

FIRST NEWS

A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2015

From the Pastor

by Pastor Bob Iverson

As we reached the end of 2014 I had several folks say to me that they were most ready for the beginning of the new year. In most cases, this meant that the past year was not that kind. Sometimes turning the page can be the best therapy. However, I also had some folks mention that they wished that the year could on and on. I can only assume that the year had been kind to them.

There are many times in the course of life when we wish for change: either a change in circumstances, or a change in the calendar, or even a change in the order of things. I would submit to you that significant change is available to us in any year, at any time.

This possibility of change comes to us as a free gift, through our faith, from Jesus Christ. St. Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians: *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"*

Jesus' work on the cross, frees us from the bonds of sin, allowing us to live redeemed lives. When you think about it, so very often when things seem to be going in a negative direction, our biggest problems come from how we deal with those directions. How we react, internally, to the things happening around and to us can dictate how we feel about life.

The statement made by Paul reminds us that we have been set free by Christ. In this freedom we can experience "being made new" even in the midst of hardship and difficulty. So if I encounter a conflict in a relationship I can, through my relationship to Jesus, be made new – become a new creation – which will help in facing that conflict. If I suffer personal loss, as a new creation I can find incredible ways of dealing with loss, and in discovering support.

I look forward to 2015 mainly because of the new possibilities God has in store for us in this year. And I pray that all who are eagerly awaiting the New Year to turn a new page find, through faith in Christ, that they have become a new creation; and all things are new.

Blessings on Your **New** Year,

Pastor Bob

Our mission: First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to **welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ; **equip** persons with a faith that works in real life; and **send** us in service into the world in Jesus' name.

What's Inside:

Pastor's Article, Pg. 1
Stewardship & Finance/WELCA Pg. 6
Churchwide Info. Pg. 2-3, 4-5, 7-11
Youth Info. Pg. 8

For January calendar, birthdays, serving groups, ushers, & altar guild information, see insert

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M. Sunday Traditional
Worship Service with Communion
9:30 A.M. Coffee Hour
9:45 A.M. Sunday School
10:45 A.M. Sunday Contemporary
Worship Service with Communion

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday:
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

WEBSITE:
www.firstlitchfield.org

Council Highlights

“GOD’S WORK.
OUR HANDS.”

First Evangelical Lutheran
Church Council
2014

PRESIDENT:

Will Dolan

VICE PRESIDENT:

Dave Schwartz

SECRETARY:

Ali Danzeisen

TREASURER:

Carolyn Christensen

Church Council Minutes:

First Lutheran Church, Litchfield, MN

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Our Mission:

“FLC exists to Welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ; Equip persons with a faith that works in real life; and Send us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.”

Council Membership Present:

2015: Ali Danzeisen, Dave Schwartz, David Johnson

2016: Carolyn Christensen, Will Dolan, Dick Farmer, Derek Isaacson

2017: Joe Gaulrapp, Ramona Lohse, Lois Volinkaty

Opening the Meeting:

Devotions by Will Dolan

Secretary Report: motions were made to accept the report as written.

Treasurer Report: Carolyn Christensen made a motion to accept the report as written; Dick Farmer seconded the motion; motion passed; report placed on file.

Conducting Business:

1. Annual Meeting--The annual meeting was set for January 25, 2015. The pre-informational meeting will be Jan. 11th at the 9:30 coffee hour. This information will be published in the January newsletter and in the bulletins on Jan. 11th & 18th.

2. Pastor’s Comments: **Pastor Bob Iverson-**

- **Transition Team:** There are 10 people on the transition team and they have met and set up the Healthy Congregations meetings in January.
- **Radio Ministry:** Pastor Bob will be starting regular radio broadcasts in December.
- **Child Protection:** The child protection meetings are underway for the volunteers in our church to view our policy and a video.

Pastor Bob talked about growing the excitement in our missions to grow our giving.

3. Parish Nursing-- Carolyn Christensen talked about the parish nursing program and that she already has some volunteers to start organizing a Wellness at First Program.

4. Social Ministry-- Lois Volinkaty reported that her team is sending packages to the members of First Lutheran that are military personal. The package includes a devotional book, a thank you letter and a water enhancement. It was also reported that the social ministry team and the evangelism team will stay as two separate teams for now.

5. Nursery-- The Christian Ed. team reported that the nursery will no longer be staffed during the Sunday morning worship services but will be open and available for parents to use with their children if needed.

6. Property Team-- Dick Farmer from the property team reported that the fire escape steps repair on the south side of the church are half done and will continue as weather permits.

The new windows are still being installed.

