

First Fruits

October 2018

Volume 22, Number 9

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday

Sunday, September 9, was a busy day at First Lutheran. During the worship service, the teachers and students were blessed; and the children and youth participated in the service by playing the bells and telling the creation story. During the worship service, there was Anointing of Hands for the service projects that would follow the worship service. The worship service was followed by the Sunday School launch as the teachers and students began their year. As the students were beginning Sunday School, the adults were busy filling school bags for Lutheran World Relief and making soap for the local Ministry Center. After all the work was completed, a picnic lunch was enjoyed by all. The picnic lunch was provided by a Thrivent Action Team along with Earl & Linda Comstock.



Worship Ministry



THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

On Sunday, September 16, Trayton Brown, Morgan Peters, and Austin Cain were presented with their Third Grade Bibles by their parents.



Confirmation

CONFIRMATION will be held at First Lutheran on Sunday, October 28. Those being confirmed are: Megan Aulwes, Max Aulwes, Devon Brown, Logan Newsum and Brad Sobotta.

REMEMBERING ALL GOD'S SAINTS

On Sunday, November 4, we will remember all God's saints. In the prayers that day, we will remember all those who have died since All Saints Sunday 2017. If you have a family member or close friend that you would like to include in this remembrance, please notify Wendy in the church office via a note, email, or call.



Discipleship Ministry

SUBSCRIBE TO LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUBSCRIBING TO *LIVING LUTHERAN* (formerly called *The Lutheran Magazine*),



please contact Wendy in the church office by October 10. A one year subscription is \$8.95.

(641-774-4875 or flcchariton@iowatelecom.net)

CHRISTMAS WITH WARTBURG



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 7:30 PM
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE
WEST DES MOINES

Tickets go on sale Monday, October 22
Order online:

www.wartburg.edu/christmas

Ticket Office: 319-352-8691

Christmas with Wartburg has inspired audiences for almost 70 years. Let the warmth of this one-of-a-kind experience fill your heart and start the Advent and Christmas season for your family!



Dear Partners in the Gospel,

After writing a piece on living with differences of opinion for the Wayne County Independent, I realized it might be a nice idea to share my thoughts with you. I'm not including the entire article, but just a few of my ideas that might guide us, not only through the mid-term election season, but in future interactions as well.



More than fifty years ago I had a lose-lose battle with my parents, as we disagreed on a candidate for president of the United States. I loved and respected my parents very much. How could they – faithful Christians – support a person I found reprehensible? Unfortunately, I didn't learn much in that exchange as I simply labeled them hypocrites (based on my own beliefs) and left the Church for a time.

It took me quite a while to realize that Christians have a variety of perspectives and a variety of understandings, and...are you ready for this? A variety of ways to let the Holy Bible guide their lives. That's why I'm raising the issue now. We're not faced with a situation of a few angsty teenagers turning their back on what their parents have taught them. We're living in a divisive land where disagreements become major conflicts and, too often, result in violence.

After the last presidential election, faithful believers on both sides of the aisle were asking, "What is a safe topic for the Thanksgiving dinner table?" Many of us may have had positive exchanges that day, but it seems the dispute over who is right and who is wrong, not only continues, but has grown more intense. Many years ago, I read a book titled, *You Don't Need to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right*. The entire content was helpful, and the title became a mantra.

Periodically, however, I forget. I have an opinion and I challenge others on their opinions and I feel badly that I reacted as I did. I find myself in a constant state of repentance. I invite you to join me in this endeavor to genuinely reach out in love, caring, compassion, kindness, understanding, and above all, a strong sense of curiosity. Why **would** those I love and respect believe things and have opinions on current situations that are so different from my own?

Having faith in God's redemption through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and being a Jesus follower do not guarantee shared political, social, or economic beliefs. None of the disagreements I've had with others are based on a lack of respect for who Jesus is, was, and will always be. We don't argue about the command to love God and love neighbor. But we do take our stances based on what **we** think that means. And, guess what? The ways we show our love for God and our neighbor can be very different, based on what else we believe about what the Bible teaches, which is based on **our own** understanding.

