

View from the pulpit

Senior Pastor Jerry Reynolds

In the parable of The Weeds in the Wheat (Matt. 13:24-32, 36-42) Jesus explains to us why God allows good and evil to exist together until the end of days. Or perhaps: “Why do terrible things happen to good people—trying to live God pleasing lives?” We want the quick solution.

But the master says, “No...Let both grow together until the harvest; then they will be separated.” Our human tendency is to pull up the weeds now, to root out evil now. We need time to reflect, to study, time to learn. And so Jesus says, “No, don’t try to do it yourselves right now. You’re not able.” Jesus’ solution: be diligent, but be patient.

This parable also suggests that Jesus’ perspective of time is different from ours. Jesus looks ahead to the harvest. So Jesus is patient, and asks us to be patient. It means that we don’t have to be so worried about immediate results! “Let both grow together until the harvest”—see the weeds, but the task is growing wheat! There is time—God’s time. God is patient. God’s solution is to cultivate the good in all of us and let us grow.

God’s solution—patience, and concentration on the growth of the good—is best. God is slow to anger and abounding in



steadfast love. God’s patience is given to us. Cultivate a gentle spirit—patience! Patience with others, and with ourselves. Cultivate what is good and faithful!

Really? We’re prone to ask, “Is God aware that we’re entering into August? Who is patient in August? A new year of school is starting. We’ve got preparations to make. We’ve got to coordinate calendars; get new clothes and school supplies (I don’t see God standing in line waiting to check out at Walmart); visits and forms from the doctor; schedule school activities; care for our children; arrange new sports calendars; pick up the children; and then there’s a whole new Sunday school year and church activities and, and, and...”

Of course I want patience, and I want it now! Why can’t patience wait? Just let me get on with my busyness and I’ll do the best I can! Honestly, I don’t even have time to think about being patient! Patience is just going to have to wait!

No, God says, patience isn’t a

destination you arrive at, it’s a life-time journey. It means trusting God to correct what is wrong in the world, and in our hearts. It means letting God work in us to adjust our priorities. It means allowing God to be God. God is in control, not us. No, it doesn’t suddenly eliminate the problems or make the busyness magically go away; but it does give perspective, hope, vision, and those Kairos (God) moments given to us in life.

God isn’t saying, “Take time.” God is saying “Make time.”

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Lamb of God Early Childhood Ministry

Tynisha Moore
 Program Director



Last year around this time we explored the idea of community. Early childhood research shows that the physical environment and the people in it play a valuable role in learning. As we begin to wrap up long summer days and prepare to get back into routines of back to school, it seems like a good time to explore the big idea of community. The Oxford dictionary has several ways

to describe this idea. When thinking of the community that we live and work in, I was drawn toward two of the descriptions offered. The first lists “community” as a noun and describes it as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. The second, also listed as a noun, is described as a feeling of fellowship with others,

as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. At Lamb of God we are fortunate to be located in what many would consider the heart of our community. The physical location of First Lutheran Church and Lamb of God ECM gives the children and staff opportunity to easily explore the surrounding area.

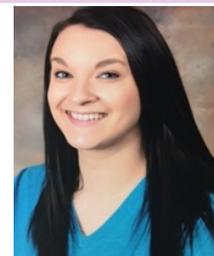
(continued below)



This summer we have had weekly adventures at the City Park Splash Park, City Park, and Manhattan Public Library. We have visited the Flint Hills Discovery Center, KSU Bowling Alley, and have plans to visit Sunset Zoo before the summer ends. It is our desire to continue to build a strong sense of community in the children and families that we serve. Part of belonging to a community is having a sense of unity and oneness. The Bible gives us many clues about the value of community and what we can accomplish when we are like mind-

ed and of one accord. We are grateful for our First Lutheran Church and LOG family and we invite you to be a part of building a strong school community by volunteering and supporting the ministry being accomplished at Lamb of God. For more information on volunteer opportunities please contact Tynisha Moore.

Say hello to the people in our neighborhood! Teachers and staff are an important part of our learning community. Preschool Lead Teachers and the LOG Office Assistant are pictured on the right.



Sarah Moffett
 Green Room Lead



Kristina Griffie
 Purple Room Lead



Martha Whitehair
 Office Assistant

Playing Together

Megan Wherley
 Director of Congregational Life

First and foremost, I want to thank you as a congregation for your support this month of July for Camp Tomah Shinga – we raised well over the goal First Lutheran had originally made, and especially thank you to our mini ushers! Together, we can do so much.

