Message from Pastor Bill

Dear Friends in Christ:

When once asked, “Why did you choose your vocation?” a friend of mine who teaches in a Lutheran school replied, “Two words: Sum Mer.” I know, it’s not two words and, as a teacher, he really should – and does – know better. But God has blessed him with a sense of humor and, as a middle-school teacher surrounded for nine months of the year by pre- and early-teens, he needs it. And he and his wife, also a Lutheran school teacher, love to travel, so summer is when they enjoy time together seeing the world.

We all love our vacations, don’t we? Even those of you who are fully retired still like to get away from your routine and do something different, visit old friends, or see new places. On our most recent vacation we visited the friends that I mentioned above, spent some time with our children and (more importantly) our grandchildren, and (even more importantly), I officiated the wedding of our daughter, Jessica, and our new son-in-law, Jason. It was a great couple of weeks, in which Paula and I spent a lot of time together, which has been rare lately. Time in the car driving 1,300 miles each direction gave us much-needed time to just be together, time that I am always grateful for.

One of the highlights of our trip was worshiping with our family. If nothing else had happened during the ten days we were in Michigan, listening to the voices of our son and daughter sing praises to our God and sitting with my grandson during the service made the whole trip worth it.

Of course, as your pastor, I had to make sure that someone covered for me while I was gone, and I’m thankful for the services of Pastor Dan Muecke, who recently retired as the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Buena Vista. It is a blessing for me to have him so close by and available to fill in when I’m gone.

That got me to thinking. What if we ALL had to arrange for replacements when we’re gone? What if we had to find someone to attend worship services in our place while we’re on vacation? The conversation might go something like this:

FLC Member: “Hey, I have to be gone for a couple of weeks in July. Do you think you could fill in for me at my church while I’m gone?”

Friend: “Fill in? What would I have to do?”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Elders Meeting:
Sun, July 2, 11:30 am
Sun Aug 6, 11:30 am

Men’s Breakfast:
Thursdays, 8:00 am, Hospital Cafeteria

Packing for the Troops:
Tues, July 25 & Tues, August 22, 9:00 am

Torch Articles Due:
Mon, August 21, 9:00 am

July 9th – Church Picnic
4 PM – Blanchard Ranch
Hamburgers, hot dogs and buns furnished.
FLC Member: “Oh, nothing too hard. Get there by 9:15 or so on Sunday – the service starts then, but Pastor doesn’t do anything important for the first couple minutes. As long as you get there during the first hymn, it’s OK.”

Friend: “Yeah? And then what?”

FLC Member: “Just stand up when Pastor says to stand up, and sit down when he says to sit down. Sing the songs that he tells you to sing, and put something in the offering plate when it gets passed. Here, I’ll even give you a couple bucks to toss in the plate. Oh, and there’s coffee and snacks after the service, but don’t feel like you need to stay. You can zip out the door as soon as you shake Pastor’s hand after the service.”


FLC Member: “Thanks. Oh, and we usually sit on the left side, fourth pew from the back. Try to sit there, so Pastor doesn’t see an empty spot.”

Forgive me. I know such a thing would never occur to you. I’m just having a little fun here. But, there is another way. What if, instead of looking for summer replacements, we looked for and actively recruited new members? What if, instead of business as usual where we only express our love for God on Sunday, we actually shared the love of God with our neighbors and invited them to worship with us as we gather around His Word and Sacraments? What if, when we had to be absent, no one really noticed because there were so many others here?

Every church goes through the summer doldrums, when attendance slacks off while the members travel. I feel greatly blessed when vacationers join us at FLC for worship, and I trust that you are worshiping with other Christians as you travel. And, whether-or-not you are traveling, I pray that you will be faithful to the commission of our Lord, Jesus Christ: “As you are going, make disciples of all nations, inviting them to share in my Word and Sacraments, teaching them all I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20, Pastor Bill’s Very Loose Translation).

Happy Summer!

