



Today as you walked into church you were met with a Ministry Fair. The narthex is filled with tables, booths and displays of many ministries of the church. I hope you have or will take time today, this week or next Sunday to look through them. See what this organization called First Lutheran Church is doing.

Maybe you will be surprised that there is a shawl ministry, a soup kitchen, a safety committee, an altar guild, something called a lectern that people stand at, a property ministry, faith formation and tiny tots. You may see some displays that intrigue you and you find yourself looking at them in more depth.

Today, with no pastors here but a community or communion of believers gathered might be a good day to “Appreciate the Church”. Here in a building that enables many ministries and programs so that you may come to realize how important this organization called a church is. This could be a day that our eyes are opened to how important and powerful a church as an organization is. This could be a day that we emphasize that we really love being a part of a church. This could be a day when you hear a call to “Join the Wonder” of what God is doing and you say, “Yes, I will join the wonder or I will continue to join the wonder of what God is doing here at First Lutheran.”

It is easy and somewhat natural to take for granted our church. Today, we take time to appreciate the church and think about how we are a part of it. Today we can take time to realize that the church is a building and pastors and music and gatherings and teaching and supporting one another. And it is also an ongoing experience of people gathered around our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul in Romans 10 shares the importance of church: People gathered because someone was sent; the message was spoken; people listened; the Holy Spirit breathed life into these people and a church, a gathering or a communion of saint—forgiven sinners—was created and we are touched by its presence as well as being a part of it that reaches out to invite others.

Let us “appreciate our church” today, tomorrow and unto the time we enter the Kingdom of God in all its fullness. Amen