



FLW'S ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS!

Congratulations to newly elected council members Larry Geer (working with Service) and Everett Love (working with Stewardship). The youth position remains open.

We give thanks to our council for its leadership in all areas. Thanks to Tim Lindgren for his work as council president this past year. We thank our outgoing council members: Larry Kuder from the service committee, for leading a team for the last few years to serve a meal at the Ronald McDonald house; Brenda Thompson for serving faithfully on stewardship; and David Wietzke for planning and leading a new (hopefully annual) event, the Wholly Creation Craft Fair!

The operating budget was passed. Five local missions (Avenues, Clare House, KidPack, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, and TreeHouse) were designated as recipients of the first fruits from the Dorff bequest (\$3,000 each). FLW's new Local Mission Focus for 2017 is KidPack. (Find more information on pages 8 and 9.) Thanks to Val and Mark and Zac Wietzke and crew for preparing a fantastic meal and for Tim Lindgren for dessert.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? AND HOW CAN I BE A NEIGHBOR?

Jesus was asked the question, "Who is my neighbor?" as a test. He responded with the story of the Good Samaritan. The same question is asked of us today. And how can we respond? This will be the focus for our Adult Sunday classes and our worship in February and in March.

Today we are extremely connected by social media and news media to places all over the world. At the same time, we can also be extremely isolated. People become isolated by the places that they shop, eat, live and... unfortunately, worship.

We will be exploring the question: "**Who is my neighbor?**" but also the questions of "**What can I do about it?**" and "**How can I BE a neighbor?**"

FEBRUARY 2017

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FROM THE PASTOR

The “prosperity gospel” is tempting. And, at first blush, who wouldn’t want prosperity? I mean, we all want to do well, to prosper. And we do proclaim that God has given us an abundance of good gifts. So... what’s wrong with the prosperity gospel?

Before going further, a definition is in order. Kate Bowler, an academic scholar, who calls herself a historian of the American prosperity gospel, defined it as “the belief that God grants health and wealth to those with the right kind of faith.” She goes on to say that the prosperity gospel suggests that you can claim wealth and success for yourself as God’s will for you. With enough faith, anyone can be a “winner.”

It sounds good. But there are a couple of problems with the “prosperity gospel”. The first problem is hidden in the flip side of the



definition. If those who have wealth and health are blessed, then ... does that mean that those who are poor and ill are *not* blessed? Does it mean that “they” *don’t* have enough faith?

The other, bigger problem is this: the “prosperity gospel” isn’t what Jesus teaches. Jesus does say, “I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). But when asked “Who sinned, this man or his parents?” about the status of a man who was born with blind, Jesus answered: “Neither” (John 9:3).

God is gracious and abounding in steadfast

PASTOR *Cont’d on page 10...*



VICAR’S CORNER

LOVE, LOVE, AND LOVE

It’s February, and love is in the air. You can see it in the couples holding hands while they walk side-by-side. You can also see it on the store shelves with the annual selection of cards, candy, and flowers (but, to be honest, those have been there since the day after Christmas). One thing that I’ve marveled at is the way in which we use “love” in so much of our daily lives. It’s hard to not see love in the way we people treat one another, in the art we pass by on the street, or in the music that we listen to. But I think that the English language does us a disservice when it comes to the word “love.” While it does cover a multitude of situations, it doesn’t always show the exact feeling behind it. For example, I don’t love my wife in the same way that I love a bowl of M&Ms. When it comes to expressing feelings,

I like to think in terms of the Greek, in which there are three different words:

EROS

Eros means desire and longing. Eros love is based on the strong feeling we have against one another and it usually develops in the early stages of a romantic relationship, and is usually based on the physical traits. Now, there is a balance to be had with all things, including love. Having too much Eros is called “lust” and is a selfish, one-way attraction that ends up being detrimental to the person. On the other hand, not having Eros can also be a problem. In the beginning, God said that it was “Not good for man to be alone.” Having a sense of attraction helps to initiate relationships between people.

PHILOS

Philos love is a brotherly love. The root of the word can be seen in “Philadelphia,” or “City of Brotherly love.” Friendship is the foundation for many strong relationships and partnerships.