Saved to Share,

Pastor Bill
The Mystery Sisters met May 13 and revealed who their Mystery Sisters were. Gifts were exchanged and an high tea was enjoyed by all!

CHURCH PICNIC - SUNDAY, JULY 9, 4:00 PM

Hamburgers, hot dogs & buns will be provided. Please bring a dish of your choice for all to enjoy.

The picnic will be at Sharon Blanchard’s Ranch – 4560 County Road 210

From where Highway 50 and 285 intersect by Poncha Springs, go west on Highway 50 2.25 miles. Turn left on County Road 210. There will be a big golf sign. Go another 2.50 miles. Watch for “First Lutheran Picnic” sign.
The Torch

“To Receive and Share Christ’s Embrace.”

Kids First Literacy Club
First Lutheran Church

Tutor and Mentor a Child

Begins September 15, 2017
Volunteer as a tutor/mentor
Friday mornings from 8:30—10:30 am

Contact us:
- Email - ficsalida@gmail.com
- Call the church office 719.539.4311
  Tues-Thurs from 9 – noon
- Website - ficsalida.org

Location:
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1237 F Street
SALIDA, CO 81201

The Mission of Kids First Literacy Club is to inspire, engage and transform our community by reaching out to feed the minds, bodies and souls of children.

Establishing Lasting Relationships through Mentoring By:
- Modeling positive behavior through actions, conversations and interactions.
- Strengthening relationships through one-on-one interactions.

Enhancing Social and Educational Skills By:
- Encouraging children to have positive attitudes toward themselves, other people and learning.
- Modeling to the children how to live a life pleasing to God’s sight.
OPERATION SPIRIT FROM THE HEART OF THE ROCKIES

Homemade Cookies Needed – Please! No Chocolate

TRAVEL SIZE SUN SCREEN, SHAMPOO, LOTION
MAGAZINES FOR MEN & WOMEN
TRAVEL SIZE TOOTHPASTE
FLEXIBLE INDIVIDUAL BANDAIDS
TRAVEL SIZE SUN BLISTER PADS
BATTERIES AA
INDIVIDUAL SIZE WIPES
COFFEE PACKETS
SINGLES TO GO - DRINK MIX
ANY SNACK BARS, ie. - GRANOLA
RICE KRISPIES TREATS
INDIVIDUAL CHAP STICK
CUP OF SOUP
RAMON NOODLES
HARD CANDY
BEEF JERKY
TRAVEL SIZE FOOT POWDER

Any cards and letters you would like to send would be GREATLY appreciated!!

Monetary Donations are also needed to cover the costs of shipping and purchasing other supplies and items for the troops. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and write “Operation Spirit” on the memo line.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:  Mark Cunningham and CH(CPT)
James Brown.

PACK TROOP BOXES 9 A.M. TUESDAY
JULY 25 & AUGUST 22

July Birthdays:
1st  Darlene Surber
8th  Judy Kratky
9th  Nathan Winter
13th Bobby Eagles-Soukup
15th Loucinda Martin
17th Mark Varhus
20th Russell Hapl
24th Matt Jacobi
28th Normagene Maltas

August Birthdays:
1st  Linda Schmidt
16th  Al Dilley
23rd  Joyce Greenfield
24th  Kjersti Varhus
27th  Naomi Stinnett
28th  Randi Dilley

July Anniversaries:
6th  Greg & Dale Kettering
9th  Pastor Bill & Paula Cate
12th  Stuart & Peggy Hachmann
30th  David & Tabitha Hapl

August Anniversaries:
2nd  John & Pat Winter
# July 2017 Schedule

**To Receive and Share Christ’s Embrace.**

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*AA Meeting*

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July & Aug 2017
First Lutheran Church
1237 F Street
Salida, CO 81201
719-539-4311

Sunday
9:15 Worship
10:15 Fellowship
10:30 Bible Class

Pastor Bill Cate
Phone: 719-539-4311
Email: Firstlutheran@bresnan.net
Website: www.flcsalida.org