

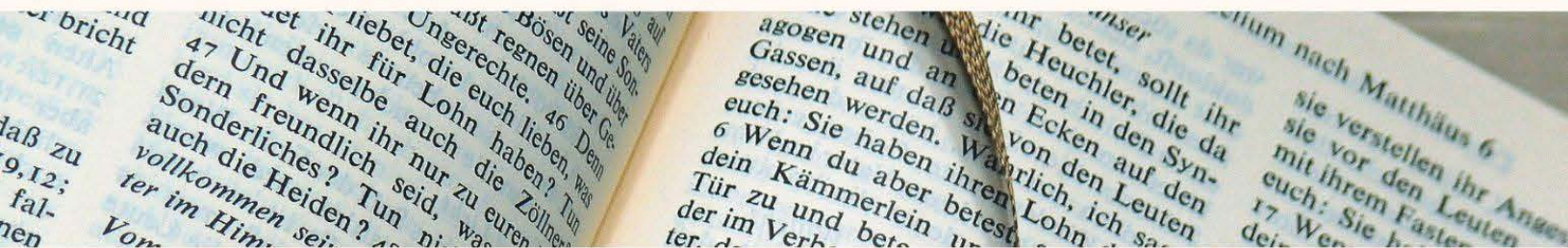


FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Watford City

JUNE 2023

The Clarion

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

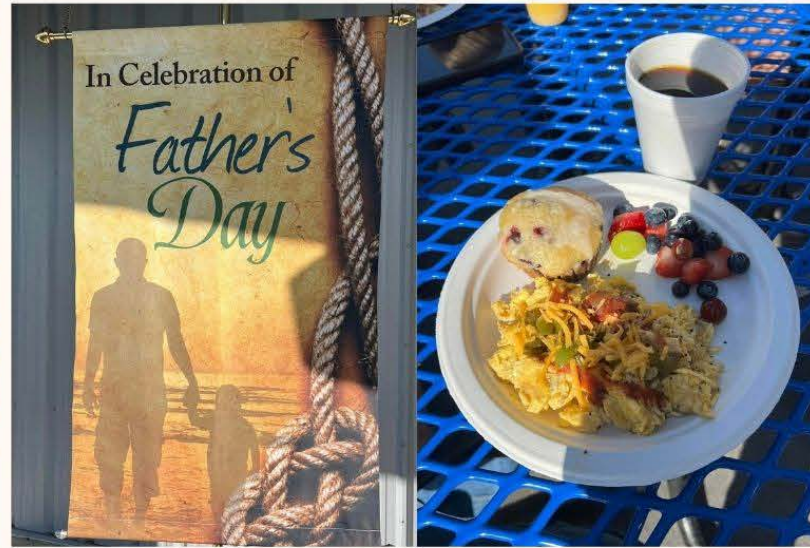


Pastor Paul's time with us, as our interim pastor is coming to a close. His last service will be Sunday, July 9. Please join us for the Godspeed and Farewell service and fellowship afterward to thank him for all he's seen us through over the last 2 1/2 years.

WND Synod Convention

JUNE STARTED OUT WITH PASTOR PAUL, MATTHEW ROLFSON, JENNIFER SORENSON, ANNE BEARD AND MARCA HELLANDSAAS ATTENDING THE WND SYNOD CONVENTION JUNE 1-4. ALL WHO ATTENDED SAID IT WAS VERY INTERACTIVE, INFORMATIVE AND ENJOYABLE. THERE WERE MANY GOOD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MAIN CONCERN BEING THE SHORTAGE OF ROSTERED MINISTERS IN WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO ENGOURAGE PEOPLE OF THE CONGREGATION TO CONSIDER "LAY MINISTRY" TO LEAD OUR CONGREGATIONS. IT IS RESOLVED THAT THE ELCA LUTHERANS NEED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. REACH OUT AND LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY AND LET OTHERS KNOW WE CARE.





McKenzie Co Fair Parade

We at First Lutheran decided it would be fun to enter a float into the fair parade. Matthew headed up this project. It sure turned out nice. We bought tootsie pops and added a sticker to each one saying "Pop into our Church, First Lutheran". I believe the kids had a fun time being able to hand out the candy. They even made sure to get to our seniors at Good Shepard and Horizon.

June 18th Father's Day brought about the worship service conducted at the new Fairgrounds. This was a combined service with all McKenzie County ELCA churches participating. Things started off with a large healthy breakfast, followed by worship services. There were quite a few parishioners at the event. All tithes from this day are being donated to the Bakken Oil Rush Ministry.

**LET
YOUR
LIGHT
SHINE**

Is God calling you down a new
path of service?

Could the Spirit be inviting
you to preach?

The Lay Preaching
Academy will begin
this fall! All instruction
via Zoom for 8 weeks.

Join us at 5:00 p.m. in
the Governor's Room
to learn about a new
learning opportunity!

Recipe of the Month Biscuits and Gravy



A Story to Celebrate

One hundred years ago, April 8, 1923, four American Lutheran missionaries landed in Douala, Cameroon, West Africa, to begin ministries in what is now Cameroon and Central African Republic. Adolphus and Anna Marie Gunderson from Iowa, and Anne Olsen and Olette Bernsten were deaconesses from Brooklyn, New York.



