation: please make checks out to First Lutheran and write "Thrivent Build" on the memo line. This is our last opportunity to take advantage of Thrivent's generous two-year partnership with our local Habitat affiliate. Thrivent is covering 65% of the building cost,

Habitat of DeKalb County is covering 25%, and the 13 county Lutheran churches are responsible only for the remaining 10%. Together we can help provide decent, affordable housing for a deserving family.

Make "Prelude" Part of Your Week!

Women, come join our study group on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of each month. This study, facilitated by Pastor Marilyn and geared especially for women, will meet in July on the 9th and 23rd, beginning at 9:00 AM. Bring your July issue of The Lutheran magazine and we'll discuss some of the articles of most interest to the group. This study group meets upstairs in Classroom A, coffee and goodies are always served, and newcomers are always welcome. Check us out!

Book Discussion Group Meets in July

The Book Discussion Group will meet next on Monday, July 6, at 12:00 NOON in the Community Room. Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert will be discussed.



Gilbert (The Last American Man) grafts the structure of romantic fiction upon the inquiries of reporting in this sprawling yet methodical travelogue of soul-searching and self-discovery. Plagued with despair after a nasty divorce, the author, in her early 30's, divides a year equally among three dissimilar countries, exploring her competing urges for earthly delights and divine transcendence. All those attending are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion.

**Coming
in September!**



**“Making Sense of Scripture —
Big Questions about the Book of Faith”**

Please join us for the Sunday Adult Forum on Sundays, **September 13 - October 25**. This seven session study is hosted (via DVD) by Professor David Lose, from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Topics include: What is the Bible?; Is the Bible True?; How is the Bible the Word of God?; Where Did the Bible Come From?; How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding?; Is There a ‘Center’ to Scripture?; What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?

Help Make New Ornaments for Our Christmas Tree

A *chrismon* is a Christmas tree decoration designed to represent some feature of Christ’s life. The first one, the story goes, was made by Frances Kipps Spencer in 1957 for the tree in the sanctuary of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. Her idea was to create an adornment that was less commercial and more reverential than the decorations available in the stores. The first *chrismon* was a *chi-rho*, Christ’s monograph; many other designs have been created over the years.



More than thirty years ago, some women of First Lutheran Church got together and made many *chrismons* out of white felt with gold trim. Though these *chrismons* were stored with care each year, over time they became dirty and frayed and their use was discontinued. This year, under the guidance of **Anna Diab**, members of the congregation are invited to make new *chrismons* – beautiful *chrismons* richly adorned with pearls and gold trim.

Within the next few weeks, Anna will have the *chrismon* fabric and supplies and will announce dates for members to work together on this special project, though anyone who prefers to work at home or in small groups will be welcome to do so.

If you have a gift for needlework or would like to learn from someone who does, please talk to Anna (815-758-5096) or Lynn Schmidt (during office hours, 815-758-0643).

Recession and the Church



FINANCE
COMMITTEE

The recession plus the increase in costs have had a negative impact on many churches as well as the Northern Illinois Synod. Everyone is dealing with shortfalls in terms of their budgets. We here at First Lutheran are also dealing with deficits each month of 2009. Bills are being paid, but we are using our reserves to make up the differences. This is where we stand at the end of May — in order to meet our budget requirements for income, we need to take in \$42,000 each month. We have not reached this amount in any of the first 5 months of 2009, therefore our budget deficit is (\$37,000) at the end of May, 2009. If we continue at this rate, the projected shortfall by year end could be as much as (\$100,000).

The budget adopted in January reflected cuts made in general operations, supplies, and salaries of two staff positions. The Synod contribution was also cut from 15% to 12%. These are all pull backs that were made knowing we had a budget shortfall in 2008.

This correspondence is designed to inform the congregation of our standing financially as the year progresses. The Finance Committee and Church Council members will be looking for solutions and options as we proceed through the summer and fall months.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Bill Sanders
First Lutheran Treasurer
Finance Committee

Did You Know ...

... that the hymn “Children of the Heavenly Father” (ELW 781) has been included in every edition of our Lutheran hymnal? Ruth Smith sang it for us on the evening of our Sesquicentennial Dinner in July 2008.

... that in the Swedish Hemlandssånger, published in Rock Island, 1892, you will find it as number 149? “Tryggare kan ingen vara,” it begins. “Safer can no one be ...” The line then continues, “than God’s own host of children.”

