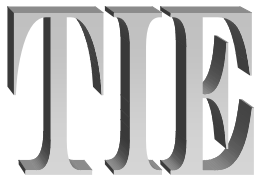


Blest be the



that binds our hearts in Christian love



First American Lutheran Church
 Celebrating 136 Years in 2010
 511 Madison Street
 Oconto, WI 54153
 TEL: 920-834-2460
 E-Mail: falc@bayland.net
 pastor@firstamericanlutheran.org
 WEB: www.firstamericanlutheran.org
 Pastor Mary after hours: (920) 671-4338

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Mary E. Zupanski
 Admin Assistant: Jackie Schmitt
 Musicians: Donna Boehmer
 Bonnie Schultz
 Melissa Socha
 Kelly Votava
 Custodian/
 Property Manager: Don Trepanier
 Council President: Jack Berry
 Treasurer: Melissa Gannigan

Worship

Sundays—9:00 a.m.
 (Holy Communion every week)

Wednesday Chapel—7:00 p.m.
 (Holy Communion every week)

Christian Education

High Five: Class - 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesdays
 Sept - May
 (Age 3 through 6th grade)

“Wednesday Night” for
 High School Youth
 Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
 (Jr. & Sr. High)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday
 8 AM - 3 PM

Mission Statement

Because we are a part of the family of God, saved by grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are empowered by God, to provide the means for Christian growth, and to equip the members, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

Word from the Pastor:

“I believe in ... what?”

You may have noticed on Sunday mornings that the wording of the Apostle’s Creed as printed in our bulletin is slightly different from what you have been accustomed to. In fact I have overheard a comment or two about this. So, let me ask, are you old enough to remember when God was the ‘maker’ of the earth, and Jesus was coming again to judge ‘the quick and the dead?’ These were words in the Apostle’s Creed years ago. A friend of mine remembers being annoyed when the words were changed to ‘creator’ and ‘living and the dead.’ She didn’t like anyone messing with *her* Apostle’s Creed! But of course it makes some sense. We don’t refer to people as ‘makers’ anymore, nor living people as ‘quick.’

Now some of us grew up with an Apostle’s Creed that underwent a bigger change: the ‘holy Christian Church’ became the ‘holy catholic Church.’ Holy Cow! That was a tough one for some, as we used to spend a lot of time carefully trying *not* to look ‘Catholic’, as in Roman Catholic. But after Vatican II when things relaxed so much, the original meaning in the creed was put back in—‘catholic’ with a lower case ‘c’ meaning something like ‘universal.’

There is an ecumenical committee who keeps track of our liturgy and the English language. Much of our liturgy is translated from ancient texts in Latin (thank you, Martin Luther!). In the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship book the Apostle’s Creed has a couple of changes. *We have already begun using the new wording as it is printed in the ELW.*

In this new translation, Jesus Christ is ‘God’s’ only son instead of ‘his’ only son. This helps us to remember that God is greater than any gender. However, we still say in the first article that ‘I believe in God the Father ...’ because the Latin word is clearly ‘pater,’ and there is no substitute for this word that expresses both the intimate, paternal nature and the creative nature of God.

There are a few small word changes to make the English grammar more accurate, too. But the biggest change is the confession that Jesus ‘descended to the *dead*’ instead of descending into *hell*. The reason for this is translation: the word in the text of the ancient Apostle’s Creed has been inaccurately translated into English for many years. Oops. The word that has been translated ‘hell’ for so long is actually the Latin word for *Sheol*, the Hebrew understanding of the place of the dead. A different Latin word was used for *Gehenna*, the word most often translated as hell, a place of judgment and punishment.

What does it matter? Well, that is a great topic for conversation! But for now let’s say we are going with accuracy of translation. In the new ELW hymnal there is an asterisk indicating the ‘old’ translation as a ‘text in widespread use.’ So they do understand, it seems, how it feels when someone messes with ‘my’ Apostle’s Creed. Say it as you will, in church, but say it most of all with conviction and gratitude for a God who is willing to descend into the grave and beyond for us all.

God’s Peace,
 Pastor Mary

August 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Worship with Holy Communion 10 am Coffee Fellowship 1-3pm Ruth Young's 90th Birthday Open House	2 <i>Pr. Mary's Day Off</i>	3 10 am Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Ministry of C.O. F Team Mtg.	4 7pm Chapel	5 12pm Oconto Clergy 5pm Ministry of Stewardship Meeting 6:30 pm Harvest Supper Planning Mtg	6 7pm AA	7 6pm Youth Movie Night
8 9am Worship with Holy Communion Baptism—Place	9 <i>Pr. Mary's Day Off</i> 9am Sewing Ladies 7pm Sarah Circle 7pm AA	10 10 am Staff Mtg. 5 pm Ministry of D.E.M. Team Mtg. 6 pm Ministry of Worship Mtg. 6pm Ministry of Building/Property Mtg.	11 10am AA 7pm Chapel	12 5:30 pm Ministry of Budget & Finance Meeting 6pm Ministry of Christian Education Mtg.	13 7pm AA	14
15 9am Worship with Holy Communion Baptism—Gannigan 10 am Coffee Fellowship 6:30 Boy Scouts	16 <i>Pr. Mary's Day Off</i> 2:30 pm—9 pm Lifetouch Pictorial Directory Session 7pm AA	17 2:30 pm—9 pm Lifetouch Pictorial Directory Session 6pm Council Mtg	18 10am AA 1:30 pm Naomi Circle 5:30 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Mtg. 7pm Chapel	19	20 <i>TIE articles & Minutes Due!</i> 7pm AA	21
22 9am Worship with Holy Communion 6:30 Boy Scouts	23 <i>Pr. Mary's Day Off</i> 7pm AA	24 10am Staff Meeting	25 10am AA 5:30 pm Cook-Out 7pm Outdoor Worship	26 6pm Technology Team Mtg. @ Presbyterian 6pm Abigail Circle	27 7pm AA	28
29 9am Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Boy Scouts	30 <i>Pr. Mary's Day Off</i> 5pm Manna Meal 7pm AA	31 10am Staff Meeting				

FIRST AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic, Pastor
 E-mail: pastor@firstamericanlutheran.org

511 Madison Street Oconto, WI 54153
 Phone: 920-834-2460 E-mail: falc@bayland.net

NEWS AND NOTES

WE PRAY DAILY FOR THE FOLLOWING:


For Safety, Courage and Perseverance for those serving our Country: Michael Collins (Afghanistan), Justin Borski, Michael Dorn, Taylor Motiff (Iraq), Keith Trudell (Kuwait), Matthew Evans (Kyrgyzstan), Denaë (Dreshek) Schenkoski (Alaska), Joseph Cournoyer, Amber & Josh Sohn (Japan), Keith Goethe, Brian Zenz (California), Aaron Larson (Colorado), Jeremiah Dettman (Maryland), Edward Ellman (Texas), Nick Krege (North Carolina).

For Help and Healing: Eugene Colson, Carol Heroux, Jim Reif, Janet Walloch, Dick Nerenhausen, Janet Hassenfeldt, Todd Olson.

Homebound/Shut-In: Robert Eggers, Ellen Hittman, Lois Magiary, Janice Whiting, Marion Hartman, Marceil Schumacher.

*If you would like to be added to the prayer list, know of someone serving in the military, or of someone who would like to be prayed for, please call the office at 834-2460. Other than those in the military we will maintain people on the prayer list for a two week period, unless notified otherwise. **Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name. If your name is removed in error, please accept our apologies and contact the office to let us know. Thank you.***





OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Last one for this year is coming up (weather permitting) August 25th. Bring your own lawn chairs, a meat to grill and a dish to pass, for the cook-out before service. Cook-Out begins at 5:30, service is at 7pm!

RALLY SUNDAY

Mark your calendars *now!* After a long lazy (or maybe crazy) summer it's time to kick off a new season of High Five and revitalize our Ministry Teams once again! On Sunday, September 12th, Rally Sunday worship service will be held out of doors at 9 a.m. followed by a congregation picnic. There will also be an opportunity to hear about and sign-up to join our various ministry teams. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

BREAD BY THE BAY

We need the following items for the food pantry: Peanut Butter, Jam, Jellies, Catsup, mustard, pickles, cereals, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Meat. These are merely suggestions we appreciate all donations. Thank you. Waneta Reinhart



BBB CHALLENGE

Bread by the Bay: Item a week challenge! Pastor Mary has reissued the 'item a week' challenge to help stock the shelves at Bread by the Bay. Every family is encouraged to bring an item a week to be donated to Bread by the Bay. Of course, if you would like to bring more than one item you are welcomed to do so. Check out the list of needed items each week and put one aside to bring with you on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. Donations may be placed in the boxes near the church entrance.

Manna Meal

August 23rd, 2010—5:00 PM

Hosted by Oconto Women's Club.

If possible please make reservations by call (920) 834-2411, to help with planning. Manna Meal is a free, well-balanced meal for all who wish to partake, and all are most certainly welcome to enjoy the fellowship over a good meal. It is a community supported event, if your group would like to serve or help out please call 920-834-2411.

STEWARDSHIP

APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

Suppose that God allowed you to have one wish. Without limit, you could have anything you desire. You could have unlimited wealth. You could have perfect health and live 1,000 years — or more. You could — like Solomon — have great wisdom. Whatever you want, you may have it. But you only get one wish. What would you choose?

Sad to say, many people would choose great wealth and material possessions. Unfortunately, that would not be a good choice. Listen to the counsel of God as expressed in this contemporary translation of Proverbs 27:20 through Solomon, one of the richest people who ever lived — “The eyes of man are never satisfied.” The behavior and attitude which always wants more has a name: Greed, and it demonstrates itself in our lives as though we were at an auction. If we have \$5, we want \$10; if we have \$10, we want \$20; if we have \$20 we want \$30. Solomon went on to say in Ecclesiastes 5:10, “The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain.”

A better choice would be to ask for God’s perspective on life and all that life entails. When we see life as God does, we realize that everything belongs to Him, that we are just managers and stewards, and that only what is done for Him will endure for eternity. When we have God’s perspective, we will be able to say with the Apostle Paul, “. . . I have learned to be content with whatever I have.”

When we have God’s perspective, we will accept with a spirit of peace and restfulness whatever He entrusts to us. And when we have God’s perspective, we will put into practice the truth of Hebrews 13:5 — “Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’”

YOUTH NEWS



9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Students entering the 9th grade this fall will meet with Pastor Mary, Wednesday, August 18th at 5:30 pm. Students will receive a packet of guidelines for completing their faith statements. On the 18th students will also have the opportunity to sign-up for their individual conference with Pastor.

Youth Mission Trip

Thank you to all who donated toward the Mission Miles, we raised \$785.00!

2011 Mission Planning Meeting

We will be meeting after church on rally Sunday. Adults as well as youth will be able to participate, so come help plan something new and exciting for 2011.

Reminder to 8th Grade Confirmation Students

Progress reports were mailed out to ALL Confirmation Students earlier this summer. If you are entering into the 8th grade this fall you are encouraged to make up any missing assignments, sermon notes, fellowship / service activities before the beginning of 2010-2011 academic year. If you have questions or concerns, please email or talk to Pastor Mary.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

July 20, 2010

Present: Pastor Mary, Hanson, Motiff, Boucher, Gallagher, Gegare, Heise, Meisner, Peterson, Welch, Treasurer Gannigan

Excused: Berry, Henning, Stock

Called to order at 6:00 p.m. Opening prayer given by Motiff

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2010 Congregation Council Meeting. Welch, Meisner

M/S/C to accept the Treasurer's Report. Gallagher, Peterson

Pastor's Report: (1) On Tuesday, July 27th there will be an open meeting with Bishop Justman about Mutual Ministry/ Personnel Teams. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and actual presentation will begin around 6:00 p.m. (2) Thank you to the Budget & Finance Team and the Community Outreach & Fellowship Team for sponsoring the Wednesday evening outdoor worship service June 30th. Thank you to Vickie Denessen and Kari Moody for leading music. We are looking for more folks to help out with the music (instrumental or vocal) at the outdoor services. (3) The new computers have been set-up and all information has been transferred. (4) The former Intern Office will be set-up as a resource room sometime this fall. The resource room will house all 3 computers, along with Pastor Mary's donated desktop computer with internet access. In addition we will centralize the books, DVDs, etc., in the new space. Members will be welcome to use the room during regular church office hours, more information to come. (5) Pastor Mary and Pastor Craig Alwin from First Presbyterian have tentatively scheduled a meeting for August 26th to gather information and put into place some guidelines for website, facebook, and other technological information as is pertains to both our congregations.

Ministry Team Reports: as reported in Tie

Old Business: (1) Jackie will look back 5 years at worship attendance for comparison for the August meeting discussion on 2 Sunday Services. (2) Will e-mail Derek on the purchase of our new safe.

New Business: (1) Our office air conditioners will be out dated at the end of this year. One is not working. We will wait to make a decision when it is necessary to replace all of them. (2) M/S/C to raise the Office Manager hourly rate to \$ 11.75 after 90 days (June 30). Gallagher, Meisner (3) Policy for payment of Camp Scholarships was made at April meeting, needs to be posted before summer to eliminate confusion.

Publication Items: (1) Thank you to Ron Frease and Pat Scanlan for removal of the pine tree by the parsonage.

M/S/C to adjourn at 6:45 P.M. Gallagher, Jane

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

The new hymnal of the ELCA has been out since 2006. We have begun using and learning some of the new liturgy pieces from this new hymnal. This fall we will be offering the opportunity for members of FALC to memorialize a hymnal (or two). Our goal is to purchase 175 new hymnals. Watch for more information. If you have questions please talk to Pastor Mary.

Pictorial Directory

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Help is on the way! We are producing a pictorial family album! There is no cost to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after photography. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. Sunday's before and after service we will have sign-up, you can also contact the church office during hours to schedule times. A new feature available; you are also be able to sign-up online with a link on the church's website. We are planning two sessions for Photography dates, **Aug 16 & 17** and a second session will be **Nov 17—20**. We are hoping to get families with College students, snow birds, hunting families, or anyone with a conflict for Nov to sign up for Aug. Times will be from 2:30pm until 8:50 pm, each family is to plan for about an hour session from start to finish. Please start thinking about which session works best for your family, our August session has evening times open on Monday Aug 16th, a few evening appointments on the 17th, and we have quite a few afternoon sessions open on both days. We would love to have the two days in August filled, we have room for about 40 families, we are about a quarter filled at the time of printing. We would love to have 100% participation from all our members, this is a wonderful opportunity also to have a family picture taken. You have the option of bringing props with for your individual pictures. Pricing Brochures and information is available during services, and at the church office. We look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces in our Church Family Album!

TREASURER'S REPORT (June 2010)

	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Personnel Expense	\$ 56,205.88
Administrative Expense	\$ 6,018.77
Church Maintenance Expense	\$ 13,412.21
Education Expense	\$ 771.87
Celebration & Worship Expense	\$ 823.79
Debt & Interest Payments Expense	\$ 1,200.00
Special Ministries Expense	\$ 940.26
ELCA Mission Support (5%)	<u>\$ 4,315.95</u>
Total EXPENSES	\$ 83,688.73
Envelope Offering	\$ 70,094.00
Church Maintenance Offering	\$ 5,188.00
Total INCOME	<u>\$ 75,282.00</u>
DIFFERENCE (Behind for the year)	-(\$ 8,406.73)

Informational Technology Meeting

August 26th we plan to have a meeting jointly with First Presbyterian to gather information and work on some guidelines for our website, Facebook and similar websites, and other technological information as it pertains to both our congregations. If you would be interested in attending and giving input, please contact Pastor Mary.



Confirmation Teachers

Do you love young people? Do you have a passion and enthusiasm for sharing your faith? Our young people need you! Pastor Mary is looking for adults to assist with Confirmation Classes 2010-2011. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share your gifts at First American. And then talk to Pastor Mary!!!!



MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS FOR AUGUST

THANK YOU

Thank you to ALL MINISTRY TEAM members for encouraging the ministry and mission of FALC.

MINISTRY OF BUDGET & FINANCE

Next Meeting August 12

@ 5:30 pm

Ministry of Christian Education

Next Meeting Aug 12th

@ 6:00 pm



Ministry of Community Outreach & Fellowship

Next meeting, August 3rd

@ 6:30 p.m.

Ministry of Worship Planning

Met briefly to discuss the outdoor worship for July, we are sponsoring with the Building & Property Ministry Team.

Next Meeting August 10

@ 6:00 pm

Ministry of Discipleship, Evangelism & Membership

D.E.M. meeting July 13 The team met to coordinate duties and responsibilities of ensuring a successful Directory program. Many of the responsibilities will be handled by the DEM team and Jackie. Some volunteer help will be needed for Host/Hostess during sittings. Temple talks, bulletin inserts, and posters will help to get the word out. The dates and times for pictures will be August 16 & 17, 2:30-9:00 and November 17, 18, 19, 2:30-9:00 and November 20 10:00-5:00.

Next meeting will be August 10, 5:00pm

Ministry of Stewardship

Next meeting August 5th

@ 5:00 p.m.

Ministry of Building and Property

Opened with Prayer by Ron Frease.

Present: Pat Scanlan, Ron Filz, Lee Bitters, Jim Peterson, Steve Stock & Ron Frease.

Bill for carpet \$462.00 (264 sq. ft.) went from 8" to 28" strip that will give us a better job. Will need help moving pews when Todd is ready to do job.

Air conditioners not working very good in offices, need compressor, cost \$1,500.00. We did discuss other options, it all comes down to money, will give recommendations to Council.

Pastor Mary, wants Janitor's Room for a resource room, need to find room for janitor.

Talked to John Ihde about cutting down tree. Had Wirtz Tree Service remove tree and cut out stump. Pat Scanlan & Ron Frease figured that would be the safe way. Tree was removed.

Next Meeting August 10 @ 6:00 pm