

Fear Not

If you weren't in church on Sunday, June 22nd, you missed a unique experience. The organist that day, Quinn Huebner and I traded roles for most of the service. I was tasked with leading the music while Quinn prayed and preached a sermon he wrote special for the day. I learned this idea from various other colleagues who have traded roles in their own churches. The swap often helps the organist and pastor appreciate more deeply the work that the other performs each week. Additionally, the swap gives the congregation a different perspective as they hear both word and song given new voice.

This particular Sunday was a very fitting occasion since the gospel text was all about the cost of discipleship. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? As Jesus tells us in the scriptures, sometime it means doing things that might terrify us. I'd be lying if I didn't admit that Quinn and I were both a bit nervous on Sunday. We were both out of our element, in unfamiliar territory. But for me, it was really nice to sit and listen in the pew to someone else preach for a change, and Quinn's sermon was tremendous.

He began his sermon with the question: "Fear. Is there any more pervasive or powerful motivating force in human experience?" and he went on to explain how fear is so present throughout our lives. Quinn shared a bit of his personal faith journey and how, at times, his faith was less than comforting. He emphasized the words of Jesus to "fear not", words present in the gospel text (Matthew 10:24-39).

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. [...] Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." —verses 26 & 28

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven." —verses 32-33

Quinn remarked that it is not always popular being a church organist. He added that once, upon sharing that part of himself with someone, the response he received was "but you seem so normal." Quinn speaks a lot of truth about being a Christian today. It is not always popular and so we often shy away from sharing that part of ourselves with others. But isn't our Christian identity one of the most beautiful things about us? Why then would we not want to share this part of ourselves with others.

In his sermon, Quinn concluded that Jesus gives us the strength we need to continue on our evangelical journeys. And then, he concluded his sermon in the same way he began: with a question. "So. How are you doing in your own spiritual journeys? Are you too ashamed to say that you attend church or say an 'I'll pray for you' for a friend or loved one in need? God has our backs. He'll help us overcome our fears that we have. No matter how strong our fears here on earth, think of a world of no fear in heaven someday..."

I'm pretty sure I've preached this message before, but hopefully Quinn's sermon gives the message a new voice and continues to encourage you (as it has encouraged me) to be bold in your faith. Don't ever be afraid to share your Christian identity with your friends and family and even the strangers you meet. Don't ever be afraid to tell someone you'll pray for them. Our Christian identity is one of the most beautiful characteristics about us. And you never know when sharing that identity may be exactly what someone needs most.

With every hope and prayer, I remain faithfully,
Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Luke

Highlights from the June Council Meeting

- A member of the congregation attended part of the council meeting to express concern regarding the placement of furniture in the sanctuary. The council and worship committee stated the rationale and the thought process that was involved in rearranging the altar, pulpit, and baptismal font. Adaptations may continue based upon the seasons of the church year. It is the council's hope that we continue to encounter the myriad ways Christ is present among us and celebrate the different experiences we have with the presence of God in worship. The council welcomes any and all comments.
- LYO will once again attend the National Youth Gathering in 2015 in Detroit. Youth interested in going should contact Carmen Meier asap. We need to register by the end of the summer.
- The congregation will have a parade float for Wiota's 4th of July celebration!
- Worship has been planned for our service in the park on Sunday, July 6th and should be a great worship celebration.
- Council discussed the idea of a monthly evening worship service. The worship committee later met and planned a unique service for Wednesday, July 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be outdoors, around a fire. If it rains, we'll move inside.
- Council discussed the importance of Christian education and reviewed an educational structure used by another ELCA congregation in our synod. The education committee later met to brainstorm and begin setting the structure of education for all ages on Wednesday nights, including dinner. WOW!
- Members of council noticed that the landscaping around the church needed some attention. (Pastor Luke and 6 council members trimmed trees and pulled weeds for 6 hours on June 14th.)
- This year marks the 170th anniversary of our congregation. Council is planning a celebration for Reformation Sunday in October.

Pastoral Acts

- Funeral: Sam Glanzman on Saturday, May 17, 2014
- New Members: Eldon & Kitty Wilson on Sunday, June 8, 2014

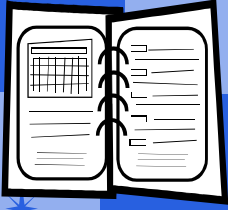
Marriage Equality

As marriage equality is currently a topic of discussion in Wisconsin politics, it is important that we as a congregation enter into a time of thoughtful discussion ourselves. Bishop Mary Froiland wrote a letter to our synod on June 10th encouraging "honest and respectful conversation about how [each congregation] will proceed as a community of faith." (The bishop's full letter is included in this newsletter.) Your congregation council has already begun this conversation process and would like to invite you to enter into it.

