


MAY 2023

THE CLARION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATFORD CITY



WE HAD A BUSY MONTH OF APRIL! THE WELCA LADIES HAD THEIR ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 27TH AND THEY HAD A WONDER TURNOUT! ON APRIL 30TH WAS THE 2ND ANNUAL LADIES TEA PARTY, WITH JESSIE VEEDER FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT. ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE FOOD PANTRY. IT WAS A WONDERFUL DAY WITH BEAUTIFUL TABLE SETTINGS AND GOOD FOOD. THE MEN FROM THE CHURCH SERVED THE LADIES WHICH WAS VERY NICE.

MAY BROUGHT US TO CONFIRMATION. WE HAD ONE CONFIRMAND THIS YEAR: ALLYSA HOLEN. PLEASE PRAY FOR HER AND HER JOURNEY IN HER FAITH.

WE ALSO HAVE 5 GRADUATING SENIORS THIS YEAR: ALLYSON CROSS, TEL SORENSON, TYLER LEISTH, KOEN HELMUTH AND AUBREY WOLLAN. THEY RECIEVED THEIR QUILTS FROM THE FLC QUILTERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THEM ALL AS THEY HEAD OUT INTO THE WORLD FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THEIR LIVES.

ARDYCE ALVESHARE RETIRED FROM THE SECRETARY POSTION AFTER MANY YEARS OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. WE HAD A WONDERFUL BREAKFAST AND CAKE TO HONOR HER ON MAY 14TH.

WE ALSO HAD A VIST FROM BRAD DOKKEN. HE HELPED PASTOR PAUL WITH WORSHIP ON MAY 21ST.



*As people get more busy, the Church
has to employ new ways to make the
faithful keep coming back.*

RECEIPE OF THE MONTH CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

2 C SHREDDED COOKED CHICKEN
1 C SHREDDED MONTEREY JACK OR MOZZARELLA
SALT, ADOBO SEASONING TO TASTE
10 FLOUR TORTILLAS
3 TBS BUTTER
2 C CHICKEN BROTH
1 C SOUR CREAM
4 OZ CAN OF DICED GREEN CHILES (DON'T DRAIN)
1 C MONTEREY JACK CHEESE

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350. SPRAY 9X13 PAN WITH NON STICK SPRAY. IN A MEDIUM BOWL MIX THE CHICKEN WITH A CUP OF CHEESE AND SEASONINGS. PLACE CHICKEN MIXTURE INTO TORTILLAS, ROLL UP AND PLACE IN BAKING DISH. IN A SAUCE PAN MELT THE BUTTER, WISK IN THE FLOUR. COOK FOR ONE MINUTE. ADD 2 C BROTH AND WISK UNTIL SMOOTH. STIR IN 1 C SOUR CREAM AND THE 4 OZ OF CHILES. TAKE SAUCE OFF THE HEAT AND POUR OVER THE ENCILADAS. TOP WITH THE OTHER CUP OF CHEESE. BAKE FOR 20-25 MINUES.



The ever so talented Jessie Veeder
during the ladies tea



Picking up the patch and a little fellowship after



**FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
Watford City





Our Confirmand Alyssa Holen

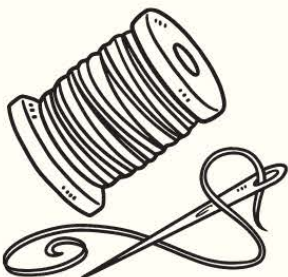


Next years confirmation class Will Forbes, Griffin Tschetter, and Faith Langford received a goodie bag with a small catechism and a few other odds and ends to prepare them for their upcoming classes.



The 2023 Graduates:
Allyson Cross, Koen Helmuth, Tyler Leiseth, Aubrey Wollan and Tel Sorenson

2023



The FLC Quilters have been hard at work! Look at all the beautiful quilts they have made for Lutheran World Relief



Pews News

Hello!!! New to the Clarion is our Pews News

Highlighting special people, happenings & blessings here at First Lutheran Church. First off, we will celebrate our secretaries, past & present!

We had a beautiful celebration for Ardyce Alvashere appropriately on Mothers' Day. Ardyce has been our stable 'Mother figure' for FLC for 6 years, through Covid, challenging times and navigating new online technology. Ardyce served at FLC from January 2017 until March this year. Our biggest blessing is she & Lloyd are still very active in FLC & she is volunteering her skills to manage our website and technical needs. She and Lloyd both retired this year, and we wish them well as they will have more time to enjoy their family - Daughter Tillie & Austin & grandbabies, Brayden (4 years) & Rylee (4 months), who live in Mandan and son Trevor & Dyllan, who live in Washington, DC.