VICAR *Cont’d. on page 7...*

YOUTH CORNER

LOOKING TOWARD MARCH

On Wednesday nights, beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 1), come for Soup Suppe, worship and the mentors program. Please sign up for bringing soup as well as for serving dinner. Mark your calendar for our Wildfire Service project happening **Friday evening March 10** at Feed My Starving Children (401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids). We will be gathering with the other Wildfire Church Confirmation students to help fight hunger all over the world.

YOUTH TRIP UPDATE

Youth trip this year will be to Wilderness Canoe Base in scenic Grand Marais in Northern Minnesota **July 16 to 20!** Watch the Banner next month when we announce the April fundraiser.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

A look at things happening this month for our youth and confirmation students.

February 1: Wildfire bowling at Brunswick Zone, 7545 Brooklyn Boulevard, Brooklyn Park. Cost is \$12 per person,

February 8: Cards and cookies! The confirmation will be making up Valentines' day cards, and enjoying delicious cookies. The fun starts at 6:30pm in the Fellowship hall.

February 17: Lock-in at FLW! Join us for Minute to Win It games, movies, Bahneman bowling, and some other fun activities.

February 22: Service project at a local senior housing center. Our confirmation students will be helping out in a variety of ways; bringing the combined talents of music, game playing, and manicures, our kids will be helping residents have an enjoyable evening.

Hope to see you there!



FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sundays, 8:15am & 10:30am.
Holy Communion services monthly on the first & third Sundays.

Come join us!

EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Sundays at 9:15am

CHURCH COUNCIL

Colleen Foster	President
<i>Council vote will fill positions of VP & sec</i>	Vice President
Dave Peloquin	Secretary
Frank Butkowski	Treasurer
Dan Fernelius	Property
Susan Scheelk	Communication
Larry Geer	Worship
<i>open</i>	Service & Mission
Gina Swanson	Young Adult Committee
Cori Vallis	Youth Committee
Valerie Wietzke	Community Outreach
Everett Love	Congregational Life
	Stewardship

CHURCH STAFF

Pamela Stalheim Lane	Pastor
James Anderson	Pastoral Intern/ Vicar
Heather Koshiol	Administrative Assistant/Communication Coordinator
Anne Ng	Director, Chancel/ Ensembles/Children's Choir
Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson	Organist/Accompanist
Lisa Jordan	Custodian
Nancy Goodwin	Sunday Morning Host

**FEBRUARY BANNER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 13**

office@faithlilacway.org

*Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church is a community called to make disciples of Christ through
WORSHIP + SERVING + GIVING + PRAYING + LEARNING + ENCOURAGING + INVITING*

LEARNING

SOCIAL MINISTRY: HAVING AND BEING GREAT NEIGHBORS

February will be Lutheran Social Services (LSS) month. We'll hear about the mission and ministry of LSS (our mission of the month). We will also discuss and explore engaging in our mission focus for the year – that was voted on at the annual meeting January 29.

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION: 9:15AM IN THE LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 5: What does it mean to be a neighbor? Pastor Pam will report on Lutheran Leadership Day on the Hill and how Lutherans can and are responding to the new Executive Order on immigration.

FEBRUARY 12: Lutheran Social Services (LSS). The Rev Michele Abbott, pastor at Oak Knoll Lutheran and member of LSS Board of Directors, will lead a conversation about some of the many ways LSS serves the neighbor.

FEBRUARY 19: Ways LSS can help: Financial Fitness. Amy Hahn, Church Partnerships Associate, will lead a session on financial counseling and ways that LSS can help you achieve financial fitness.

FEBRUARY 26: Who is my neighbor? Jesus was asked this question and responded with the story of the Good Samaritan. We too are asked this question. An LSS video helps us ask that question too. This is the beginning of a five part series that will continue through March.

FEBRUARY SUGGESTIONS FROM FLW'S LIBRARY

Nicholas Sparks tells a good story in *A Bend in the Road*, a story of a man whose wife lost her life while walking on a country road. He is a sheriff and uses his authority to follow any clues to find out what happened. Of course, there is a woman who comes into his life who helps him through his grief.

When visiting Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, I asked at the bookstore which book they would recommend for reading about this tumultuous time in our country's time. The answer came quickly: *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. "The best and most realistic historical novel about war I have ever read," says General H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

"Doctors took her cells without asking. Those cells never died (as other cells did). These cells launched a medical revolution and a multimillion dollar industry. More than twenty years later, her children found out." These cells have no doubt been part of YOUR life. Even reading just part of this book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, will amaze you. Fascinating.

Need help in your prayer life? Perhaps this book will help: *Praying God's Word* by Beth Moore. It is subtitled "Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds."

Find these featured books on the rack in the narthex just outside the office.

LifeGroups

Join weekly discussions during Winter Life-Groups on **Wednesday evenings (6:15pm)** through February 22. Gather to interact with pre-selected resources and with one another. We'll ask questions, share ideas and support one another.

FEBRUARY 1: "Luggage." Have "baggage" you don't know what to do with? We'll talk about baggage – and the freedom of letting it go.

FEBRUARY 8: "Flame." It's hot! Sensual poetry in the Bible? Love?! Check it out before Valentine's day.

FEBRUARY 15: "Noise." Ever become overwhelmed by noise? It's our focus this night.

FEBRUARY 22: "Dust." It's better than you might think.

February 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 8:15 Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Education Hour 10:30 Worship+Holy Comm. 12pm GSJ (110/CR) 12:30pm GSJ (S)	6 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110) 7pm Ladies Ensemble (S) 7pm BSA Troop 67 (FH) Banner Deadline 12:30pm GSJ (S)	7 10am contemplative prayer (S) 10:30am Book Club (L) 2pm Bible Study (@RVN) 7pm Movies & Faith (FH) 7pm First Faith Men (S) 7pm W/ELCA Meeting (L) 7pm GSJ Choir (CR)	8 5pm Loaves & Fishes (@Brunswick Methodist) 6pm GSJ (CR/110) 6:15pm LifeGroups (L) 6:30pm Confirmation (Confirmation Room) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	9 11:30am Staff Meeting (L) 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110)	10 10:30am Martha Circle (L)	4 9:30am Music Together (2/18)
12 8:15 Worship 9am W/ELCA Sweet Treats & Boutique 9:15am Education Hour 10:30 Worship 12pm GSJ (110/CR) 12:30pm GSJ (S)	13 6:00pm Henn City Horticultural Society (FH) 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110) Banner Deadline 12:30pm GSJ (S)	14 10am contemplative prayer (S) 10:30am Book Club (L) 2pm Bible Study (@RVN) 7pm Movies & Faith (FH) 7pm GSJ Choir (CR)	15 11:30 staff lunch (@TBD) 1pm Lunch Bunch (@50s) 6pm GSJ (CR/110) 6:15pm LifeGroups (L) 6:30pm Confirmation (Confirmation Room) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	16 10:30am DAYD (CCC) 12:30pm DAYD Board (L) 6pm Cub Scouts 289 (FH) 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110) 7:00pm Council Mtg (L) 7pm KidPack Subcommittee Meeting (@FLCC)	17 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110)	18 9:30am Prayer Shawl (L) 9:30am Music Together (2/18) 12pm GSJ (S/CR/110) Youth Lock-In
19 8:15 Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Education Hour 10:30 Worship with Holy Communion & Baptism 12pm GSJ (110/CR) 12:30pm GSJ (S)	20 6:30pm GSJ Saints In Motion (CR) 7pm Ladies Ensemble (S) 7pm BSA Troop 67 (FH)	21 10am contemplative prayer (S) 10:30am Book Club (L) 2pm Bible Study (@RVN) 4pm KidPack (@FC) 6:30pm 75th Anniv Mtg (L) 7pm Movies & Faith (FH) 7pm First Faith Men (S) 7pm GSJ Choir (CR)	22 6pm GSJ (CR/110) 6:15pm LifeGroups (L) 6:30pm Confirmation Service Project (@TBD) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	23 11:30am Staff Meeting (L) 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110)	24 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110)	25 9:30am Music Together (2/18) 12pm GSJ (S/CR/110)
26 8:15 Worship 9:15am Education Hour 10:30 Worship 11:30am Internship Mtg (L) 12pm GSJ (110/CR) 12:30pm GSJ (S) 1:30pm GSJ Black History Month Dinner (K/FH)	27 6:30pm GSJ (CR/110)	28 10am contemplative prayer (S) 10:30am Book Club (L) 10:30am DAYD (CCC) 2pm Bible Study (@RVN) 7pm Movies & Faith (FH) 7pm Ruth Circle (L) 7pm GSJ Choir (CR)	Mar 1 Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Soup Supper (FH) 6:15pm Adult Catechism (L); Confirmation: Student/Mentor Conversations 7pm Worship (S) 7pm GSJ (CR/110) 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	Abbreviation Key: L: FLW Library FH: FLW Fellowship Hall K: FLW Kitchen CR: FLW Community Rm 110: FLW Craft Room N: FLW Narthex S: FLW Sanctuary	CCC : Crystal Community Ctr DAYD : Dinner At Your Door FG : The Food Group FLCC : First Lutheran Church of Crystal GSJ : Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church RW : Robbins Way	

INVITING

LUNCH BUNCH @ PUB 42

The Lunch Bunch will meet **Wednesday, February 8 at 1:00pm** just down the road at Pub 42 (7600 42nd Ave N). Contact Bev Maas (763-504-9331) if you need a ride.



DONATE & SHOP FOR SWEET TREATS BOUTIQUE

Bring donations (including jewelry, scarves and mens' ties) for W/ELCA's Sweet Treats Boutique to FLW by **Friday, February 10**. Leave donations beneath the sign-up table. Be sure to come shop the Boutique **Sunday, February 12!**



DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?

Our prayer shawl supply is getting low. You can help us build it up again. You supply the knitting needles or crochet hook, and we will supply the yarn and instructions. The Prayer Shawl group meets **monthly on the third Saturday at 9:30am** in the FLW Library. You needn't attend (as you can stitch shawls in your own home), but we would love to have you there! Contact Carolyn Lageson, Carol Flom, Val Wietzke or Jackie Mueller



LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Join us for a service of repentance, ashes and Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday Service at RobbinsWay

Senior Building (next door) 2pm in the Community Room. All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday at FLW

5:30pm Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall

6:15pm Catechism for Adults in the FLW Library; Confirmation: Student/Mentor Conversations

7pm worship in the Sanctuary



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS THROUGHOUT LENT

5:30pm Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall

6:15pm Living Catechism for Adults;
Student/Mentors Conversations

7pm mid-week Lenten Worship focused on the Catechism

Soup Supper: Come and enjoy a bowl of soup and delicious bread. The youth will serve delicious soup and bread each week. Donations will support our youth mission trip to Wilderness Canoe Base. **Soup donations are welcome! Please sign up in the narthex!**

Confirmation Mentors Needed! The dictionary definition of *mentor* is: "an experienced and trusted advisor." This may be true, but it sounds pretty formal. we think of our confirmation mentors as Confirmed members who are willing to "walk alongside" a youth on her or his faith journey. Mentors don't have to have "expertise." They don't have to be a certain age (anyone who is confirmed is qualified – from age 14-99!) They simply need to be trustworthy and willing to show up and be themselves! Mentors will meet with Confirmands on Wednesday nights during Lent (March 1- April 5). A sense of humor is always a plus. If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about Confirmation mentors, please see Pastor Pam or Vicar James.



MOVIES & FAITH DISCUSSIONS

On Tuesdays through February 28 young adults between the ages of 20 & 40 are invited to gather at 7pm to watch a movie, enjoy some snacks and have a faith discussion. Upcoming films include *Dogma* (in which Alan Rickman portrays a snarky angel), *Agora* and *Butterfly Circus* (an indie film that won several feel-good awards). Please plan to join us & invite friends!



INVITING

THRIVENT MEMBERS CAN HELP FLW SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

In 2016, Faith-Lilac Way received \$2,061 in charitable outreach funding. If you have a Thrivent account, you may be able to help FLW!

1) **Thrivent Choice.** Check to see if you are eligible to direct funds to a charity of your choice – Faith-Lilac Way counts. Choose us! There are two ways to do this: **a) Electronically**, log into your Thrivent account. If you are reading this online, visit tinyurl.com/thrivent-FLW: You will need your Thrivent member ID number to register. Can't remember your member ID number? Call them. **b) Call** Thrivent's Customer service at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. They will walk you through the process.

2) **Thrivent Action Teams.** Thrivent will provide \$250 in funds for education and service projects for volunteer teams. Each Thrivent member is eligible for two teams annually. See Pastor Pam for more information.



VICAR

Cont'd from p.2

Philos love is more based on "give-and-take," in which two people benefit each other in a mutual way. One partner is still concerned with what she/he can take, but at the same time is also concerned with her/his partner's benefit and therefore gives back in return. Friends are important to us. Whether its spending time together after a long work week, or venting about a problem that came up, friends are an important part of our well-being.