On Wednesday, July 23rd, beginning at 7:00pm, we will hold a forum at church. This will be a time to enter into "honest and respectful conversation" with one another. Congregation members will be invited to share their views on the subject with those present as we all listen and prayerful consider how to proceed as a congregation. (Please note: No decisions will be made this night as this is not an official congregational meeting.)

A congregational meeting will follow worship on Sunday, July 27th at Wiota Church to determine our path forward as a congregation.

Church Directory



Wanting a new family photo or wondering “who that new person is” at church? We have the answer for you! On Wednesday, July 23rd and Thursday, July 24, Lifetouch Photography will be at church to take family photos for our new directory. Appointments will run from 2:00pm—9:00pm both days. For those with computer access, you can schedule your appointment online at: <https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/wiotalutheran/index.php?page=10> (Please note: the link will not be available on Sunday’s.) We will schedule people before and after worship on Sundays.

Every family will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo and copy of the finished directory. If you have any questions or would like to schedule your appointment now, call Sandy Seffrood. 439-2697 (home) or 608-293-0386 (cell).

Parsonage Roof

The property committee has recognized that the shingles on the south side of the parsonage roof are in bad condition and most likely will not make it through another winter. After obtaining bids and doing research, the council has decided to go with a steel roof which will last significantly longer than shingles. (The north side of the roof is already steel.) Bids received put the cost of the project at approximately \$4,800. Please consider making an extra special contribution to the "parsonage roof fund". The council hopes to have the work done within the next couple of months. Please help us keep our properties in excellent condition.



WOW!!!

WOW!!!! It's coming!!! Worship On Wednesdays (WOW)!!! We are very fortunate that many schools and clubs regard Wednesday night as "church night". The Christian Education Committee and Pastor Luke have been working hard to think about how we can really build upon that. Following the model of Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church in DeForest, we are working to create an experience that involves fellowship, worship and education for families and people of all ages.

Here's what you might expect on a typical Wednesday night:

6:30pm—We share a meal together.

7:00pm—Worship that is interactive, lively and "out-of-the-box."

7:40pm—Education hour related to the scripture texts and themes heard in worship. (For this hour, we will divide into groups that include children under age 5, students grades K-5, confirmation (6th-8th grade), high school, adult men's group, adult women's group.)

8:40pm—Closing with a final prayer, song, and blessing.

8:45pm—We go home.

On some of the evenings, during the education hour, we will work together on service projects and other large group community-building activities.

All I can say is WOW!!! It's going to be great!!! Come experience just how amazing WOW can be!!!



July Birthdays



May Treasurer's Report

- 2 Elsa Meyer
 - 2 Kristina Jamison
 - 3 Tom Rygh
 - 4 Ralph L. Johnson
 - 6 Mark Rygh
 - 8 Gregory Hauser
 - 8 Macie Stauffacher
 - 8 Mackenzie Ruegsegger
 - 10 Carin Miller
 - 10 Sandy Potter
 - 10 Josh Cox
 - 11 Lisa Nethery
 - 13 Edith Seffrood
 - 14 Jill Thomas
 - 14 Julie Shager
 - 15 Ernie Noble
 - 15 Amanda Werren
 - 16 Aaron Monson
 - 17 Jessie Nethery
 - 17 Doug Wang
 - 18 Clare Appell
 - 18 Amy Pierce
 - 19 Anita Rygh
 - 19 Christopher Rygh
 - 20 Dani Goodman
 - 21 Mary Lou Hansen
 - 21 Garrett Wang
 - 22 Virginia Redden
 - 23 Brycen Wilson
 - 24 Ray Meier
 - 24 Roy Meier
 - 24 Krista Kreil
 - 25 Jeanie Johanningmeier
 - 26 Alan Wang
 - 27 Harold Seffrood
 - 28 Don Miller
 - 29 Sherman Peterson
 - 29 Karl Seffrood
 - 30 Deloris Faletti
- Please let us know of any birthdays we may have missed.

Balance 4/30/2014				\$ 98.37
Income:				
05/04/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings		1,835.00
05/04/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations		4.00
05/01/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings		300.00
05/11/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings		3,166.89
05/11/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations		14.00
05/15/2014	Simply Giving	41010 · Weekly Offerings		20.00
05/18/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings		295.00
05/25/2014	Sunday	41010 · Weekly Offerings		1,049.81
05/25/2014	Coffee Hour	41120 · Donations		8.00
Total Income				\$ 6,692.70
Expenses:				
05/11/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary		1,582.67
05/11/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share		156.46
05/11/2014	Connie Bocklund	61110 · Custodian		308.22
05/11/2014	Brooke Ames	61120 · Office Secretary		323.22
05/11/2014	Carmen Meier	63010 · Worship/Church Supplies		102.38
05/15/2014	Vanco Services E-Service	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli		0.80
05/20/2014	Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative	64216 · Electricity East		59.00
05/20/2014	Neighborhood Office Solutions	63020 · Postage/Copier/Office Suppli		259.32
05/20/2014	Augsburg Fortress	63010 · Worship/Church Supplies		138.18
05/15/2014	Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Ch	62020 · Continuing Education		149.52
05/25/2014	Luke Smetters	61010 · Pastor Base Salary		1,582.67
05/25/2014	Luke Smetters	61020 · Pastor's FICA-Church Share		156.46
05/25/2014	Luke Smetters	62020 · Continuing Education		364.00
05/25/2014	Church Mutual	64310 · Insurance - Com'l Ppty		545.30
05/30/2014	Alliant Energy	64214 · Electricity Parsonage		94.42
05/30/2014	Alliant Energy	64224 · Fuel Parsonage		95.24
05/30/2014	Alliant Energy	64212 · Electricity Wiota		199.42
05/30/2014	Alliant Energy	64222 · Fuel Wiota		123.03
05/30/2014	CenturyLink	64234 · Telephone & Internet Parsona		109.76
05/30/2014	CenturyLink	64232 · Telephone Wiota		40.91
Total Expenses				\$ 6,390.98
Balance 5/31/2014				\$ 400.09
Bills unpaid at month end:				
	South Central Synod of WI	Benevolence - March/April/May		1,500.00
	Portico	Pastor's Pension & Insurance		931.26
	Frontier FS	Fuel East		799.80
	Memorial Fund	Borrowed from Memorial Fund		9,500.00
				\$ 12,731.06
Account Balances:				
	Church Usage	Regular Savings		\$ 100.74
	East Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings		\$ 6,512.75
	Memorial	Regular Savings		\$ 34,661.36
	Music & Education	Regular Savings		\$ 102.26
	Parsonage	Regular Savings		\$ 1,155.78
	Wiota Repair & Maintenance	Regular Savings		\$ 3,613.29

Seniors!

It's never too late to take advantage of one last scholarship!!! If you know a senior who just graduated, they have two more scholarship opportunities. The first is for active members of the congregation and is a scholarship from the church. The second scholarship, the Jesse & Hazel Holmen Scholarship, is open to any student. (The Holmen's were residents of the Wiota community and understood the importance of education. Jesse was a teacher at the Wiota School for 41 years.) Scholarship applications are available in the church narthex or by contacting the church office. The deadline for application is July 31st.



Memorials and Donations:

- A donation of \$1,250.00 to the memorial fund in memory of Marie C. Mason.
- A donation of \$150.00 to the Roger Wang memorial to the East Cemetery.



Congregation Thank You's!

- ★ *Our sincere thanks to those who sent cards and greetings for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. God bless you! —Ray & Leona Meier
- ★ *A big thank you goes out to everyone who either donated or participated in the Habitat For Humanity Walk on June 8th at Cadiz Springs State Park. Wiota Lutheran had 14 walkers and we had a lot of fun doing this as a team! It was a great success and we raised \$470.00 in donations. Thanks again to all who helped in any way to this wonderful cause!
- ★ *Thank you for the flowers and for remembering Sam! He loved everyone at church!—Sam Glanzman Family
- ★ *Thank you to the Larson Family for allowing us to build our parade float at their residence!
- ★ *Thank you to Ancil Norland for donating four trees to the church and parsonage. The trees were given in memory of Gary, Chloe, and Dean Thoreson and Don and Iola Norland.
- ★ *Thank you to the council members and Pastor Luke for sprucing up the landscaping around the church.
- ★ * Thank you to Connie Bocklund and Carmen Meier for decorating the East Church.
- ★ *Thank you to Del Norland for building and donating the nice bench in front of the church.
- ★ *Thank you to Barney Larson for having the church and parsonage lawns sprayed. The grass is much greener without all the dandelions!