... that the translator must then fit this thought to the metrical pattern of the music? It does not change: “Children of the Heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather.” This melody is a traditional Swedish folk song.

... that the words were written by Lina (Carolina) Sandell, the daughter of a parish priest? In 1858 she helplessly watched her father drown in rough seas on their way to Gothenburg on the west coast.

... that “from the depths of her broken heart” she turned to writing hymns (the words), 14 of which were published anonymously that same year? She was 26 years old at the time.

... that back in the 1950’s, as part of one of its concert programs, the Augustana College Choir included this hymn, sung in Swedish? This reintroduced it to a new audience, and it was said that the students were beginning to request that it be included among the hymns sung back home.

Corinne Johnson

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Yvonne Johnson
Mary Keil
Michael Pumfrey
2. Rachel Hunter-Rosene
4. Thomas Riel
5. Richard Cress
Peyton Marten
Daniel Olsen
David Olsen
6. Ellen Cress
Barbara Rauman
7. Virgene Christensen
Pamela Corneille
Charles Hart
Michael Lange
Doug Massier
Ashlee Mecklenburg
Rudy Salazar
Emmett Youngren
8. Victoria Kothrade
Marilyn Sanders | 9. Rolf Anderson
Florence Johnson
Steve Schmidt
Miranda Simek
Bryan Taylor
10. Bil Johnson
11. Jason Hardenbergh
Gretchen Looney
12. Jonathan Colvin
Jennifer Franzene
Caden Johnson
13. Tina Lange
Richard Sjolund
14. Jason Buhk
Ann Hart Pearcy
Patricia Smith
David Wallin
15. Kara Clanton
Timothy Lange
16. Doris Cole
Matthew Hoyle
Aidan Lange | 17. Megan Corneille
Kerstin Henke
18. Michael Bauling
Logan Buhk
Amy Wallin
19. Judy Williams
20. Anna Diab
Amy Harris
21. Merlin Anderson
Bryson Buhk
Darla Massier
22. Jill Olson Skinner
23. Sarah Stiely
24. Deborah Pardridge
25. Steven Wiltberger
26. Larry Anderson
John Bross
28. Kelsey Salazar
29. Allison Hunter-Rosene
30. Andrew Benson
31. Doug Black
Lisa Schmidt
JoAnn Skabo |
|---|---|---|

Comptroller Report for May 2009

	May Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	May Budget
Income	\$30,057.61	\$164,532.35	
Expenses	\$39,124.93	\$202,218.51	\$41,942.75
Ahead/(Behind)	(-\$9,067.32)	(-\$37,686.16)	

Capital Building Fund Loan Balance - \$501,000.52

One days interest on mortgage - \$70.50

Attendance Figures for May 2009

	9:00 Sunday
May 3	224
May 10	213
May 17	214
May 24	228
May 31	292

First Staff

Senior Pastor

Marilyn G. Hanson

Pastor@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Associate Pastor

Roy Nelson

RevRoy@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary

Lynn Schmidt

Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Comptroller

Matt Morfoot

Support@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Liz Botts

liz_botts@yahoo.com

Sunday School Coordinator

Stephanie Corn

Music Ministry/PTW Coordinator

Children's Choir Director

MaryJean Nelson

Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Organist

Mark Mackeben

Organist@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Adult Choir Director

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

Custodian

Bill Colvin

Security

Howard Jacobson

Congregation Council

President

John Longeville

Vice-President

Bob Snow

Secretary

Cathy Foelske

Treasurer

Bill Sanders

Barbara Henson

Kayla Kittleson

Trent Lange

Paul Letheby

Stan Lindahl

Caroline Peregrine

Karen Schramer

Tarryn Thaden

Committee Chairpersons

Endowment Committee

Arlyn Strike

Evangelism Committee

Mary Colvin & Sue Grafe

Finance Committee

Dorothy Thorsen

Learning/Growth Committee

Personnel Committee

Jill Olson

Property Committee

Keith Setchell & Jan Womack

Social Ministry Committee

Jeanette Gommel

Stewardship Committee

Gerry Sanderson

Worship/Music/Fine Arts Committee

Youth Ministry Committee

Caroline Peregrine



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
324 NORTH THIRD STREET
DEKALB IL 60115**

**Non-Profit Org
Presort Standard Mail
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PAID
DeKalb, IL
Permit No. 43**

Worship Schedule

**Sunday Worship
9:00 AM**

**Christian Education Hour
10:20 - 11:20 AM**

**Church Office Hours
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - NOON - Friday**

Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED