Join in commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

FESTIVAL WORSHIP
Sunday, October 29th
11:00 AM
Bismarck Event Center

On Sunday, September 17th, we had a special congregational meeting at 9:30A.M. in the sanctuary regarding proposed facility infrastructure improvements. I gave a power point presentation that covered the following:

- Replace Kewanee steam boiler installed in 1955 with a new, high efficiency hot water system. ($400,000)
- Bring Education Wing lower level restrooms up to code and remove and replace deteriorating asbestos tile (i.e. demolish and rebuild both restrooms to ADA compliance). ($50,000)
- Explore ability to add two new restrooms on main level of church. ($75,000)
- Refinish outside railings all around church property. ($11,500)
- Replace Fellowship Hall carpeting with easy maintenance flooring. ($20,000)
- Replace all lower level classroom single pane windows. ($15,500)

The congregation was presented with 3 different options for the associated costs for these proposals. The main level restrooms will be put on hold for the time being as the boiler replacement cost increased by $80,000 since I had previously proposed replacement back in 2009. The options included a 15 year, a 17.5 year, and a 20 year fixed rate mortgage refinancing and additional loan acquisition, as well as a 10 year, 7 year and 5 year fixed with an ARM reset after the fixed rate ends with a 16 year repayment schedule.

The congregation voted 72 yes, 0 no to go with the 20 year fixed rate option to add an additional $500,000 to our existing loan that has a principal balance of $260,000. In effect, our current amortization schedule pays off our existing loan in April of 2024; the new amortization schedule will pay off our new loan plus the existing balance in April of 2036, which in actually extends our mortgage for an additional 12 years but enables us to complete many of these necessary and overdue projects. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting on Sunday for your presence and ongoing commitment to our congregation’s future presence and ministry in this community and beyond. Your ongoing support of our Building Fund is most appreciated!

Until next time,
Pastor Lee
Greetings from Kumamoto. It has been a hot but relatively uneventful summer for us. However, we live in the age of terror in so many different forms. Japan has always been in the cross hairs of North Korea and the possibility of being hit by a missile is not new. However, the provocation is new. The promise of “fire and fury the likes of which this world has never seen” came on the exact day that the Japanese people remembered the WWII bombing of Nagasaki. We pray for peace. With the email that this is attached to, I am also attaching a letter to partner churches from Bishop Eaton and our Global Missions Director. The challenges of working with the Church around the world have become even more difficult in today’s climate. Your prayers for Churches around the world, as well as the Church in the US, are necessary. Family Stuff. Jun is now a bilingual 3 1/2 year old with energy that continues to amaze us. He speaks Japanese at kindergarten/day care and we use only English at home. We have lots of English books and resources from other missionary families whose children have grown, but our next step is literacy. The Japanese school system will not begin to teach him English until he is a 3rd grader, and they won’t pick up a pencil in the class until 5th grade. Picture: Jun and the guitar he was so excited to make at Kenju Lutheran Church’s Spring “Samuel Night” program.

The other big news is that we are expecting Baby Number 2 in October! The Japanese system gives 8 weeks of maternity-leave before the due date also, so I am technically already on maternity-leave. Socialized medicine means that there is very little cost for delivery. The Prefecture also picks up the bills for all medical costs until the child is 3 years old! For Jun, we now pay only 500 yen per month (approximately $5). When I went to the Prefectural Hall, I also got a key chain to put on my purse or bag. The translation: “There’s a baby inside!” J Picture: my key chain.

South Carolina Bishop’s School. Kotono Miura and Rina Kaku were chosen from amongst our students to attend “Bishop’s Camp” through the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church sister synod of South Carolina. They stayed with host families for a bit and then went with youth from SC to the camp. Kotono lives in our dorm and is the daughter of a pastor. She is currently the leader of our student religious committee. She grew up in the church, but her English was weak. Rina is a student from our senior English course. She had never been exposed to Christianity before coming to Luther, but her English is good. The two of them complement one another well. I hope to give you more information about their trip in the next newsletter. Pictured from the left: Chaperone Mr. Taniguchi, 3 high school students from Kyushu Gakuin, Rina, Kotono.

Continuing Earthquake Recovery. The city is continuing to recover after our twin earthquakes over a year ago. During the summer break, I have driven through the Mashiki area, near us, which was hit the hardest by the first of the two earthquakes on April 14, 2016. There is still lots of construction and the city hall building is still a portable. We continue to pray for their recovery and the students who come to Luther from that area. Picture from Japan Times: The Mashiki area in April 2016.

Kumamoto Lutheran Church. We are so excited and blessed to be back in the sanctuary and all parts of Kumamoto Lutheran Church after the finishing of the construction after the earthquake. It took about 3 months of scaffolding, but we are back with beautiful lighting in the sanctuary. We are also able to use the 1st floor for our kids program (between 3 to 10 kids every 1st and 3rd Sunday). For the last time together before summer vacation, we did finger painting! It isn’t something that Japanese kids usually do—so the kids were a little tentative at first, but soon got into it. We talked about how God’s fingerprints are all over us, and then we put fingerprints all over the paper (not one another!) Picture right: Elena and yellow! Pictured left: Yuma, J3 Hannah, Jun, and Elena get into finger painting.

Please continue to pray for:
3rd year students at Luther Gakuin and Kyushu Gakuin—as they continue to prepare for a new entrance exam procedure for colleges.
21 students from Luther’s sister school, Immanuel College, Adelaide, Australia as they travel around Japan and spend 1 week in Kumamoto in October.

Someone to answer the call to serve our International Congregation in Kumamoto.

Katie S. Narum Miyamoto
Christ’s Peace & Prayers,
We will be having a new member orientation on Sunday, October 1st at 6:00 P.M. If you are interested in becoming a member here at First Lutheran please call the church office at 663-3594 as soon as possible. Thank you.

Lutheran World Relief will be packing up all of their supplies on October 19th at 9:00 A.M. If you are able to help, please stop by the Fellowship Hall that morning.

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Lutefisk & Lefse Supper
with Swedish Meatballs
Saturday, October 21st, 2017
3:30 to 7:00 P.M.
Adults $20.00
Children under 12 $5.00

Attention All High School Students!!!
LAF (Lunch At First) starts on Thursday, October 5th. Come over and enjoy a free lunch. EVERYONE is welcome. Come for good food and fun times. We will be serving every Thursday (unless there is no school). Bring your friends and join us for lunch!

Pastor Appreciation Month
October is Pastor Appreciation Month! The staff and council at First Lutheran would like to show appreciation and say ‘thanks’ to Pastor Lee and Pastor Chris by having everyone submit a card during the month of October. Baskets will be placed in the church narthex for your convenience.

Jessie Hilfer
Church Council President

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For Those Being Confirmed this October:
DON’T FORGET
The Confirmation Banquet will be held on Sunday, October 22nd at 6:00 P.M. We ask that you RSVP for this event with the total number of your immediate family members who will be attending no later than October 9th. Please respond to Pastor Chris for the link to RSVP.
The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday, October 29th at 3:00 P.M. Please arrive at 1:00 P.M. for pictures.

Christmas Poinsettias
The youth of our church are selling poinsettias, which will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The flowers can be picked up after the last Christmas Eve service. The price for each plant is $13.00. Please place orders by October 29th. We cannot accept late orders. Order forms are available in the narthex and can be turned in with your offering, to the church office, or dropped in the mail.

Order Your Poinsettias

Mark Your Calendar…

OCTOBER 2017
4th: 7pm - Confirmation - Large Group
5th: LAF ~ Hot Dogs/Hamburgers
11th: 7pm - Confirmation - Large Group
12th: LAF ~ Sloppy Joes
18th: No Confirmation
19th: No LAF
25th: 7pm - Confirmation - Small Group
26th: LAF ~ Sandwiches
Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:
- September 3 Waylon John Haugen
- September 24 Declan David Leingang
- September 24 Harper Lee Doll

Weddings:
- September 23 Chayse Kaley & Erica Richter
- September 30 Kenton Keller & Amy Nitschke

Funerals:
- September 6 Lewis Shaw
- September 18 Dorothy Hertz

Memorial Fund

In memory of Lewis Shaw given by Gary & Claudia Tomanek (for carpet in offices), Barb Dove, Paul Jacobson, Ralph & Naida Feland, Don & JoAnn Price, Walter & Leona Keidel, Arden & Pat Hagerott, Kenny & Leona Lohstreter, Dave & Eunice Wolf.

