

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule for Fall 2010

- 8:00 a.m. – Traditional liturgical Worship**
- 9:30 a.m. – Contemporary/Praise Worship**
- 10:30 a.m. – Sunday Morning Education Ministry Time**
- 10:45 a.m. – Traditional liturgical Worship**

Sunday, September 12, First Lutheran moves to the Fall Worship Schedule of three services. We continue to worship using a variety of service settings. Bring a friend and come and be nourished in God's Word.

Sunday, September 19, is Rally Sunday. Sunday Morning Education Ministry begins this week at a new time—10:30 a.m. Educational sessions and learning times are planned for all ages. This time change offers the opportunity for worshippers to attend and participate in the worship service they choose. See you there!

There are unlimited ways for you to be involved in worship, music, education, and mission ministries at First Lutheran. Thank you for the many ways that you are God's hands and feet in the kingdom!

Pastor Dave's Article
see page 2

Adult Opportunities
see page 4-5

Mission Life
see page 6

"Children First"
Christian Preschool
see page 8

Vacation Bible
School
see page 9

Youth News
see page 9

Pastor's Article

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Oftentimes when we hear these words, we think there is a catch and we now owe God something. Or we might see pictures or even movies about the cruel punishment Jesus sustained dying for us; being crucified for our salvation and the salvation of the whole world. The intention of the speaker or the message might be for us to feel guilty enough so that we “do the right thing.” But that message isn't the Gospel, the good news. No, that message, originally meant as Gospel, has been twisted into Law.

Lutheran teaching is that the Law kills and the Gospel gives life. The words of Paul from 2 Corinthians are meant as Gospel, as GOOD NEWS. In fact, it is the best news anyone has ever given you! We are to look at this text (and others) as a privilege rather than an obligation. This perspective allows us to truly live life freely. Not in “debt” but in life.

If we were to simply dwell on the “catch” that He died for me and now I must repay him for I owe him, we end up in a vicious circle of always trying to do enough as repayment for eternal life. Is there ever enough? Could we actually ever do enough? Could we ever repay God for the gift we have been given? I think not!

Let's look at it differently – Romans 6:23 says that the gift of eternal life is free. We belong to God because of what he has done for us. He didn't die for us so that we would become his slaves grudgingly or somehow try to work enough to pay back the debt that we owe. No, he died for us

because he loves us and wants to redeem us so we can be with him forever. All that we have is from him. Our very lives are a gift. But remember, that is not law speaking that is Gospel – that is the Good News of salvation. We belong to God! We could never do enough. How we live is in response to that gift!

The author of the 23rd Psalm is not simply resigned to the fact that since the Lord was his shepherd he “might as well make the best of it.” No, he was delighted to announce that “The Lord is my shepherd.” He discovered that God will lead him, protect him and provide for him as no other can or will. There is Joy in the occasion of knowing that we belong to God—The Good Shepherd.

So live your life not out of obligation, but out of a response to the free gift. Then you will live it to the fullest!

See you in church!

In Christ,

Pastor Dave



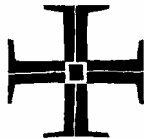
Financial Update

Thank you to all who faithfully contribute to our shared ministry at FLC!

Summer finds many of us traveling and vacationing. Mission and ministry continues here at First. We especially appreciate your mail-in offerings when you are unable to be in worship.

Second quarter giving statements have been mailed. Should you notice any discrepancy on your statement, please contact Sue or Gloria in the church office.

You are also welcome to participate in an electronic funds transfer giving plan, Simply Giving®. Simply Giving is a program sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans which allows you to automate your giving. This benefits First and the giver by ensuring regular giving throughout the year. First Lutheran pays a nominal fee per transaction. Please see Sue or Gloria in the church office to enroll.



Notice to Thrivent Members

Watch your mailbox in August for a mailing from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans about the new Thrivent Choice program. More information about how this new program may benefit First Lutheran and “Children First” Christian Preschool will be available soon.

Thank you to Thrivent Representative, Carlyle Olsen and Thrivent for providing a stewardship piggy bank to each child attending Vacation Bible School at First this year.



Green Fair and Peace Concert at St. Francis Convent

Wednesday, August 4, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

This outdoor event sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls is an evening of ecological awareness with music, food, exhibits, storytelling, other activities, and much more. Many local and state businesses and educational groups will be present. From 6-8 p.m., St. Francis Music Center will present a Concert for Peace. Other local musicians in concert will celebrate music as a universal language that crosses all borders. Pastor Dave is recruiting a few people (young and old) to learn to make balloon animals—they’re always a big hit! Come gather to enjoy, learn and see many local favorites and use these wonderful opportunities to enhance our care for the planet and make our world a better place for all.

