“Books are a very important way to knowledge and to self-improvement... The provision of a National Library Service in Tanzania means that ... knowledge is made available to all our literate citizens and through them to people who have not yet learned to read.”
—Tanzania’s first president, Julius Nyerere, 1967

As babies, we chew and drool on our tiny board books. As toddlers, we color and rip the pages of our beloved nightly readers. By ages six or seven, we are reading and have graduated into a new world of wonder and discovery.

Over the course of our lifetimes, there are few activities on which we will spend more time than reading. We read to learn, work, escape, entertain, evolve, explore, and connect. From our morning newspapers to our letters, e-mails, favorite paperback novels, computers, and Kindles to our nightstand piles of literature and magazines; from Shakespeare, Sartre, Shelley, and Salinger to social psychology, sports, science, and everything in between, the written word is as essential to our lives as water, food, and shelter.

Now imagine a world where there are few, if any, written words. There are no books, no magazines, no newspapers, no Internet, and no textbooks. Imagine it. When most of us are hyperlinked and “content-ed out” beyond reason, is this even possible?

Welcome to Ngongongare Village in the Arusha District of northern Tanzania. Here, as it is in so many other impoverished outlying communities across the continent, there are few, if any books. Schools are overwhelmed with too many students, too few teachers (an average of one to every 45 students, according to the UNESCO EFA 2000 Assessment Tanzanian Country Report), and even fewer textbooks. A report by the non-profit organization Textbooks for Tanzania states, “It is not uncommon for a class of 40 to share a single textbook.” The Newton-Tanzania Collaborative that operates under the Do Something umbrella estimates a textbook to student ratio of 1 to 80. Texts that do exist are often decades old, filthy, and falling apart. To keep them from disintegrating altogether, teachers often keep them under lock and key, pulling them out only to copy their contents on blackboards for masses of children to memorize or, if lucky, to copy down on scraps of paper.

This article was published at Africa.com
Meeting called to order by Dr. Lee Lamberty at 7:00pm

Opening Devotions: Pastor Frank H. Fitch III

Congregational member's forum: None present

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion made to approve the November minutes. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Election of Officers: President: Dr. Lee Lamberty; Vice-President: Mark Briley; Treasurer: Ken Glass; Secretary: Jody Hill

Committee Reports: Most committees had not met recently, so only had new information on a few committees.

- **Finance (Dr. Lee Lamberty, Ken Glass):** Discussed the Finance report for January 2014. January 2014 actual $15,466 compared to January 2013 $18,240. Discussed that 2013 ended in the black mainly due to a large gift in December.
- **Christian Ed/Youth & Family (Kim Aden):** None
- **Christian Outreach (Ashley Aloi):** Discussed having a yard sale along with a car service day (bring your car in to check oil, etc.) and possibly a car wash on April 5, 2014.
- **Foundation (Dr. Lee Lamberty):** None
- **Library (Pastor Frank Fitch):** None
- **Mutual Ministry I (Pastor Frank Fitch):** None
- **Preschool (Dr. Lee Lamberty, Ken Glass, Mark Briley):** Discussed having Tom Clements come to Preschool and talk about being on TV (consider it good advertisement for the Preschool which now meets 5 days each week)
- **Property (Jerry Jensen, Mark Briley):** Discussed estimate to re-key all church locks from Al's Lock and Safe, approved. Discussion on video camera options for church door, tabled until next meeting.
- **Stewardship (Possible volunteer to lead):** None
- **Worship & Music (Lori Evans, Ashley Aloi):** None

Old Business:

Wish lists from committees-
Bishop Maas accepted an invitation to Preach/worship at FELC on December 14, 2014

New Business:

- Need 2-3 representatives for the Nebraska Synod Assembly May 29-June 1 in Fremont.
- Discussed ways to involve the youth in the church by appointing youth as a non-voting member of the council. No vote taken, need to bring up to youth.
- Pastor will be out of town March 15 and 16, 2014. Pastor Meysing will cover.
- Discussed changing the meeting day to Thursday at 7pm. All present agreed that would be acceptable.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45pm

Next meeting to be the third Thursday, March 20, 2014

FULL MINUTES AVAILABLE AT CHURCH OFFICE.

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**What is Lent?**

As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of simplicity and preparation. The Principal themes of lent are: Penitence - Baptismal renewal - Prayer - Fasting - service - Confession of sin rooted in the promise of God that comes through the cross of Christ.