July Worship Assistants

July 6th: Greeters: Del & Rita Norland; Ushers: Jonathan & Sheila Carrington; Worship Asst.: Jill Thomas; Elements: Rita Norland; Acolyte: Jaydyn Saalsaa

July 13th: Greeters: Gary & Lenita Stark; Ushers: Wayne Wilson & Don Seffrood; Elements: Alice Wang; Worship Asst: Del Norland; Acolyte: Shaliko Harry

July 20th: Greeters: Kristi Glanzman; Ushers: Terry & Barb Berget
(East) Bread: Barb Eicher; Elements: Barb Eicher;
Worship Asst: Jalaine Ruegsegger; Acolyte: Ben Cooper

July 27th: Greeters: Miss D. Jorgenson & Janeen Trame; Ushers: Gary & Matt Jenson;
Elements: Lenita Stark; Worship Assistant: Lary Buetzer; Acolyte: Anna Carper

ELCA Stories of Faith in Action: An Oil Boom Changes Everything

By: Carrie Gubsch

In his 10 years as the senior pastor at First Lutheran Church, Martin Mock has seen first-hand Williston, North Dakota's ups and downs. "It was a very wonderful church and community; a place where my children wanted to raise their families," Martin said.

"They were just kind of maintaining their way of life in the post (oil) bust of the 1980s." Maintenance mode is now a thing of the past in Williston. "(We've) gone from a time of plenty to a time of surviving," Martin said. "Now it's a time of plenty again and people are cashing in on that."

Martin's congregation has changed a lot since oil exploration began in what's called the Bakken formation near Williston. The oil-rich formation spans some 200,000 miles under parts of North Dakota, Montana, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Since 2008, more than 4,000 wells have been drilled in the Williston Basin. People have traveled from all over the country to Williston looking for work, bringing ethnic and cultural diversity both to the town and the congregation.

From 2010-2012 alone, Williston's population grew by nearly 4,000 people, an increase of about 25 percent, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The oil boom and prosperity don't come without concerns for leaders in the Williston area though. Stewardship of the land and strains on infrastructure present big issues, Martin said. "The infrastructure has grown tired because of all of the impact," he added. "It's just a big animal, the oil industry."

Many longtime members of the congregation have moved away, selling their homes for large profits; others are only there temporarily. "They aren't available to be called into mission in this particular place," he said. As the lives and circumstances of members and local residents change, so does First Lutheran's sense of identity and ministry. There's some anguish that comes with the change, but Martin and his congregation have been intentional about learning and exploring their reactions as a community, including a preaching series on grief, loss and moving forward.

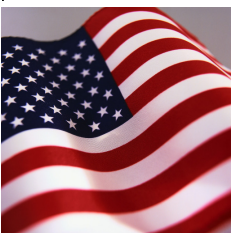
"We've been working on fear a lot and helping people get over fear," said Martin. Building ecumenical partnerships to serve others. A lot of new efforts and partnerships have developed as faith communities work together to grow and adapt alongside the sudden changes in Williston and its neighboring communities. One of the ways First Lutheran is moving forward with the change is by getting more involved in mission work in the community. Martin says he and his associate pastor, Ben Loven, see four to five people a day who need help finding housing or financial help with rent or utilities.

"We end up being a social center." First Lutheran has teamed up with other congregations in the area to jointly provide help to people who come into town looking for work and needing help.

They work with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, two other ELCA congregations, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church to serve free meals on Sunday nights to address the needs of those who may be hungry, homeless or lonely. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Williston started a day care program in 2012 to help provide day care services in the area for infants through kindergarten.

At Upper Missouri Ministries, an ELCA outdoor ministry just 30 minutes from Williston, young adults are being encouraged to explore vocation and faith through a new nine-month experience working with local churches and businesses. "(The oil boom) has forced us to be more missional in our outreach to the community," Martin said. "We have collaborated with all of the other churches in trying to address the needs of the people." (Read more on this and other stories by going to <http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2014/05/140430-An-oil-boom-changes-everything>)

Join us in Wiota to celebrate July 4th!



We are entering a very exciting float into the parade on Sunday, July 6th! Come join us and be part of it's creation and join in the excitement of the parade. The parade begins at noon. Come early at 9:30am for "Worship in the Park". Our worship committee has been hard at work, making it as festive as ever! We hope to see you July 3rd—July 6th for the Annual Firemen's 4th of July Celebration!

