



The Parish News

Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl,
Jr. Pastor

Bonnie Kabrick
Director of
Christian Education

Carolyn Blau
Organist

Karen Hargens
Kristin Kaldahl
Bethany Matthias
Keyboard Players

Julie Moran
Office Manager

Leah Kreutner &
Tammi Dickman
Preschool Directors

Ruth Obermeier
Preschool Secretary

Don Conlon &
Cindy Kunzmann
Custodians

Sunday
Worship Services
8:00 & 10:45 A.M.
Fellowship
9:00 A.M.
Nursery 9:15-Noon
Sunday School &
Bible Classes
9:30-10:30 A.M.

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The Lord's Supper: PARTICIPATING in Christ's Body and Blood

1 Corinthians 10 ¹⁴ *Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.*
¹⁵ *I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.* ¹⁶ *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?* ¹⁷ *Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*

Dear friends and family of FELC, Kristin and I were married 34 years ago. Our first kiss happened 36 years ago. The coolest thing, as I ponder that first kiss, is the realization that I have not kissed another person (romantically) since! We have been exclusive! And, out of that exclusivity has come a love relationship that is real, fresh, alive, committed, passionate, and life-giving (five boys and two grandsons later).

Well, the Lord's Supper is all about celebrating an exclusive relationship too! However, instead of being, exclusively connected as one body, as husband and wife, I want you to think about how we are connected in faith to God and to each other in Holy Communion!

In Holy Communion we are exclusively connected to Christ. In fact, we are connected in such a powerful way that our text says we are actually "PARTICIPATING" in Christ's blood and "PARTICIPATING" in Christ's body!

This participation with Christ is intimate and personal. As the bread and the wine touch our lips, like an intimate kiss, we receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. In the verses above and the surrounding context the Apostle Paul is asking us to believe that — and to believe that this intimate union with Christ — this Holy Communion — is exclusive! Our relationship is with Jesus, and with Jesus alone!

"Flee idolatry" he says — no other gods — Jesus is the only God you get to kiss! No flirting either — your lips are consecrated for Jesus and Jesus alone! Participating in the Lord's Supper is to be a celebration, encouragement, and a restoration of this exclusive intimacy!

Unfortunately, the reality is we wander around — flirt, compromise — with other god's! When I think about how I use money, time, attention — where I seek pleasure, comfort, hope — when I turn for fulfillment to ego, selfishness, pride, family, friends — well, "other god" possibilities are all around!

However, as I contemplate my "other loves", PARTICIPATING in Christ draws me home. Though I am guilty of chasing after other "gods" (things that I love more than God Himself) and placing them first in my life ahead of My Creator, Who gave all those things to bless me, I know that God has made an exclusive relationship with me. He reminds me, again and again, that I am His and He is mine. My heart's home is Jesus and Jesus

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alone! As I take the bread and wine, I participate — and am restored in my “exclusive” love relationship with Jesus!

So, during this season of Lent, as we watch Jesus make His journey to the cross, as He sets His face “like flint” to the Jerusalem so that He might suffer and die to redeem us from sin, take time to come to Communion! Take time to Come and Participate in His wonderful gift! Take time to Come and Participate in forgiveness and salvation by Participating in His body and blood. It is Lent! So, during this



CREATIVE SPIRITS EASTER PAINTING EVENT

Saturday, March 25th

9:00 AM – Noon.

Cost: \$35

**includes all materials
Snacks and non-**

We will be painting a picture titled “Resurrection” with a Creative Spirits instructor leading us through every step of the process.

Come and join the fun! Bring your friends!

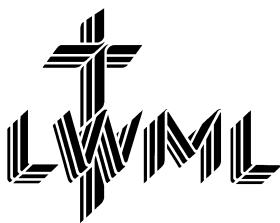
Register at the Opportunity Corner and prepay at the Church Office (make checks payable to Creative Spirits) or register online at www.creativespiritsokoboji.com

Gather at the Cross – Good Friday Prayer Vigil

“Be Still and Know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10. Come, spend some time with our Lord at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you wish to include a specific prayer request, please fill out the form in Opportunity Corner by Sunday, April 2nd.

If you would like to host from 7:00-8:00 a.m. or 12:00-1:00 p.m. (greet people/answer questions), please sign up on the sheet also in the Opportunity Corner.

Sponsored by Board of Christian Life



Thursday, March 2nd

Esther Guild— 9:30 a.m. at FELC Hostess-Georgia Crew
Bev Skinner, Topic Roll Call — Advice from Proverbs

Naomi Guild—1:30 p.m. at FELC
Hostesses— Adrienne Crouch & Delores Peterson
Anne Schomburg, Topic Roll Call — Easter Hymn

Sarah Guild—6:30 p.m. at FELC

**Lutheran Women's
Missionary League**

March 5—Mitey Mission Miracle Sunday
Each Guild to furnish 4 breads, tolls, coffee cake or muffins. Freewill offering to MITES.

March 29—LWML Lenten Meal Each Guild to furnish 4 casseroles, 4 salads, 3 desserts and 3 workers. Freewill offering to purchase

Congregational In-Gathering for LWR Personal Care Kits – The LWML is now collecting dark colored bath towels (size 52”x27”) and individually wrapped bars of soap (4-5 oz.), combs, clippers & toothbrushes. These items should be new and in good condition. A box has been set up in the fel-

Dear FELC Family,

Two months ago, I used this Bible verse as an illustration on how Jesus came to earth to serve and to give the ultimate sacrifice of His own life to save us. This month I am once again using this verse to illustrate how our own selfish self-centered desires keep us in sin. Matthew 20:20-28 states,

Jesus Teaches about Serving Others

²⁰ Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. ²¹ “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”

²² But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!” ²³ Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

²⁴ When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. ²⁵ But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (NLT)

When we read these passages, I would imagine that most of us inwardly exclaim, “What arrogance and selfishness of James, John, and their mother to think that they deserve to sit in the places of honor next to Jesus in heaven!”

It can be easy to criticize, yet aren’t we all guilty of such sin in our own ways? Our sinful nature desires for us to be held in positions of honor and regarded as powerful, influential, and deserving of special accolades. We too like being the first in line and seated in positions of glory and importance. Sometimes we focus on ourselves so much that we miss our true mission just like they did.

In this passage, Jesus the person deserving of honor, gently explains that if we really want to be great, we must take the opposite role. We must be the one who places others before ourselves. We must be the one who serves others. God is the one we should honor, respect and worship. We were made for the purpose of bringing Him glory and serving Him and His creation with a humble heart.

In Christ Alone,

Bonnie Kabrick, DCE

March, 2017

G.I.F.T. - Growing In Faith Together



THEME / SNACK

March 1	No G.I.F.T.	Ash Wednesday—Services at 6:00 p.m.		
March 8	Noah's Ark	Bring a favorite Stuff Animal	Mini Bagels	Becky Norgaard
March 15	St. Patrick's Day	Wear Green	Lucky Charms Cereal	Stephanie Zahrt
March 22	Backwards Night	Wear Clothes Backwards	Mandarin Oranges	Deb Clem
March 29	12:30 School Dismissal	Special Activity—Popcorn & a Movie		

EARLY FOOD PREP

	<u>MENU</u>	<u>PREP ITEM</u>	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>
March 8	Camp Okoboji Lenten Meal Taco in a Bag Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Cake	Amanda Young (4)
March 15	Bd. of Outreach Lenten Meal Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup Red Velvet Cake	Red Velvet Cake	Lora Elsenbast (4)
March 22	Board of Youth Lenten Meal Pasta	White Cake	Lezly Boblit (4)

KITCHEN ASSISTANTS

March 8	Amber Jones, Lora Elsenbast	Kitchen Assistants, please plan to be here to help at 5:00 p.m. and stay until clean up is complete.
March 15	Stephanie Zahrt, _____	
March 22	Deb Clem, _____	

**Confirmation
Chaperones**

Class	Parent	Parent	Elder
Mar. 8	R. Wassom	Hoffman's	K. Steffen
Mar. 15	T. Wempe	K. Unger	_____
Mar. 22	R. Warburton	M. Warburton	T. Hoffman
Mar. 29	T. Wempe	N. Staedtler	_____



Those present – Steve Hallgren, Bonnie Kabrick, Jeff Chalstrom, Tim Hoffman, Deb Hinkeldey, Kay Wilson, Barb Muetzel, Keith McCloud, Pastor Kaldahl, and Ashley Olberding.

Meeting opened with prayer by Steve Hallgren at 7:10 p.m.

January minutes were read. Motion to approve as read made by Jeff Chalstrom. Seconded by Tim Hoffman. All in favor – motion carried.

Financial Report:

General Fund at 2/15/2017

Ck. Book Balance	\$70,492.62	
Dedicated Funds	67,504.53	(\$50,000 designated for west drive & parking lot paving)
Memorial Funds	5,556.00	
Tax Liabilities	620.27	
Available Funds	(\$ 3,188.18)	

Preschool Fund at 2/15/2017

Ck. Book Balance	\$ 47,008.84
Dedicated Funds	10,877.23
May, 2017 Prepaid Tuition	6,400.00
Available Funds	\$ 29,731.61

IGLLS Building Fund at 2/15/2017

Ck. Book Balance	\$ 75,715.77
LCEF Loan Balance	\$1,863,791.18

Approve Bills – No bills to approve this month. Barb Muetzel motions to approve Treasurer’s report, Deb Hinkeldey second. All in favor – motion carried.

IGLLS Report – No Report

Immeasurably More Campaign – No Report

Board of Elders – Tim Hoffman

- Elders discussed the shared responsibility of locking the church on Sundays
- Making plans for reenactment of the Last Supper
- Currently undergoing employee reviews
- Discussed the possibility of RAGBRAI riders staying in our facilities. Recommendation was to forgo

Board of Trustees Report – Jeff Chalstrom

- Have not met this month
- Currently only two trustees – actively searching for new members
- Light bulbs in the sanctuary were changed

Board of Education Report – Ashley Olberding

- Pre-registration for the 2017-18 school year has been completed. We have 43 - 4 yr. old students and 24 - 3 yr. olds registered. We are checking to see if it would make sense to offer a 4 year old afternoon class.
- Subcommittee is conducting monthly meetings to explore the option of going to a full day preschool or other options (this would not happen next year).
- We are continuing to look for help with the Sunday school. We are looking for a teacher for 3-5th grade and a new superintendent for next year.
- We are also looking for a VBS director for this year and exploring when to have VBS (earlier in the year, possibly in the morning).
- We are planning on having a booth at the Family Fest on March 4.
- We will be serving a Lenten meal on April 5th.
- Finally we are still searching for another board member or two.