We are now very blessed to have Tarri Chadwick Wenstad who jumped in without skipping a beat! She has learned quickly along with incorporating new ideas & taking on the challenge of our ever-changing technology. The hours have also been extended. It is so nice to have a smiling welcome 9-3 every day! We welcome her and her husband Cliff, who has also been wonderful to pitch in wherever needed. They are parents of 5 kids and busy grandparents of 11 Grandchildren.

Now a blast from the past! We have been graced with wonderful longtime secretaries over the years!

Tarri Jo Wenstad



I'm originally from the Keene area. I graduated from WC in 1989. I had been gone from the area for a little over 30 yrs. My husband and I moved back to the area in the fall of 2019. I was employed for the last few years at Anova. When Anova decided to close at the beginning of 2023 I was out dropping of resumes to different companies. At one of the businesses the secretary there said we are not hiring but I know who is. She immediately sent my resume to the church. I had a call in about a ½ hour to schedule an interview. The interview went great so a 2nd interview was scheduled with the council. I got the job!!

I was so afraid that it would take me awhile to find a job, how would we pay our bills? I believe God pointed me in the right direction. Also, My husband and I had been going to a different church and it just wasn't the right fit for us. We now attend First Lutheran and it has been amazing. It isn't hard to attend church and church functions when you like the environment and the people you are with.

I'm really enjoying my new position. There has been a lot to learn and I'm still learning! Something new every day. I hope to be here for many years to come.

Ardyce Alveshere



When I was offered the secretarial position, I was thrilled to say the least (also nervous knowing the huge shoes that I was filling)! Since the time I was hired in January 2019 until the time I retired in 2023 I have had the privilege to work with Pastor Rob Favorite, Pastor Mark Honstein, Pastor Alyssa Quade, Intern Hayley Moe, Interim Pastor Paul, Music Director Caroline Schwartz and Maintenance Supervisor Glen Beard. When I first started, I worked as the secretary for the Watford City Area Lutheran Parish, which was made up of Banks, Garden & First Lutheran Churches. These three churches were all thriving by 2023 so made the difficult decision to go their separate ways so when I retired, I was secretary for First Lutheran only.

Worships at First Lutheran have gone from 2 traditional worships to one traditional and one contemporary back to one traditional. I continued taking care of the same secretarial duties that needed to be done with the addition of putting together the PowerPoint presentation and lining up online broadcast for Sunday worship. It was very difficult when COVID-19 hit our area and forced us to go to online worship only. It was very quiet in the office – no more Bible studies, quilting, meetings, etc. It was so hard not getting to see and share fellowship with others. I then realized how much I took the simplest things for granted, like singing in the church choir, shaking your neighbor's hand during sharing of the peace, visiting with those that would stop by the office & Lutheran potlucks, just to name a few! I couldn't wait for the day we could once again have in-person worship. It was such a blessing when that time finally came, and we were able to get back to some sense of normalcy. I am so very thankful for the years that God has given me to serve First Lutheran Church and its members! It has had both its busy times and quiet times, but it has all been a blessing getting to know my church family and the happenings within the church. I am also very thankful for all the amazing people of First Lutheran who are always so willing to lend a hand and have been here through thick & thin! I am currently working on the church website and (soon to be) app, which I am extremely excited about and hope that both will be great sources to explore what First Lutheran Church has to offer, providing information to keep everyone updated and many ways for everyone to communicate with each other and continue to grow in their faith. My hope is that I can help share how God is working through each one of us and invite everyone to come along on this wonderful faith journey!

Dear family & friends,

Thank you for the wonderful reception on May 14th...it really meant the world to me!

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, delicious brunch & cake, cards, kind words and wishes. It has truly been an honor & privilege to serve as your secretary and I couldn't have done it without your love & support and I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Wishing you God's grace & blessings! 🙏 I love you all!! 💕❤️

Your sister in Christ,

Ardyce 😊

Karen Broderson



I was working $\frac{3}{4}$ time at the beauty shop, while I was giving Shirley Olson a haircut, she mentioned she was retiring and thought I should apply for the job. I laughed and said I would make a terrible secretary! Long story short, I got the job! Thank goodness Pastors Alton Hillesland and Kerry Eversole were patient with me and lots of help from Shirley in the beginning! My office was in the CE building in a makeshift office with heat in the storage room. I dressed in layers as it got pretty chilly in the winter.

As the years went by, I worked with Pastors: Alton Hillesland, Kerry Eversole, Ernie Christiansen, Tom Stensel, Chris Montgomery, Rob Favorite & Mark Honstein. AIM Cindy Cordz, Interim Verle Reinike, Interns Mary Peterson & Lisa Peterson, Youth Leaders: Brad Dokken, Garrett Gudmunsen, & Alyssa Quade.

One thing I was always grateful for was the fact that I had been involved in many aspects of the community and church life: Owning a business, Thrivent board, community theater, Sunday School teacher and coordinator, church council, Bible study leader, Circle & WELCA member. I made communion bread, took my turn as scripture reader at worship and eventually a lay minister. My best gift was organizational skills and the favorite part of my job was to listen to people who stopped or called and then it was my mission to help them find what they needed.

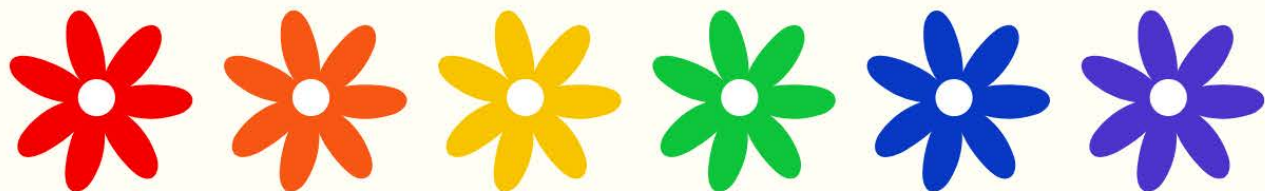
I worked 20 hours a week to get 3 Sunday Bulletins (First, Spring Creek & Banks/Garden) 4 for a time when we added the Keene Parish. We had a hard copy news letter sent to 300 members, annual meeting booklets, keeping accurate records & Parish treasurer. I even knew where the toilet paper was stored! As with any job, it had great joy along with a little frustration!

A couple funny stories:

I received a 3 am phone call to turn off the noisy window air-conditioning that was preventing the neighbors from sleeping! Refreshing 12 mile drive to town in the night! One minister's adult daughter asked why he wasn't #1 in the telephone prompts. They said "for Karen press 1, Pastor press 2". Pastor said, because Karen signs my checks!

One retired fellow who frequently stopped by for coffee, which I would give my undivided attention, proclaimed that all I did was answer the phone!

26 years went by so fast! The new church offices were exciting to move into. The 100th anniversary celebration of FLC's was indeed a wonderful Sunday along with WELCA retreats and gatherings, funerals, weddings, confirmations, baptisms – I was so honored to be part of every aspect of the church.



Shirley Olson



Shirley Olson says her parish secretarial position in the Watford City parish began by accident.

One day while helping with registration for a parish pictorial directory, she overheard the secretary mention she was leaving her position at the end of the month something prodded me to call and see what the duties were.

Relieved to learn that the use of shorthand wasn't necessary (having forgotten it since high school) and knowing that she had haphazardly kept up with her typing, she called the pastor.

That was eight years ago. Shirley began serving what was known as a two-point parish, one in Watford City and a smaller rural one. The parish added a pastor one year and a three-point rural parish and an intern the next in a cooperative arrangement.

"I walked in the first day and uttered a silent prayer for God to help me get through the day. As I tell people (I know the pastor certainly did), I made every mistake there was to make. It took me a whole day to do one simple bulletin! Didn't some one say that we learn best by trial and error?"

Shirley compiles bulletins and a monthly 10-page newsletter for the churches in addition to handling the financial duties for the church in Watford City. She also coordinates the registration and organization of the new kindergarten program and receives phone calls for the entire cooperative parish which spans about 20 miles and contains about 1500 members. Pastors check in daily to find out who is ill, who requests a visit, who has called, and who needs help. She says it really helps to have lived in the community all her life, because she is familiar with everyone and actually knows most of them. A special feature at the Watford cooperative parish is the daily forenoon coffee break. Pastors, Shirley, the janitor, and frequent drop-in visitors gather around the desk for coffee, goodies, and discussions of every sort on church, community, and world affairs. "One of our faithful ladies brings us a warm rhubarb pie every spring! How's that for stewardship?" Does it sound like Shirley Olson's parish secretarial position is an accident? "God indeed calls us in mysterious ways," she says.

