

THE FIRST WORD

February, 1014

What About Works of Faith? by Pastor Ian Reid

Thanks in part to Lent starting late this year (March 5th), it will allow me to start up a new Bible Study series on the book of James before Lent begins. I am very excited to delve into the words that have been traditionally attributed to James, the brother of Jesus. Church tradition and the book of Acts tells us that James was the leader of the early church in Jerusalem and it is assumed that the book was written in Palestine around the year 70 AD.

Though this book of James was chosen to be a part of the New Testament canon in the western church by the 4th century AD, many reformation scholars had issues with it. Martin Luther actually calls the Epistle of James “an epistle of straw, compared to the others; for it has nothing of the nature of the gospel in it.” (Luther’s Works Vol 6) Luther and others had issues with the Gospel of James because of its high view of works being needed for justification and salvation.

One of Luther’s big points of reformation needed in the church was to understand that we are saved by grace through faith alone. He comes to this understanding from reading Ephesians 2:8-9 which says “8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” This meant to Luther that doing good deeds did not save our souls but it was solely God’s actions that saves us. Luther would go on to say that works of the flesh are things that we do not in order to obtain anything, but instead out of love for what God has already done for us.

The book of James, however, calls into question Luther’s thoughts on salvation for it states in James 2:24 “that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.” Whereas Luther thought that faith will lead a person to do good works eventually, James argues that faith without works is truly not faith at all and in

fact is dead. During our study of the book of James we will be discussing not only the text for the day but also how it pertains to what is written in Ephesians and Galatians, whether we can harmonize these two different views, or if they lead to complete conflict.

Not only will we be debating the necessity of works as a part of faith but we will also discuss such topics as the different types of wisdom, how should we understand suffering and the importance of prayer in our life. Unfortunately, the book of James is not used much in the revised common lectionary and therefore it is read and preached rarely. Starting on **January 29th at 10am and at 6pm** we will get a chance to explore the book and hopefully grow in our faith and knowledge of who God is through His scriptures.

Pastor Ian Reid

From Your Church Council

It is almost unbelievable that we have once again entered into another new year! It seems as though we were just getting into 2013 when 2014 popped up! However, when we reflect on the past year, it is wonderful to see what God's people at First Lutheran have accomplished. We have had many wonderful fellowship opportunities, we have taken care of the business of the church, and most importantly, we have come together in worship and praise of God, our Father.

2014 is going to have its challenges, of course, but we have demonstrated time after time that, with God's hands on our shoulders, we will continue to move in the right direction to do the work He has planned for us.

I find it quite astounding that no matter from where we come to worship, no matter our ages, whether we are students, lay or professionals, retirees, etc., we enjoy our Church and each other. In the end, it is our willingness to give ourselves as agents of our love of Jesus

Christ to carry out His works.

As the incoming President of your Church Council, it is my prayer that we will continue to come together to worship, praise, pray, study and grow as a community of faith. Your Council will continue to keep you informed, but we also hope you will feel free to contact any one of us with suggestions, questions, comments or concerns.

Andrea Brock
Council President

CHILI COOK OFF AND SILENT AUCTION FEB. 9TH

WANT TO DONATE A POT OF CHILI FOR THE COMPETITION?
HOW ABOUT AN ITEM FOR THE SILENT AUCTION?
NOTIFY CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE!
CHILI COOK OFF AND SILENT AUCTION
WILL FOLLOW THE
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.
THE CHURCH SERVICE WILL BE COMBINED STARTING AT 10 AM.
SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE AT 9 AM.

Bishop Ralph Duncan Visit

Bishop Ralph Duncan will be at First Lutheran Church on Saturday, Feb. 1st, 10:00 am – 12 Noon.

The following points will be items discussed during this visit. Consider the concepts of giving and receiving – what our congregation gains, and what it shares. Be sure to read the article “West Virginia-Western Maryland ELCA Synod, Our Synod at Work”

1. What is our awareness of the work and ministries of the WV-WMD Synod? (What does our synod do?) How would we describe the work and ministries of the WV-WMD Synod?
2. What is our awareness of the resources that the ELCA and our Synod has available to our congregation? What are the resources that the ELCA and our Synod make available to our congregation and which of these resources have we used?
3. How can our synod help us in the work and ministry of our congregation?
4. How can we best sup-

port our synod?

West Virginia – Western Maryland ELCA Synod Our Synod at Work

The literal meaning of the word Synod is “a coming together”. Our 64 (?) congregations, pastors, rostered leaders, lay leaders and lay people “come together” to make the name of Jesus known throughout West Virginia and Western Maryland.

A key responsibility is that our synod bears “primary responsibility for oversight in the life and mission of this church in the territory of this synod.” This oversight may be seen as and manifested by:

- pastoral care for congregations, ordained ministers and rostered leaders
- consulting and working with congregations in the call process for ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers
- approving candidates for ordained ministry, authorizing ordination and ordaining ministers on behalf of the church

- making provisions for pastoral care when congregations are without a pastor
- providing for rostered leadership recruitment, preparation and support

- nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders through various synod programs and resources

- encouraging and supporting persons of the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self and pursuit of continuing education to strengthen their effectiveness of service

Together, we make Jesus known . . . to each other, to our congregations and to the communities in our synod.

Last week we learned that a key responsibility of our synod is to “bear responsibility for oversight of the life and mission of this church in the territory of this synod.” This week we want to identify the various programs, activities and events by which we carry this out.

Continued next page

Our Synod at Work

Continued from page 3

Programs that support and strengthen congregations:

-Road to Renewal . . . Gratitude in the Heart of Appalachia . . . Safe places training for congregations . . . Festival of Faith . . . Conflict mediation

Programs that support and encourage youth as they mature in their faith:

-Camp Luther . . . Camp Caroline Furnace . . . Synod

Youth retreats and joint activities

Programs and activities supporting rostered and lay leadership growth:

-First Call Theological Education . . . Rostered Leaders Education Events – two each year . . . Bishop's Lay Worship Leaders Education Events – two each year . . . Women's organizations

Programs and Ministries supported throughout the synod:

-Community Lutheran Partners . . . Campus Ministry . . . A Seed Planted . . . Gettysburg Seminary . . .

Glade Run . . . WV Council of Churches . . . ELCMA . . . Rostered Leaders Debt Reduction . . . Fund for Leaders . . . Seminarian scholarships

How many of these programs, activities and ministries done throughout our WV-WMD Synod are you aware of? Is your congregation making use of the full resources our synod has to offer?

Working together, we make Jesus known . . . to each other, to our congregations and to the communities in our synod.

Door Greeter Schedule for Feb/ March

2/2—Kevin and Diane McDonald	Pam Morehead	Petersen
2/9—Don and Judy Ery	2/23—Mary Parrish and Jean Riggs	3/9-Tina Schott and Jean Riggs
2/16—Sandy Stapleton and	3/2 -David and Carol	3/16- Dan and Ann Cooper

D.U.N. Committee Upcoming Events

Mac Doolittle's Christmas turkey dinner was a great success! We had about 110 attend. Thanks to Mac for a wonderful dinner!

The next event that the DUN committee will host is a CHILI COOK OFF on Feb. 9th. There will be judging of all the chili followed by lots of good chili to eat. There will also be a variety of sandwiches.

In addition to the luncheon we will conclude our SILENT AUCTION. Bidding closes at 1:00 pm. Please bring your money / check book if you think you may have won one of the bids. We need people to pay for and take their items on Feb.9th! Lunch will cost \$5 per person (\$3 for children 12 and under). All money from the auction and the

luncheon will go to the electrical upgrade.

Restaurant Rovers are planning to go to lunch March 2nd at Six Pence on 7th street. The Doug Hess Big Band will be performing on that Sunday. For \$17 you get a buffet style dinner and great music. There is a dance floor for those who would like to take a swing around the room.

Lay Readers for Feb/March

Date	8:30 service	10:45 Service
Jan 26	Lori Butler	Karen Creel
Feb 2	Jim Hamric	Cheryl Hasbargen
Feb 9	(10:00 a.m. only due to combined service) Youth Readers	
Feb 16	Ethan Rarey	Bill Kohler
Feb 23	Wendy Fosselman	Marcia VanDeVelde
Mar 2	Don Fosselman	Jim Smith
Mar 9	Adeline Smith	Ashley Wiltsey
Mar 16	Alicha Farley	Kent Hasbargen
Mar 23	Alec Smith	Betty Smith
Mar 30	Lawrence Hasbargen	Angie Smith

Thank You

*To my church family,
I want to thank everyone for all the cards
and well wishes for my birthday.
Each one was greatly appreciated.*

*God Bless,
Bernie Poole*

*I want to thank everyone for all your
prayers, beautiful cards, food , and visits
during my recent surgery. Our First fam-
ily is truly a special family.*

*Love,
Vivian Burton*

**Don't let your worries
get the best of you; Re-
member, Moses started
out as a basket case.**



**Some people are kind,
polite, and sweet-
spirited...
Until you try to sit in
their pews.**

Communion Bearers for Jan/Feb/March

January

26th Andrea Brock and
Mary Parrish

February

2nd Betsy Ehret and Barb
McDowell

9th Youth

16th Don and Judy Ery

23rd Lewis and Karen Creel

March

2nd Roger and Julie Davis

9th Dave and Carol Pe-
tersen

16th Charles and Mabel
Keever

23rd Marcia VanDeVelde
and Carole Carter

30th Don and Marie Stanley

Please let me know ASAP if the date I have assigned does not work for you and I will find a replacement. Thank you so very much for the fine job you do as a faithful and dependable communion bearer.

Carole Carter

February Youth Group Activities

2/2- (all youth) Practice for the ALL YOUTH service on 2/9
GIANT COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZA!

2/9- ALL YOUTH SERVICE- 10 AM!

2/9 Photo Fun Game (grades 6-12)

2/16- Family Night Laser Tag at Planet X Laser Tag in the Grand Central Mall arcade

Meet at 4:45 at the church if you need a ride, or we'll meet at the arcade at 5 pm. \$10 will cover 2 rounds of laser tag and some arcade games. Bring a friend and come have some fun!

2/23- Minute to Win it! (grades 6-12)

2/28-3/1- 30 Hour Famine (Fri/Sat)- for youth ages 11 and up- We'll be fasting from 12 pm Friday until 6 pm Saturday. We will look at hunger and poverty issues facing our world that we may not even know exist. Join us for a time to reflect on our many blessings and how we can pray for and help those in need.

FEBRUARY, 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Bishop Duncan visit 10:00-12:00
2 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	3 Praise Team At Church 7:00 p.m.	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00	5 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. DUN Meeting 6:30 p.m. Pastor's Class 6:30 pm Bereavement 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:00 Combined service 10:00 Congregation meeting after with chili cook-of and silent auction Praise Team at Worthington 2 p.m. Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth (grades 6-12) 5:00 Evening Service 6:30	10 Praise Team Eagle Pointe 7:00 pm	11 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	12 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Council 6:00 pm Pastor's Class 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Family Night Laser Tag (See Youth Article pg 6) Evening Service 6:30	17 Praise Team At Church @ 7pm	18 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	19 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Pastor's Class 6:30 pm Bereavement 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30	20	21	22 First Word Articles Due
23 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 10:45 Invitation to Prayer 5:00 Youth 5:00 (grades 6-12) Evening Service 6:30	24 Praise Team At Church @ 7 pm	25 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Woman's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m.	26 Pastor's Class 10:00 am. Pastor's Class 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30	27	28	



First Lutheran Church

PASTOR

The Rev. Ian Reid

(email: pastorianreid@gmail.com)

CHURCH SECRETARY/CHURCH OFFICE

Cindy Lockney

304-428-6174 (email: flcsec@yahoo.com)

CARE & COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Barbara McDowell

304-483-1010 (email: bam3042@yahoo.com)

OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Invitation to Prayer Sunday Evenings 5:00 p.m.

Evening Worship Service 6:30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED:

All Sunday Services

WEBSITE: firstlutheranweb.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, **Andrea Brock**, 304-485-5162

Vice-President, **Dale VanDeVelde**, 304-834-1560

Secretary, **Lori Butler**, 304-863-5156

Youth Representative, **Mackenzie Rice**

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Gary Welch, 304-863-8084

Treasurer Appointed, **Kent Hasbargen**, 304-863-3056

