

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ministers: All God's People at FLC



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November 2019

November 19, 2019

JESUS SAID, GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

Thanksgiving is a time for considering the ways that we can “go and do likewise” by serving those in need both near and far. Each year we meet for worship on Thanksgiving Eve and give God thanks for the many blessings he bestows. A portion of the offering we receive at this service is designated for those less fortunate. Your offering during the month to support ELCA World Hunger and other hunger needs is encouraged. Special envelopes are available on the greeters’ table, or you may note “Hunger” or “Disaster” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your generous giving to those in need around the world. Give thanks with a grateful heart!

A few ways you can make a difference:

- ✦ Serve as a First Lutheran Church liaison to Share A Meal or volunteer to assist with a Thursday evening meal.
- ✦ Volunteer to help serve or make a contribution to the Community Thanksgiving Day Meal – contact Tim Sumner at 632-2540 – *see page 3*
- ✦ Volunteer your time or provide monetary donations or deliver items from church to the Morrison County Food Shelf.
- ✦ Provide a respite meal for fellow servants in need at First Lutheran. Contact Parish Nurse Tracy Moe for more information.
- ✦ Advocate for hunger issues around the world by joining the ONE campaign, a non-partisan effort to end global hunger, go to www.one.org for more information.
- ✦ Deliver meals to homebound persons in the community, contact Terri at Lutheran Social Services, 320-492-4276, or the Little Falls Senior Center at 632-8009 to volunteer.
- ✦ Provide financial support to ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Jesus said, “Go and do likewise!”

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Council Highlights

- Regretfully accepted the resignation of Pastor Jake Dyrhaug.
- Council has been in touch with the NE MN Synod and is following the call process.
- Thank you to the New Consecration Sunday team, to the Royal Café for preparing and delivering the catered meal on Consecration Sunday, and to all who attended.
- Heard that the nominating committee consisting of Craig Ahlin, Jeff Bigalke, Ruth Jeremiason-Jensen, and Jennifer Schott are searching for persons to serve in leadership positions for the coming year. Members are asked to give prayerful consideration to this opportunity to serve.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 27 7:00 p.m.

Come to give thanks to the God who creates us and all that exists and gives us all that we have. We gather to worship with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. Following the service, we share a delicious pie fellowship. The Pastor Parish Team will host the dessert time. If you would like to donate a pie, please contact the church office. Give thanks!

Community Thanksgiving Day Meal

Thursday, November 28, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Little Falls High School Commons

This annual community event sponsored by the Little Falls area Ministerial Association is for anyone who would like to enjoy a meal with others on Thanksgiving Day. There is no charge for the meal. Guests may park in the main high school parking lot and enter through the main doors. You will be seated at a table in the commons and served the meal. Persons in the Little Falls area in need of transportation may call Tim Sumner at 320-632-2540 to arrange a ride.

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to assist with the meal. Last year about 425 meals were served. There are many ways to help: greeters, meal prep, servers, dishwashers, meal delivery and more. If you can assist or need more information, contact Tim Sumner, 632-2540. Your early commitment to volunteering helps in planning for the day. If you would like to make a contribution for the meal, checks can be made out to LFAMA and mailed to: Jason Swedeen, 18892 205th Ave, Little Falls, 56345 indicate 'Thanksgiving Meal' in the memo line. Give Thanks!



Happy Thanksgiving

As your staff ministry team, it is our joy and privilege to serve alongside each of you here at First Lutheran. We thank you for the many ways that you minister to each of us and the care and love that you show us. Know that you and your love for the Lord are blessings in our lives. Happy Thanksgiving!