AGAPE

Agape is a love that is totally selfless, where a person gives out love to another person even if this act does not benefit her/him in any way. Whether the love given is returned or not, the person continues to love (even without any self-benefit). It is the famed "unconditional love"

GSJ INVITES FLW TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

Join Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church in celebrating Black History Month during an event on **Sunday, February 26** (3:00 to 6:30pm). Following a short program at 3pm, a potluck dinner will take place in Fellowship Hall. Plan to bring a dish for about 10-12 people to share.

LAY LEADERS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Join other congregational lay leaders from around the Minneapolis Area Synod for a morning of fellowship, workshops, and time with the Bishop. You're invited to register for the [Tool Kit for Congregations](#) event taking place **Saturday, February 11** (8:30am to noon) at [Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Maple Grove](#).

The event is free; however, a freewill offering will be taken. Register and find more information at the synod website (mpls-synod.org/event/tool-kit-congregational-leaders-2/).

JOIN THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

All are welcome to participate in the committee's upcoming meeting, **Tuesday, February 21** (6:30pm) in the FLW Library. Questions? Contact Linda St. John or Lynn Hillestad.

that parents have for their children. However, the highest type of agape love is not human at all, but divine - God's unconditional love for us, God's children.

God's love was shown to us the most when God sent God's one and only Son, Jesus Christ to his suffering and death on the cross for our salvation. There is no greater love than this. Jesus had no obligation to die for us, but He chose to. It is His gift, His ultimate gift.

So, in this season of love, make sure to spend time with your friends and loved ones, and know that God loves you very much. (Also, enjoy sweets. That's very important too.)

Peace and blessings,
Vicar James Anderson

SERVING

FAITH-LILAC WAY MISSION PARTNERSHIPS GROW FOR 2017!

There are lots of opportunities for mission. At Faith-Lilac Way, we want to be a part of that mission locally, regionally and nationally/internationally. Because of our congregation's concern for hunger, we added **ELCA World Hunger** to our benevolence (in our budget). For our Regional partner, we added to our budgeted benevolence **Luther Seminary**, a partner with us through the internship program. We chose **KidPack** to be our local service focus. In addition, at the FLW Annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, FLW members voted to share the one-time financial gift of \$15,000, the "first fruits" of the bequest we received from the Dorff family, equally with these five local organizations: **KidPack** (see below), **Clare Housing**, **Plymouth Christian Youth Center**, **TreeHouse** and **Avenues for Homeless Youth**. (See descriptions on page 9.)



OUR NEW LOCAL MISSION FOCUS FOR 2017: KIDPACK

We will be partnering with other Wildfire congregations (First Lutheran, House of Hope, Holy Nativity and St. James) to focus on providing non-perishable, healthy food items for the weekend to children in the community. This new focus is in no way to take away from the many other volunteer opportunities that our members are already engaged in such as NEAR Food Shelf and Dinner At Your Door. This is simply a new opportunity for service.

Service Opportunities

Kid Pack assembly dates for Winter/Spring 2017 will be: **February 21, March 28, and April 25**. Assembly starts at 4pm at the Food Group (8501 54th Ave N, New Hope).

Why is this needed? Hunger is prevalent in our own backyards. One in five area households with children are food insecure. Children in those households simply do not get enough to eat--they have to cut the size of their meals, skip meals, or even go whole days without food at some point during the school year. Hungry children face unnecessary barriers as they strive to become healthy, productive and engaged members of society. Hunger contributes to poor academic performance and disruptive behavior in the classroom. Missed meals also increase tardiness and visits to the school nurse.

Faith and other broad-based community partners are banding together to help end childhood weekend hunger, support healthy growth and development and school success.



MISSION + VISION

Supply students and families in need with non-perishable, healthy yet fun food items for the weekend at no cost to the parents.



WHAT IS A KIDPACK?

The packs vary from week to week but a typical KidPack includes cereal, fruit/veg juice, mac & cheese, granola bar, crackers, applesauce or fruit cocktail and a treat.



OUR COMMUNITY

We currently serve Minneapolis and the Northwest suburbs but are looking to expand throughout Minnesota.