For 26 days they trekked by foot into the interior. After some uncertainty, they settled in Mboula, northern Cameroon, learned the local language, opened schools, worked in healthcare, and shared the Gospel. Within the decade they were joined by Africans who rejoiced in being baptized, celebrated the faith and became missionaries in the region. They delivered the Good News of Christ across the region, from Abba to Rey Bouba, from Baboua to Balkossa. Their efforts were successful, and out of their work two Lutheran churches were born: The Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Cameroon and of Central African Republic. This summer, we will gather to celebrate this incredible journey and look to the future of companion engagement. Church leaders from Cameroon and CAR will be joined by ELCA and ELCIC leaders. Together we will celebrate, renew and inspire



Andrew Okland and Chief Doumba
circa 1960

each other at synod assemblies and the Sudan Mission Centennial. Watch for chances to meet them as they travel in their respective companion synods. Be sure to congratulate them on a century of ministry and thank them for their leadership. The Sudan Mission Centennial celebration will be held in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN July 7th through the 9th. To register for the celebration, visit <https://sdsynod.org/synod-events/missioncentennial2023/>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 7th

Meet and greet at the Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown Minneapolis

Saturday, July 8th

Reception of African Guests at Luther Seminary, celebratory worship, a look at the history of the Sudan Mission, presentations of the church today, and vision for all that is to come

Sunday, July 9th

Festival Centennial Worship Service at Central Lutheran Church

Ingredients
1 (16 ounce) can refrigerated
jumbo buttermilk biscuits

1 (9.6 ounce) package Jimmy
Dean® Original Hearty Pork
Sausage Crumbles

¼ cup flour

2 ½ cups milk

salt and freshly ground black
pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Arrange

biscuits 1 to 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie
sheet. Bake in

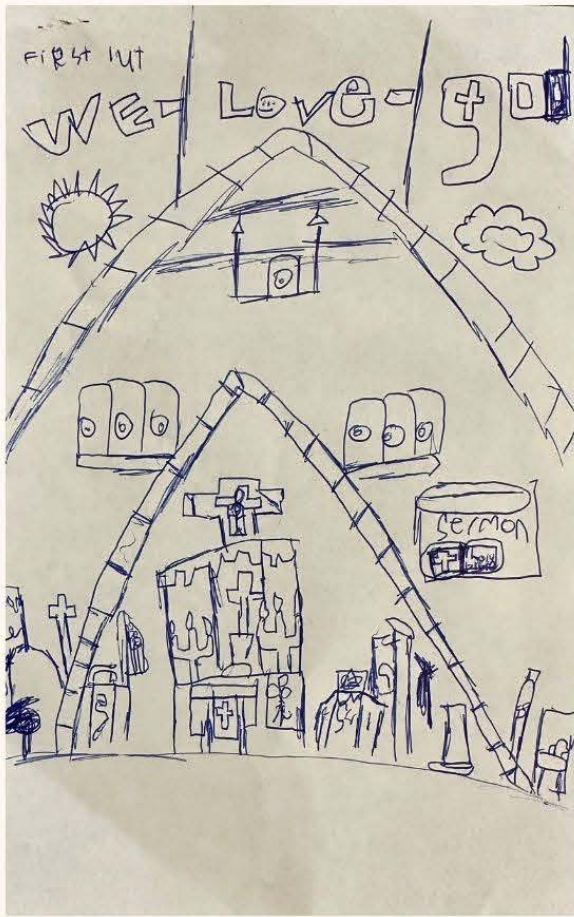
the preheated oven until golden brown, about 13 to 15
minutes.

Meanwhile, cook sausage in a large skillet over
medium heat until
thoroughly heated, stirring frequently, about 5 to 6
minutes.

Stir in flour until well combined. Gradually add milk,
stirring continuously
until the gravy thickens and comes to a boil.

Reduce heat to
medium-low; simmer and stir for 2 more minutes.
Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Split biscuits in half. Place 2 halves on each of 8 plates;
top with about 1/3 cup gravy.



We have a budding artist in the congregation. Artwork by Adrock Schwartz



It's the Little Things!

You don't have to make a big splash to make a difference! In this months 'Pews News' 'Blessings Blurb'.... Or however you want to name it... We are focusing on the everyday things that make us feel good and can make a big difference in small ways! Here are just a few things from the past few weeks! Notice the beautiful, manicured trees, flower bed & pots by the front door! Can't help but put a smile on your face! Anne & Glenn Calling, preparing and serving multiple funerals within a few days. Always with a huge smile, kind words & a bit of laughter! Carole Arranging care packages for those in distress. Katie Helping Paul through medical procedures! Kevin & Anne Surprising us with biscuits & gravy for morning coffee! Paul & Tarri



Pews News

Countless behind the scenes things such as filling candles, making sure there are gift bags filled & ready & making everyone feel welcome! David & Celeste

Pitching in moving tables, washing dishes, serving, etc. when Jennifer volunteers & ends up visiting instead! Curtis

Jumping into the rescue when technology throws a monkey wrench! Laura, Tarri, Ari, Ardyce

If you happen to show up on Monday afternoon you are guaranteed a cup of coffee, a homemade treat & the best conversation you can find! Sonja, Swanie, Charlotte, Donna, Darlene, Sue, Francis

Runner for extra panic sandwiches when crowds are larger than planned! Cindy

When new banners, bulletin boards, flowers, decorations & candles magically show up! Anne, Tarri, Jennifer

Throwing together parade float, burgers & bible study! Matthew, Cindy, Tarri

Tearing out the dilapidated old fence behind the old parsonage! Kevin, Glenn, Matthew, Paul

Always there to prepare and deliver food pantry blessings! Mitch, Celeste, Janet

Lots of meetings, love & prayers by our council members! Laura, Gretchen, Cindy, Marcia, Joy, Lynn, Jennifer, Kevin & Robin

The warm smile, handshake or hug! From everyone!

Oh, there are so many more special people out there! Thank you all for being the foundation of our church! You are what makes me LOVE this wonderful place of God!

It's the little things!!

Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on.