Seems to me, we have a long way to go when it comes to loving God and neighbor, in part because it is so hard to hold the tension of both/and, the paradox of the Lutheran faith. We need to remember that we are both saint and sinner; caring and apathetic; conscientious and unreliable. Those unreasonable people you are dealing with, trying so hard to love – they think you are unreasonable. Most likely, you are only unreasonable to each other.

God has created and continues to create a world filled with diversity and that includes our diverse perspectives, understandings, actions, and opinions, to name a few, that seem hard for us these days. Give thanks for all that you are and can be and give thanks that you have so many opportunities to learn something new from someone who sees the world differently than you do.

Praying for us all, as we seek to be kinder, more appreciative of differences, and eager to learn from one another,

Pastor Sally



No More FILLING SLOTS No More TAKING ON OBLIGATORY ROLES No More GUILT Spiritual Gifts Assessment & Use

On Sunday, September 23, worship participants were invited to complete a spiritual gift inventory to more clearly identify areas of ministry for which our members (and regular visitors) are gifted by God for service. While the idea of “taking turns” and “sharing the work” can be an efficient way to do God’s work, it may not be the most effective, nor what God intends for us.

Take a look at 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Ephesians 12:6-8, and 1 Peter 4:11, for more information about just how God gifts the church for ministry. It is obvious that the people of First Lutheran and Christ the Servant have an important part to play in God’s work of loving and blessing the world. The good news for us is that God has already provided all the gifts we need to continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and **you** have one or more of them.

If you’ve taken the assessment, please prayerfully review your results to discern just what God is calling you to do. If you have not taken the assessment, please do. It is included in this newsletter. In the coming weeks, you will have opportunities to learn more about the ways you can serve and late in October, you will be able to make new choices about how you participate in the ministries of our faith communities.

As the Bishop likes to say, “We are in this together.”

****You will find the Spiritual Gifts Survey at the end of the newsletter – following the calendar.

Stewardship Ministry

MINISTRY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Did the results from your spiritual gifts assessment give you pause to consider a new area of ministry or give you an urge to learn more about a ministry in which you'd really like to continue?

On **Saturday, October 20, from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm**, there will be a series of brief training workshops on ministries, including:

- Assisting Ministers – including acolytes, lectors (readers), intercessors (pray-ers), and communion servers
- Hospitality Ministers – ushers, greeters, fellowship servers
- Pastoral Care Providers – visiting and serving Holy Communion to those unable to participate in worship, responding to emergency calls when the pastor is out of town
- Teaching Ministries – Godly Play, Sunday School, Bible study leadership
- Worship Leadership and Preaching

Attend one, attend them all – participating in a workshop does not mean you will automatically be added to a ministry group. That remains your choice, although sign-up sheets will be available if you know you've found the role for you.

The schedule of sessions will be provided in future Sunday worship bulletins and on the First Lutheran Church, Chariton IA Facebook page.

PERSONAL CARE KITS: Lutheran World Relief is needing Personal Care Kits so we



will put be gathering the items and putting together some of these kits. Thrivent will be purchasing

some of the items, so the ones we need will be adult-size toothbrushes, metal nail clippers, and 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz per kit. If anyone wishes to contribute these items, please bring them to church by October 14th. If you have any questions, contact Delores or Jean.

Re:Newed

Baptismal Anniversaries

During October, we remember and give thanks for the baptisms of:

10/	Stephanie Lukavsky	10/10	Tammy Mason
10/	Dan Morrett	10/11	Chad Lukavsky
10/1	Jake Mosbach	10/11	Rachel Cohen
10/1	Mike Mosbach	10/12	Macy Wood
10/2	Diane Havick	10/13	Ben Morrett
10/4	Eric Junkman	10/15	Ryan Dachenbach
10/5	John Allen	10/21	Avery Fuhs
10/6	Laura Duey	10/23	Linda Jurgens
10/10	John Forbes	10/28	Weston Umbenhower
10/10	Lonna Wantland	10/29	Liam Cunningham

Thanks be to Jesus for the saving waters of baptism!

(In baptism, we all are made one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither Chariton nor Corydon! Are we missing your baptismal anniversary? Let us know! Tell us the story of your baptism!)

