



“Servants of All”

June 2010, Newsletter

June 1, 2010

Reaching Out in Mission

Looking for a way to put your faith into action? Have some free time this summer? Here are some opportunities to consider:

- 🌍 Volunteer to paint a home with the Paint A Thon on Saturday, August 7. *See page 7.*
- 🌍 Give a generous gift to ELCA Disaster Response. *See page 7.*
- 🌍 Deliver Meals on Wheels. *Contact the church office for dates.*
- 🌍 Volunteer at the Dream Center in St. Cloud.
- 🌍 Walk or support a walker in the Relay for Life, fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, on Friday, July 16 at Flyer Field.
- 🌍 Give a donation of food or money to the Morrison County Food Shelf. People are hungry year-round.
- 🌍 Bring a friend and come to share fellowship over a nutritious meal at Share A Meal, served each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at First Lutheran. First provides the meal on Thursday, June 10. *See page 7.*
- 🌍 Support Honduras mission financially or with in-kind gifts. *Contact Susan Gustner in the church office.*
- 🌍 Share your gifts with kids at VBS, August 2-6, 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- 🌍 Visit with a resident at a care center or a shut-in.
- 🌍 Knit or crochet a prayer shawl for someone who can use a comforting hug.
- 🌍 Save your aluminum cans for recycling. Save the earth!
- 🌍 Volunteer your time to help tend ‘The Soul Patch’ garden next to the Morrison County Food Shelf. *See article on page 6.*
- 🌍 Provide prayer or financial support to FLC youth participating in summer trips: middle school youth on a mission trip to the Quad Cities, or high school youth traveling to Colorado, or youth attending a Bible Camp.
- 🌍 Drop a card in the mail to a deployed soldier. Some addresses are available in the church office.

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Thank you for all the ways that you show the love of Christ in our community and world!

Pastor's Article

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

June – the month some call the beginning of summer – it is a time to relax. But at First Lutheran we are not going to relax, or rest on what has happened in the past – we move on and listen to God's calling. Listen – *God is calling...*

What is in store for First Lutheran this summer? We will be embarking on a couple of mission trips, a week of camp, and the ever-popular Vacation Bible School. We will participate and serve at Share a Meal, continue our work with the Dream Center, Habitat for Humanity and others. Something NEW during the month of July—our quilters will be quilting once again on Thursdays! They will share their talents and teach the art of quilting to anyone who may be interested to learn and is unable to come during the school year. Along with the skills and talent they will share their faith (and a few good stories) with those who are able to participate in this ever-expanding ministry.

As you can see – June, July and August will not be time for us to slow down but a time for us to continue to serve and gear up for the next season of ministry.

To re-cap what was announced at the Celebration Sunday Pot-luck, we heard from Council President, Paula Monahan about some exciting changes in store for First Lutheran.

We will change our Sunday morning schedule. Beginning in September, we will have three worship Services, traditional liturgical worship at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m., and contemporary/praise worship at 9:30 a.m. led by the Praise Team. The time for Sunday School will change to 10:30 a.m. This offers the opportunity for our Sunday School Students and teachers to attend and participate in the worship style they choose.

Second, we heard that we will be having a Kids' Choir in the fall for elementary students (K-5th grade). Becky Nelson and Naomi Engel will lead the choir. We hope to bring students by bus from Lincoln and Lindbergh schools after school dismissal on Wednesdays. Once at church, there will be time for a snack, a short game or two, and singing. The kids will lead us in song during worship once or twice a month and prepare for other special programs. If you would like to assist with this fun opportunity please talk to Becky Nelson.

Third, we heard about an opportunity that arose from a seed planted a few years ago. The opportunity to purchase the Houle house adjacent to the church property on the south could be in our near future. We signed an agreement with the Houle's in 2003 for the option of purchasing the property if and when it became available. Jack Houle died this past winter. We will soon be asked if we would like to exercise our option to purchase. Since the Pentecost Celebration Sunday we have heard from the attorney representing the family and we will begin conversations with them. The congregation will be kept informed as of the status of this opportunity.

God continues to call us into tremendous opportunities for ministry, we continue to press on toward the goal! Blessings to you all! See you in church!

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

Watch for upcoming fellowship outings in August to attend Lutheran Night Minnesota Twins Game and a Minnesota Vikings game! Ticket prices will be unbeatable. Bring a friend and don't miss out on the fun!

Pentecost Sunday Celebration Offering Update

In February of 2001 we closed on a twenty-year mortgage with a principal of \$475,000 and interest rate of 7.25%. Now our mortgage is less than \$158,856 with an interest rate of 5.3%. As of Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we have received **\$3,794.00** in offerings for mortgage principal reduction. Your gifts to this offering are still welcome; an envelope is available on the greeters' table. **Thank you for your faithful giving!**

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 by ensuring regular giving throughout the year and benefits the giver by saving time and knowing that your giving continues on a regular basis. There is no fee to the giver for using this program. Please see Sue or Gloria in the church office to enroll.

Thank you to all who faithfully support Christ's mission at FLC with their mail-in offerings!

Science Museum of Minnesota Trip "The Dead Sea Scrolls"

Saturday, June 12

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century—the Dead Sea Scrolls, which include the earliest known texts of the Bible. These 2,000-year-old, authentic text fragments are steeped in scientific, religious, and cultural significance. The beautiful Saint John's Bible is also a part of this exhibit.

We have reserved a comfortable, coach bus to travel to the exhibit on Saturday, June 12. Your cost of \$30.00 (includes Omnitheater presentation) or \$25.00 (for exhibits only) per person is a great deal! The bus will board at 7:30 a.m. at **First United Church**, we will return to Little Falls at about 6:00 p.m. Pack a lunch or plan on eating in one of several restaurants at the museum. Deadline to sign-up is Monday, June 7. Please register in the church office. Your payment secures your seat. For more information, contact coordinator, Lynn Duxbury, 468-2819.



Council Highlights

- ✦ Thank you to all who came with work gloves, rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows to clean up the church grounds and wash windows. Thank you to Randy Dickmann for providing the crushed rock and mulch and equipment to refresh the landscaping. The grounds look great!
- ✦ Heard that there may be an opportunity in the near future to acquire the property adjacent to First Lutheran on the south side.
- ✦ Welcomed the following people into membership at First: David Hoadley, Daryl 'Charlie' Keehr, Aaron Meier and Elizabeth Monahan, Madeline and Elizabeth Nuehring, Claudette Moran, Chuck and Tammy Zwilling and Charlie Zwilling.
- ✦ Summer worship schedule begins Sunday, May 30 (Memorial Day weekend) through Sunday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend). Worship is at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. with coffee fellowship between services.

Video Ministry

Worship services are broadcast each week on Little Falls Public Access Channel 6. Broadcast times are Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Mondays at 1:00 p.m. This ministry is appreciated by those who are unable to be in attendance in worship. We welcome your sponsorship of video ministry; you may sign up to sponsor a week in celebration of an event, or in honor or memory of a loved one. Your sponsorship donation is used to defray expenses related to this ministry – tapes, DVD's, camera needs, etc. Videotapers are also vital—if you can serve in this way, or for more information, please contact Sue in the church office.



Intercessory Prayer

Prayer is the greatest gift we can give! We are all called to intercede (pray) for others and for ourselves. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our prayers will be heard and people will be blessed. Each Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. prayers are offered in the FLC Prayer Chapel. All are welcome to come as you are able and lift up prayer concerns. May the Holy Spirit lead you to a blessed start to each week. For more information, contact Sheri Bengtson, 632-9335, or Naomi Engel, 632-3167.

Prayer Shawl Small Group

Knitters and crocheters continue this quiet ministry of comfort. You are welcome to make prayer shawls as a part of the group or in your own home. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the church. For more information, contact Naomi Engel at 632-3167.



Summer Women's Study

A Woman's Heart:
God's Dwelling Place

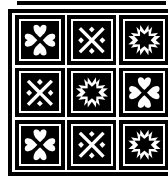
Begins Wednesday, June 16

Beth Moore explores why God chose to dwell in a wilderness tabernacle and what that means to your life today in this video study.

This ten-session study begins Wednesday, June 16. You can choose from two meeting times—9:00 a.m., or 6:30 p.m. Member workbooks are helpful but not required, cost: \$16.00. Child care will be available by request. Please call the church office to register and to request child care; for more information, contact Naomi Engel, 632-3167.

Ride a Bike to Church Day Sunday, June 6

This will be a Day for the Heart – think of all the benefits: exercise for your physical and spiritual muscles, care for the planet, and worship for the heart of a Christian! Bring a friend and don't forget your helmet!



Luther Crest Bible Camp Annual Quilt Auction Saturday, July 10

Held in the *Air-conditioned Gymnasium*

☞ 10:00-12:30 p.m. – Quilt Review and Bake Sale

☞ 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Lunch served

☞ 12:30 p.m. – Auction Begins

Over 100 quilts of all sizes will be sold at the auction, including several made by First's quilters. There will be something for everyone, with prices ranging from \$50 on up. Many hands have worked very hard to sew the quilts. Let's support the Bible Camp at this event!

9th Annual Golf Scramble to benefit the ministry at Luther Crest Bible Camp Monday, August 16

Why not get a foursome together and spend a fun day playing this "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 of \$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.

Past tournaments have made a significant impact on the camp's ministry. To register, call the church office, 632-6667.

Thanks * Thanks * Thanks!

Lutheran Care Center

Thank you to all who helped to make the spring sale at the care center a great success. Whether you donated baked goods, craft items, quilts, silent auction baskets, or plants, or came and shopped at the sale, it is all appreciated. All proceeds go to support the needs of the residents. Thanks again! Donna Hegstrom, and Jean Petersen, First Lutheran Church Representatives, Lutheran Care Center Volunteer Board.

LSS Rummage Sale

First Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran hosted another successful rummage sale! Sale proceeds were \$1,657. The proceeds will be donated to Lutheran Social Service group homes in Little Falls. Thanks to all who donated items, worked or helped in any way. Start saving now for the next sale in October 2010! Thank you! Karen Haaland

NE MN Synod Hunger Team

You quilters amaze us! Every year your generosity and creativity transform our Synod Assembly. You inspire us with your dedication and commitment to World Hunger! Because of your endeavors we raised \$13,000.00 for World Hunger. Many thanks from your Synod leaders and the Hunger Team. Gratefully, Northeast Minnesota Hunger Team

Vacation Bible School

August 2-6

High Seas Expedition! Exploring the Mighty Love of God

Ahoy thar mateys! We are headed for a High Seas Expedition where we will explore the mighty love of God! Vacation Bible School is Monday, August 2 through Friday, August 6, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. VBS is for kids age 3 (by September 1, 2009) through fifth grade. Kids will have fun with *Ship Rec Games*, enjoy a movie at *Sail Away Cinema*, hear a Bible story at *Bible Voyage*, make a project at *Clipper Ship Crafts*, and have a hearty snack at *Galley Goodies*. Registration is underway. Pick up a form at church, or download it from

Lutheran World Relief

The palm-harvesting communities in Guatemala and Mexico send their thanks for the congregation's participation in the Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday project. More than 780,000 Eco-Palms waved jubilantly this year. Nearly \$40,000 will go back to the palm harvesting communities to provide scholarships to local children and improve their ability to manage the palm program.

Thank you for helping LWR to realize the vision of a world in which each person, every community and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace. Your ministry, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in someone's life.

Blessings,

Kattie Somerfeld, Fair Trade Projects Coordinator
Lutheran World Relief

Thank you to the First Lutheran quilters for their gift of twelve quilts to Lutheran World Relief. LWR serves our brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe who are most in need. Thank you for being God's hands in the kingdom!



First's website, www.flclittlefalls.org. Early registration makes planning easier. VBS is a collaboration of Bethel Lutheran, First Lutheran and First United congregations.

All hands on deck! Seventh Grade through Adult volunteer participation is crucial to success. We are recruiting crew leaders, station leaders, preschool leaders and helpers for all areas. Please prayerfully consider how you can share your time and talents during this fun week.



The Soul Patch – Nourishing Community through Gardening
Community Garden to Benefit Morrison County Food Shelf

Do you like to garden? Here’s an opportunity to use your ‘green thumb’ to assist others in the community. The Soul Patch, a garden to benefit the Morrison County Food Shelf, is seeking volunteers who have an interest in gardening and are willing to spare a few hours to grow food for and with their neighbors. All produce grown in The Soul Patch will be donated directly to the Food Shelf.

Each Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. will be ‘garden night’ (weather permitting) throughout the summer. You can help with weeding, watering, rock-picking—☺, and other garden duties. You are also welcome to come for socializing! The garden is located next to the Morrison County Food Shelf on First Avenue southwest between Eighth and Tenth Streets.

For more information, visit The Soul Patch blog at <http://mcsoulpatch.wordpress.com/> or call Erik Warner at 632-1893.



Common Hope Update: We received a lovely handwritten note from our sponsored student in Guatemala, Francisco Hernández. The following is his letter as translated. Thank you for your support for Francisco and for keeping him and all students in your prayers. For more information about Common Hope or to sponsor a student, contact the church office.

Dear Sponsors:

I hope you are in good health and close to your loved ones. I want you to know that I love you so much. Let me tell you that I am doing great at school, I am learning a lot of things like English, Math and Art. Let me also share with you my goals for this year. I want to pass my grade and not fail any subject. I also want to be the best student getting good grades. I say goodbye wishing that you have blessings in your activities. May God bless you.

Sincerely, Francisco Hernández

**Share a Meal
Thursday, June 10, 6:00 p.m.**

Each Thursday, community groups provide a nutritious meal and fellowship in Stoltz Hall here at First for any interested person in the community. First Lutheran provides the meal on Thursday, June 10. Why not bring a friend and enjoy the meal? If you can assist with preparing, serving, and clean up or with providing food ingredients, please contact the church office or see the signup sheet in the gathering space at church. Coordinator: Sue Gustner 632-6667, and Stephanie Olson.



What Should I Save?

There are many ways that you can be involved in mission right from your own home. We can all be good stewards of the earth and help others at the same time by saving a variety of things. Here is a list of ways that you can help. If you know of other projects, you may contact the church office with this information for future publication.

- Coborn's Food Club UPC Codes; Coborn's Videos for Learning stickers; UPC codes from Campbells, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego; V8 labels; Pace lids; inkjet cartridges, laser/toner cartridges, old cell phones, old laptop computers—"Children First" Christian Preschool receives cash or teaching materials from these items. Drop off in the Gathering Space on the wood cupboard.
- Cotton fabric (large enough for 7 inch squares) for the First quilters. Bring to the church office.
- Cancelled stamps for Sons of Norway. Give to Marlene Williams.
- Aluminum cans for the FLC youth program. You can leave bags of cans by the church garage.
- Recycle—at home and at church. Your assistance with recycling is appreciated. We can recycle office paper, newspaper, glass, plastic, cans, cardboard, and more. Thank you!
- Re-use: save those items that you no longer need or use and donate them to the fall LSS Rummage Sale, a cooperative event of Bethel and First Lutheran. Your donation provides funds for Lutheran Social Service.

ELCA Disaster Response

Some disasters strike with little warning, and some creep up gradually. Both can have devastating effects. Disasters in our world today raise deep concern. Those who struggle the most to recover are those who were already vulnerable. Millions affected by natural disasters lose their livelihood too. The ELCA Global Mission director states that concern for those most vulnerable increases as food prices continue to rise around the world. Your prayers and gifts are urgently needed. Checks can be made to First Lutheran Church with Disaster Response noted in the memo line. Online giving is available at

www.elca.org/giving or call 1-800-638-3522.