7. There was some discussion about making sure the volunteers running the coffee hour each Sunday are reminded that they need to wait until at least 10:45 before starting to put things away and clean up. This will give the people coming to the

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES:

Christian Education:

Ali Danzeisen

Youth & Family:

Derek Isaacson

Stewardship & Finance:

Will Dolan

Carolyn Christensen

Winton Nelson

Social Ministry:

Jen Madsen

Lois Volinkaty

Evangelism:

Joe Gaulrapp

Endowment/Memorial:

Dave Schwartz

Property:

Dick Farmer

David Johnson

Worship & Music:

Ramona Lohse

Personnel:

Will Dolan

second service an opportunity to partake before they go into church. The monthly chairs will be informed so they can pass this info along.

8. There was also discussion about getting the sidewalks cleaned on a timelier basis. Pastor Bob said that he would take care of organizing this.
9. Endowment Team -- Dave Schwartz reported that the endowment team would be paying for the expenses for the community dinner that was held in early November. They will also be covering the cost of the materials for the Healthy Congregations meetings in January.
10. Worship Team — The job opening for a praise worship director is currently being posted. There was also discussion about looking towards electronic music for the future with the worship team.

New Business

1. Pastor Bob reported that our church will be providing our facility free of charge to the Heartland Head Start preschool program in January and February who will be putting on cooking classes for families from this program. These classes will teach families to cook healthy meals on a budget. These classes are also supported by the Salvation Army and the U of M Extension.
2. Meeker County Holiday Project- There was discussion about having the cash offerings from the 3 advent worship services be donated to the Meeker County Holiday Project this year. The envelope giving would not be included in this. A motion was made by Carolyn Christensen and seconded by Winton Nelson to accept this. A vote was taken and the motion passed.
3. The nominating committee will be asking people to be on the ballot for council members at the annual meeting.

Closing the meeting:

Dates to remember:

- Annual meeting January 25, 2015
- Executive Team Meeting- Dec. 2, 2014 at 5:30 pm
- Team Meetings- Dec. 2, 2014 at 6:00 pm for church decoration with meetings to follow
- Council Meeting- Dec. 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Closing and prayer requests

Derek Isaacson made a motion to adjourn; Winton Nelson seconded the motion; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Cottington (filling in for Ali Danzeisen)

Church Council Minutes:

First Lutheran Church, Litchfield, MN

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Our Mission:

“FLC exists to Welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ; Equip persons with a faith that works in real life; and Send us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.”

Council Membership Present:

2015: Ali Danzeisen, Dave Schwartz, David Johnson

2016: Carolyn Christensen, Will Dolan, Dick Farmer, Derek Isaacson

2017: Joe Gaulrapp, Ramona Lohse, Winton Nelson, Lois Volinkaty

Opening the Meeting:

Devotions by Dave Schwartz

Secretary Report: David Johnson made a motion to accept the report as amended; Lois Volinkaty seconded the motion; motion passed; amended report placed on file.

Treasurer Report: Winton Nelson made a motion to accept the report as written; David Johnson seconded the motion; motion passed; report placed on file.

Continued on next page

Continued

Conducting Business:

Pastor's Report

Pastor Bob Iverson:

He has continued to record KLFD radio shows that play at 7:55am on Monday mornings.

There is a group of 10 people on the Transition team. Carolyn Christensen is the chairperson of this team. Their first task is to conduct the "Healthy Congregations" workshops which will be coming up in January.

Advent services have averaged around 100 people in attendance and have gone well.

Planning Christmas Eve services. The first two services will be the same and the late night service will be similar but different.

Hoping to narrow down the member count to a more accurate number in 2015.

New Business

Cub Scouts Pack 353:

Jesse Knudsen and Tim Cook came to share more about the Cub Scout organization with the council First Lutheran serves as the charter for Cub Scout Pack 353

Would like to have a better partnership between the Cub Scouts and First Lutheran Church as the charter church of Cub Scout Pack 353. There will be further discussion on this topic as a council.

There will be a section of the newsletter that shares about the Cub Scouts.

Wellness at First:

There will be an informational meeting for anybody in the healthcare field that would be interested in working with the "Wellness at First" program on Monday, January 19, 2015.

2015 Budget and Annual Meeting:

Winton Nelson made a motion to approve the proposed 2015 budget; Dick Farmer seconded the motion; motion passed.

A pre-annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 9:30am.

The annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 25, 2015. The first service will take place at 8:30am, the annual meeting will be held at 9:30am, and the second service will be at 10:45am.

Team Reports

Property Team:

There have been concerns about the \$50 custodial fee for events held in the building. The property team and council will discuss this issue further.