Note: First Lutheran Church Council and Commissions did not meet during July. Watch for information and updates next month.

Adult Opportunities



Praise Team Celebration Potluck Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.

If you have provided worship leadership as a part of the praise team, or if you would like to become involved in this ministry in the coming year, you are invited to a Celebration Potluck in Stoltz Hall on Wednesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. Singers, instrumentalists, media/sound operators and families are invited. We'll provide the grilled burgers and brats; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. For more information, contact Becky Nelson at church or at home, 749-2336 or via email at rpnelson@brainerd.net.

Higher Ground Music Festival 2010 Friday-Saturday, August 13-14 Winsted, Minnesota

Come for the sixth Higher Ground Christian Music Festival held in Winsted (45 minutes south of St. Cloud) on Friday and Saturday, August 13 and 14. Headliners for the festival are Chris Tomlin, Steven Curtis Chapman, Mark Schultz, Hawk Nelson, Barlow Girl and many more. Reserved camping is available on site. Kids age 10 and under are free! Tickets are available by phone at 866-821-5151 or online at www.hgmusicfest.com.

Women's Bible Study

We continue the Beth Moore DVD study "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. This study concludes on August 25. For more information, contact Naomi Engel at 632-3167.

Cornerstones

(Seniors age 55 and better ☺)

Are you interested in participating in senior fellowship? Bring a friend and a food item to share and come for potluck lunch. We gather on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 21, at 11:30 a.m. We'll meet in Stoltz Hall to share food, conversation and laughter!

Men's Bible Study Breakfast

All are welcome to come for breakfast and Bible study! We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:15 a.m. Our next meeting time is Wednesday, September 1. Come when you can, leave when you must! Pastor Dave leads this study. Contact him for more information.

Library News

Watch for new books for young and old. There are Christian classics and new authors too. Grow in your faith with a good book. Thank you for supporting the library.

Sunshine Chairperson is Mary Larson. Please call 632-8203 if you know of someone who is ill, hospitalized, etc., so that she may send them a card.

Adult Opportunities

Bible Conversation on the book of Ezekiel Begins Monday, September 13 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Being an adult doesn't mean you have all the answers. In fact, being an adult mean you have tougher questions and need truthful answers. First Lutheran offers Adult Bible Study classes at a variety of times to assist adults learn about and grow in relationship with God and grow in their God given faith.

We go to a store to buy what we think we need, but where do we go when we need spiritual and personal guidance? Being part of an Adult Bible Study conversation gives us encouragement and guidance to cope with the demands of life. So don't hesitate! Jump right in and you will find others who will help you discover God's truth. All are welcome to attend.

Pastor Dave will lead a new conversation and study on the Old Testament book of the prophet Ezekiel. This book is like a multimedia package, a mix of visions, messages, dramas, and poems. Three remarkable visions of God are found in this book, and throughout, one line is repeated: "Then they shall know that I am the Lord."

We meet at church for six sessions on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The first session is Monday, September 13 – See you there!

Holden Village Trip With Luther Crest Bible Camp August 23-September 2

Consider a great Adult Travel Event to beautiful Holden Village. Luther Crest Bible Camp leads this trip to Holden Village, an ELCA renewal center, rooted in the Lutheran tradition. The village is located in a beautiful valley of the Cascade Mountains near Chelan, Washington.

The trip includes a five day, four night stay at Holden Village, comfortable charter bus transportation, 28 meals (4 meals on your own), lodging at six motels, admission to the Medora Musical, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Coulee Dam, Cour d'Alene Cellars and much more!

For more information, contact the church office or Paul Hanson at LCBC at 320-846-2431.

Minnesota Vikings Football 2010 Faith and Family Nights

Saturday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.

Vikings vs. Seattle Seahawks
(order deadline Friday, August 13)

Thursday, September 2, 7:00 p.m.

Vikings vs. Denver Broncos
(order deadline Friday, August 20)

The Minnesota Vikings offer these special tickets at a greatly reduced rate of \$20.00 (normally \$50-83 each) as a show of appreciation to their fans! When you order a ticket, \$5.00 of each ticket price will be donated by the Vikings to the Morrison County Food Shelf—what a great deal!

Tickets are in the upper level of Mall of America Field (metrodome). Orders will be filled on a first come-first served basis, so order quickly, quantities are limited. Ticket order forms are available in the church office. You are responsible for ordering your own tickets. If you are interested in attending the Thursday game, talk to Pastor Dave.

Mission Life

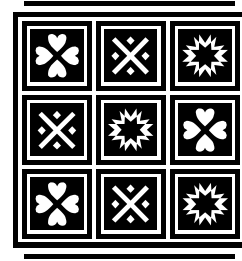


Oasis/Share A Meal Community Paint A Thon Saturday, August 7

Can you spend a Saturday morning helping to paint a home for a local resident? This annual event is a great time to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ right here in our own community. Confirmation students—perhaps you and your mentor will want to use this for your service project. This is a BYOB (Bring Your Own Brush!) event. For more information, call coordinators Jerome and Karen Haaland at 632-8828, or the church office, 632-6667.

Who is My Neighbor? Opportunity:

Do you have a little time to spare to help out a neighbor? Faith in Action, an initiative of Horizon Health, has a few individuals who have requested assistance with lawn mowing, rides to medical appointments, and light house cleaning. Some of these families are First Lutheran members and friends. The gift of assistance allows neighbors to remain safely in their homes. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Michelle at Faith in Action, 468-6451, or the church office, 632-6667. Thank you for giving a hand to a neighbor in need.



Camp Knutson 24rd Annual Quilt Auction Saturday, August 14, 2010

Camp Knutson, nurtures the well-being of persons with special needs in a setting which celebrates God's love for community and creation. In 2009, over 1,000 campers with heart disease, HIV or AIDS, Down syndrome, severe skin diseases, autism or other diseases were served. A quilt from the First Lutheran quilters along with many others will be auctioned. First Lutheran provides assistance on the day of the sale. Your support of the auction is greatly appreciated. If you would like to attend and share a ride, contact Marlene Williams, 632-4290.

Luther Crest Scramble A Fun(d) Raising Golf Tournament Monday, August 16 Camp Changes Lives!

Why not gather a foursome for this fun(d) raising "Best Ball" tournament on the course at Lake Geneva, Alexandria. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.; "shotgun start" tee time is at noon. Supper will be served at Geneva Grill at 5:00 p.m. The fee is \$70.00 per person covers green fees, cart rental, and meal. You are encouraged to give a gift in support of Luther Crest at this event. Last year's tournament made a significant impact on the camp's ministry. To register, call the church office, 632-6667.

Children's Choir

**Informational Meeting:
Wednesday, September 1**

**Rehearsals begin:
Wednesday, September 15**

All kids in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are welcome to sing with the children's choir. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 15 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Transportation from Lincoln and Lindbergh Elementary schools to First Lutheran Church will be provided. Parents/guardians are invited to an informational meeting at church on Wednesday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m. Parents will be asked to register for this singing opportunity. For more information, contact Becky Nelson at 749-2336.

Welcome Three-Year-Olds!

Each year we help prepare our three-year-olds for Sunday School by inviting them and their parents to participate in an orientation gathering. This year's gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. Youth and their parents will visit their classroom, meet their teacher, and get acquainted with one another. Any child who is three years old by September 1 is welcome. Three-year olds will receive the gift of a story Bible at worship on Sunday, August 29. Please enroll your child to ensure they receive a Bible. If you have questions, please call Gail Hittesdorf at church, 632-6667, or at home, 632-2218.

Sunday School: Fall 2010

The Sunday Morning Education Ministry team is actively planning for the upcoming Sunday School year. Put your time, talents, and love for the Lord into action and sign up to be a TREK crew leader, teach a learning station, or teach a class. Watch the gathering space at church for more information. The fun begins on Sunday, September 19. Let your light shine!

**Registration for
Sunday Morning Ministry,
age 3-grade 12
Confirmation, grades 2-11
Youth Groups, grades 3-12**

Parents of children ages 3 years – 12th grade: Watch your mail this month for a mailing on Education & Youth Ministry for the coming year. Registration and health forms for kids, and list of opportunities for adults to work with youth, will be included. Please note that registration is required each year for participation in Education and Youth Activities. Additional forms will be available in the church office or on the church web-site at www.flclittlefalls.org. Forms should be returned to First Lutheran as soon as possible. See the mailing for more details!

Confirmation Ministries

Third Grade: Parents and youth entering third grade are invited to attend a Bible overview meeting on Wednesday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss the course on Family Devotions to begin in September. Youth will receive their Bibles during worship on Sunday, August 22.

Sixth Grade: During the week of Vacation Bible School (August 2-6), youth entering seventh grade in the fall will be studying the Lord's Prayer with Pastor Dave. A letter containing more information about this class has been sent.

Tenth Grade: Keep working on class requirements and mentor activities – the summer will fly by quickly!

"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from the Preschool,

Excitement is building as we prepare to welcome children into the classroom for the tenth year of "Children First" Christian Preschool!

This fall we offer the following classes.

- ☺ *Noah's Animals*—for children 33 months to three years old, meeting Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- ☺ *Jesus' Gems*—for four and five year olds, meeting Monday and Wednesday in two sessions, 9:00-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:00 p.m. Openings remain in the afternoon class. The morning class is full. Register soon!
- ☺ Please encourage interested families to inquire and register early to allow time for the necessary paperwork and/or medical appointments to be completed. Registration forms are available on the church website, www.flclittlefalls.org, or at church in the gathering space.

If you are able to financially assist a family with tuition expense, please let us know.

Welcome and thank you to the Preschool Advisory Team members. New members for 2010-2011 are Patti Eggerth and Michelle Sinclair. Returning members are Debra Yliniemi-Ahlin, Denise Dempsey, Katie Kaddatz, Jennifer Neu, and Annette Smieja. Their contributions of time, talents, support and prayer are a blessing to "Children First" Christian Preschool. Thank you!

Upcoming dates for preschool families or those interested:

- ☞ Green Fair Folk Festival, Wednesday, August 4, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Francis Campus, Little Falls. Visit the preschool booth at this free family-friendly event that promotes a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.
- ☞ Parent Orientation, Thursday, September 9, 6:30 p.m. at the church. At least one preschool parent, guardian, or grandparent must be in attendance. Given the importance of the information covered, we ask for all parents involvement and request that no children attend.
- ☞ Arts and Crafts Fair Booth, Saturday-Sunday, September 11-12 (Broadway and 2nd Street)
- ☞ Classes begin for students, Monday-Tuesday, September 13-14, class sessions on these days are 1 ½ hours with a parent/guardian attending.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." *Matthew 19:14*

In Christ's Service,
Gail Hittesdorf, Director, (320) 632-2218
childrenfirst@charterinternet.com

Thank you!

Thank you to Becky Nelson and April Kiffmeyer for leading two weeks of Summer Preschool Day Camp. 16 children ages 3-5 enjoyed learning about how God made them special, and about their five senses through stories, craft projects, puppets, songs and games. What a fun time. ☺

Vacation Bible School

Watch for it:

See You at the Pole

Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 a.m.

See you at the Pole™ is all about prayer. It's about you coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole. Come and pray for your school, friends, families and the world.



“High Seas Expedition”

“Exploring the Mighty Love of God”

August 2-6, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

VBS Mission Project

Operation Backpack

Our VBS Mission project this year is “Operation Backpack.” We will collect backpacks (new or gently used) and the school supplies needed to fill them. Backpacks will be distributed to local schools for area kids in need. Supply lists are available on the gathering space bulletin board. Donations may be brought to the collection box in the gathering space. Thank you for your support!

VBS is for kids ages 4 through 6th grade. Be sure to invite a friend! Get ready to board the ship where kids will learn that God’s Word is true...is comforting...is surprising...is life-changing...and is for everyone. Let’s Go!

All are welcome to the Friday closing worship at 11:30 a.m. followed by picnic lunch. Kids and staff will share their VBS experience in worship on Sunday, August 8. To register, your child should be 4 years old (by September 1) through 6th grade. You can still register—don’t miss it! Registration forms are available in the Gathering Space or you can download a form from the church website, www.flclittlefalls.org

Walk-in volunteers are welcome and needed in the kitchen and craft areas. You may volunteer for one day or all days. Youth volunteers, youth preschool leaders, and all crew leaders are asked to be at church at 8:00 a.m. each day. Rolls, donuts and beverages will be served!

For more information, contact Gail Hittesdorf, 632-2218. Come and explore the mighty love of God! Let’s Go!

Can Care Collection

Recycling is one way to save the earth. Bring your empty cans to the church secured in a plastic bag—you can leave them next to the garage door. This on-going fundraiser provides money for youth activities.

Keep saving those aluminum cans! Thanks!

News of the Family

Noah Alan Vaverek, son of Ryan and Heather Vaverek, was baptized on July 18.

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Luke Radziej and Allison Federici were united in marriage on July 24.

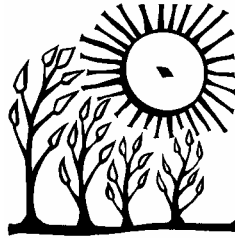
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Jeanette Lillian Peterson died on July 13. Her funeral service was held July 19 at First Lutheran.

Michael Greene died on July 20. A memorial service was held July 23 at Glenwood Lutheran Church, Glenwood, Minnesota.

May God grant peace and comfort to their family and friends.

Items for the **September NEWSLETTER** are due on **August 20, 2010!**



Summer Worship Schedule June through August

Sunday Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Summer Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. continues through September 5. Stay after the 8:00 a.m. service, or come early for the 10:00 service, for coffee (leaded and unleaded!), treats and fellowship in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy your vacation but don't take a vacation from church! Aren't you glad God doesn't take the summer off?