

PASTOR'S CORNER

5-15-2025

Pr. Dean Hedlund

Isaiah 45:9 *“Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherd among the potsherd on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’”*

In a blob of potter’s clay, there exists the potential to become a priceless vase. There also exists the potential to be just an annoying blob, stuck to the side of someone’s truck tire.

As Christians we can think of ourselves as that blob of potter’s clay, and Jesus can be thought of as the potter.

What will we allow him to make of us?

His work in molding and shaping us is accomplished by means of thousands of nudges to our spirit. Often these nudges come directly from reading God’s Word. Sometimes they come from other sources – such as Bible teachers, various videos, books, etc.

First, we need to keep in mind that, regardless of the source, God’s nudges are **never** contrary to God’s Written Word.

Second, we need to keep in mind that whatever emerges from that clay, is determined by our reactions to those thousands of nudges.

By resisting God’s nudges, we can, as it were, remain an annoying ‘stain on someone’s truck tire’ in this life - an unfortunate waste of potential. But if we yield to His Loving Intentions, He can fashion us into a masterpiece, an instrument to bring many to Christ.

May this be our prayer:

“Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way,
Thou art the master, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, after thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.”

Sweet Devotions

Freedom From Sin – Not To Sin

Galatians 5:1,13,16 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. But do not use your freedom to indulge in sinful nature; rather serve one another in love. Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Christ’s sacrifice was to free us from sin NOT to give us freedom to sin. Sin leads you to Satan and eternal hell. Living a life free from sin leads us to our Savior, Jesus Christ. While it is impossible to not sin, it is still crucial that we understand what is sin and turn away from those things that lead to our destruction.

Surrender each day to the Holy Spirit, keep God’s Word close to your heart, and the power of Christ will reward you with the fruits of the Spirit; which are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Dear Father, refine me Lord, create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast Spirit within me. Guide me with the Holy Spirit to live a life pleasing to You that I may shine Your light so brilliantly that it cannot be ignored. To Your Glory, Lord. Amen.

**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.**

What’s News

Youth News

Women of the Word

Missions and Outreach

Testimony

From the Council

Grief Support

Men’s Breakfast

Upcoming Events

Sunday School

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

Youth News

Youth Director

Paula Baumgartner
218-469-9001
paula.baumgartner@yahoo.com



Making May Day Baskets

Youth



Women of the Word



(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 2nd 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



Last Day of Sunday School



1st Communion

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 1st and 3rd 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.

Next session will start in August

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:

Looking for someone to share in this space. We all have a story. Sharing a testimony can serve to encourage and inspire others.

From the Council

First United Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2025

Present: Bruce Baumgartner, Rich Frederickson, Rick Peterson, Dewey Hites, Norm Berg, Scott Mooney, Dave Reynolds, Jenna Baumgartner, Norm Hayes, Connie Johnson, Paula Baumgartner *Absent:* Brad Fevold

- Opening Prayer/Devotion: Scott/Rich
- Secretary's report: (Brad)
 - March 3, 2025 Minutes. Rich motioned to accept the minutes; Dewey seconded; motion passed.
- Treasurer's report: (Norm, Norm)
 - \$82,881 in all accounts (03/31/25) Checking: \$20,866; Savings: \$1,739; Ameriprise: \$23,832; Edward Jones: \$36,444. Bruce motioned to accept Treasurer's report; Rick seconded; motion passed.
- Office report: (Connie)
 - Lenten Service: April 9. Palm Sunday: April 13 & Easter: April 20.
 - Staff meetings as needed
- Youth: (Paula)
 - Update on Youth activities and lessons (including a Christian Music concert on 4/11 & Feed My Starving Children on 4/12).
 - Mission Trip – Goal: \$13,000 – very close!
 - Insurance Declaration sheet for Mission Trip.
 - Easter Breakfast Fundraiser – April 20
- Pastor's report: (Dean)
 - None
- Media & Music: (Scott)
 - Considering placing two (2) microphones on the pulpit.
- Property: (Norm)
 - Front wall project: quotes obtained to see what the costs might be. Exploring other ideas as well – as some of the renditions may not appeal to younger members.
 - Furnace will need upgrading in a year or two.
 - Parsonage & church back door locks are working fine (minor repairs done).
 - Wash the exterior of the church this spring.
 - Checking on zoning for Narthex expansion possibilities.
 - Front door: commercial grade with windows.
- Mission and Outreach: (Bruce)
 - Usual donations.
 - M&O will cover ½ of Bible camp fees.
 - Movie had a good response.
- Stewardship: (Dewey)
 - None
- Adult Ed: (Brad)
 - Adult Sunday School going well (James is a challenging lesson series).
- Old Business:
 - On-line giving is functioning. Need to see how it works and will then actively advertise.
 - Brad – Church/Community Benevolence guidelines: Working document is process.
- New Business:
 - Letter about forming a "Northern Plains District of the LCMC." Copy will be emailed to council for comment.
- Next meeting: Monday, May 5, 2025 (Deacons 5:30 pm, Trustees 5:30 pm, Council 6 pm)
- Adjourn Meeting: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.