Signs in the Yard: Derek Isaacson made a motion to allow signs in addition to the digital sign for special events to be placed in the front yard. Winton Nelson seconded the motion; motion passed.

Preschool and Boiler Project: These projects are nearly complete.

Worship and Music:

Decorations: The team is looking for people to form a team to coordinating decorations for Christmas.

Closing the Meeting:

Dates to remember:

Team Meetings – January 6, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.—remove church decorating

Executive Team Meeting – January 6, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m.

Council Meeting – January 20, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Closing & Prayer

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Ali Danzeisen

****NOTE: Minutes are unofficial until approved at the next church council meeting.***

Churchwide

Congregational Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 25, 2015

The First Lutheran annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend to share in a review of the past year's ministry, and a look ahead to the coming year of mission. The meeting will include election of congregation leaders and 2015 budget approval.

Annual Meeting Preview – Sunday, January 18, 2015

There will be a preview of the annual meeting on Sunday, January 18, at 9:30 a.m. during coffee hour in Chilstrom hall. The annual report will be available, and presentation of the ministry budget will be made.

Lucia Breakfast Thank You

Dear Friends:

Another Lucia Breakfast has come and gone and it's time for us to thank the many members who helped to make the 2014 Lucia Breakfast a success. Blessings and many thanks to all the volunteers who came very early and stayed very late, the decorating committee who set a warm mood of celebration and beauty, the many members who donated the delicious food and treats, and to the confirmation students who did an AMAZING job of working hard and showing the spirit of Christmas and giving! We also thank and give our appreciation to Sparboe Eggs for donating the eggs and Bruce Cottington for donating the milk! A huge thank you also goes to Jackie Kraushaar, Pastor Bob, and Scott Nelson, all who played an important role in helping to make the event a success. Lastly, to all of you who came and dined with us, we thank you!

Most Sincerely,

Lisa Barto, Constance Nelson, and Sue Fenton

Many Thanks to the Lucia Breakfast Decorating Team: Lori Ballard, Lisa Provencher, Jenny Lundin, and Kris Cervin, for your time and generosity in sharing your gifts of decorating. Also Thanks to Turck's Trees for your donation of greenery for decorating. It was truly festive and beautiful.

Pam Radunz, Decorating Team Chair

POSITION OPENING PRAISE AND WORSHIP DIRECTOR

General Description:

This position is to be held by a person of faith who displays music excellence and skills for music leadership who will inspire others to share their gifts.

Responsible to: Lead Pastor

Responsibilities:

- Select music, working with others if desired, in accordance with the worship theme of the day.
- Schedule and lead weekly rehearsals (September – May).
- Purchase music, working within a set budget.
- Recruit and train volunteers to participate as song leaders, soloists, etc.
- Coordinate with sound technicians, as needed. Team with office staff in putting together a weekly worship bulletin.
- Serve as a member of the Worship and Music Team.
- Work with pastor and music leaders in planning and scheduling "extra" services (Lent, Advent, etc.)



Work Expectations:
8 – 10 hours per week.

Compensation:
\$5200 per year

Available:
January 1, 2015

Churchwide



Thank you to the Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Kingdom Company, Men's Group, Ellen Hulterstum, Bea Devereaux, Katie Hulterstum, and Joan Anderson, for sharing your musical talents with us during Sunday Worship on Sunday, December 21. Pictured above are members of the Senior Choir and Ellen Hulterstum, flute, and the bells waiting patiently until their next opportunity to ring.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Did you know? There is a Women's Bible Study on Thursday mornings! We start off with Coffee and Treats at 9:00 a.m., and are currently doing a study of the New Testament History on video which begins about 9:30 a.m., and then a discussion time. It is a very interesting study and lots is being learned. This group meets every Thursday, except the third Thursday of each month, due to the WELCA meeting that day. The next study will be **Thursday, January 8.**

Join us—bring a friend!



Churchwide

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

On Friday – Saturday, January 9th and 10th, and Saturday, January 17th Pastor Bob will be leading a series of “Healthy Congregation” workshops. Our congregational leaders, the Church Council and Transition Team have committed to participate. Every member of the congregation is encouraged attend and participate as well.

The following is a little background on Healthy Congregations: *“Healthy Congregations, Inc.” began as a project initiated in 1996 by Dr. Peter Steinke with funding from Lutheran Brotherhood, and later through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The project developed a series of six workshops highlighting different aspects of healthy community life from a family systems perspective. The workshops are designed precisely for a time of **rapid change**. It is a new way of thinking about both the congregation and its leadership. You will view the congregation as a whole, as an organism, as a system.*

The workshops enable participants to:

- Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission
- Cultivate strong leadership capacities to challenge the congregation
- Learn how to develop healthy patterns of living together in community
- Learn to focus on strength, resources, and options for the future
- Boost confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities
- Learn how to lead with calm and thoughtfulness
- Reflect theologically about relationships
- Move the congregation toward healthy functioning.