News from the Bold Café

The Bold Café Gals would like to thank everyone you donated or purchased items for our Flea Market/Garage Sale. Your support was really appreciated. We plan on doing this again next year. The date has been set for Saturday, May 2nd so that we can coordinate with South Wayne Citywide Garage Sales. We are also going to work on having a Wiota Area Garage Sale at the same time. Keep watching The Word for more information.

Ice Cream Social

The Bold Café Gals will have an ice cream social featuring homemade ice cream and all the toppings for sundaes. There will also be a program presented by the Stuart Seffrood Family about their recent trip to Peru. The social will be held on Sunday, August 17th at 2:00 pm. A free-will offering will be collected. Everyone is invited to attend.



Little Dresses for Africa



A Huge thank you to everyone who donated items for us to use in making the pillowcase dresses for girls in Africa. We have so many items that it will be fun to create these little dresses. There will be some bags in the Narthex with pillowcases and the rest of the items needed to make a dress as well as the pattern. You can put the completed dresses in the Sunday School Room next to the Library.

Bold Café Gals Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, July 7th at 6:30 pm. We will do a short Bible Study and finalize any plans for the ice cream social. If time allows we will put together more kits for Little Dresses. All are welcome to join us!!!!

Wiota Excursion

On Wednesday, July 9th there will be an excursion to Olbrich Gardens in Madison. We will leave the church at 10:00 am. The day will begin with lunch at Ella's Deli and then we will venture on to the Gardens. Everyone is welcome to come. If you are planning on going please let Sue Buetzer know by Sunday, July 6th so that transportation can be arranged. Remember anyone is welcome to join us on this excursion!!!



Wiota LYO News

July is here! The youth had a great fun-filled June. We walked for Habitat for Humanity and had a great time! A few weeks later, we hiked and swam at Governor Dodge State Park with some relaxation time and fellowship! Many of us have also been working on the 4th of July float. Thank you to Brad Pehl for the use of the wagon, tractor, and all the extras and to Cottonwood Dairy for the use of their shed to build our float!



On July 20th we're going biking from Monticello to New Glarus after church. (We'll car/truck pool there.) Youth, parents, and anyone who would like to come pedaling with us is welcome. This is going to be a lot of fun!!! So get those bikes out and let's go riding! August is just around the corner too. Keep watching for future upcoming events!

Thanks, Wiota LYO

WELCOME!!!

Please welcome our newest members to Wiota Church: Eldon and Kitty Wilson! Eldon and Kitty were welcomed into our church family on Sunday, June 8th!

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Save the date: July 16th! We will worship outdoors around a fire "for the beauty of the earth" in celebration of farmers, conservationists, and all who tend the earth. The service begins at 7:00pm and will last approximately 45 minutes. Following the service, we will make s'mores!



Community Garden

It's been a fairly rainy spring and early summer, perfect weather for our community garden. Stop by and see the amazing growth of our vegetables. Radishes and a few other vegetables have already been shared with members of our community. Curious what's next? Talk to Courtney Bocklund, Elsa Meyer, or Sandy Seffrood to learn more. And consider delivering some of this produce to our homebound members.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

Notice: A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, July 27th following worship to determine our path forward as a congregation in regards to marriage equality and same-gender weddings.



Senior Activities

There will be no senior activities on July 10th or July 24th!

Booster Seats

Do you have a booster seat in your attic that you no longer need? Consider donating it to the church. It would be great if we had two or three!!

Parade Float

The concept and vision for this year's parade float has begun!! It will be BIG in a small way!!! If you're interested in helping put it all together, please contact Pastor Luke. Once we get a team together, we'll schedule a few "construction" dates.



In our prayers: Karen Noble, Carol Broge, Shirley Johnson, Clare Pehl, Hazel Miller, and our homebound members.

Also in our prayers: Leona Reed, LuAnn Komprood, Dorothy Wicklund, Delbert Shager, Barb Dinges, Mark Reilly, David Gertsch, Jaden Goninen, Nick Saataff, Rudy Gebhardt, Jayne Kent, Judy Fernstaedt, Tom Garvey, and Ruth Vosberg, and the Wellington family.

TOT is Friday, July 18th at 7:00pm at Cody & Brooke Ames' residence.

Please BYOB, a chair, a snack to share, and any faith questions you may have. Feel free to bring a friend and share in this experience of open discussion!