As the summer comes to a close, it is time to push “play” on our community outreach, our involvement in our church families’ lives, and our physical support for our congregation and ministries. To start this off and welcome our members back from their vacations and so forth, we will be hosting a Back to School Family Night with Lamb of God August 18th!

To the right is a list of upcoming events in August that I hope to see you at!

There are many ways to get involved here at First Lutheran! Not a fan of being in front of the congregation but want to help? Join the Altar Guild. Like to help plan things? Sign up to be on a “Task Force” team. I am challenging myself to join at least one new thing this fall, which will most likely be Bell Choir!

I strongly urge you to look through the list of ministries and volunteer jobs on the form (below) to see what might be your cup o’ tea. Send the form back either via email, mail, or stop by the office to drop it off. In doing so, your name will be entered into a drawing for a prize!



Square Dancing

August 9th
7:00pm

Back to School Bash

August 18th
6:30pm





Ministry Fair

August 27th
after worship

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

I am interested in learning more about serving in these areas:

Administration

- _____ Technology
- _____ Maintenance Help
- _____ Office Help

Evangelical Outreach

- _____ Lutheran Campus Ministry
- _____ Meadowlark Hills
- _____ Food Pantry
- _____ First Suppers Kitchen
- _____ First Suppers Hospitality
- _____ Patchwork
- _____ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- _____ Quilting Ministry
- _____ Bus Ministry
- _____ Shepherd’s Crossing
- _____ Social Service Agency Support
- _____ World Mission Projects

Spiritual Growth/Education

- _____ Youth Ministry Team
- _____ Stewardship Ministry Team
- _____ Adult Study Leader
- _____ Children’s Ministry Teacher
- _____ Christmas Pageant Director
- _____ Youth Group Sponsors
- _____ VBS Directors
- _____ VBS Teachers
- _____ Lamb of God School Volunteer

Pastoral Ministry

- _____ Worship Planning
- _____ Stephen Ministry
- _____ College Ministry
- _____ Hospital/homebound Ministry

Congregational Life

- _____ Altar Guild
- _____ Communion Assistant
- _____ Nursery Attendant
- _____ Hospitality Team
- _____ Reader
- _____ Task Forces
- _____ Choir
- _____ Handbells
- _____ Special Music
- _____ Piano accompanist
- _____ Discipleship
- _____ Health Ministry
- _____ Funeral Dinners
- _____ Women’s Groups
- _____ Men’s Groups
- _____ Lunch Bunch
- _____ Recreation

Around FLC

Miss Kansas USA, Catherine Carmichael, made a special appearance at the June 28 Salad Supper, sponsored by Lydia Circle. Catherine modeled some of the beautiful gowns she has worn throughout her pageant career and spoke about her experiences.



Welcome home, LTC Peterson! After a 10-month deployment beginning in South Korea and ending in Iraq, the Peterson family welcomed Erik home this July.



Camp Tomah Shinga Director, Ben Fulton, visited First Lutheran in July to talk about the exciting ministries happening at Camp. Through a special drive, FLC raised over \$60,000 in funds for camp ministries. Thank you!

The Challenges Ahead

Kathryn Focke
Director of Evangelical Outreach

As the long days of summer start to shorten, we begin settling into the routines of fall and the coming winter. We look ahead to projects that we want to finish before Christmas. Back to school is the theme of the day and parents are seen with lengthy lists hurrying around in the stores to get their students the supplies they need to start new classes. Professors and other post-secondary educators prepare to encourage a new crop of freshmen eager to experience exciting independence away from home.

As the season unfolds, the church also prepares for new programs, welcoming back families and others who have “taken a break” from regular worship and ministries over the summer. As the staff gathers and presents their upcoming events this year with each other and the Pastor, we are missing a big piece of the pie with the resignation of Kyle. Many people in the congregation have asked what “how we are going to replace his work, he did so much...” I don’t see this as a problem, but a challenge. We have had many challenges in the past as a congregation, and this is just another one that God has given us to develop our spiritual

lives in this place. We have historically found ways to not only continue to grow internally, but also expand our ministries. Instead of closing the doors and maintaining the status quo, we have reached out and given more. This why our congregation is growing while others are struggling.

We need to keep this in the forefront of our thoughts as we go forward. Instead of being Sunday church goers, let us be more of the “daily doers.” Coming together on Sundays is meant to strengthen our faith and worship together, but the real ministry we are called to do is during the rest of the week.

