



First Lutheran Church

FIRST MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Special Edition: God's work. Our hands.

View from the pulpit

Senior Pastor Jerry Reynolds



Yellow t-shirts. Never in my life did I own a yellow t-shirt. Then the ELCA began “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Now I easily have a dozen or more of them. My first thought when I saw them was “what an obnoxious color.” I don’t know that I’ve changed my opinion. I do know that I’ve seen a lot more of them where ELCA Lutherans do their ministry.

Years ago on my first call, when the program began, our church wanted to participate. We really didn’t know how or what to do. That’s the curse and blessing of new programs. You don’t know. You can’t resort to the standard Lutheran default position of “We’ve always done it that way.” Because we haven’t done anything, which sadly is also a Lutheran default position. So you try many things. Some work well, some don’t.

“Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.” *ELCA.org*

My first congregation opted to make it a clean-up day around the church. The property was on a very visible corner in an established east-Atlanta neighborhood. The road we were on was often bumper-to-bumper traffic Saturday mornings. We really needed a good clean-up, and in that regard it was good for the community. We got tremendous visibility in our yellow shirts and a lot of ‘waves and stares’ from folks stopping and staring on that busy road. That congregation never really learned to ‘step out’ or ‘step up’ its community involvement. It struggles to this day to do “God’s Work. Our Hands.”

In New Mexico, the congregation had never participated in GWOH before I arrived. We used it as a way to develop community involvement. Again we had a great location on a busy road; but we were invisible to the community. We had an older congregation but we found creative ways to be involved. We cleaned up a city park, picked trash up on various city properties, hosted a teacher’s lunch at our nearby and very struggling public elementary school. We had a team go to retirement homes to provide ice cream sundaes for residents. We cleaned up

neighbor’s yards and a few of our members’ unable-to-maintain yards. We were a rather odd-looking group at times. Yet we found meaningful ways to serve. GWOH was a thriving, cross-generational ministry to our very diverse and cross-cultural community. Yellow looked good in the Land of Enchantment!



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View

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Fast-forward to Manhattan, Kansas last year. The town of purple was aglow with yellow t-shirts. Between our efforts at First Lutheran and our sister church Peace Lutheran, Manhattan had an infusion of yellow! What do you get when you mix purple and yellow together? Ministry. "God's Work. Our Hands." ministry! This year we plan to clean our stretch of Hwy 13. We plan to send a crew to help at Headstart. We have plans to do all types of things, there is no shortage. The only thing we are missing is YOU!

Please take time to sign up for opportunities to serve our community in mission with GWOH! We know purple is the color of royalty, GO WILDCATS! We also know yellow is now the color of service for ELCA Lutherans. Every person a Wildcat! Every Lutheran a servant! NOW GO! Maybe next year, yellow ball caps as a coordinated fashion accessory!

My love to you in Christ,

Pastor Jerry

Pastor Jerry

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters.

But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13

New Living Translation

Community Outreach

Kathryn Focke
Director of Evangelical Outreach

God's Work Our Hands is rapidly approaching again this year. The church-wide community outreach program is running throughout the ELCA Synod. This is our third year of participation in the national event. There are other work/help days scheduled for our community in which we can participate, but this one is exclusively for Lutheran churches. Both Peace and First Lutheran churches do community programs, each a little differently.

This year will be the third year that First Lutheran has participated in this ELCA sponsored event. Each year, Evangelical Outreach has chosen different projects in the community. The first year we joined forces with the youth

group and did a two mile stretch of highway clean-up and sent a team to the Habitat "build house." Last year we had a yard clean-up team that focused on two houses in our neighborhood that were in dire need of help. Our group spent about four hours of hard labor in the two yards and the results were astounding.

This year, we have chosen to focus our attention on the Head Start School that has been in a financial crunch since 2010 when state funding was discontinued. They have a variety of projects that need to be done, both on their grounds and inside the school. The actual tasks have not yet been determined by the school, but will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Please join us for our day of service in the community that will begin with a short blessing service and continental breakfast in the fellowship hall at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 10th.

Watch for further information on our team project.

"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you."

Mother Teresa

Lamb of God School

Tynisha Moore
Program Director

During the month of September First Lutheran Church will join with Lutheran Churches across America and participate in “Gods Work Our Hands”. This is an opportunity to celebrate – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. As we prepare for God’s Work Our Hands at FLC, service is at the forefront of our minds and hearts. Every day we are able to see that little hands can do BIG work. It is amazing to watch compassion and kindness being developed in the hearts of our little ones. This can be seen as they work together to complete a project, share materials, and show concern if a friend is having a problem.

At Lamb of God, teachers often use the phrases, “let’s check on our friend” or “let’s see if we can help”. Developing a servant’s heart begins early on and it is never too soon to begin to instill

the spirit of service in children. Here are a few ways that you can help young children cultivate a spirit of service and enjoying being a help to others.

1. Invite children to work alongside you. This gives the opportunity for you to teach by example, have conversation as you go along, and have them see the joy of service.

2. Help children to notice what needs to be done. If you notice something bring it to the child’s attention and continue conversation about helping. This gives the opportunity for children to see that they can see need and be helpful.