October ~ Mission of the Month

Weekend Meals for Mandan Kids
Items needed are Peanut Butter, Jelly, Fruit Cups, Canned Fruit, Granola Bars, Cereal, Pudding Cups, Applesauce, Chef Boyardee’, Mac & Cheese, Soups, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pop Tarts, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Rice A Roni, Pasta Roni, Pork and Beans, Baked Beans, Pancake Mix (no eggs required such as Krusteaz Brand, Syrup.

NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!
You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you!

Special Thanks

Thank you to all the greeters, ushers, communion servers, readers, communion set-up, coffee hour workers, and to all who have supplied goodies for the last month. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Deadline for articles for the November Newsletter will be October 21st.

Worship Schedule

Sunday ~
- 8:30 am – Traditional
- 10:45 am – Contemporary
- 9:30 am – Coffee
- 9:30 am – Church School

Wednesday ~
- 6:00 pm – Transitional
- 6:00 pm – Church School
- 7:00 pm – Confirmation

4th Annual Trunk or Treat is returning to First Lutheran!
First Lutheran Church is hosting a fun and safe place in Mandan for our area youth to trick or treat. Trunk or Treat will take place on Halloween night, October 31st from 5:00-7:30 P.M. in the church parking lot. Please prayerfully consider all the ways you can help make our third annual Trunk or Treat Night a huge success!

We need trunk sponsors. Please consider sponsoring a “trunk”. You will decorate a car trunk with your business name or just a fun Halloween theme, along with staffing someone to hand out candy, provided by you, to the trick or treaters. If it’s not possible for you to participate in the event, you can also send a monetary donation to use towards prizes and candy for the children attending Trunk or Treat.

We need volunteers! This is a great evangelism outreach project for our church and its success is dependent of volunteers. Would you like to hand out candy? Would you like to be behind the scenes, hanging flyers up around town? Do you want to work in the kitchen providing hot dogs to the children? We will need a lot of helping hands!

We need monetary donations to help defray the expense of food, candy and prizes. If you’re not able to volunteer and would like to donate funds instead, thank you!

We need you to spread the WORD! Bring your kids to a safe place on Halloween night! Let all your friends know who have kids ages 0-12 that we are hosting a Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Halloween night from 5:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M. All are welcome!

If you would like to participate, please contact the church office at 663-3594, Ron Webb at 426-1461 or Tim Faller at 223-2390 for more information.
First Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
Date: August 17, 2017

Members present:  
Pastor Lee Herberg, Pastor Christina Martin, President Jessie Hilfer, Secretary Andrea Bonness, Wayne Friesz, Ron Webb, Tim Faller, and Jill Miller.

Members absent: Vice President DJ Campbell & Kevin Fishbeck

Devotions were presented by Pastor Lee Herberg

Approval of Agenda: (an additional agenda item added regarding youth fund-raising cash balances in individual accounts)

Moved by: Jill Miller  
Seconded by: Ron Webb
Motion Passed

Secretary’s Report and Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Jill Miller  
Seconded by: Wayne Friesz
Motion passed

Financial Report/Review

Income for July: $31,900.28  
Expenses for July $32,532.41
Extra expenses included a new commercial shredder and a new computer for Jenn totaling $1,172.97. A positive financial position continues with the building fund.

Unfinished Business

Topic: Building Task Force/Options for financing
Pastor Lee presented a handout of the power point presentation that will be used at the special congregational meeting on September 17, 2017 at 9:30. A list of the facility improvements and estimated costs and a financial proposal will be presented. Some bidding costs continues as Engineer consulting and more information is needed for certain projects and need to be more clearly defined.
Pastor Lee will contact Pete from Thrivent to get information on the specifics of the loan application.

Topic: Projector System
A bid has been received from Tricorne Audio Inc. for $10,440.00. A motion was made by Tim Faller to accept the bid and to remove the cost from the facility improvement list.
Seconded by: Wayne Friesz
The cost will covered by a $5000.00 donation from a church member and from the general fund in the budget.

Topic: Hail Damage to the roof
Shingling was completed 08-17-17, all has been completed except the skylights which will be completed on 09-11-17.
A motion was made by Tim Faller to pay 80% to B & B Roofing and 20% upon completion.
Seconded: Wayne Friesz
**Topic: Reformation 500th Anniversary Service**

Tim Faller, Walter Keidel, Bruce and Lori Meyers have volunteered to plant trees on 09-09-17 at Sleepy Hollow. Pastor Lee has another planning meeting on 08-26-17 for continued planning. First Lutheran will need 8-10 usher volunteers for the service.