The Color of the Season is Purple which suggests somberness and solemnity. In short, Lent is a season of penitence. Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus’ forgiveness. Make the practice of observing Lent at First Lutheran a part of your preparation for the celebration of Easter and our ultimate gift!
If you would like to provide flowers for a “special occasion”, “in honor of”, “in memory of” or “to the Glory of God”, please pick up a form in the office. The cost is $35.00 for one pair of bouquets.

ALTAR FLOWERS:
OPEN SUNDAYS in 2014

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Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014 to April 9, 2014
Wednesdays during Lent

Fastnacht Meal:
Pancakes and Sausage
March 4, 2014 6:00 PM

Worship Lenten Services
with Soup & Bread
11:30 AM WELCA Lunch
12:15 PM Lenten Service
6:00 PM Lenten Meal
7:00 PM Lenten Service

After 7PM Worship service: Bible Study with Pastor Frank

Thank you for allowing the friends and family of my father, Steve Ramm to honor and celebrate his life. The service you organized helped bring peace to our broken hearts. My father was a man of faith but regretted his distance from the church. Thank you for your ministries and for granting closure.

~God Bless, Stephanie and Family

My thanks for the cup with the pretty flowers and to Carol who brought them.

~Delphine Luenenborg
**First Communion**

If you know of a child who is in 5th grade, 10 years old or older that would like to partake, please have them contact the office. Must attend one class on April 6 or April 13 at 9:30 AM.

**First Communion will be on April 20, 2014, Easter Sunday.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Lesson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfiguration of our Lord</td>
<td>Exod 24:12-18</td>
<td>Psalm 2</td>
<td>2 Peter 1:16-21</td>
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<td>Gen 12:1-4a</td>
<td>Psalm 121</td>
<td>Rom 4:1-5, 13-17</td>
<td>John 3:1-17</td>
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<td>Exod 17:1-7</td>
<td>Psalm 95</td>
<td>Rom 5:1-11</td>
<td>John 4:5-42</td>
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<td>1 Sam 16:1-13</td>
<td>Psalm 23</td>
<td>Eph 5:8-14</td>
<td>John 9:1-41</td>
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<td>Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:15 am &amp; 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 8:15 Ryan Baptism 9:15 Donuts/coffee 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Confirmation 9:30 Choir Praise Band</td>
<td>10:00 Prayer 1:00 Bible Study 6:00 Christ. Ed. Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Miriam Circle</td>
<td>1:00 Quilts/Library 6:00 Pancakes and Sausages 6:30 Yoga (West) 6:00 PM Fastnacht Meal</td>
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<td>First Sunday in Lent 8:15 am &amp; 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:15 Donuts/coffee 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Confirmation 9:30 Choir Praise Band Sending Communion Gideon’s at the services</td>
<td>10:00 Prayer 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
<td>1:00 Quilts/Library 2:00 Bingo at Centennial 6:30 Yoga</td>
<td>1:00 Library mtg. 1:00 Quilts 5:30 H.H Bells 6:30 BS Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Sunday in Lent 8:15 am &amp; 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:15 Donuts/coffee 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Confirmation 9:30 Choir Praise Band</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day 10:00 Prayer Noon Cardiac 1:00 Bible Study 6:30 Ruth Circle 6:30 Interchurch Reserve 7:00 Boy Scout</td>
<td>9:00 Adah Circle at Airport Inn Noon Finance 1:00 Quilts/Library 2:00 Centennial Communion 3:00 Buffalo Bill Communion 6:30 Yoga</td>
<td>Praise Band 5:30 Gym/kitchen use 6:30-8:30 F.L.Y.</td>
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<td>Third Sunday in Lent 8:15 am &amp; 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:15 Donuts/coffee 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Confirmation 9:30 Choir Praise Band Noon-8PM Sanctuary &amp; East Kitchen Reserved</td>
<td>10:00 Prayer 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
<td>1:00 Quilts/Library 1:00 Hearing Imp 6:30 Yoga</td>
<td>Praise Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:15 am &amp; 10:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:15 Donuts/coffee 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Confirmation 9:30 Choir Praise Band Noon-8PM Sanctuary &amp; East Kitchen Reserved</td>
<td>10:00 Prayer 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
<td>1:00 Quilts/Library 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Praise Band</td>
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**March**

- **11:30 AM Webb Funeral @ FELC lunch following**
- **5:30PM Worship/Communion**

**Gideon’s**

**Spring Forward**

**Newsletter Deadline**

**Salvation Army Soup Supper**
Women’s Board met Wednesday, February 5th at 9:30 a.m. Betty K. opened the meeting with prayer. Attendance: Adah – 2; Esther/Lois – 2; Miriam – 0; Ruth – 1; Other – 0 Next Board Meeting will be first Wednesday, March 5th at 9:30 a.m.

**January Secretary Report January Treasurer Report:** Motion to approve Sec. and Treas. reports made by Loretta. Seconded by Mary. Approved.

We cleared $1076.71 for the Turkey Dinner. This included $500 supplementary funds from Thrivent. Motion made by Joan to pay Betty K $86.99 for groceries for Interchurch Reserve. Seconded by Mary. Approved. We cleared $64.43 on that dinner.

**Correspondence:** Thank you received from Alice Knox, Mosaic, The Connection, and NLOM. Other correspondence: Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, Card Catalog.

**Work group report:** Thursday group tied 8 quilts and Tuesday ladies 2 quilts. 28 quilts have been completed for 2014.

**Winter retreat** report was given by Tammy. We will consider donating to the “Katie Fund”.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Autumn Retreat:** Continue gathering information.

**March 6th Hot Potluck 6:30** Dr. Baxter will present the program about his trips overseas to fit people with glasses. Bring old glasses for him, as they use these glasses for those who need them. Place them in the basket at the office or the one in the vestibule. Devotions: Esther/Lois; Hostess: Ruth. We will not collect items for Bridge of Hope.

**Bingo**
March 11th – Group #3: Donna Effenbeck, Jan George, Mary Sue Grabenstein, Norm Grabenstein, and Arleen Petersen.

**Lenten Soup and Bread luncheon:** March 5 and April 9 board, March 12, Miriam; March 19 Ruth; March 26 Adah; April 2 Esther/Lois. Luncheons served from 11:30 to 12:15. Menu: two kinds of soup and bread.

**New Business:** Mother/Daughter/Friend Luncheon Sat May 10th. Celebration of Faith, Family, and Friends.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Joan Johansen, Secretary
Choice dollars to First Lutheran Church by logging onto www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice. If you are a Thrivent member, you can designate your Choice dollars to First Lutheran. Contact one of the other members of the committee: Walt and Ardith Woolson, Joan Johansen or Betty Knepke. We are open to suggestions as to how to use this money.

We have given back to God - To fulfill the mission and ministry of First Ev. Lutheran Church, as we seek to reach out to others with Jesus, we require-

General Budget Offering: $24,218/month.

Month to date summary as of 1/31/2014:
- 2014 Annual Budget: $290,613
- We have given back to God: $22,401
- Expenses: $15,466
- Offerings: $24,218
- Shortfall: $6,935

Thank you to all members who have designated Thrivent Choice dollars to First Lutheran.

The Thrivent Choice committee has been sharing the gifts given to First Ev. Lutheran Church.

**Note:** Easter: April 2014, March 2013

**Year-To-Date Summary as of 1/31/2014:**
- Offerings: $8,752
- Expenses: $1,817
- Shortfall: $6,935

**Monthly Summary:** Shortfall $6,935
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:
First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a church of the ELCA. Our mission is “To make Christ known in our love for one another, by service to our neighbor, and in worship of God.”

Worship Services
Saturday Evening:
5:30 PM ~ Worship Service
Sunday Morning:
8:15 AM ~ Traditional Service
10:30 AM ~ Praise Service

Sunday School
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Ages 3 years through High School!

Youth Garage Sale
April 5, 2014
It’s time again to de-clutter your closets and bring any unwanted treasures to FELC for our youth garage sale!

Drop off at FELC any time before April 5th.

WELCA Potluck Dinner
Thursday Evening, March 6th at 6:30 PM
Bring a covered dish or dessert!

Guest Speaker, Dr. Kim Baxter
Dr. Baxter travels to third world countries providing eyeglasses and eye care to those in need.

Please donate any used eye glasses!!
Help someone in a third world country see better!
There will be 2 collection baskets, one in the church office and one in the church Narthex.

WELCA Potluck Dinner
Thursday Evening, March 6th at 6:30 PM
Bring a covered dish or dessert!

Guest Speaker, Dr. Kim Baxter
Dr. Baxter travels to third world countries providing eyeglasses and eye care to those in need.

Please donate any used eye glasses!!
Help someone in a third world country see better!
There will be 2 collection baskets, one in the church office and one in the church Narthex.

Holy Week Schedule
Palm Sunday
April 13, 2014
8:15 & 10:30 AM
Worship w/Communion

Seder Supper
April 17, 2014
6:30 PM

Good Friday Service
April 18, 2014
7:00 PM
Worship w/Communion

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014
8:15 am Worship with Communion
10:30 am Worship with Communion