In His abiding peace and love,
Your Staff Ministry Team

As I write this, I'm wrapping up final things to be done here at First Lutheran before I head to Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton, North Dakota, to begin November 1st, as I have now accepted a call to be their Senior Pastor. Thoughts go back almost four years ago to when you first contacted me in Battle Lake, Minnesota, to invite me to prayerfully consider a call to First Lutheran here in Little Falls. Let me begin by saying that I just couldn't say no to the calling forward to Wahpeton—we've been praying and seeking discernment about it, and just as I sensed the Spirit calling us here, I now feel the same pull to go there. Bethel is one of the flagship congregations of the NE North Dakota Synod, and it is quite an honor to be asked, and though it's sooner than we expected, there's something about God's timing and the Holy Spirit I've always believed a pastor in the Church should be open to. The time has gone by fast, and I am grateful to have had the privilege to serve as your pastor here. Stephani and I, Karis and Ben, have been blessed to be here with you, to grow in faith with you and to serve in Jesus' name among you.

Looking ahead, I think First Lutheran is in a strong position for some really great days ahead, as led by the Spirit, First Lutheran ventures ahead to the next chapter. I was privileged to be your pastor here as we celebrated together the Anniversary of 125 Years of Ministry and defined three-year goals. Overall, I think there's good health here right now. This is a great church, and God continues to do great things through this community of

faith. It will be a great place for the next pastor to come and serve among you!

Among the great strengths of First Lutheran is the very obvious love in Christ people have for each other here—it runs deep. You can just feel it when you come in the doors here. Visiting guests have mentioned that, too, all the time. It's so apparent the love of God and the Spirit move in this family of faith. There's an authentic spirit here that I've not seen to this extent before. People are honest with each other and sincerely care about one another, including their pastors. This church gets the part about “Love one another as I have loved you”, as Jesus' words reverberate. And the commitment to help with outreach and mission beyond this place in Jesus' name is strong. People worship the living God here, they build each other up in faith, here, they teach the faith here and reach out with the love of Christ into the world beyond these walls. That's being the Church!

I'll definitely be lifting up First Lutheran in my prayers as you venture into the coming months. With God's strength and guidance in the Spirit, with the love of Jesus, I have every confidence that the people of First will continue to be First...Servants of All.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

Adult Opportunities



Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner Bethel Lutheran Church Tuesday, December 3 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Sister congregation Bethel Lutheran has served this annual holiday meal for many years. First Lutheran is offering helping hands for the meal again this year. We will provide support as they host the dinner. Consider how you may assist with this event, here are some possibilities:

- ☞ Setup in early afternoon, or take down following the meal, both on December 3
- ☞ Assist in the kitchen on December 3
- ☞ Serve tables in two shifts, 4:00-6:30 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- ☞ Bake pies – apple or pumpkin
- ☞ Bake white or rye bread
- ☞ Bake holiday cookies
- ☞ Tickets are available soon!
- ☞ Watch for signup information coming soon or call the church office. You'll enjoy the evening even if you don't eat lutefisk. ☺

Martha Circle

The Martha Circle meets Monday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

Men's Bible Study Breakfasts Wednesdays, November 13 and 27

All men of the congregation and friends are invited to a Men's Bible Breakfast study. The study meets for breakfast on designated Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. at the church. You are welcome to attend any time – come when you are able, leave when you must.

Afternoon Bible Study Wednesdays, November 13 and 27 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend this study led by Pastor Hank French. The group continues study by comparing the beliefs of the major world religions with Christian beliefs. Come for study, discussion, and prayer—all are welcome.

Book Club Tuesday, November 26 at :00 p.m.

We meet to discuss Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens on Tuesday November 26 at 7:00 p.m. The group will not meet in December. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.

Morrison County Chaplaincy Pizza Party Fundraiser Sunday, December 1 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Little Falls VFW

Bring a friend and the family and come out to support Chaplain Gregg Valentine who provides spiritual support to local law enforcement personnel and local persons in emergency need. All the pizza and pop you care to eat for any size donation. Bring a new or gently used coat for donation or non-perishable food item. Thank you for your support of this local ministry.



Caregiver Group
Wednesday, November 13
3:15-4:30 p.m.

This support group is for those who are providing primary caregiving for a family member. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 13 from 3:15-4:30 p.m. at the church. The group plans to meet monthly. For more information, contact Parish Nurse, Tracy Moe at 320-749-2310.

Venison Nutrition

Despite that it's considered a form of red meat, venison is low in fat and calories. A three-ounce serving of ground venison has just 159 calories where a same-size serving of beef contains 215 calories.

Venison is also significantly lower in fat and higher in protein—a double win! While three ounces of beef packs about 17 grams of fat and 14.5 grams of protein, venison boasts only 7 grams of fat with 22.5 grams of protein. However, the lower fat content renders venison is a little tougher in texture and a little less rich in flavor.

Deer meat also beats its bovine counterpart in the iron department. Iron is a mineral that helps your body promote healthy red blood cells, according to Harvard Health and being deficient can cause fatigue or grogginess throughout the day.

Adapted from LIVESTRONG.com

Advent Devotions

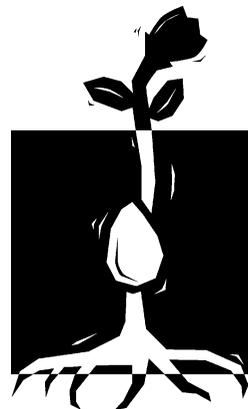
Made New 20/20

Last fall members and friends of First Lutheran wrote short devotional pieces for the Season of Advent. We wrote using the theme, “Season of Hope.” We are looking for writers to share their devotional thoughts this Advent with the theme “Made New 20/20.” This theme will be conveyed through devotions written by folks from First Lutheran Church. The devotions will include a Bible verse, a short meditation, and a prayer.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute a devotional writing, please contact Mary Pfohl at 320-632-4760.

The Congregational Life Ministry Team will make these devotions available through the church webpage. Beginning December 1, a new devotion will be posted each day until Christmas Eve. To find the devotions, go to the First Lutheran Church site at www.flclittlefalls.org, on the home page, click on upcoming events: Advent Devotionals, or on the worship menu, click on Devotions. If you are unable to access the website, contact Mary Pfohl at 320-632-4760, or the church office to receive a printed copy.

We pray that each reader will be blessed, inspired, and moved by the journey of faith and hope found in these devotions.



Youth Mission Trips – Summer 2020

Start looking ahead to the summer! We have reserved mission trip sites for next summer for both middle school and high school youth. We will partner with Youthworks to experience hands-on Christ-centered ministry with people in different life situations than youth might be familiar with. We will challenge ourselves to be the hands and feet of Christ as we seek to serve in mission in an active way. Space will be somewhat limited for these trips so you are encouraged to reserve your spot now; we will be raising funds to help with the trip cost.

Your deposit of \$90.00 per person is required to reserve your place on either trip. Total trip cost is not fully determined but we hope to keep the cost to less than \$500.00 per person. Please make deposit payment by Sunday, November 17. Watch your mail for more information about these trips. If you have questions, please contact Susan Gustner in the church office, 320-632-6667, or via email at sgustner@fclittlefalls.org.



Middle School Youth Lake Traverse, South Dakota

Sunday, June 21-Friday, June 26, 2020

Students currently in grades six through eight are eligible for this trip to Lake Traverse. We will partner with the local community and learn about Dakota culture from a community friend. explore a state park that is spiritually significant to the local tribe, and join the community for a cookout. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2005. We will work together and serve on various projects in the community.

High School Youth Denver, Colorado

Sunday, July 4-Friday, July 10, 2020

Students currently in grades nine through 12 are eligible for this trip to Denver. The group will come alongside organizations who are meeting the needs of the homeless population and working with those who are underserved in the Denver area. The group will meet a local pastor who provides sidewalk Sunday School to share the love of Christ with local children. We will serve in various places that meet ongoing needs in the community. All this with a beautiful mountain view!

Can Care Collection

Keep saving those aluminum cans!

Save a can – Save the earth –

Save our youth budget!

Keep those cans coming!

If you can assist with taking cans to the local recycler on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon, please contact the church office. A trailer with sides is most useful for this project. Thank you!

NE MN Synod Middle School Gathering

“Live God’s Dream”

Cragun’s Resort, Brainerd

Friday-Saturday, November 22-23

Fourteen youth and two adults are registered for the gathering. Middle school students interested, please contact the church office for more information about attending. Thank you!

Keeping Advent

Advent begins on December 1. Our culture will have surrounded us with the sounds and signs of Christmas long before that, but it is important for the Church to observe Advent in its richness. Advent is a time of waiting, preparing, and hoping.

Advent puts before us this great mystery: *we wait for what we already have*. We are invited to behold anew Christ coming again and again, day after day, not only in word and meal but in everyday life. Advent means “coming.” During Advent we wait, we hope, we prepare ourselves in anticipation of the coming Messiah:

- ⌚ We anticipate Jesus’ coming in Bethlehem.
- ⌚ We anticipate Christ’s coming daily into our lives.
- ⌚ We anticipate the coming of Christ at the end of the ages.

Advent, like Lent, provides an opportunity for examining our life of faith. How well do we prepare ourselves and our homes and families for the coming Christ? Advent is a good time to begin a worship practice in the home since the spirit of celebration in the air affects us all – older people, singles, middle-aged couples, busy young families, exuberant teens, and excited young children. And so, we invite you to keep Advent with:

Advent Wednesday Worship December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00 p.m.

In preparation for the coming of the Christ child we gather to worship each Wednesday during Advent using the service of Holden Evening Prayer. Let the quiet beauty of song prepare your heart for the real meaning of the season.



Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

Place your order for a fresh, fragrant balsam wreath for the holidays. The 25” wreaths are decorated with pinecones and ribbon and are \$20.00 each. Place your order on the order sheet in the gathering space, or in the church bulletin, or call the church office. Wreaths will be delivered to church for pickup by December 1. Proceeds support youth ministry programming at First. Thanks for your support!

Service of Lessons and Carols Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Mark your calendar for this special Sunday morning Advent worship at both services!



Advent Craft and Bake Sale Saturday, December 7 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Advent Craft Sale and Luncheon will soon be here. We trust you are making plans to attend! We are looking for donations of craft and bake sale items. There will be a relaxing, delicious soup luncheon with dessert, musical entertainment and lots of treats and gift items to buy! The sale benefits youth ministry programming at First. Your support of this great annual event is appreciated.

"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings!

Where has the Fall gone? October learning themes included Community Helpers and Transportation! We enjoyed visits with Jason Brown (Highway Patrol), Fire Fighter Lisa Lintner (Little Falls Fire Department), Michelle Dahlberg (Physician's Assistant) and John Erpelding (construction equipment)! Thank you, visitors, for sharing with "Children First!" Please friend us on Facebook to see photos! November themes and activities will be Five Senses, Nutrition/Healthy Bodies, Thanksgiving and Pajama/Bed Time!

We will experience our first field trip of the year to Little Falls Health Services/Bridge Way. The residents have expressed great excitement! Thank you to Andy's Charter for your bus service. God has provided us with many individuals sharing their gifts to help us! We are thankful for all these helpers.

Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Dutch Mill Flower Bulb Fundraiser! Profits will be used for classroom supplies! We will be offering the Spring Bulb Fundraiser upon request!

"Children First" continues to participate in the Coborn's More Rewards ® program. Purchases of store brand items will earn points which will translate into cash for our Preschool. Please sign up for the program under MoreRewards.com. Once a member, or if currently a member please click "Manage my Membership" and select or search "Children First" Christian Preschool and mark Done. Every time you visit the store they will ask if you are more rewards member, you say yes and enter your phone number/or give your number to the clerk at the checkout. Points earned will automatically go into our Preschool account. A fast and easy way to help us earn cash for our school!

Our main source of funding is our 2019-2020 Gifting Campaign. We will be sending letters home with our preschool families to forward to friends, family members or anyone who they feel would like

to support "Children First" with a financial contribution. The money collected is used during our current preschool year. The contributions are used to purchase small and/or large learning tools, materials/supplies and assist with our field trip costs. If you are interested in supporting "Children First" with a monetary contribution please contact a current preschool family, Gail Hittesdorf, Director, or the First Lutheran Church office.