∴∴∴∴ On the Vine

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will gather on **Wednesday, October 3**, at First Lutheran, beginning at 1:30 PM. All are invited to participate.

Women, Wine & Witness Group

(WWW): The Women, Wine and Witness group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at the parsonage. In October, we will meet on **October 1 and 15**.



**“COFFEE, CONVERSATION,
CAMARADERIE”
CCC@CTS**

Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry has begun a new community project, “Coffee, Conversation, Camaraderie,” (CCC@CTS). Their Thrivent Action Team Coffee shop will be open from 9-11 AM and will serve fair trade coffees and teas, and anyone is invited to attend. Community residents are invited to come with friends or come alone and make friends.

Here are the scheduled CCC@CTS events:

October 5

November 2

November 30

LAF :: Lutheran Adult Fellowship

A small group ministry of First Lutheran Church that gathers monthly to share food and fun. Newcomers are always welcome.

We will gather in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran beginning at **6 PM** on **Sunday, October 14**. A fall supper will be served followed by games. Your hosts will be Martha Milnes and Beverly Johnson.



The Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, **October 11**, at the home of Miriam Hibbs, beginning at 1 PM. All women are invited!

Cluster 9 WELCA Fall Meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 13**, at St. Paul Lutheran in Albia. Fellowship, coffee, and rolls will begin at 8:30 am. A noon lunch will be available for \$5. The theme for the day is “God in our past, present, & future through the arts”.

“Sharing the Weight” Blanket Making Parties at CTS are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9 AM-3 PM. **Our next gathering will be on October 9**. We invite everyone to come and join us. We have sewing and non-sewing jobs so all skills are welcome. Come as early as you can and stay as long as you like.

Pictured are just a few of the completed weighted blankets on their way to be distributed to those who need them.



The CTS (Christ the Servant) Women’s Bible Study continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. We gather at a member’s home for a light lunch at noon and begin our study as we finish eating. We use the WELCA Gather magazine for our studies, so you can join the group at any time. Our next gathering will be on **October 16 at the home of Anne Kruse**.



First Lutheran Church
Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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phone: 641-774-4875

October

**** "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS" PICTURES**

**** THIRD GRADE BIBLES PRESENTED**

**** CONFIRMATION AT FLC**
- Sunday, October 28

**** SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY**

**** MINISTRY TRAINING WORKSHOPS**
- Saturday, October 20

**Be Bold in our Faith as Children of God
and Share the Good News of Salvation with All People**

(First Lutheran Mission Statement)



Share the Joy of Christ, and Serve Others

(Christ the Servant Mission Statement)

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<http://twitter.com/iowalutheran>



First Lutheran Church Chariton, IA
 flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
 (641)774-4875
 Worship 9 AM
 Sunday School 10:15 AM

Pastor Sally Wilke

Christ the Servant Corydon, IA
 Office: 641-774-4875
 Worship 11 AM

October 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6 pm – WWW at the parsonage	2 10 am–FLC Worship Committee 6 pm–Lucas Co. ICC Annual Banquet at Christian Church	3 1:30 pm –Prayer Shawl Ministry at FLC 8 pm – AA @ CTS	4 9 am – FLC Quilting	5 9-11 am – CCC at CTS Office Closed 7 pm–Slavic Worship	6 8 pm – AA @ CTS
7 Holy Communion 10:15 am – Sunday School at FLC 10:15 am – Executive Comm. 1 pm – Slavic Worship	8 2 pm – Laplanders Quilt Guild at CTS 7 pm – Council at FLC	9 8 am–Breakfast Gals 9 am-3 pm – Blanket Making Party at CTS	10 8 pm – AA @ CTS	11 9 am – FLC Quilting 1 pm – Women of the ELCA “In This Together” Event at Windsor Heights: Noon - Pastor Sally 6:30 pm– Cong. Leaders	12 Office Closed 7 pm–Slavic Worship	13 8:30 am-Cluster 9 WELCA Fall Meeting in Albia 8 pm – AA @ CTS
14 Holy Communion 10:15 am – Sunday School at FLC 1 pm – Slavic Worship 6 pm – Lutheran Adult Fellowship	15 6 pm – WWW at the parsonage 7 pm – Quilt Guild in Fireside Room	16 Noon – CTS Women’s Bible Study 3:30 pm–CTS Worship Committee 4:30 pm – CTS Task Force	17 2:15 -5 pm– GiF: Year 1 8 pm – AA @ CTS	18 9 am – FLC Quilting Noon – Wayne County Ministers Meet	19 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline! 7 pm–Slavic Worship	20 10:30 am-3 pm: Ministry Training Workshops 8 pm – AA @ CTS
21 Holy Communion Cinnamon Roll Sunday 10:15 am – Sunday School at FLC 1 pm – Slavic Worship 3:30-6 pm – GiF: Pre-Confirmation	22 Pastor Working From Home	23	24 8 pm – AA @ CTS	25 9 am – FLC Quilting	26 Office Closed 7 pm–Slavic Worship	27 8 pm – AA @ CTS
28 Holy Communion 9 am – Confirmation at FLC followed by reception No Sunday School at FLC 1 pm – Slavic Worship	29	30	31 8 pm – AA @ CTS			AA – Alcoholics Anonymous



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment Form – Adult

Finding Your Spiritual Gifts

God has given each Christian two vitally important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and for the growth of God's Kingdom. These abilities are called spiritual gifts and they are received through our baptism.

Like other presents, it is impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until they have been opened. This tool will help you begin to open your spiritual gifts by guiding you through scripture review, scripture references, and self-assessment inventory.

Self-Assessment Inventory

Instructions: For each of the 60 questions which follow, check the numbered circle corresponding with the response that most closely matches how you perceive yourself.

Categories are presented across the top of the inventory.

- 4, consistently true
- 3, frequently true
- 2, occasionally true
- 1, infrequently true
- 0, rarely true

After responding to each question, turn to the scoring grid on page eight to analyze your results.

Using the following key, check the box that matches how the statement describes you:
4=consistently true, 3=frequently true, 2=occasionally true, 1=infrequently true, 0=rarely true

Furthest to the left is consistently true; furthest to the right is rarely true.

4 3 2 1 0

1. When presented a goal, I immediately think of steps that need to be taken in order to achieve the desired results.

2. I express myself through artistic means.

3. My faith requires me to seek out God's will and purpose in all circumstances that arise in my life.

4. I am able to convey the Gospel message to non-believers in ways that they are able to easily understand.

5. I am moved by those who through conflict or sorrow are wavering in faith.

6. I am certain of the spirit's presence in my life and the lives of others.

7. I am blessed by God each day and gladly respond to these blessings by giving liberally of my time and money.

8. I enjoy meeting new people and becoming acquainted with them.

9. I know that God hears and responds to my daily prayers.

10. I feel compelled to learn as much as I can about the Bible and faith.

11. I am a take charge person. When others follow my direction, the goal or task will be completed.

12. When I see a person in need, I am moved to assist them.

13. I love to sing and enjoy inspiring others through song.

14. I find joy and express myself by playing a musical instrument.

15. I am motivated to provide spiritual leadership to those on a faith journey.

16. I like working behind the scenes to ensure projects are successful.

17. I enjoy working with my hands in a trade or skill that required considerable experience to perfect.

18. My great joy is to communicate biblical truth in such a way that it becomes real and understood by others.

19. When a challenge is presented, I am usually able to identify an appropriate solution.

20. I am able to take a thought or idea and put it into a clear and inspiring written form.

21. I enjoy organizing thoughts, ideas, hopes and dreams into a specific plan of action.

22. I can translate into artistic form what I first see in my imagination.

23. I have assisted others as they sought to discern whether or not their personal decisions were helpful and in accord with God's will for their lives.

24. I enjoy being with non-believers and like having the opportunity to encourage them to faith and commitment.

25. When I know someone is facing a crisis, I feel compelled to provide support and care.

26. My trust in the Spirit's presence, when I encounter times of personal crisis, is a source of strength for others.

27. I manage my time and money so that I am able to give much of it to the work of the church or other organizations.

28. I am often asked to open my home for small group gatherings or social occasions.

29. I often become so absorbed in my prayer life that the doorbell or phone can ring and I will not hear it.

30. Not one day would be complete without biblical study and thought.

31. When I am in a group, others will often look to me for direction.

32. I feel an urgency to provide housing for the homeless, food for the starving, comfort for those in distress.

33. I have sung before groups and felt a real sense of God's presence.

34. By my playing a musical instrument, inspiration has been provided for both myself and others.

35. I have responsibility for providing spiritual guidance to an individual believer or group of believers.

36. People tell me that without my willingness to do the unnoticed jobs, their work would be more difficult.

37. I am good at building, repairing, or restoring things and find satisfaction in doing so.

38. I want to express my faith by assisting others to discover the truths contained in the Bible.

39. People come to me for help in applying Christian faith and values to personal situations.

40. I often feel moved to write about my thoughts and feelings so others may benefit from them.

41. I have been successful in organizing, directing and motivating people to achieve a goal.

42. My artistic work has given spiritual strength to both believer and non-believer.

43. In the congregation, I am often asked if a direction being discussed is in accord with God's will and purpose.

44. I do not find it difficult to share what Jesus means to me with non-believers.

45. Those who are struggling with life questions have come to me for guidance and help.

46. I can see great things happening in my congregation and am not derailed by the pessimism of others.

47. When I receive money unexpectedly, one of my first thoughts is to share this gift through the church.

48. I enjoy welcoming guests and helping them to feel at ease.

49. Believers have asked me to pray for healing in their lives, and have evidenced God's healing power.

50. My study of the Bible has proven helpful to others in their faith journey.

51. People have said they like to work with me because the task will be successfully completed.

52. People have been surprised by how at ease I am while working with those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit.

53. I am grateful and humbled that my singing has provided inspiration and hope for others on their faith journey.

54. Others have told me they were moved by my playing a musical instrument.

55. People have come to me for spiritual help and it has developed into a long-term relationship.

56. When I turn out the lights, take tables down, work in the kitchen or put chairs away, I feel that I have served the Lord.

57. My knowledge of building, maintenance or repair has been a special value to the church and others.

58. Others have told me that I can take the most difficult idea or concept and make it easier to understand.

59. When direction is needed at work or in the congregation, I am generally asked for my opinion.

60. My written work has been helpful to others in understanding life's truths.

see the next page for scoring...

SCORING GRID

For each set of three questions, indicate the total of the numbers selected for each question and record on that line.

For example, in the category of Administration, if your score for the 3 questions adds up to 9, your total score for Administration is 9. Once completed, note that the higher the number the stronger the corresponding gift. The scores will be a number between 0 and 12.

The strongest gift(s) will generally have a total score of “7” or more. If you have more than one gift with a total of seven or more, then all of these gifts can be referred to as your "gift cluster." Notice how each gift within the cluster has the potential to compliment and support another. The gifts within the cluster will need to be further explored to determine which ones you have truly been blessed with.

This inventory is designed to begin your journey toward spiritual gifts discovery. Keep in mind that it is not a scientific instrument. Your perceptions will be validated by others and confirmed through prayer and by their use over time. Identify your spiritual gift cluster then list the gifts in the gifts cluster.

Total Score for the Questions listed

Administration: Questions 1, 21, 41

Artistry: Questions 2, 22, 42

Discernment: Questions 3, 23, 43

Evangelism: Questions 4, 24, 44

Exhortation: Questions 5, 25, 45

Faith: Questions 6, 26, 46

Giving: Questions 7, 27, 47

Hospitality: Questions 8, 28, 48

Intercession: Questions 9, 29, 49

Knowledge: Questions 10, 30, 50

Leadership: Questions 11, 31, 51

Mercy: Questions 12, 32, 52

Music-vocal: Questions 13, 33, 53

Music-instrumental: Questions 14, 34, 54

Pastoring: Questions 15, 35, 55

Service: Questions 16, 36, 56

Skilled Craft: Questions 17, 37, 57

Teaching: Questions 18, 38, 58

Wisdom: Questions 19, 39, 59

Writing: Questions 20, 40, 60

NOW – what are you doing or going to do with those gifts for the good of the church and the world?