3. Let them enjoy helping out. There is great joy in serving others. Let children see the joy in serving and make serving fun. Helping tasks can be turned into games, completed while listening to their favorite music, or focus on a topic they are interested in.

4. Cheer them on as they learn to serve. Recognize their efforts—no matter the result. Focus on the heart and intent behind the child’s actions more than the end result.

5. Ask children what their ideas are for serving, listen to their response and TAKE ACTION! Serving together will be even more meaningful when everyone’s ideas are taken into consideration and work together.



Blessing of the BackPacks & Back to School Bash



They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Megan Wherley
Director of Congregational Life

If you couldn't tell yet, the theme for this newsletter is "God's Work, Our Hands", which will happen September 10th (get ready to get serving)! Now, this is one of those phrases we see so often, that it passes us by without much reflection or thought. What is God's work? In

general, His work is Love. What does that mean for you?

This Sunday is such a special time to come together as a congregation and help out the community around us. Even in the littlest tasks being done, the Holy Spirit works above and beyond. Being together while serving our community is of the utmost importance; it is a way to be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ while doing

God's will. Because of the Love and Grace we know from our Creator, serving others creates a special bond we share with one another, and a special strength we are able to give one another. We've set aside only one Sunday to work hand in hand for God, but don't let that stop you from using your gifts and skills every day for Him. Stand up, Church! Come in fellowship to serve others.

**"But God has put the body together,
giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,
so that there should be no division in the body,
but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.
If one part suffers, every part suffers with it;
if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."
*1 Corinthians 12:24b-26***



How We Serve



Community Spotlight



**Kansas
Big Brothers Big Sisters**

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters (KSBBBS) matches children facing adversity with caring, adult mentors. Children in our program or “Littles” are 5-17 years old. They each have a different story and different needs, but what they can all benefit from is having a one-to-one relationship with a caring, adult mentor who offers extra encouragement and support. Our programs are evidence-based and structured around best practices in mentoring.

Youth with mentors are more likely to:

- Improve academic performance
- Improve self-esteem
- Attend a 4 year college

Youth with mentors are less likely to:

- Skip school
- Be involved with violence
- Use drugs

To learn more about enrolling a child or becoming a mentor, visit www.kansasbigs.org or call 785-776-9575.

Consecration Sunday—October 8, 2017

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay

dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?”

During worship services on the weekend of Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge everyone to attend, even those who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one

feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, Bishop Roger Gustafson, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

First Suppers Favorite Recipe: Better Than Takeout Chicken Fried Rice

Shared by the First Suppers team

8 servings

Ingredients

- 1 pound chicken, cooked and shredded
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 2 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 small white onion, chopped
- 1 cups frozen peas & carrots, thawed
- 2-3 Tbsp soy sauce (more or less, to taste)
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 Tbsp chopped green onions

Instructions

1. Preheat a large skillet or wok to medium heat. Pour sesame oil in the bottom. Add white onion, peas, and carrots, and stir-fry until tender.
2. Slide the vegetables to one side of the pan, and pour the beaten egg onto the other side. Using a spatula, scramble the eggs. Once cooked, combine the eggs with the vegetable mix.
3. Add the rice and cooked chicken to the pan with the eggs and vegetables. Add soy sauce. Stir the mixture until heated through and combined. Top with green onions before serving.

80 Servings (a typical First Suppers meal)

Ingredients

- 10 pounds chicken, cooked and shredded
- 30 cups cooked rice
- 1 1/4 cup sesame oil
- 5 large white onion, chopped
- 10 cups frozen peas & carrots, thawed
- 1 1/2 cups soy sauce (more or less, to taste)
- 20 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/4 cup chopped green onions

Instructions

1. Gather a group of volunteers, and follow Christ's example of serving others while having fun and building relationships.
2. Contact Kathryn Focke if you want to get involved.



August Council Actions

For complete minutes, contact the office

- Welcomed Marilyn Kilgore to the meeting and then unanimously approved her appointment to serve until the next annual meeting for elections, replacing Sarah Nelson.
- Discussed and then approved a job description for a temporary, part time children's and youth ministry leader. The personnel support committee was directed to prepare suitable advertising and submit it to multiple places of their choice. The position is to be advertised as temporary (1 year term) and 20-30 hr/wk.
- Thoroughly reviewed three hiring options for a permanent replacement to the current children's and youth ministry position. One option, non-rostered with specific training at BA level in youth ministry area, second option rostered as Deacon (MA, for Ministry of Word and Service), third option rostered (as MDiv for Ministry of Word and Sacrament) to hire at Assistant or Associate pastor level. It was the majority decision (8:1 of the 9 council members present) that the 3rd option is the one most likely to succeed in meeting the needs of the whole congregation.
- Reviewed and approved changes to the church vacation policies for church employees, including the Lamb of God school. More total vacation time, with accrual to begin at date of employment to simplify bookkeeping.
- It was noted that the Mutual Ministry committee of Brian Briggeman, Eric Londeen and Cliff Spaeth has met with the pastor.