The times for the workshops is Friday, January 9, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Saturday, January 10 and 17, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Cost of the workshop is \$20 and includes all materials, snacks, and lunch on each Saturday. Call the church office to reserve a spot.

Youth Info, Etc.

Acolyte and Usher Schedule

Sunday, January 4, 2015

8:30 a.m. Usher — Riley
Acolyte — Kristen
10:45 a.m. Usher — Courtney
Acolyte — Kendra

Sunday, January 11, 2015

8:30 a.m. Usher — Dylan M.
Acolyte — Isaiah
10:45 a.m. Usher — Marlaina
Acolyte — Emily

Sunday, January 18, 2015

8:30 a.m. Usher — Jesse
Acolyte — Alex
10:45 a.m. Usher — Emma
Acolyte — Logan

Sunday, January 25, 2015

8:30 a.m. Usher — Mak
Acolyte — Dylan S.
10:45 a.m. Usher — Dominick
Acolyte — Braedon and Austin

Sunday, February 1, 2015

8:30 a.m. Usher — Kristen
Acolyte — Riley
10:45 a.m. Usher — Kendra
Acolyte — Courtney

Memorials & Gifts

MONETARY GIFTS have been given to the General Fund in memory of Pastor Bob's father, Marlowe Iverson, and Valda Thomas' sister, LuAnn Jurgens, by Bob and Sharon Johnson, Charles and JoAnn Lindstrom, DeWayne and Iona Albright, and Gladys Johnson.

A MONETARY GIFT was given to the General Fund, and the Boiler Fund in memory of Pastor Bob's father, Marlowe Iverson, by John and Shirley Lekander, and Vern and Lil Madson.

MONETARY GIFTS have been given to the General Fund in memory of Pastor Bob's father, Marlowe Iverson, by Aldeen and Idell Kadelbach.

MONETARY GIFTS have been given to the General Fund in memory of LuAnn Jurgens, by John and Shirley Lekander, Dan and Brenda Johnson, and Valda Thomas.

A MONETARY GIFT was given to the Quilting Fund in memory of Arleane Swanson, by the Rachel Circle.

PLEASE KEEP OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Emmanuel Nursing Home: Junice Larson, Opal Allen, JoAnn Costigan

Gloria Dei: Eleanor Berg **Bethany:** Larry Harding, Kathy Zeppelin

Litchfield, in own home: Marian Kronbeck, Grace Kranz, Ethelmae Bates, Ardella Voigt, Robert Putzier

Lincoln Apts: Diane Riebe

Long Prairie: Joyce Eggleston

Gaylord: Oscar Nelson

Rochester: Marilyn Miller

Hutchinson: Orville Winter, Lynette Peterson

Stillwater: George Neperud

Radio Broadcast

Pastor Bob will be offering a weekly "Thought for the Day" on KLFD each Monday at 7:55 a.m.



New Group Forming

Looking for 30 something's/40 something's women to Live your Faith at First.

A new group is starting in January for fellowship, support, fun and learning to live our lives through the Bible.

There will be an organizational get together on Monday, January 12, at 6:30 pm in Chilstrom Hall to talk about putting this group together.

Join us, bring a friend (don't need to be a member of First) Everyone is welcome! Childcare will be available at church.

Questions call or text:

Karla Rick [320.221.3386](tel:320.221.3386) or Judy Hultstrum [320.221.0169](tel:320.221.0169)

See you there!

Churchwide

MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

5:00 P.M.

HOLY WORD THEATER

FEATURING:

A DOG NAMED CHRISTMAS

A heart-warming tale of a young man with a learning disability named Todd McCray ([Noel Fisher](#)) living with his parents in the rural mid-west. The story takes place over a two-week period over the Christmas holidays when the local animal shelter launches an "Adopt a dog for Christmas" program. Todd's unconditional love for animals enables him to embark on an endeavor to ensure that as many dogs as possible get adopted by the local community.

One dog in particular has grabbed Todd's heart and through intermittent flashbacks, viewers slowly discover the reasons for his father's reluctance to fully support Todd's efforts.

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 4, 2015

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship with Communion

Sunday, January 11, 2015

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship with Communion

Sunday, January 18, 2015

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour / Annual Meeting Preview
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship with Communion

Sunday, January 25, 2015

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. - Annual Meeting
9:30 a.m. - Activity for Sunday School kids
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship with Communion



FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Wesley F. Horwath
November 18, 2014
Arleane M. Swanson
December 15, 2014

Please keep their families in
your thoughts and prayers.

PASTOR RICHARD'S RETIREMENT PARTY

Join us on Saturday, January 17, 2015, from 1:00pm-4:00pm at First Lutheran Church in Worthington as we celebrate the ministry of Pastor Richard and Sara Ricker. If you can't be there in person, please send a greeting or story to fleming2@mchsi.com and it will be shared during the program at 2:30pm.



FIRST NEWS is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,
703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by January 15th

For the NEXT ISSUE: February 2015

Email: firstoffice@hutchtel.net

January
15th

Churchwide

Church/WELCA Handbook for 2015

We are in the process of updating the Church/WELCA Handbook for 2015. If you would like your name added to the Prayer Chain (phone or email), Volunteers Who Will Bake for Any Event, or Volunteers on Call for Serving Funerals lists, please contact Jackie in the church office at 693-2487 or Marilyn Swanson at 693-2597. Thanks!

Thank You

Many Thanks to Chuck Eberhard for painting the West wall of the Parlor, and to Chuck and Karen Eberhard for cleaning up the carpet and rearranging the furniture.

GARDEN PRODUCE SHARING TABLE SUCCESSFUL —

Many Thanks to gardeners who shared their extra garden produce this Fall. Many families enjoyed the bountiful supply of fruits and vegetables. It was another successful year and we plan to continue the program next year.

~ Social Ministry Team

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

On the first Sunday of the month, January 4th, a second offering will be taken, where a globe will be passed. This month, the second offering will go to:

Unavailable at Press time.

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

The shopping cart will remain in the Narthex for your non-perishable donations for the Food Shelf. The needs are great within our community and your contributions are greatly appreciated.



THANK YOU

Thank you to the many hands and feet of the November Serving Group for all your donations, help, and support. Special thanks to “the man and ladies” who so willingly assisted our Serving Group when called up for additional help. May your Christmas be especially blest and your New Year the best ever.

Merry Christmas, Peace and God’s Blessings to all!

Dorothy M. Euerle, Chair
November Serving Group

I would like to express my thanks for the beautiful prayer shawl and cross which I received after my entrance to the hospital in September. I received many compliments on it and it kept me very warm. Also, thanks for all the cards, visits, from Pastor Bob and other church members.

Many blessings to you all,
Arlene Poirier

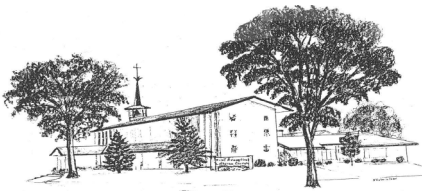
Thank You to all the lesson readers at the early service. It is greatly appreciated your cheerful response to my call each week.

Thank You, David Meidal

GO GREEN!

Please let the church office know if you are interested in viewing the monthly newsletter online. Doing this would save FELC money on printing/postage and you’d help save a tree!





FIRST NEWS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
703 South Sibley Avenue • Litchfield, MN 55355

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit NO. 1
Litchfield, MN
55355

Program Staff:

Bob Iverson, Interim Senior Pastor
pbiverson1@hotmail.com, Cell: 612-396-6504

Gary Cumings, Visitation Pastor

Hannah Cox, Christian Education Director

Jackie Kraushaar, Office Manager
firstoffice@hutchtel.net

Holly Cottington, Bookkeeper/Treasurer
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Jean Hoyer, Financial Secretary
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Bea Devereaux, Organist, Senior Choir, & Bell Choir Director

Marge Hellzen, Contemporary Worship Director

Katie Hulterstrum, Kingdom Company Director

Scott Nelson, Custodian

Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487

LIKE us on Facebook!

MST 2016 — French Toast Breakfast

**Sunday, January 25, 2015
Starts at 7:30 a.m.**



**Join us!
(Annual Meeting Sunday)**

“Wellness at First” —

**Calling all Current & Retired Health Care Workers-
Doctors, Dentists, RNs & LPNS - and Other Service
Providers of First Lutheran – (attorneys, financial and
investment advisors, etc.)**

You are invited to an informational meeting on Monday,
January 19th at 6:30 p.m. in Chilstrom Hall. This informal
meeting is to discuss thoughts, ideas, and opportunities of
what we could promote and provide to the members of
First Lutheran through 2015 and beyond. Become part of
the Wellness Tea at First”.

Contact Carolyn Christensen @ 320-894-9178 with any
questions.