SERVING

HELP HUNGRY NEIGHBORS: EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER

A collaborative effort of community volunteers and Robbinsdale Area Schools Community Education, **Empty Bowls** is a benefit for PRISM & NEAR Food Shelves, **Tuesday, March 7** (4-7pm) at Robbinsdale Cooper High School (8230 47th Ave N, New Hope). Volunteers are needed. Call 763-504-6990 to learn about volunteer opportunities or to donate food, paper goods, bowls, art supplies or even entertainment. Financial contributions are also welcome. Information: facebook.com/EmptyBowlsRAS or emptybowlsrobbinsdale.org.

DESCRIPTIONS OF MISSION ORGANIZATIONS

While our 2017 Mission and service focus will be Kidpack, there was an outpouring of support for all these organizations. At the annual meeting we voted that each of these organizations will receive an equal share (\$3,000) of the first fruits gift (\$15,000) from the Dorff bequest. They are also eligible to become a part of our monthly Mission of the Month focus through the Service and Community outreach team.

Avenues for Homeless Youth

Avenues provides housing, stability and support for 300 homeless youth every year. Locally, there are Avenues homes in Brooklyn Park and in North Minneapolis – and there is always a waiting list. In addition to finances and supplies, volunteers are needed for weekly commitments or for one-time and occasional services (cooking a meal, cleaning, painting, gardening).

Clare House

Clare Housing provides a continuum of affordable and supportive housing options that create healing communities and optimize the health of people living with HIV/AIDS. Last year, Clare Terrace (36th and Broadway, Robbinsdale) opened. It has 36 efficiency apartments and filled them immediately with formerly homeless people who had AIDS. Last year, FLW supplied a welcome package of housekeeping items for one of the new residents. Opportunities for continued engagement include: providing new sets of housekeeping items for new residents (as current residents move out); groceries for new

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PASSION SUNDAY BRUNCH

Community Outreach is organizing a Passion Brunch, scheduled to take place **Palm Sunday, April 9**. If you can help, please contact Cori Vallis or, during worship, write your name and contact information on the green insert. Thank you!

residents; occasionally providing a meal and eating with residents.

Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC)

Begun by Lutheran Seminary students, its mission is to enrich the skills, prospects and spirit of North Minneapolis area youth and adults, in partnership with families and communities. Opportunities for partnership include: tutoring, helping with art and textile projects (knitting, crocheting) and sending a “mail crew” 2 to 3 times a year to send out their mailings. Its vision: Plymouth Christian Youth Center is a place of strength, safety and beauty where every young person is nurtured and challenged to reach their utmost potential. Youth, adults, families and communities come together to turn back the tides of poverty and violence – embracing hope, compassion and the reality of a better world.

Treehouse is a faith-based organization whose vision is to reach at-risk teens in our neighborhood so that they are loved, feel hope and realize life transformation. Located at 42nd and Boone, Treehouse has 4 goals for teens: 1) reduce at-risk behaviors; 2) Build healthy relationships with God, self and others; 3) Graduate high school; 4) Pursue an educational or vocational track for their future. The program is free for youth. Opportunities for engagement: 1) Provide a meal once a month; 2) Volunteer; 3) Provide an opportunity to engage.

INVITING

TRAVEL TO GERMANY WITH WILDFIRE MEMBERS

Holy Nativity invites members of its Wildfire partner congregations to be a part of its trip to Germany this summer to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! Travelers will take a bus tour through Germany, seeing all the important sites related to Martin Luther and the Reformation, as well as some of the important Dietrich Bonhoeffer sites. The trip will take place **July 10-20, 2017**. Included in the cost are airfare, first class hotel accommodations, most meals, and all admission fees to museums and historic sites. Total cost per person is \$3,799. **Deadline for signing up is March 1.** A brochure is posted in the narthex. Contact Pastor Jason Wahlstrom (763-545-1647 or pastorjason@holynativity.net) with questions.

FREE HOME SAFETY CHECK FOR SENIORS

No-cost Home Safety Check for senior citizens is offered by the Household & Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) Program of Senior Community Services. We will check your need for handrails, grab-bars, smoke detectors, lighting, and other home safety components. Elders aged 60+ residing in suburban Hennepin County and Minneapolis are eligible for this limited time offer. No sales. For details and more information contact 952-746-4046 or home@seniorcommunity.org.

Senior Community Services is a nonprofit organization with five programs serving elders and caregivers statewide. For more information please visit www.seniorcommunity.org or call 952-541-1019. (Seniors outside of Hennepin County should contact the Senior Linkage Line at 1-800-333-2433 for information about services in their area.)