Meeting the Challenge

In our outreach ministries we have many opportunities to engage. Some of the on-going upcoming events that need your help are:

- ⇒ August 5th: Everybody Counts at the Douglas Center
- ⇒ August 27th: Ministry Fair
- ⇒ September 10th: “God’s Work Our Hands” – our group will be working at the Head Start School
- ⇒ October 2nd: Fall haircuts for our neighbors and their children
- ⇒ Every Thursday evening: First Suppers meal from 6-7 pm. We always need help!
- ⇒ Patchwork Donations: collection of clothing and other items for students and families in the USD 383 school district
- ⇒ Other creative programs and events that are yet to be developed...if you have something in mind, give us a call!

A Time of Growth

Kyle Olson
Former Director of Spiritual Growth

I remember my first Congregational Council meeting too well. It was my first week on the job and I was greeted by 12 new and very friendly faces. After a little small talk and a devotional it was on to business. One of the first agenda items was the treasurer's report. This was a tough time in the church and the report forecasted a most grim future. The following conversation focused on how the church might "make it" until the end of the year. What ministry could be cut? Could positions be reduced? This was not a conversation I anticipated having just days in. In the days and weeks that followed I was quite amazed by the stillness of the church office. The lights went on at from 9:00 AM and went off at 3:00

PM with very little activity or business being conducted. There was no children's Sunday School or VBS, one adult study, and limited youth activity. Frankly, it was quite boring. But all of these memories are a thing of the past.

Things are happening at First Lutheran Church. The Lamb of God Early Childhood Ministry remains full with a wait-list, which includes an infant and toddler room which provides a beautiful 7 part harmony for the office (both coos and cries) from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Children and youth engage in weekly faith formation during the school year, which is supplemented by a number of activities such as VBS, youth fellowship and mission trips, and our **p a r a c h u r c h m i n i s t r i e s**. Community members and the marginalized are receiving

the assistance they need both from our church treasury and the various ministries we endorse. People are being fed through our food pantry and First Suppers, and people are hearing the Word of God through our worship services and various study groups. Over half of the aforementioned has been formed in the past 7 years - not by me, but by the visionaries and doers of this congregation. I wish I could name these individuals here, but they number in the 100's

First Lutheran currently stands on very solid ground through the work of the church staff and an excellent Council and leadership structure. It has truly been a joy to be part of this Renaissance in the congregation, and I am honored to have been part of this ministry with and among you.

Kyle's Top 10 (ok, 12) Moments in Ministry

1. The time a tangerine went splat on the wall beside me when Brett Bolton and Jamison Carmichael were playing tangerine ball in our hostel in Chicago. I was less amused then than I am now...
2. When Josh Gryniewicz got stuck in the kitchenette in the parlor after closing the accordion door on himself. There was no door release on the inside and he was in there for quite some time.
3. The fact that Kaitlin Wichmann, Kelly Wichmann, and Gavin Larios have opted to pursue higher education at Lutheran institutions.
4. Drinking beer in a 6' barrel, with adults and youth from the church in Wittenberg, Germany.
5. The many dramatic entrances by children down the runway/center isle of the sanctuary. Specifically, the unique wardrobe of Samantha Gryniewicz (circa 2nd grade): red cowgirl hat, pink feather boa, and cow girl boots. And Rowan Ehrlich's swagger as he throws his blankie over his shoulder and gives me a wink on the way.
6. The 432 times Christian Carmichael tried to take me down in youth group. He only won once.
7. Literally EVERYTHING about Israel/Palestine.
8. Beckett K., Kelly W., Gavin L, and others speaking and providing special music during worship.
9. The many times our church bus broke down on I-70. Thanks parents for always being willing to pick us up and drive us on!
10. Drinking a gallon of milk with Emily Londeen and company at youth group. The jug was set to expire that day. Thankfully, no one got sick.
11. The artwork prepared as part of confirmands' statements of faith.
12. The hundreds of volunteers that have made Spiritual Growth ministry happen

June Reports

Average Weekly Attendance
181

Income \$ 30,990.34
Expenses \$ 46,410.72
Budget \$ 49,095.08
Income YTD \$ 258,760.09
Expenses YTD \$ 265,606.52
Budget YTD \$ 294,570.48