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

The Paint-A-Thon committee is recruiting teams to paint a home in Morrison County on August 7. Over the past 14 years, over 138 homeowners have benefited from this program. It takes 10-12 people, 4-5 hours each, to make a big difference in someone's life!

First Lutheran will again sponsor a painting team. Jerome Haaland will coordinate this year's team. Thanks, Jerome! Can you spend a Saturday helping to paint a home for a local resident? This is a BYOB (Bring Your Own Brush!) event. Contact the church office to sign up. Thank you for making a difference in the community we share!

Confirmation Ministries

Sixth Grade: Looking ahead – Class on Prayer during VBS week, August 2-6.

Seventh Grade: Thirteen seventh grade students are registered for class on the Apostles' Creed at Luther Crest Bible Camp during the week of June 20-25. Pastor Dave will teach this class.

Tenth Grade: Summer will fly by quickly, remember to keep working on your projects and mentor activities!



“Children First” Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from “Children First” Christian Preschool,

Butterflies are one of the symbols we recognize during the Easter season. The butterfly reminds us of new life. A caterpillar hibernates, lying inside a cocoon. After a while, the cocoon breaks open and a butterfly emerges. The caterpillar has become a new creature. Preschoolers saw this transformation of new life as they watched over 20 butterflies in our butterfly sanctuary. May was also time for fun ‘summer’ games and activities. It was great to see friends having fun, and learning to take turns, share and cheer each other on. As with the butterflies beginning a new life, “Children First” says goodbye to preschoolers who will be headed to a new life in Kindergarten in the fall and to Sarah Olson, Lead Teacher. Sarah will be beginning a new chapter in her life by opening her home to childcare this coming fall allowing her to spend more time with her family.

The Preschool Advisory Team will conduct interviews in June for the Lead Teacher position. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, you may apply by filling out an application at the church office and submitting a resumé. Qualified candidates possess an Early Childhood Degree, or K-5 with Early Childhood Education experience. Questions may be directed

to Gail at church/preschool 632-6667, or at home 632-2218.

Preschool enrollment for the 2010/2011 school year continues through the summer. The morning Jesus’ Gems class is full. There are still openings for 4-year-olds-PreKindergarten in the Jesus’ Gems afternoon class. Registration forms are available in the gathering space at First Lutheran, or on the web at www.flittlefalls.org. There is a \$50.00 non-refundable registration/activity fee required at the time of registration. Please contact the church office or Gail if you have questions or are interested in viewing our classroom.

Watch for “Children First” over the summer at the Dam Festival Parade on Saturday, June 19, and The Green Fair Folk Festival at St. Francis campus on Wednesday, August 4!

This has been a fun and event-filled year. God has blessed “Children First” with wonderful children, caring families, many volunteers, financial contributors and great friends. We have watched the Preschoolers grow in God’s love and learning. We are looking forward to next fall as we see returning faces and are also rewarded with many new faces.

Have a great summer and God’s blessings to all!

Yours in Christ’s Service,
Gail Hittesdorf, Director

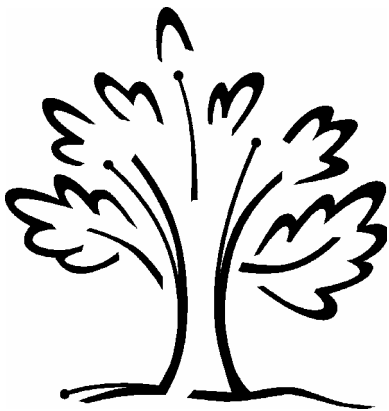
News of the Family

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Lindsay Schmidt and Derrick Nagorski were united in marriage on May 29. Congratulations and best wishes for their life together.

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George Stockman died May 11. His funeral service was May 15 at First Lutheran Church. May God grant peace and comfort to his family and friends.



Congratulations! On June 1 First Lutheran celebrates 21 years of being smoke-free.

Items for the **July NEWSLETTER** are due on **June 19, 2010!**