July Reports

Average Weekly Attendance
184

Income	\$ 63,372.98
Expenses	\$ 43,269.38
Budget	\$ 49,095.08
Income YTD	\$ 322,133.07
Expenses YTD	\$ 306,319.89
Budget YTD	\$ 343,665.56

CLASSIFIEDS

Lost & Found

The Lost & Found basket is located on the table outside the main office. Found items will be held for a month before being donated.

Quilters Needed

The Quilting group is looking for new members. No experience necessary; all are welcome! Help create beautiful, hand-tied quilts to give to church members and folks around the community for various occasions. Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the music room. Coffee and treats provided. Call 539-4436 for more info.

Workers for Christ

FLC is recruiting individuals to work on a variety of projects during the church-wide day of service, God's Work, Our Hands, on Sunday, Sept. 10. There's a project for everyone! Contact the church office to sign up for one of the work crews.

September Birthdays

9/1 Sheryl Siegle	9/13 Norman Winter	9/22 Holly Einck
9/1 Jamie Wiegert	9/13 Nathaniel Grote	9/22 Irma Sjo
9/1 Laurie Harrison	9/13 Kelsie Burdick	9/22 Caitlin Adkins
9/1 Jordan Bauer	9/14 Joseph Salem	9/22 Addisyn Terrill
9/1 Jackie Haynie	9/14 Mary Lynn Barta	9/22 Luke Smith
9/1 Jade Hoover	9/14 Ilene Colbert	9/23 Leslie Nelson
9/1 Terrill Moore	9/14 Christine Wear	9/23 Alexandria Ring
9/2 Richard Brungardt	9/15 Bob Schoeff	9/23 Kaitlyn Ring
9/3 Matthew Walter	9/15 Kendall Markvicka	9/23 Sarah Preston
9/3 Jay Terrill	9/15 Steven Daniels	9/23 Trasenda Lundin
9/4 Adaline Thueme	9/15 Ryan Breiner	9/26 Julie Wendlandt
9/4 Justin Nelson	9/16 Wrangler Crady	9/27 Zachary Jones
9/5 Jacob Shelton	9/16 Michelle Williams	9/27 Megan Pask
9/5 Ella Kunkel	9/17 Dylan Beckley	9/27 Shannon Butler
9/5 Martin Braaten	9/17 Cliff Carlson	9/28 Tyra Blew
9/5 Danica Wolf	9/19 Landon Mosher	9/28 Timothy Morelock
9/5 Crysteen Brown	9/19 Lauren Boyd	9/28 Aliesha Daniels
9/6 Carol Oukrop	9/19 Luke Wichmann	9/28 Katrina Lewis
9/6 Sarah Schroeder	9/20 Sheree Lambert	9/28 Sutton Rush
9/7 Nela Olson	9/20 Monika Mollett	9/28 Anna Poggi-corradini
9/7 Levi Olson	9/20 Phil Kuehl	9/29 Jim Palenske
9/8 Regan Wilson	9/20 Tyler St. John	9/29 Keelan Campbell
9/9 Jim Lundberg	9/21 Summer Lewis	9/30 Travis Gordon
9/9 Michael Moore	9/21 Karen Hunter	
9/10 Pam Martinez	9/21 Denise Fangman	



Free Concert

Sunday, October 1, 3:00pm
First Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Come for an afternoon of barbershop music performed by local groups, including the Little Apple Men's Chorus, a variety of quartets, and the 2017 regional women's quartet, Pizzazz!

Kelly Peterson (church office administrator) is a member of Pizzazz! They won the regional competition last April and qualified to compete in Las Vegas with barbershop quartets from around the world this October.

No admission will be charged; donations will be gladly accepted to help with competition expenses.

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"ROOTED IN CHRIST, WE ARE GROWING IN FAITH TO BEAR FRUIT IN THE WORLD."

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>LOG Closed</i> 6pm STM Meal	2 5:30pm Worship & Blood Pressure Checks
3 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Blood Pressure Checks	4 <i>Office & LOG Closed</i>	5 5:45pm LOG Staff Mtg	6 5:30pm Health Ministry	7 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers 7pm Luther Movie	8 1:30pm Naomi-Ruth 6pm STM Meal	9 8:15am Men @ Vista 5:30pm Worship
10 8:30am Breakfast & Blessing God's Work. Our Hands 9am Adult Study 10am Worship	11	12 11am Communion @VC 7pm Property Team	13 11:30am Lunch Bunch 1:30pm Quilting 7pm Esther Circle	14 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers	15 6pm STM Meal	16 5:30pm Worship
17 9am Adult Study & Sunday School Kick-Off 10am Worship 11:30am Worship Team	18 5:30pm Finance & LOG Advisory 7pm Prayer Shawls	19 11:30am Lydia Circle	20 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 10am Staff Meeting 5:30pm LOG PTO 6pm First Suppers & Council	22 6pm STM Meal	23 9am Men at First 3pm Wedding 5:30pm Worship
24 9am Sunday School & Adult Study 10am Worship	25	26	27	28 10am Staff Meeting 6pm First Suppers	29 6pm STM Meal	30 5:30pm Worship