**Topic: Open Position on Council**

LeAnn Olson has declined to fill the position. An appointment will be postponed until next month.

**New Business**

> Additional Video Cameras for the East Parking Lot

On 07-09-17 during the church service a vehicle had its door window broken and a purse was taken. Our video surveillance system recorded 2 individuals; they also entered several unlocked vehicles. The recording was submitted to the police and the individuals were caught and arrested. A concern was then brought up of the possibility of adding more cameras in the east parking lot. Pastor Lee will check on the cost.

> Special Congregational Meeting

It will be Sunday September 17, 2017 between services at 9:30 am

> Mission Trip Funds

Pastor Chris stated some on the youth have left over funds in their accounts from fund raising and will no longer be a part of the youth programs. She would like to provide some options on what happens to the extra money. She will draft a proposal of options for the next council meeting.

**Reports:**

**Pastor Lee:**

4 Baptisms 2 Funerals 2 Weddings 1 Committal

Officiated at August communion services at Sunset, Miller Pointe, and Library Square II.

Continues to meet with Bill Dodd who will be ordained in October.

**Pastor Chris:**

5 Baptisms 4 Funerals 4 Weddings 0 Committals

Officiated July services at Sunset, Miller Pointe and Library Square II.

Attended the youth Mission trip to Denver in July.

Just returned from vacation.

**Special Events:**

> We are serving at the Banquet at Trinity Lutheran Church on 09-16-17 from 10 am to 2 pm.

> Church picnic will be held on 09-10-17 at noon at the elk park, Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, and other dishes will be potluck.

**Stewardship:**

No Report

**Worship:**

Hymns have been selected for the Wednesday evening services through fall.

**Parish Education/Youth:**

> 21 youth & 5 adults attended the Mission trip in Denver, Co

> Next year the National Youth Gathering will be June 24- July 2 in Houston, TX

17 youth and 4 adults are currently registered. Pastor Chris has been selected to be on the Synod Day committee so her $300.00 fee to attend is paid for. Over 30,000 youth and advisors will be attending.

> Pastor Chris will also be attending Synod Day training in Houston in November.

> Church School starts September 10

> Fall Confirmation classes start September 13

**Evangelism and Outreach:**

> No Report

**Property and Management:**

> No Report

**Correspondence:**

Thank you memos were received from Golden Age for donations in the amount of $96.73 for June and for $67.24 in July. Thank you memos received from Missouri Slope for donations received in the amount of $163.24 for June and $113.48 for July. A thank you note was also received from the Girl Scouts for the use of the church for their events and meetings.

**Motion to Adjourn/Lord’s Prayer**

Motion by: Jill Miller Seconded by: Tim Faller

Meeting was adjourned by President Jesse Hilfer. The next Council meeting will be at 7:00 on September 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Minutes Submitted by: Andrea Bonness, Secretary**

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**Tax Planning Information...**

A State Tax Credit for Endowment Gifts is available for individuals if they make a gift to a qualified ND endowment (First Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is a qualified Fund.). Individuals may receive a state tax credit for a contribution of $5,000 or more (lump sum or aggregate in one year) to a qualified ND endowment. The tax credit is 40% of the charitable deduction allowed by the IRS up to a maximum credit of $10,000 per year per taxpayer or $20,000 per year per couple filing jointly.

Businesses (C corporations, S corporations, estates, limited liability companies, and trusts) that pay state income tax may receive a 40% credit up to a maximum credit of $10,000 for contributions to a qualified ND endowment.

Please consult your own attorney, accountant or financial advisor for advice on your situation.

For other ways to contribute, please refer to the Leave a Legacy brochure located in the Narthex and complete the “Information Request Form” located in the brochure. Also, find helpful information provided by the First Lutheran Mission Endowment Committee in the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Contact any of the Committee Members: Michelle Radke (400-9687), Donna Fishbeck (471-2051), Heather Heinle (226-4956), Terry Bohn (471-7725) or Kristi Entzi (400-6900) or call the church office for more information on how you can contribute (663-3594).