

### PASTOR'S CORNER

1-13-2025  
Pr. Dean Hedlund

I found an interesting quote the other day, by a modern-day philosopher (I'll tell you who, in a second). He said:

*"My whole philosophy is based on one principle, you do what you think is right, I do what I think is right... you know, because you can't be told what is right and wrong. Nobody can tell you what's good or evil."*

In other words, there's no such thing as sin, or right, or wrong.

"Fascinating!" I thought, because this guy was succinctly articulating what my college ethics instructor had also been trying to tell me, that everyone should be the judge of their own actions. "No right, no wrong," my instructor said... "You have your Truth, and I have my Truth..."

Unfortunately for my college instructor, and for any American who buys this stuff, the originator of the above profound saying was Charlie Manson... you know, the murderer, the cult-leader guy.

Charlie Manson has become America's National Philosopher.

Contrary to those guys, Jesus honored Scripture as the ultimate moral code. He used Scripture to refute Satan himself.

Hmmm. No moral code, or God's moral code? Charlie Manson, or the Lord Jesus? Which one should I choose?

I guess I'll go with Jesus.

**First United  
Lutheran  
Church is  
a Sanctuary  
grounded in the  
Biblical  
Truth of God's  
Word, committed  
to  
inspiring Spiritual  
Growth,  
and reaching out  
to all to Proclaim  
Salvation through  
Jesus Christ.**

### Sweet Devotions

#### Benediction

**2 Corinthians 13:14** *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

What beautiful words to bless one another with. This blessing reminds us of the God-head Trinity. All loving yet carrying out this love in unique ways. God, all loving, yet cannot interact with sinners. Jesus, our mediator, Who took away our sin so that we can interact with God and call Him Father. The Holy Spirit living within each of us intervening on our behalf before our Father.

Our desire must be to all three; we must revere God our Father, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit within by worshipping them and living a life set apart from sin. Living a life that manifests the Glory of the God-head so that we are a witness to others of the majesty of our God, Who is above all.

*Dear loving Father, dear Brother Jesus and Holy Spirit within me; I kneel before You in complete love and surrender. Thank You for the gift of Salvation so that I have the undeserved privilege of coming before You. Bless me with the desire to live a life pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### What's News

Youth News

Women of the Word

Missions and Outreach

Testimony

Sunday School

Grief Support

Men's Breakfast

Upcoming Events

Our Community

From the Council

All committees and groups are encouraged to submit their information for the newsletter by the first of the month to Connie Berg at [ncberg@mncable.net](mailto:ncberg@mncable.net)

### Youth News

#### Youth Director

Paula Baumgartner  
218-469-9001  
[paula.baumgartner@yahoo.com](mailto:paula.baumgartner@yahoo.com)

#### Youth Group Meeting Times:

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 3:30 - 5:00pm with transportation provided from school to the church.

7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade meets every Wednesday 7:00pm - 8:00pm



Serving at Ruby's Pantry

### Youth 2024 Photos



4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Christmas Party



Serving the Christmas meal at the  
Four Seasons Center.

Serving and learning at the Roseau Food Shelf. We donated \$340. And 290 pounds of food!! We are sharing kindness in Roseau County!



### Women of the Word



**Quilting. Tuesdays at 9 am**  
(January 7 – March 25)  
**Old Courthouse - upstairs**

(WOW) meets six times a year, on the second Monday at 6:30 pm.

We meet in February, April, June, September, November and December.

At our meetings we have a devotion and prayer and then discuss any necessary old business and whatever is coming up in the future. We try very hard to keep our meetings short and so are usually done by 7:30 – 8:15 PM.

### Missions and Outreach

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 11:00am after the church service.

#### We are active in our Community

- + Financial relief for local families with illness or disaster.
- + Support and organize benefits.
- + Provide free inspirational and faith growing books.
- + Roseau Community Food Shelf
- + Gideons
- + Provide opportunities for member to be involved in missions.

The M & O team meets the second Sunday of each month. Generally, right after church. Anyone who is interested in attending or becoming involved in Mission & Outreach is welcome! We have our monthly ongoing support with Psalm FM, Gary & Minnie, Chio & Betty (missionaries in Mexico) the Pregnancy Center

The M&O group decided in December to offer continuing financial support starting in 2025, to Jacob Broten and his family for their mission work in Chad Africa. Jacob is from Roseau originally and has family in the area which brings a special connection. Instead of an unknown person in a far-off land he is one of us living amongst an unreached people group under primitive conditions to spread the good news to those who have no knowledge of Christ. Please keep Jacob and his family in your prayers.

There are many more things we do as an M & O team. If you are interested in knowing more, come join us!!

Doreen Jensen, M&O committee

### Sunday School



Greetings from the FULC Sunday School Crew!

Each Sunday morning, we gather in the sanctuary to praise Jesus through song, learn about prayer, and pray the Lord's prayer together. We also celebrate one another on our birthdays by counting out our new age with pennies, or in the case of us teachers...with some larger coins! We also sing to one another for birthdays with the following... "Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to your, God bless you and keep you, the whole year through!"

During Sunday School opening, the kids also take turns collecting offering. Our offering goes to Feed My Starving Children each year. So far this fall, the kids have offered over \$186 to help other children have enough nutrition!

We had a great fall session that ended with a fun Christmas program that taught us all about the 12 days of Christmas. Our "true love" (God) has given us so much. We learned about how the Twelve Days of Christmas song helps us to highlight and be reminded of some of these great gifts that our heavenly father has given us, and it was fun to share them with the congregation! There are so many ways that God has expressed his love for us, and we are thankful for each and every one of these gifts!

Now that we are in the new year, we are back to Sunday school again, and we will sing in church a few more times this year. We hope you enjoy our fun worship songs!

I want to give a continued thank you to the parents for getting the kids to Sunday school and to our teachers and helpers- Pam, Debbie and Liana, as well as Kallie and Bella. We are always looking for helpers, please reach out to Beth if you would like to help with Sunday School.

Please continue to keep the kids, our teachers, the helpers, and their families in your prayers this year! We appreciate your support and encouragement. God bless each of you!

### Upcoming Events



The first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 am. (at a different church each month). All are welcome to attend. There will be food and a devotional to help get your day started. Short enough to get you to work by 8:00 am or earlier if you need to. If you can stay longer, there is fellowship until 8:30 am.

**Hope to see you there!**



Communion is offered the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

### Grief Support

"Journeying through Grief" series is available for anyone who would like to reach out to a friend or family member grieving the loss of a loved one. Please contact any Missions and Outreach committee member.



### Sunshine Girls

If you would like to be involved, call Helene Wiskow at 218-242-1246 or contact the Church Secretary for more information.

### Roseau County Grief Support

13 week sessions using Grief Share materials at the Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church.

Current session: Mondays 1:30pm now through March 31<sup>st</sup>

Contact Connie Berg for more information. 218-242-0803



Join in this grief ministry by sharing a book with someone you know who is suffering loss. There are free copies in the narthex for all members.

### Shared Testimony: Paula Peterson

When I was young God was a major part of our family life growing up: going to Sunday School, confirmation and church in the old First Lutheran Church. I knew I believed in God but realized I really didn't understand. Fast-forward to 2010 when everything changed, and it changed for the better. I started to really understand and knew my faith was getting stronger all the time. Rick and I love our church family and it has become the center of our life and marriage.

Now fast-forward 2 ½ - 3 years ago when I found out my kidneys were failing. I was to get ready for dialysis which I was fortunate to not have to do and started testing for a kidney transplant. This was all new waters that I was treading. I was a little nervous but never really scared for the future. I had put everything in God's hands. There was many a trip to Fargo to test and make sure I was a good candidate. On Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2023 I received "the call" telling me that I was now listed on the National Kidney Transplant List and to get ready. You probably heard my screams of joy!!! Just 26 days later I received "the call" telling me they had a possible kidney and to get to Fargo ASAP. I was so excited and completely overwhelmed. Rick was at the church during the Men's Fellowship. I called him, he came home and we were on the road in 45 minutes and didn't return home for 6 weeks. I knew what I had been told and what I had read but really didn't know what to expect. What I did know was that God was in control and with me. I had a complete trust in Him and knew I had the support of our church family, family and friends and I knew I would be okay. Yes, I have had my share of speed bumps; my doctor calls me complicated and fragile, but I knew God was with me and I was okay. As time went on, I started experiencing breathing issues and was put in the hospital for 12 days with pneumocystis pneumonia and came home with oxygen 24/7. I felt better for a while and then my breathing started going backwards again. I was never really scared; just wanted to know the why. I always tried to stay upbeat and positive; granted I had my down days but again knew that God, my church family, family and friends were surrounding me.

Now fast-forward again to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, just a few months ago when my pulmonologist called me at home asking if we could be in Fargo by noon the next day. Ah, yes we could do it and I would be there. I was so relieved and the tears started to roll. She had already reserved a room for me and assured me that they were going to get to the bottom of everything. After a ton of more testing, it was decided that I would have a thoracic surgery with pleural effusion. This is a collapsed lung or pneumothorax. I was so excited and relieved to get answers knowing that it was in God's hands, and I was surrounded with love and prayers.

My surgeon told me it was a long and difficult surgery where she literally scraped off a hard crust like an orange rind that had flattened my lung for 7 months. She was able to reinflate it to 80% and I came out of surgery with 3 tubes coming out of my back draining a red fluid into 3 containers. We came home 10 days later and without oxygen!

If it weren't for my faith in God, our wonderful pastor Dean, the best church family ever, my family and friends and of course my dear hubby Rick, I truly don't know where I would be today. Everything was so unknown but I had such peace about me and knew all would be okay.

There is no way that Rick and I can begin to THANK YOU ALL for everything; the love, the support, the prayers, the cards and gifts! We love you all and thank you from the very bottom of our hearts.

God Bless You ALL!!

I wrote this towards the end of October and my first shoulder surgery is coming up on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>; a reverse total shoulder replacement on my left side. This injury happened last July when my portable oxygen concentrator slipped off my left shoulder, hit the crook of my arm and tore my shoulder up. This could not be fixed until my lungs go better!

Paula Peterson

## From the Council

### First United Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2024

Present: Harold Beito, Brad Fevold, Jeff Eaton, Mike Hetteen, Dewey Hites, Bruce Baumgartner, Rick Peterson, Paula Baumgartner, Dean Hedlund, Norm Hayes. Not Present: David Johnson, Rich Fredrickson

- **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Mike
- **Secretary's report:** (Bruce)
  - October 7, 2024 Minutes reviewed. Mike motioned to accept the minutes; Rick seconded; motion passed.
- **Treasurer's report:** (Jeff, Norm)
  - \$60,345 in all accounts (10/31/24) Checking: \$4,612; Savings: \$6,734; Ameriprise: \$23,208; Edward Jones: \$25,691
  - Brad motioned to accept Treasurer's report; Harold seconded; motion passed.
- **Office report:** (Connie)
  - Thanksgiving Eve Service – Nov., 27 at 6:30 pm
  - Advent Services: Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22; Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18
  - Christmas Eve: Dec. 24 at 5:30 pm
  - Annual meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2025. Nominating Committee has met and has scheduled more meetings.
- **Youth:** (Paula)
  - Northlands Rescue Mission (11/4) – backpack program and OCC shopping
  - Nov. 10 Operation Christmas Child packing
  - Nov. 14 Ruby's Pantry
  - Nov. 20 Roseau Food Shelf
  - Dec. 15 Fundraiser meal
- **Pastor's report:** (Dean)
  - Regular services/visits (including area care centers); weekly music & Bible studies; Confirmation classes; personal visits; personal study & prep.
  - Fall School event: Brad Hurtig "Find A Way" October 30 – school events went very well, evening program lightly attended.
- **Media & Music:** (Bruce)
  - Mic adaptors – working on set up.
- **Property:** (Mike – written report)
  - Trim boards, rugs, office chair mats
  - Folding chairs: Harold motioned to order 25, seconded by Bruce. Motion carried.
- **Mission and Outreach:** (Bruce)
  - \$500 Salvation Army; \$100 gas card Gorsuch benefit; \$100 Hallie benefit; \$100 St. Paul Church, NY fire;
  - Hotdogs & chips for Halloween event
  - \$200 Jacob Broten ministry
- **Stewardship:** (Dewey): No Repot
- **Adult Ed:** (Brad)
  - Brad working on a PowerPoint presentation using Dave Ramsey materials
  - The Chosen Season 3 – January (Debbie)
- **Old Business:**
  - Background check policy (Bruce, Paula, Beth, Connie) is under review.
  - On-line giving through ChurchTrac.
  - Brad – Church/Community Benevolence guidelines: Working document is process.
- **New Business:** None
- **Next meeting:** Monday, December 2 (property at 5 pm, Deacons 5:30 pm, Trustees 5:30 pm, Council 6 pm)
- **Adjourn Meeting:** Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## From the Council

### First United Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes December 2, 2024

*Present:* Rick Peterson, Mike Hetteen, Dewey Hites, Jeff Eaton, Harold Beito, Rich Fredrickson, Dean Hedlund, Connie Johnson, Norm Hayes  
*Not Present:* David Johnson, Brad Fevold, Bruce Baumgartner

- Opening Prayer/Devotion: Rich & Dewey
- Secretary's report: (Bruce)
  - November 4, 2024 Minutes reviewed. Jeff motioned to accept the minutes; Dewey seconded; motion passed.
- Treasurer's report: (Jeff, Norm)
  - \$60,242 in all accounts (11/30/24) Checking: \$4,373; Savings: \$6,736; Ameriprise: \$23,368; Edward Jones: \$25,765
  - Mike motioned to accept Treasurer's report; Rick seconded; motion passed.
- Office report: (Connie)
  - Advent Services: Sundays, Dec. 8, 15 & 22; Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18
  - Christmas Eve: Dec. 24 at 5:30 pm
  - Annual meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2025. Nominating Committee has met and has scheduled more meetings.
  - Lent: Ash Wednesday is March 8.
- Youth: (Paula)
  - Dec. 15 Fundraiser meal
- Pastor's report: (Dean)
  - Regular services/visits (including area care centers); weekly music & Bible studies; Confirmation classes; personal visits; personal study & prep.
  - LEM Western Conference was a good experience.
- Media & Music: (Bruce)
  - Mic adaptors (3) – are working. Charging shelf to be added.
- Property: (Mike – written report)
  - Folding chairs: quote received.
  - Order AED (grant received).
  - Use GRIT on front concrete.
  - Altar wall remodel and replacement of front door discussed.
- Mission and Outreach: (Bruce)
  - No report
- Stewardship: (Dewey)
  - No report
- Adult Ed: (Brad)
  - The Chosen Season 4 – January (Debbie)
- Old Business:
  - Background check policy (Bruce, Paula, Beth, Connie) is under review.
  - On-line giving through ChurchTrac.
  - Brad – Church/Community Benevolence guidelines: Working document is process.
  - New members (Deacons' discussion).
- New Business:
  - Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 2025. Committee Reports are due January 8.
  - Budget needs/information to Jeff/Norm by December 24.
- Next meeting: Monday, January 6, 2025 (property at 5 pm, Deacons 5:30 pm, Trustees 5:30 pm, Council 6 pm)
- Adjourn Meeting: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.