8/1 Lanny Hoover	8/11 Mike Hoover	8/19 Lyn Toburen
8/1 Robert Huber	8/12 Patrick Paulsen	8/19 Tara Grindle
8/1 Dessa Nelson	8/12 Jamie Wilson	8/19 Caitlin Goin
8/3 Reese Thaemert	8/13 Paul Klover	8/20 Brian Briggeman
8/3 Dustin Nelson	8/13 Sheryl Ballard	8/20 Arlo Nesse-Lindberg
8/5 Scott Wilson	8/13 Jerrica Hoover	8/20 Alyssa Reynolds
8/5 David Carlson	8/13 Jeri Reichle	8/21 Pam McCurry
8/5 Paul Hosler	8/13 Lashelle Francis	8/23 Otto Vosberg
8/5 Linda Harbes	8/13 Brett Seaton	8/23 Casey Olson
8/5 Trystin Brown	8/13 Anthony McCoy	8/24 Joseph Smith
8/5 Pippa Ely	8/14 Carla Behrends	8/24 Owen Barth
8/5 Spencer Parsons	8/14 Davis Matthews	8/24 Shari Bollman
8/6 Sharon Breiner	8/14 Ryan Winter	8/24 Terry Barta
8/6 Helen Folkerts	8/15 Sara Walker	8/24 Emerson Grote
8/6 Jake Mosburg	8/15 Dustin Oswald	8/24 Krista Moen
8/6 Brian Koch	8/15 Marcus Hoover	8/25 Sydney Gold
8/7 Jason Padgett	8/15 Donald Whittlesey	8/26 Sarah Forsee
8/8 Stephanie Gryniewicz	8/15 Reagan Adkins	8/26 Jordan Smith
8/8 Jason Fraga	8/16 Lawrence Davis	8/26 Sydni Kehoe
8/8 Emily Oetken	8/16 Mary Beth Hauer	8/27 Christine Lippert
8/9 Benjamin Einck	8/16 Maxine Ross	8/28 Tatum Drewek
8/9 Elisabeth Kirk	8/17 Cora Cooper	8/28 Jayden Hageman
8/9 Viona Schmidt	8/17 Austyn Overturf	8/30 Nicolasa Ines
8/9 Jean Lee	8/17 Carolyn Love	8/30 Andy McMaster
8/9 Tom Kirk	8/17 Jacki Lazinek	8/31 Erma Gobber
8/10 Audrey Hammons	8/18 G. Poggi-corradini	8/31 Scott Schwinn
8/10 Donna Weisbender	8/18 Julie Londeen	8/31 Rhonda Lund
8/11 Russ Glaser	8/18 Ken Odde	8/31 Duncan O'Brate
8/11 Mary Kay Gray	8/18 Kelly Wichmann	

CLASSIFIEDS

Communion Servers

Seeking: individuals to serve communion one Sunday per month. Training is provided, and no special skills are required—just faith and a willingness to serve. Call the office to volunteer.

Hospitality Team Members

Greeters and ushers are needed to help make each Sunday morning service run smoothly. They welcome folks with a smile and a handshake, offer a bulletin, assist with offering and communion, and help newcomers find their way around the church. If you like to make people feel welcome, you can serve on a hospitality team! Call the office to join a team today!

Nursery Volunteers

Wanted: caring individuals to volunteer in the nursery approximately one Sunday per month. Volunteers will work closely with the Nursery Coordinator to care for the youngest members of FLC. Anyone working with children must attend child protection training and pass a background check. If interested, please contact Kelly to sign up.

View

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Time for yourself, time for your family, time with one another to journey together in life. Give yourself permission to be patient, and patiently allow those around us (whom we know and whom we don't) to grow.

How? Begin to live in the moment, not just waiting for what's next. Pray. Read scripture. Reflect on the person God wants you to be. Then refocus, and change yourself.

And the next time you are standing in line, look around you, and "let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

My love to you in Christ,

Pastor Jerry

Pastor Patience (In Progress)
Pastor Jerry

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August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4pm Reformation Mtg 7pm Property Team	2 10am Discipleship Mtg 11:30am Staff Mtg 5:30pm Health Ministry	3 6pm First Suppers	4 6pm STM Meal	5 5:30pm Worship & Blood Pressure Checks
6 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Blood Pressure Checks	7 5:30pm Endowment 7pm Prayer Shawls	8 11am Communion @VC	9 1:30pm Quilting 7pm Square Dance	10 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers	11 1:30pm Naomi-Ruth 6pm STM Meal	12 8:15am Men @ Vista 5:30pm Worship
13 9am Adult Study 10am Worship	14 5:30pm Finance	15 11:30am Lydia Circle	16	17 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers & Council	18 6pm STM Meal 6:30on Back to School	19 5:30pm Worship
20 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:30am Worship Team	21 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i> 7pm Prayer Shawls	22	23	24 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers	25 6pm STM Meal	26 9am Men at First 5:30pm Worship
27 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:30am Ministry Fair	28	29	30	31 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers		