



## Lent 2010

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **February 17**. On Ash Wednesday, we worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. We will begin our evening by gathering around a simple bowl of soup and slice of bread to share fellowship at First Lutheran. The other five Wednesdays in Lent beginning **February 24**, we will gather together with the congregation at First United Church to lift our voices in "One Song" and worship using Holden Evening Prayer. First United has graciously invited us to their facility where we will share a soup supper and worship each Wednesday evening. Holy Week services will take place at First Lutheran.

**Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion  
and Imposition of Ashes**  
Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.  
at First Lutheran Church

**Wednesday Evening Schedule:**

**Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24**  
at First United Church, 1000 First Street SE

5:30-6:45 p.m. – Soup supper  
7:00 p.m. – Holden Evening Prayer



**Come, for fellowship, worship and to sing One Song!**

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## Pastor's Article

*Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.*  
*James 5:14*

Let us rejoice and be Glad for the Lord has brought us together into the Body of Christ that is First Lutheran Church. February is known as the "Month of Love" so perhaps you were expecting something along the lines of 'what is love,' 'what is the meaning of love' or 'how many different things we may be 'in-love' with.' I wanted to share a few other thoughts with you.

I know and appreciate your concern for me and how you feel I am so 'busy' at this time. However, I can honestly tell you that it doesn't feel like work for me. It is wonderful for me to be a partner in ministry with you. We are all called to be a part of the family of God that makes us the Body of Christ at First Lutheran, Little Falls.

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*  
*1 Corinthians 12:12*

The most important thing I can be busy with is the ministry of caring for you and praying with you. I need to know how I can do that. If there are prayers, visits, or other opportunities for me to offer care to you, please let the church office know. Unfortunately, I was not given the gift of being a psychic – I cannot always know if there are times that you need a visit, whether it be when you are in the hospital or have something come up in your life and need pastoral care. Please let me know of those times.

St. Gabriel's Hospital does its best to let us know if a member is admitted to the hospital (only if the member desires the church be informed) but it is not always timely. Sometimes we don't get the message until after patient has been discharged and then the bedside visit is no longer a possibility for us. Please let the church office know that you







are admitted – do not feel as if I am too busy to see you, or that your needs are not that important. You ARE important! I want to offer whatever I can to be in ministry with you.

Grace and Peace!

Pastor Dave



### **When to Call the Church Office: 320-632-6667**

-  When you or a family member is hospitalized or will be hospitalized.
-  When there is a birth or death in the family.
-  When there is a crisis.
-  When you change your address or telephone number.
-  When new neighbors move in near you and they are looking for a church home.
-  When you have good news to share.
-  When you have a suggestion to make or a concern to share, you can contact a council member or a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Team.

Pastor Dave and lay visitors are available to call on you and walk with you in times of sadness and joy.



# Lenten Opportunities

## Lenten Offering

As a part of our Lenten discipline all are encouraged to consider ways that we can share the love of Christ with others. As we live during anxious times, pray about how we each might share what God has provided. Thank you for your generosity as you serve as Jesus' hands and feet in this part of the kingdom.

## Lenten Devotions

You can sign up to receive daily Lenten devotions on-line from Luther Seminary. This year's devotionals "Our Father, We Have Wandered" are written by seminary staff and alumni/ae. Go to [www.luthersem.edu/lent](http://www.luthersem.edu/lent) to sign up for daily devotions delivered to your e-mail mailbox.

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS 2010

We look forward to our Lenten Journey which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Winter's chill is chased away with warm bowls of soup and the conversation created by those gathered around the Lenten Soup Supper table before each Wednesday Worship. Soup Supper and worship on Ash Wednesday is at First Lutheran.

This year, on the Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, First Lutheran will share the suppers and worship with the congregation at First United Church. Each week our soup bowls will be filled by members of the two congregations. Proceeds from the suppers will be shared equally by the two congregations and given to mission causes determined by each congregation.

## A Cross-Driven Purpose for Your Life!

### Lenten Devotional Reading

You are invited to participate in a Lenten devotional series specifically designed with you in mind. The intention is to offer a Lutheran perspective on the purpose to your life: A Cross-Driven Purpose!

Pick up the devotional packet at church; then you are encouraged to spend the next 40 days in God's Word by attending worship regularly, and reading and studying the devotional material. It is recommended that you find a time each day to read the devotions and answer the questions. You are also asked to fill in the commitment sheet in the packet. Sometimes it is best if you commit not only to yourself but also to someone else – or perhaps to a small group.

Like many things worth doing, this process may require you to set aside study time on a daily basis. In so doing you'll do what members of the earliest Christian churches did. Luke records these words,

*"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:46-47).

Pastor Dave will lead a re-cap group study each Monday night, March 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 7:00 p.m. Attending the study is not required but may enhance your overall experience with the Cross-Driven Life devotional and your overall Lenten devotional experience.

Packets are available at church. For more information, contact the church office or Pastor Dave. Come and discover the Cross-Driven Purpose for your life!

## Council Highlights

- + Thank you to Susan Gustner and Gloria Kofoed for their steadfast work. The annual audit went “without a hitch” due to their attention to detail throughout the year.
- + The Council reviewed the progress First Lutheran has made toward our 2006-2009 goals and priorities of :
  - Increase local and world mission support.
  - Improve FLC facilities and property.
  - Increase our witness through faith formation and evangelism.
  - Enhance our worship life.
- + The new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnals have arrived. We will begin using the hymnals in Lent.
- + First Lutheran ended the fiscal year with very positive results.
- + Holy Communion will be shared every Sunday at the 10:45 service.



### Library News

The new books that were on display in January are now available for check out in the library. We especially encourage you to take a look at the three volumes of the St. John's Bible. They are unique and beautiful!  
If you have checked out a book from the library more than three weeks ago, please return it so others may enjoy it. Thank you!

## ELW

### Evangelical Lutheran Worship

The new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and service book is coming soon. See the display in the gathering space and have a look at the beautiful new ‘cranberry’ hymnal. This hymnal replaces the green LBW and the blue WOV hymnals. You will find that some of our well-loved service settings remain in the new hymnal as well as many hymn favorites, both old and new. You are invited to provide a \$20 donation toward the purchase of a hymnal. If desired, you may designate your gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one or event. Your donation will be acknowledged on a bookplate inside the front cover of the hymnal. Envelopes are available for this purpose on the display table or on today's ministry opportunity sheet. Please write ‘ELW’ in the memo line of your check. Let's worship together!

### Women's Circles:

“To God's Beloved”

Paul's Letter to the Romans

Trust: Does God Keep Promises?

Romans 11:29

Ruth Circle

The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 2:00 p.m. at the church.

Martha Circle

The Martha Circle will meet Monday, February 15, at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Diane Grosso is the hostess.

Mission Circle of Joy

The Circle of Joy will meet Tuesday, February 23, at 9:00 a.m. at the church.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast

All men of the congregation and friends are invited to a Men's Bible Breakfast study. The study meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:15 a.m. at the church for breakfast. You are welcome to attend – come when you are able, leave when you must. For more information, contact Pastor Dave.

Mini Annual Report  
**First Lutheran Church**

The Annual Meeting of First Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, January 31, 2010. Thanks to all who made this meeting a priority! This “mini-report” is provided to help inform you of the important decisions made at this year’s Annual Meeting and to give highlights from the Annual Report. The complete Annual Report is available in the church office.

**Action and Progress towards 2006-2009 Congregational Goals and Priorities**

*Increase local and world mission support:*

- ✚ Participation with Kids Against Hunger food packaging events
- ✚ Global Mission Trips to Guatemala, Honduras and Jamaica
- ✚ Support of local agencies: Morrison County Food Shelf, Hands of Hope, Habitat for Humanity, Morrison County Chaplaincy
- ✚ Hosted meals at St. Cloud Dream Center

*Improve First’s facilities and property:*

- ✚ Resurfaced and re-stripped the parking lot
- ✚ Painted and decorated Ed. Wing rooms
- ✚ Enhanced and upgraded the church library

*Increase our witness through faith formation:*

- ✚ Increased Adult Bible Study opportunities
- ✚ Held Vacation Bible School cooperatively with local congregations
- ✚ Sponsored mission trips for middle school and high school youth
- ✚ Sponsored two trips to the National ELCA Youth Gatherings (2006 & 2009)
- ✚ Supported youth attending Bible Camp

*Enhance our worship life:*

- ✚ Addition of contemporary worship
- ✚ Purchase of projection system for worship
- ✚ Purchase of sound system upgrades
- ✚ Purchase of video camera for quality recording
- ✚ Addition of ELW hymnal and service book

**Statistical Reports**

Baptized Membership (January 1, 2010)	1,071	Baptisms	19
Confirmed Membership (January 1, 2010)	773	Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation	13
New Members Received	45	Marriages	8
Transferred Out	90	Funerals	11
		Average Worship Attendance	2009 – 273 2008 – 306

**Summary Notes from Congregational Annual Meeting**

*Not Official Minutes*

Paula Monahan, Council President, declared a Quorum and called the meeting to order.

Elected to the Church Council were Craig Ahlin, Matt Dahl, Bill Leisenheimer, and Liz Rydeen, each to a 3-year term; Lola Faufau, and Les Hittesdorf, each to a 2-year term; Wayne Liljegren, and Jim Weiss, each to a 1-year term.

Jeff Bigalke, Michelle Dahlberg, Larry Sharon, and Linda Weiss were elected as the congregational representatives for the Nominating Committee.

The Heartland Conference Gathering is The Synod Assembly will be held April 23-25, 2010, at Cragun’s, Brainerd. Voting members are Dave Buker, Paula Monahan, and Nancy Ratzloff. Alternates are Larry Engel, Naomi Engel and Ruth Jeremiason-Jensen.

The 2010 Mission Plan was approved as presented. Following the Annual Meeting the Council met to elect officers; they are: President – Paula Monahan, Vice-President – Michelle Dahlberg, Treasurer – Jim Weiss, Secretary – Lola Faufau.

**Excerpts from the Treasurer's Report**

During 2009, giving to the Mission Plan totaled \$378,903, less than the projected. Expenses for the year were \$376,222, \$42,547 less than planned. At last year's annual meeting, we projected a deficit of \$25,004. Instead, we ended the year with a surplus of \$2,681. These amounts do not include income and expenses related to "Children First" Christian Preschool.

Thank you for your faithful response to the "Empowered by God" stewardship effort this year. We have received 86 estimate of giving cards and anticipate receiving \$140,398 in giving from these members. Thanks be to God! You can still complete an estimate of giving card for 2010, please contact the church office

**Mission Plan 2010:** Mission Plan 2010 projects income of \$297,898. We project expenses of \$320,731 for the year. These totals do not include income and expenses related to "Children First" Christian Preschool. A great year in ministry together is ahead of us.

Thank you for your additional gifts, both in-kind for various ministries, and those received from special offerings for the following missions and projects:

Morrison County Food Shelf:	
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 229.00
Lenten Coin Folders	251.00
Thanksgiving Offering	419.00
Individual Gifts	131.00
Gideons International	415.00
ELCA World Hunger:	
Individual Gifts	300.00
Feed My Starving Children/Kids Against Hunger	
Lenten Coin Folders	456.00
Thanksgiving Offering	419.00
Angel Tree Gift Giving (plus in-kind)	35.00
Habitat for Humanity Bike Ride	425.00
Pentecost Offering for Mortgage	
Principal Reduction	4,885.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,965.00</b>

Blessings to all, Richard Walen, Treasurer

**2009 Income and Expense Report and 2010 Proposed Mission Plan**

## MISSION LIFE

### Souper Bowl of Caring

First Lutheran will participate in the “Souper Bowl of Caring” on February 7. This Sunday, 128 million people all over the world will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people at First Lutheran and around the U.S., as they demonstrate God’s love by loving their neighbors through the “Souper Bowl of Caring”. It’s a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

This Sunday, young people with soup kettles will stand by the church doors after worship. All worshipers are invited to drop \$1 or more in the soup pot as they leave worship. Funds raised will go directly to help hungry people in Morrison County through the Food Shelf.

Last year, 14,000 organizations across the country raised over \$10,000,000 in the “Souper Bowl of Caring”. Thank you for helping to fight hunger through this special offering!

### Fair Trade Products

FLC serves fair trade coffee at all church functions. This is a simple way that we can be involved in mission in day-to-day life. Fair trade items are available for purchase in the church office. Try the new Organic Sisters’ Blend coffee, a special blend from Latin America honoring women around the world – a 16 oz. bag is \$7.25. Not a coffee drinker? We also carry tea, 25 bags are \$3.00.

Donations to defray the cost of purchased coffee are also welcome. Thank you for making a difference!

### Disaster Relief – Haiti

**ELCA Disaster Response:** On Tuesday, January 12, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti. About 3 million lives are directly affected by this disaster. ELCA Disaster Response is already working through long-standing partnerships on the ground to provide food, water, shelter and medical supplies. Financial gifts are urgently needed. Designated gifts to LDR are given 100% for immediate and long-term recovery. You can make your check payable to FLC and note ‘Haiti’ in the memo line. Thank you!

**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** has announced that they will contribute \$1 for every \$2 donated by Thrivent members to the Haiti relief effort by March 31, up to \$1 million. Thrivent members who want to partner with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in responding to this disaster may make donations at [Thrivent.com/helpinghaiti](http://Thrivent.com/helpinghaiti) or by calling 800-236-3736 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. When prompted, say “directory” and enter ext. 83003. Thank you!

### GoodSearch.com

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, or about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it as you would any search engine and enter FLC as the charity you want to support.

Thanks for the many ways you support youth ministry at FLC!

## "Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings!

"Children First" Preschoolers enjoyed January with snowmen, snowballs, hot chocolate, and snowflakes. In February, hearts will warm up with Valentine's Day, community helpers, and a special visit from Dr. Steve Olson, DDS, to talk about healthy smiles. Later in February, "Children First" will learn about reading, books, and libraries. Children enjoy hearing stories and invite you to read to them. Please contact teachers Sarah Olson, or Pat Moller, if you'd like to read to the preschoolers. We have four classes to choose from!

The annual Fish Fry and Silent Auction is Friday, February 26, 2010, from 4:00-7:30 p.m., at Little Falls VFW. Adult tickets are \$7.00; children 4-12 years, \$3.00; children 3 and under, free. Advance tickets are available from preschool families, at First Lutheran Church, or at the door. Take-out orders will be available. Silent Auction bidding is open throughout the evening with final bids taken

at 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcome – sign up in the Preschool area, or contact Gail. To donate an item for the silent auction, contact Katie Kaddatz (632-3920), Gail Hittesdorf (632-2218), or the church office. Items may be brought to church the week of February 22. Proceeds will defray the cost of field trips to St. Otto's, Pine Grove Manor, and Harmony House.

The months of December and January have been a financially stressful for some preschool families. Thank you to all who have generously provided financial assistance for tuition. You have eased the minds and lowered stress levels of these families, and you have helped continue the ministry of "Children First" in the lives of these families. Thank you for keeping this ministry in your prayers. Together we walk in the unity of faith in God.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Gail Hittesdorf, Director

### Confirmation Ministries

**Second Grade** class for students and parents, "Welcome Table" Holy Communion instruction, will take place on Sunday afternoons during Lent, March 21 and 28. A letter will be mailed to families. Students who wish to receive communion as a class can plan to do this on Maundy Thursday, April 1.

**Seventh Grade:** Class on the Ten Commandments ended on January 27. Thank you to Linda Weiss for teaching this class. The seventh grade class on the Apostles' Creed is scheduled at Luther Crest Bible Camp during the week of June 20-25. Please turn in your Camp registration form and deposit to the church office.

**Eighth Grade:** Class on the Old Testament ended February 3. Watch for a letter with information about a trip to Temple Israel for a Seder Meal.

**Ninth and Tenth Grade:** This year's Ninth Grade and Tenth Grade retreat will be a combined retreat on Human Sexuality. The retreat is scheduled at Luther Crest Bible Camp on Sunday-Monday, February 14-15, 2010. Families should have received a letter about this retreat. Payment of \$30.00 is due now.





### **News of the Family**

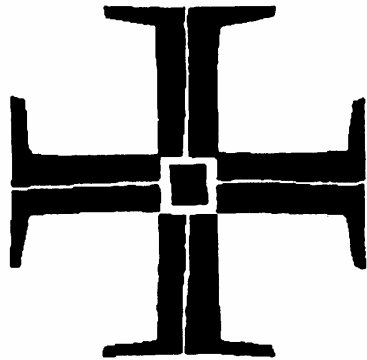
Kailey Lillian Erickson, daughter of Paulette Bonniwell and James Erickson, was baptized on January 3.

Caleb Lowell Zimmerman, son of Tomas and Amanda Zimmerman, was baptized on January 24.

#### **Can Care Collection**

Save a can – Save the earth  
Save our youth budget!  
Keep those cans coming!

Items for the **March NEWSLETTER** are due on **February 19, 2010!**



#### **Reminder:**

This newsletter and archived issues are available online at [www.flittlefalls.org](http://www.flittlefalls.org). You can find the church event calendar there, as well as photos and information. Check it out!