

FLC & OSL Light

Newsletter of First Lutheran and Our Savior's Ministries

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Something's Coming

*Could be!
Who knows?
There's something' due any day;
I will know right away
Soon as it shows*

These words, written by Stephen Sondheim, are from the solo of Tony, the male lead, in *West Side Story*. It is found in Act 1. At this point, Tony has not yet met Maria. He has become disillusioned with life in a gang and looks forward to a better future. While he wants to leave the gang, he agrees to join them to go to a dance later that evening.

For months, the visioning team and I have been looking at the possibilities for our churches. Unlike Tony, we are not disillusioned or looking to leave the church. Rather, we have been listening and looking for God in the ordinary places of our lives. We have listened to you and others about who God is calling us to be in this time and place.

During this time, I have heard people say they want to deepen their relationship with God and their understanding of the Bible. Each week, the worship team endeavors to bring meaningful worship such as the recent "Fanning the Flame" series.

Starting September 8th, we will be switching to the Narrative Lectionary created at Luther Seminary. Each Sunday, one reading is provided, selected from the great stories of the Bible, beginning with Genesis in the Fall, and ending in the Epistles by the end of Spring. The goal is to read through the biblical narrative each year, centering our lives in God's story.

The readings trace the sweep of the biblical story and are selected with these two goals: that they tell the overall biblical story, and that they lend themselves well to preaching. These are stories of hope and disappointment, suffering, and redemption. The Gospel stories differ each year, highlighting the distinctive aspects of each Gospel's telling of the story of Jesus.

The church calendar will still be followed; however, it will be followed chronologically, rather than skipping back and forth as previous lectionaries have. This fall and Advent, Old Testament readings move through the story of God's dealings with Israel and culminate in Advent, with the prophets who speak of longing and hope and the coming of the Messiah. For Christmas, the readings from the Gospels will trace the movement from the birth of the Messiah at Christmas to the public revelation of the Messiah during Epiphany.

The Narrative Lectionary can be exciting and different as we move in our mission and vision of who we are as God's called people.

*Could it be? Yes, it could
Something's coming, something good
If I can wait!
Something's comin', I don't know what it is
But it is
Gonna be great!*

In Christ,

Pastor Carol

Our Mission

We are a people called to make, grow, and walk alongside disciples of Jesus Christ through Word, Sacrament, and fellowship, and to increase the vitality of our individual congregations to the glory of God.

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TEACHERS, STUDENTS, & BACKPACKS

BLESSING – SEPTEMBER 8TH

Teachers, students, and backpacks for all ages will be blessed at the end of worship on September 8th.

COFFEE AND SCRIPTURES

Each week, this Bible study will read through the passages for the coming week and discuss them along with a pot of coffee. We meet on Mondays at 10 am. This is an informal group, and people are invited to come when they can.

THIRSTY THEOLOGY

God invites us to “Come, all who are thirsty, come to the waters.” (Is.55:1). It’s a moving portrayal of how the Lord offers satisfying refreshment for our thirsty souls. As Lutherans, we are full of talkers, and listeners, and questioners, and learners who gather seeking God. Join us for Thirsty Theology on October 7th at First Lutheran in Plains at 6 pm. This month, we examine the church and social issues.

Note: Each person is responsible for paying their share of the meal and drinks. Carpooling is a way of continuing the conversation.

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

The book of Revelation may be one of the most misunderstood books of the bible. The imagery is frightening. Often, we view the book with mixed emotions.

Join Steve Seilhymer for a 4-week Bible Study on the book of Revelation. Together, we will explore the myths, code, imagery, and timeless truths. The sessions are 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13 at 10 am.

LPAS IN TRAINING

Please continue to keep Michael Murray and Steve Seilhymer in your prayers as they enter into the second year of the LPA class. They will be in class next on October 4th and 5th. Part of their training includes preaching, leading a Bible Study or another event, and assisting in worship. As a faith community, let us support them and participate in upcoming events.

GAME NIGHT

It’s a Game Night Without Compare! Join us on October 9th for a potluck dinner at 6 pm, followed by a game night at 7 pm for guys and gals. There will be a variety of board games, card games, maybe even some silly games. Invite a friend or two. Questions? Talk to Michael Murray.

VISIONING TEAM

In the near future, the visioning team and church council will be rolling out the new mission and vision statement along with the goals that are being defined. These items are based on what the team has listened to, and where and what God is calling our congregation to be and do in Plains. Please continue to keep Bill Burrell, Bill Haines, Doris Haines, Myra Lindborg, Karen Rude, and Pr. Carol in your prayers as this work is finalized.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

This is a reminder to everyone. If you know someone dealing with illness, grief, change in life situations, having a baby or grandchild, getting married, etc. please take advantage of our prayer shawl ministry. FLC members have sent out more than 500 prayer shawls to people who need comfort and care as well as sharing happiness. You may give the shawls whenever appropriate. We have many shawls available, and more are being knit all the time. When taking a shawl, please include the prayer card. Write the names of each recipient in the book. Thank you, knitters and thanks to all who provide shawls to those in need.

GIFT POLICY

Joyce Dougan and Bill Haines have been working on the Gift Policy. In the coming weeks, there will be conversations on the plan and how we can be stewards into the future for First Lutheran Church and the community.

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

In the Visioning process, the team has heard the desire of our congregation to do more in the community. The Care in the Community program is to offer a little assistance on a short-term or occasional basis. Several members have witnessed this need first hand. See the information and signup sheets on the table by the kitchen. Together we can be the hands and feet of Christ for Plains