

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Jake Dyrhaug
Ministers:
All God's People at First Lutheran

FIRST



2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-6667
(320) 632-1050 Fax
firstserv@flclittlefalls.org
www.flclittlefalls.org

“Servants of All”

October 2019

November 19, 2019

New Consecration Sunday
Sunday, October 6, 10:00 a.m.
Harvest of Faith

New Consecration Sunday is coming!

On this day, Sunday, October 6, we will have **one service of worship at 10:00 a.m.** (No Sunday School on this day) The service will be immediately followed by a catered Harvest Luncheon served in Stoltz fellowship hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. See the article on page two of this newsletter for more information.



Harvest of Faith

Pastor Jake's Article
see page 3

Congregational News
see page 3

Adult Opportunities
see page 5

**“Children First”
Preschool News**
see page 7

Sunday School News
see page 8

**Confirmation and
Youth Ministry**
see page 9



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Consecration Sunday Is Coming!



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's council has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's

missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, Rev. Mark Olson, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Barb Stumpf, Council President



Something I’ve particularly loved about living in Little Falls is driving just a little ways from our neighborhood, and suddenly you’re in the countryside. The fields and hills, the tall pines, oaks and maples, the river and all the wildlife that thrive near it, the eagles and hawks flying overhead, following its flow. The farms with cows and horses and many other varieties of creatures over the landscape—it all makes for a creation that can make you full of awe and appreciation for God’s world.

Living in relative proximity to farms and fields can have an effect of keeping you in touch with the basics of life. It’s a “down-to-earth” kind of thing. We now have mammoth machinery to bring in the harvest in the fall, whereas it was once by hand. We now go to the grocery store, whereas they once picked things by hand more regularly and milked their own cows. However you slice it, God’s goodness at how he provides for us such an abundance—it’s just good to see those fields and farms to remind you that “all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.” They are miraculously provided from God’s creation. As the fields are ready for harvest when fall comes, if you slow down while driving past for a moment, you can feel joy at the goodness of God like the people did 2,700 years or so ago when the prophet Isaiah wrote those words, “*They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest.*” Isaiah 9:3 In this time of harvest, including at the Harvest of Faith event and luncheon Sunday, October 6th, let us be joyful and celebrate the goodness of the Lord!

As I’m reflecting on God’s goodness, I think also of the people of First Lutheran Church here in Little Falls as well. God has continued to bring life and growth through the gospel and the ministries of this church, and I have been privileged to be a part of that here with you as one of your pastors. As I’m writing this, I’m reflecting on what I shared at the announcements on a recent Sunday morning. I have received a call to serve as senior pastor at a church in Wahpeton, North Dakota. I’m praying about it and will let everyone know my decision in the coming days. Please keep us in your prayers as well as we seek the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



Harvest of Faith



Council Highlights

- ✝ Heard that the Education Ministry Team is recruiting Sunday School volunteers.
- ✝ New Consecration Sunday is October 6. One service of worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a catered Harvest Luncheon.
- ✝ Member and friends of First Lutheran who are interested in writing a short Advent devotional for the church website, please contact Mary Pfohl at 632-4760.
- ✝ First Lutheran is alive with activity this fall – we hope that you find a way to be involved!



New Member Group

First Lutheran welcomes all into God’s ministry in this congregation. Received into membership on Sunday, September 22 are:

- Amanda and Kyle Billig, Kendall and Brielle Kathy Eisel
- Amber Eisel and Connor
- Kimberly Herman, Stormy, Barrett and Asa
- Mike Johnson
- Lauris and Joy Krogstad
- Jake and Alisha Lacina, June and Gibson

Please welcome these new members into the fellowship of the congregation!



Reformation Sunday, October 27

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion**
- 9:35 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Time**
- 9:35 a.m. Sunday School**
- 10:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion and Affirmation of Baptism**

On Reformation Sunday, 13 young people (*see their names on page 9*) will affirm their baptism at the 10:30 worship service. Take a moment to pray the prayer for Affirmation of Baptism below as we individually and collectively affirm the gift of faith in our lives. Then go out joyfully and be *First...Servants of All*.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.



**Reverse Trick or Treating
at Little Falls Care Center
Thursday, October 31, 5:00 p.m.**

Children and families are invited to dress in costume and meet at the Little Falls Care Center for reverse Trick or Treating. Bring a treat to pass out to the residents if you wish. Suggested treats: granola bars, flowers, raisins, candy. We may visit another care facility as time permits. For more information, contact Tracy Moe, Parish Nurse.



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

In just two short months the Advent Craft Sale and Luncheon will be here. We trust you are making plans to attend!

As in past years, we welcome your donations of crafts, bake sale items, and assistance with the sale. There will be a delicious soup luncheon, musical entertainment and lots of treats and gift items to buy! As in past years, the sale will benefit youth programs at First Lutheran. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Monday, October 7

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the first Monday in October to be World Habitat Day. This is a time to recognize the basic need for adequate shelter in a world where it is lacking for so many. Habitat for Humanity Morrison County urges your prayers on World Habitat Day for the ministry of Habitat and for ways that you might become involved in Habitat's mission to end poverty housing. You can make a difference right here at home by providing financial support, volunteering to help build the current home or on other projects. For more information, call the local Habitat office at 616-2084.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 29, at 12:00 noon

Meet at Washington Park, 113 NE 4th Street, Little Falls. First Lutheran and the Franciscan Sisters invite all to this tradition in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Come with (or without) a pet to celebrate one of God's gifts to humankind. For more info, call 632-0668.

Can Care Collection

The congregation uses the proceeds from aluminum can recycling to fund youth activities. Your help collecting and saving cans for recycling saves the earth and helps the kids! You can bring your aluminum cans to church, place them next to the garage; please be sure bags are securely closed.

"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from "Children First" Christian Preschool!

It is a new year of Preschool! We have finished our first month and are excited to welcome new and returning Preschoolers along with their families. Please visit the Preschool Gallery (the hallway next to the kitchen) to view fun projects and family scrapbook pages! As our year progresses, please keep our families, children and staff in your prayers for a year filled with purpose, service and an abundance of God's love.

Our classroom themes for September were Manners, Friends and "We are Special." October will be a busy month with community helpers visiting our classroom. We will be learning about fire safety, community helpers, transportation, Fall and pumpkins! We have planned visits with Firefighter Lisa, Highway Patrolman Jason and PA Michelle Dahlberg. If you would like share your community helper job and how you are using your God given gifts and talents to help others, please schedule your visit with the Preschool Staff.

Thursday, October 10, will be our first field trip day to Little Falls Health Services. Please remind any residents you know to come visit with us. We will arrive at 10:00 a.m. for songs and visiting! We will visit the second Thursday of each month through May. Thank you to Andy's Charter for providing bussing service on our field trips. We are excited about our upcoming visits and look forward to seeing familiar friends and meeting new ones.

"Children First" Christian Preschool will continue to participate in Coborn's/Cashwise Food Club Points. This program brings money into our classroom. Please register online with Coborns.com "More Rewards". Once you access and create your "More Rewards" account, indicate "Children First" Christian Preschool as your point donation. If you need assistance setting up your account please contact Gail.

Registration at "Children First" is open to all who are 33 months of age through Pre-Kindergarten. We accept registrations ALL YEAR! We have a mixed class meeting Monday-Friday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. with students attending 2 days, 3 days and 5 days. Class is held September through May. Children who are ready for a Preschool setting may register and attend at any time throughout the Preschool year. If you have questions, please contact Gail or the First Lutheran Church office.

Thrivent Financial offers opportunities for you to support "Children First" Christian Preschool. Individuals who have product with Thrivent Financial may use a couple of their programs to assist "Children First". Programs such as Thrivent Choice, allow you to allocate money to "Children First" and through Thrivent Action Teams, you can assist Preschool by supporting a Preschool project with a \$250.00 gift card. Please contact Gail for more information.

Thank you to everyone who visited the "Children First" booth at the Little Falls Arts & Crafts Festival. It was a great success. Thank you to those who are giving generously of their time and talents as well everyone who provides financial support to our Preschoolers through tuition assistance, Gifting Campaign and general contributions. "Children First" appreciates all of you! God's Blessings!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Gail Hittesdorf, Director



Sunday Morning Education Ministry

Sunday School is underway and we are excited to share with all of the young people in the congregation the love of our Lord. Families are encouraged to worship together at either the 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. service. Sunday School meets between the services at 9:35 a.m. Kindergarten and up meet together for opening prayer and song along with a time to share our offering.

Three-year-old's and prekindergarten children meet in a classroom setting. The kids in grades K-5 experience the weekly theme by rotating to stations of Cooking, Art, or Games—experiencing one station during each of the three weeks.

The first rotation “The Two Masters” ends on Sunday, September 29. Thanks to station leaders for leading the rotation stations on this theme.

Sunday, October 6 is New Consecration Sunday. There will be **one service of worship at 10:00 a.m.** We will not have regular rotations or class on this date. We begin the second rotation on Sunday, October 13.

There are many ways to assist with Sunday School and you don't have to commit for the whole year. Why not team up with a friend to take part in leading a rotation?

Middle school and high school students meet in the youth room for special projects and learning. Thank you to all who make Sunday School a priority for children! If you would like to help in any way with sharing in leading a rotation or helping with Sunday School, please contact the church office 632-6667.

Coming up: Children's Christmas Program

Do you have interest or excitement for the Christmas season? Planning will soon get underway for the children's Christmas program. Contact the church office if you can assist with coordinating any part of the program. Thank you!

NE MN Synod Middle School Gathering



“Live God's Dream” Cragun's Resort, Brainerd Friday-Saturday, November 22-23

This fun gathering of youth in grade 6-9 is a great time to grow in faith, build friendships and dig into confirmation teaching in a unique way! This year's theme is the Ten Commandments. God has a dream for you and for our whole world, that we live together in peace, harmony, unity...working together for the good of each other and the world. The Ten Commandments give us a way to *Live God's Dream!*

Speaker Tiger McLuen is the Executive Director of Youth Ministry Consultants. Tiger has served in the church, was an instructor at two seminaries, led Youth Leadership for 29 years and is a nationally known speaker and teacher. He is also the author of a couple of book and some articles – but mostly he's a youth leader who loves being in a room full of youth. When Tiger isn't speaking or coaching—you can find him working around the house, riding his motorcycle, boating/skiing, sneaking out to a matinee movie or eating healthy food at a variety of fast food places.

Watch for a mailing about this event and register before October 20, your cost is \$45.00, after that date, \$55.00. First Lutheran covers \$22.00 for each youth. What a deal!

Confirmation Ministries

Parents: If you have not yet registered your children for confirmation and youth ministry activities, please do so now. Forms are available in the church office.

Third Grade: Families should be completing Family Devotions on the Gospel of Mark. Families share the devotions together.

Fifth Grade: Class on Stewardship ended on Wednesday, September 25. Thank you to Pat Moller and Nancy Ratzloff for teaching this class. And the fifth graders, their teachers, and their parents, for helping to make the communion bread used in worship on Rally Sunday, September 15.

Sixth Grade: Families please watch for a letter regarding upcoming sessions, "Created in God's Image" on Wednesdays, November 6, 13 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. Students and parents/guardians will learn, share and explore what it means to live in God's image.

Seventh/Eighth Grade: Fall session with Pastor Jake continues through November 20.

Ninth/Tenth/Eleventh Grade: Practice for Confirmation Sunday is Saturday, October 26, at 8:30 a.m. We will have a light breakfast. Thirteen youth will affirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 27, at 10:30 a.m. worship.



Confirmation Sunday October 27, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

Congratulations to the following youth who will affirm their Christian faith and become adult disciples (members) of First Lutheran:

Elizabeth Ahlin	Isaac Larsen
Koda Brastad	Chase Olsen
Matthew Cooper	Owen Schoeck
Noah Dahlberg	Riley Storkamp
Spencer Friese	Kendal Swantek
Colt Gregoire	Morgan Whitford
Rebecca Kelash	

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they affirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 27. May they continue to walk in God's love and grace.



Family Hayride at Larsen's Farm Sunday, October 13, 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Dress for the fall weather and bring the family and friends to enjoy God's creation. We'll carpool to Darrell and Arlene Larsen's farm near Bowlus for a hayride. Thank you to the Larsens' for hosting for 21 years! All are welcome to this fun afternoon. Please call the church office for directions if you would like to meet at the farm. We'll be back at church around 5:00 p.m.

News of the Family



Kinzlee Carol-Ann Bollig and Blaine Daniel Anderson, children of Kia Bollig and Daniel Anderson were baptized on September 1.

Welcome to the family of God!



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

Reminder: One service of worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 6. See page one for info!

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



“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

Martin Luther,
The Freedom of a Christian (1520)