LIVING LUTHERAN

FLW has dropped its group subscription to *Living Lutheran* magazine. You can find current and past issues of *Living Lutheran* online at livinglutheran.org. On the website, you'll also find a link where you may subscribe as an individual (\$19.95 for 12 issues). Purchase a subscription over the phone by calling [800-638-3522](tel:800-638-3522).

PASTOR

Cont'd from p.2

love. This is the message we hear again and again throughout the Bible. God shows steadfast love – even to those who other people might deem “unworthy.” This is always a reminder – for me – to not be too quick to condemn those with whom I disagree.

But Jesus also models a faith and a life that sticks up for and heals and cares for the poor, the “outsider,” and those who would not be considered “winners.”

Jesus could have had a very comfortable life amongst the “winners.” But instead, in the midst of his ministry, at the height of his earthly power, he heads to Jerusalem – and the cross. Jesus was not interested in earthly power and glory. Instead, in the cross, power is hidden in weakness.

The theology of the cross is that in the seeming weakness and shame of death on a cross, Jesus defeats the power of sin, death and all evil. He overcomes the power of evil and is transformed by God’s love and light.

So how do we act as theologians of the cross instead of theologians of glory (of which the prosperity gospel is the latest iteration)?

Remember that Christ gave us only two commandments: Love the Lord your God with all your strength and all your soul and all your might. And “Love your neighbor as I have loved you.” If we but remember these two things, then all of the striving to be “winners” and “better than” one another disappear. Instead, we are to go and serve and proclaim the Good News to all!

In Jesus’ name,
Pastor Pam



MEMBER UPDATE

Liz Vierzba has asked that we print her correct contact information here so that FLW friends can get in touch with her. Liz can be reached by email at bethvierzba1953@gmail.com or by phone at 612.910.1878

PRAYING

JESUS CALLS US TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

MATTHEW 22:36-39 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

MARK 12:28-31 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

LUKE 10:25-27 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." 

COME HOLY SPIRIT

... and put your healing hand upon those in need of your care. Comfort those who are suffering from on-going illnesses or are hospitalized including **Brad Hesslund, Marilyn Stalheim, Ruth Kuder, Margaret Pendzimas, George Bork, Louise Kranz, Herb Scheelk, Gerti Dumont, Cori Vallis, Jacqueline Butkowski, Helen Brandon, Mary Peloquin** and for those who are at a care facility or assisted living: **Bob Borg, Beverly Evans, Beverly Halbrooks, Bee Loechler, Herb Scheelk, Linda Swanson.** Let your Holy Spirit be present with these and all for whom we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pray for, call, email, send a note to these members as they celebrate their birthdays this month. If your birthday is this month and you don't see your name here, call the office (763.537.4523) so we can update our list. Thank you.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 2 nd | Cori Vallis |
| 8 th | Katherlyn (Rosenberg)
Self |
| 10 th | Bill Rosenberg |
| 12 th | Teresa Foster |
| 13 th | Brian Blackman
Elliot Wahlsten |
| 14 th | Valerie Wietzke,
Brenda Spittle |
| 15 th | Beverly Evans |
| 16 th | David Fernelius |
| 18 th | Roger Erickson,
Christine Evenson,
Grace Thompson |
| 19 th | Brady Anderson |
| 20 th | Joyce Merkel |
| 21 st | JoAnn Bloom,
Miranda Hortenbach |
| 25 th | Lois Anderson |
| 26 th | Allen Anderson |
| 27 th | Jeffrey Traeger |
| 28 th | Jenna Foster
Beverly Maas,
Sarah Peloquin |
- 



PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
FAITH-LILAC WAY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SWEET TREATS BOUTIQUE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 (9AM)

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FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE

Since 1865, Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota has responded to Minnesota's changing needs by being wholly committed to making life better for our citizens.

LSS traces its history to 1865 when Vasa Lutheran Church opened its church to care for four children in need. Pastor Norelius came up with a community response that inspired hope and changed the life of the community. Today, LSS holds these values at the core of its vision and mission. Our work is grounded in two principles – God loves all people without condition and God yearns for us to love the neighbor. LSS Mission: Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota expresses the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds com-

munity. LSS Vision: All people have the opportunity to live and work in community with dignity, safety, and hope.

February is LSS month at FLW. Come and hear about several of people that LSS serves – and give generously to share Christ's love with our neighbors.



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota