

Jesus is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Sunday, May 2, 2010

We extend a special welcome to guests who join us today! Today we welcome Rev. Steven Koster to our pulpit. Pastor Gary Bomhof will bring the message next week.

Children **ages 3 to grade 5** will be dismissed for *Sunday school*. There is supervised nursery care for infants to age 3 today. Parents should accompany children who leave the worship service for any reason.

Guests at First Church are cordially invited to a time of fellowship and friendship in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service

We Worship Our Great and Mighty God

***indicates to stand if able**

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Song

“Come all You People”

*Call to Worship

*God’s Greeting

*Songs of Praise

“God of Wonders”

“There’s No God as Great” – PsH 517

*A Time of Friendship

SERVE Team Commissioning

Commissioning Song – “Here I am, Lord”

Service of Renewal

Call to Confession/Prayer of Confession

Song of Confession – Chancel Choir

“Let the Words of My Mouth”

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Assurance – Chancel Choir

“Amen and Amen”

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading – Mark 4: 1-20

Message – **Wasting the Word**

*Hymn of Response – PsH 527

“Come, You Thankful People, Come”

Pastoral/Offertory Prayer

Our Tithes & Offerings

First Church Ministry Budget

Noah’s Ark Playschool

*Blessing

*Doxology – PsH 620

“By the Sea of Crystal”

Serving Today...

Greeting: Nicolay family

Helping Hands: George Groeneveld

Nursery: Sharon Stange, Sonya Wagenaar

FIRST CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

...**Annie Vandermost** remains in Unit 32 at the Red Deer hospital where her condition seems to have stabilized.

...Remember the many people who are unable to worship with us regularly due to illness or age including **Lies Visser, Nell Drost, Mrs. Spyksma, Winnie Tensen, Audrey Vermeer, John Lindhout, Henk Krikke, and Winnie Krikke.**



Illustration by Swiss storyteller and artist Annie Vallotton

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED to a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after the morning worship service. Your hosts today: Sid & Pat Brouwer

EVENING GATHERING Tonight at 6.00p we will have the last session of Scripture, Prayer, and Meditation. In Luke 2: 19 we read that Mary “stored up” the great news about Christ and meditated upon this. This is our task with respect to God’s Word. Meditation is an almost forgotten privilege in our churches, but it is a beautiful exercise of faith. It was wonderful to grow together in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord. May the Lord bless us richly.

FOUNDATIONS II has completed for this ministry year! See you in September! Thanks to Don Wielinga, Helena Vander Linde, Rob Wagenaar, Dave Bomhof, Allan Andersen, and Dave Tilstra for being such incredible leaders in this ministry. Your service is greatly appreciated!

WINE & ROSES CLUB will meet this Wednesday at 10.00a for coffee, tea, and socializing. At 10.30a, Art & Jacquie Plunz will share their stories of Christian service at Mazatlan, Mexico. All seniors and future seniors are invited to attend to learn and praise the Lord for His goodness.

BOTTLE DRIVE The SERVE Team will be having a bottle drive on Thursday, May 6! Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you need your bottles picked up!

ALL SENIORS are invited to enjoy a day at the Calgary Zoo – Wednesday, May 19th. We are planning on leaving the church at 9.00am and hope to be home by 6.00pm. \$40 will pay for the trip and ticket to the Zoo and a guided tour. Please reply to Eveline VanderSchee @ 403.885.4387 or Pastor Herman @ 403.342.8870 by May 5th. “ALL are invited whether you think you are a senior or not!”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help clean the church grounds. Pastor Gary, among others, will be working on May 7 & 8. Call or email the church office before Friday if you can volunteer a few hours or more.

FIRST CRC SLOWPITCH TEAM is looking for a few players this season. The team plays Tuesdays and Thursday evenings starting this week. Anyone interested can contact Tyler Westera at 403.885.4093.

BRIDAL SHOWER Ladies, please join us on May 11 for a bridal shower for Rachel Konynenbelt. The

shower begins at 7.00pm. Please RSVP to Sue Elgersma or Yvonne Prins.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – JULY 5-9

We are excited to once again have the opportunity to host VBS for children ages 4 to Grade 6 of our community. Our theme this year is “Hero Headquarters-where kids join forces with God.” VBS is always a fun week as we work together to serve our community. Opportunities to serve include: teacher, classroom helper, early morning activities, kitchen, drama, nursery, data base, crafts, games, registration, sound, and power point. We encourage all youth entering Grade 7 and higher to be involved! We would love to hear any ideas you might have for enhancing our program. To volunteer or for more info, please contact Michelle Driedger 403-309-8855 or Connie Sykkes 403-340-8373. Looking forward to hearing from you and working with you as together we share the good news with children of our community!

NEWSLETTERS available today at the kiosk in the west hallway: Witteveen Newsletter

LOOKING AHEAD....

May 30, 6.00p – “Hymn Sing” This will conclude our evening services for this season.

June 13 – Chancel Choir Concert

Youth Happenings....

-***Acts of Light*** drama team will **NOT** meet on Wed, May 5th. Our last evening for this ministry year is Wednesday, May 12th.

-***Young Adults Retreat*** for all young adults in Classis Alberta North will take place on the weekend May 28-30 in Jasper. The cost per person is \$100.00. You will be staying at the Amethyst Lodge in Jasper. The speaker is Ryan Pedde of Bethel CRC in Edmonton and the worship team is “North of Tomorrow,” a group of young men from Lacombe. Check out www.canyouthministry.com for further details (activities, schedule etc.) including a poster and registration form. Registrations must be in by May 10th. Contact Cathy if you are interested in going!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

RED DEER MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION has made a commitment to be in prayer weekly for a Christian organization in the City of Red Deer. In this way we are showing our unity and support for each other. This week our prayer is for CrossRoads Church.

THE ANNUAL RUN FOR THE SON fundraiser for the Christian Motorcyclists Association of Canada is once again underway. If you would like more information and/or would like to make a donation, please speak to either Ed or Marian Warkentin after the worship service or you can call @403.346.0134. We will make sure we are available at a table close to the library area. Thank you for your support in this ministry.

SHALOM CELEBRATES An evening to celebrate God's faithfulness, May 16, 2010 – 7.00p at Kentwood Alliance Church. Refreshments to follow. Guest speaker, Ian Hartley; music by Jeff Lehman, Dallas Lundell, and Dave Grob; and update information and opportunities to partner with Shalom Counselling. More info on the bulletin board.

SONRISE CRC OF PONOKA celebrates 25 years of ministry – May 29-30. Lunch and program at Ponoka Christian School, Saturday at 11.00a. Special service at Sunrise, Sunday, 10.30a. All friends and former members invited. See bulletin board for more info.

IN INDIA, Hasita's home was an unhappy, chaotic one. Her parents spent what little money they earned on alcohol. Most nights Hasita had to listen to alcohol-fuelled arguments. Her only escape was a Children's Bible Club. The joy and peace Hasita experienced during the club meetings was nothing like the anger and tension that ruled at home. When Hasita confided in the club leader about her troubles at home, the teacher and all of Hasita's fellow club members got down on their knees to pray for her family. Before long, Hasita was telling her club friends about Jesus' answer to their prayers! Her parents had stopped drinking and weren't arguing as much. Hasita told her parents about Jesus, and how He died on the Cross for their sins. Now, Hasita's whole family is following Jesus! Thank God for the faith of children! The Bible League of Canada, www.bibleleague.ca

CRWRC-DRS Responds to Spring Storms - CRWRC-DRS is responding to devastating storms in North America this spring. Volunteers arrived in Rhode Island this week, and managers are in contact with other Mississippi tornado responders. Please undergird these efforts with prayer and financial support. Your gift will help residents who survived floods and tornadoes in April, and can be given online at www.crwrc.org, by phone at 1-800-730-3490, or by cheque designated "Spring Storms 2010."

FROM PASTOR HERMAN'S DESK There are those who think the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath while the God of the New Testament is a God of love. That's because in the New Testament we read so

much about how the love of God constrained him to send his Son, Jesus the Christ, to suffer and die for sinners so that sinners could be saved from their sin and trouble.

However, Jesus became angry too! Just think of the way he treated those that bought and sold in the temple (Mt. 21.12ff)! Those people were doing a service for the temple -- the worshippers needed animals to sacrifice and money to pay the temple tax and it was much too cumbersome to take the sacrificial animals all the way from their homes and the temple tax had to be paid in temple currency. So, those that bought and sold in the temple were needed!

Why then did Jesus become so angry with them? Because they and the people who worshipped in the temple were only interested in doing their "religious duties" - - bringing their sacrifices and paying their temple tax and that was it. How about the greater part of God's law, like caring for the widows, the orphans, the poor, the lepers, the blind and the lame, the unemployed, the homeless? Such matters were ignored by the very people who thought that they were "faithful worshippers" of the Lord because they carried out their "religious duties."

When we look back at the anger of God in the Old Testament, it's the very same problem. Just read Isaiah 1.10-17! The Lord had no use for their rituals of worship because they forgot their main calling to bless the people around them. That theme is repeated over and over again throughout the books of the Old Testament prophets. God is not at all pleased with the kind of religiosity that is faithful to the performance of religious rituals while ignoring the mandate he has given his people to "bless the world."

And that brings us to our own day. We may easily think of ourselves as "faithful Christians." After all, we go to church; we pay for the operation of our church's ministries by contributing to the budget and to various other worthwhile causes. We read the Bible at regular times and we pray before and after meals, etc. Wonderful! But are we reaching out to the forgotten people in our land and in our world? Are we seeking to bless those who are in desperate need? That's our calling and if we're not doing that, our religious rituals are worthless and the Lord is angry with us. Something awesome to think about, isn't it?
-- Pastor Herman

Today's Laugh

"Cookie Calories"

A father took his young daughter to the grocery store to help him buy groceries. In addition to the healthy items on his wife's carefully prepared list, the two of them returned home with a package of sugar-filled cookies.

"Why in the world did you buy those?" his wife asked. "You know they aren't good for you!"

"Oh, but don't worry, honey, these cookies have one-third less calories than usual in them," the husband replied.

The wife looked all over the package but couldn't find any claims to that fact, so she asked, "What makes you think that?"

"We ate about a third of the box on the way home."
(you go dad! – Ed.)

Birthday Greetings!

May	4	Carlie Stange
	6	Aaron Curry Jonathan Drok Ava Kooiman Coralea Forbes
	7	Arlene Oosterhoff Deon Badenhorst Bob Forbes

Stewardship notes....

Today's Tithes and Offerings:

First Church Ministry Budget
Noah's Ark Playschool

Future Offerings:

May 9 – Rehoboth

May 16 – Ministry Shares

This week at First Church...

Today	6.00p	Evening Gathering
Tues	9.30a	Coffee Break
	7.30p	Evening Coffee Break
Wed	9.00a	Adult Day Program
	10.00a	Wine & Roses
	12.30p	KEYS
	7.30p	Education Team
	7.30p	Youth Band rehearsal
	9.00p	Soliloquy rehearsal
Thurs	7.30p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Fri	7.30p	Soliloquy Concert
Sunday	10.00a	Morning Worship

Library Hours: Tuesday: 9.30a – 11.30a
Sunday's – after am worship services

Check the church web site: www.firstcreddeer.org for current information.

Serving next week....

Greeter: Bas van der Hoek

Helping Hands: Jesse Mlynarski

Coffee: Pete/Inez Pierik

Nursery: Janet Grabe, Jane Sanguin