Registration continues at "Children First" Christian Preschool throughout the preschool year. We encourage families to check us out. Visits are welcomed! Also, current families are welcomed to add an additional preschool day/s to their current preschool attendance. Please contact Gail Hittesdorf, Director at 320-291-4698 or the First Lutheran church office, 632-6667, if you would like more information regarding preschool!

We graciously thank God for all of you, our Preschool supporters. We appreciate your kind words, your giving, your sharing of talents and your prayers. God has blessed us with wonderful families, an awesome loving, caring staff and a very supportive congregation. Thanks be to God!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ's Service,

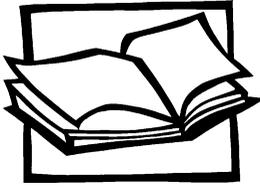
Gail Hittesdorf, Director

"O Give thanks to the Lord for He is good! His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:1





Confirmation Ministries



Fourth Grade: Looking ahead – four-week class on Holy Baptism begins Wednesday, January 8. Families please watch for a letter with more information during December.

Sixth Grade: “Created in God’s Image” class for youth and parents meets for three weeks, Wednesdays, November 6, 13 and 20. Please prioritize these dates. This class is for youth and parents. If your family did not receive a letter about this class, please contact the church office.

Seventh Grade: Class time continues on Wednesdays, November 6, 13 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Hank French will teach these sessions.

Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.



All children are invited to participate in this year’s Christmas program. We will learn the songs during Sunday School opening time in December. Many helping hands are important in order to make the program shine. Most rehearsal time will take place during the Sunday School hour. With the spirit of Christmas in your heart, consider how you can share your gifts to assist with the program. For more info, contact the church office, 632-6667.

Sunday School Ministry each Sunday at 9:35 a.m.

Sunday School Ministry continues each week at 9:35 a.m. All ages gather in Stoltz fellowship hall for opening time. Preschoolers meet in the Ruth/Naomi classroom. Children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade follow the rotational format experiencing Bible stories and themes through, Cooking, Games, and Arts/Crafts. Youth in grades 6-8 meet in the Youth Room, grades 9-12 meet in the Sarah Room. Thank you to all who teach/lead in the classroom and all who have volunteered to teach or lead a station. Sharing your faith journey is important to children in the congregation. On All Saints Sunday, November 3, we will remember our baptisms, the sacrament in which God makes saints out of sinners. And we will give thanks and remember all the saints who have gone before us and those yet to come. The following Sundays we will share the Zacchaeus story. If you would like to volunteer with a rotation now or in upcoming months, please contact in the church office.

On Sunday, November 24, Thanksgiving weekend, we will not have regular Sunday School. A mission project will be available for those who are present during the Sunday School hour.

Thank you to all the children, parents and teachers who make Sunday School a priority each week!

Fifth Grade Confirmation Stewardship Class

Students in the class learned about serving in the community and in the congregation by making communion bread for worship, sharpening the pew pencils for worshippers, and restocking the children’s worship bags. They also learned about worship serving opportunities that they can do along with their families. Thank you to Pat Moller and Nancy Ratzloff for teaching this class and to the families for making this class time a priority. You are “First...Servants of All!”

News of the Family



Karis Marie Dyrhaug and Troy Robert Larsen were united in marriage on October 12. May God bless your life together!



Finn James Poepping, son of Matt and Carolyne Poepping, was baptized on October 20. Please keep Finn and his family in your prayers.



Yvonne Marie Jackson died on September 18. Her funeral service was September 26 at First Lutheran.

Kimberly Rae Lind died on September 19. Her funeral service was September 27 at First Lutheran.

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



Items for the **December NEWSLETTER** are due on **November 20, 2019!**

Daylight Savings Time ends. Remember to set your clocks *back* one hour on Saturday, November 2!