

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Jake Dyrhaug

Ministers:

All God's People at First Lutheran

FIRST



“Servants of All”

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September 2019, Newsletter

August 28, 2019

Rally Sunday

September 15

Rally Sunday is September 15. The schedule is as follows: 8:30-9:30 a.m. traditional worship using a variety of liturgical settings, 9:35-10:20 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 a.m. coffee fellowship, 10:30-11:30 a.m. contemporary praise worship accompanied by a praise band. We experience a great sense of community for all worshippers with this schedule which allows families and all worshippers to attend the service of their choice as well as Sunday School. Consider inviting a friend to worship on this or any Sunday!

We continue to offer Holy Communion at all Sunday worship services. This practice affirms that Holy Communion is a powerful way that God speaks to and nourishes the human spirit and ensures that more worshippers have regular access to the Sacrament.

8:30 a.m. Traditional Liturgical Worship

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

9:35-10:20 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Praise Worship

Holy Communion at all services

Thank you for keeping the congregation and all those who come through the doors of this facility in your prayers as we continue to be

First... Servants of all.



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"Sing to the Lord of Harvest" is a hymn that runs through my mind this time of year, living in an area with such beautiful fields, "amber waves of grain" and "corn as high as an elephant's eye." Seeds are sown, and God brings the growth. Regarding the life of a church, Corinthians 3:6 reads, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." Paul the Apostle is reflecting on the fact that people in the Body of Christ do things, but it is always God who causes the miracle of growth, whether in nature or in communities of faith. With that in mind, we gear up for another fall at First Lutheran!

Rally Sunday is September 15, Sunday School classes begin. Sunday School follows a "rotation" schedule, beginning around 9:30 a.m., with an introduction time with music, a lesson on the Bible readings from worship, activities and crafts. Gail Hittesdorf, Administrative Assistant, will assist Sunday School teachers to plan rotations. Teachers work in teams to teach the kids, and the whole thing is kind of like a "VBS" every Sunday—the children and youth are very much engaged in what they are learning, it's an excellent way to grow in faith!

Confirmation classes begin September 11. 7th Graders, please come for "check-in" time and snack at 6:45 p.m., with class beginning at 7:00 p.m. The schedule will change this year, **7th Grade meets for 10 weeks this fall**, and **8th Grade meets for 10 weeks in the new year**. We plan for adult volunteer Confirmation Guides this year, as mentors to groups of students, leading discussion after a weekly talk on the topic of the week, which includes the Apostles' Creed, Lutheran Identity, Life and Faith, and talking about Tough Questions and how God leads us to answers.

Parents' Meeting to Plan Youth Events is scheduled between services September 15. FLY (First Lutheran Youth) will not meet weekly this year on Wednesdays, but a monthly event for grades 6-12 will be planned. As we seek a Youth and Family Minister, we will need assistance from volunteers for youth events. We plan to schedule Mission Trips for both Middle School and High

School next summer. Meanwhile, if you know of anyone you think might be a great candidate for Youth and Family Minister at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Jake at jdyrhaug@flclittlefalls.org or 320-733-0257.

Worship Service Times continue with **Traditional Service at 8:30 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 10:30 a.m.** I've noticed over the past few years I've been privileged to be here that people attend either service on a given Sunday, partly for the sake of schedule, and partly to meet and worship with friends who attend the "other service." That's because we're one faith community, and friendships and encouragement and faith are everywhere you look at First Lutheran!

The Spiritual Gifts team has been preparing for a Spiritual Gifts Workshop Saturday, September 28, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Council members and all team leaders of First Lutheran and anyone else interested are invited to attend. Using the Spiritual Gifts Inventory on the ELCA webpage, we will ask, "How has God given me spiritual abilities and gifts, and what are they?" "How do these help guide me to where I can best plug into the life of First Lutheran, where we are 'First...Servants of All'?" These questions we will explore in the year to come.

Consecration Sunday: Current estimates are a 20% increase anticipated in general giving for this year, which is something that causes us to say, "Glory to you, O Lord!" Together we can accomplish much, knowing that we only water and plant, but it is God who brings the growth. We'll hear stories of faith and generosity from the people of First Lutheran in the coming weeks, and on Sunday, October 6, Rev. Dr. Mark Olson from Faith Lutheran Church in Bagley will be our guest leader for Consecration Sunday and a "Harvest Dinner."

God bless you this fall with abundance and grace!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



Council Highlights

- ✚ Heard that one four-unit window has been ordered for replacement in the Ruth/Naomi Room. This purchase was made possible with the special Pentecost Celebration offering. Thank you!
- ✚ Heard that more than 74 backpacks and many school supplies were donated during the week of Vacation Bible School. These supplies were shared with area schools for children in need. Thank you to all!
- ✚ Save the date: Rally Sunday, September 15!

Worship Serving Opportunities

Each Sunday, many worshipers come to worship at First Lutheran Church, every week someone is here for the first time. **Your servant hands** are an integral part of providing hospitality to all who enter here. Stop at the table in the Gathering Space or call or email the church office to offer your gifts in service to Christ’s body at First Lutheran. Serving areas are greeters, ushers, scripture readers, communion ministry, child care, coffee hospitality. You can sign up for a time that fits your schedule. **Sign up now for September and October.** Training for each serving ministry is available—please ask! For more information, contact the church office.



New Member Group

First Lutheran welcomes all into God’s ministry in this congregation. All worshipers are welcome to participate in the opportunities that are offered here and we encourage you to actively grow in your discipleship walk by taking part in Bible study, serving, and fellowship events, and regular worship. If you are a worshiper at First Lutheran Church who would like to become a member of the congregation, or a current member who wants to help welcome new folks, or if you have any questions, please contact the church office, 632-6667. An orientation session for new members is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. The Congregational Life Ministry Team will serve dessert. New members will be received in worship at both services on Sunday, September 22. Welcome!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Interim Youth Minister: As we prepare for fall, we are searching for someone who would consider an interim Youth and Family staff position to help coordinate:

Sunday School, monthly youth events for 7th-12th grade, and an occasional “Gospel Gang” event for 3rd-5th grade youth, bible camp registrations, youth gathering and mission trip registrations.

The interim Youth and Family Minister will work in partnership with the pastor, Education Ministry Team and Youth Ministry Teams.

This position will be part-time, 15-20 hours/week. If you or someone you know is interested, or for more detailed information, please call the church office at 632-6667, or email Office Manager, Sue Gustner, sgustner@flclittlefalls.org.

Adult Opportunities

Martha Circle

Martha Circle meets Monday, September 9, at 9:30 a.m. at the church for study and treats. Pastor Hank French leads the Bible study. The group welcomes new members!



Quilters Group

The Thursday morning Quilters Group resumes meeting on Thursday, September 5 at 9:00 a.m. The group welcomes anyone (women or men) who would like to use their hands in service to others. You do not need to be skilled at sewing! We iron, cut, pattern, sew, tie, and fold. Some of the members sew at home. There are a variety of ways to serve and we are open to new ideas. The group meets until 11:30 a.m. We share stories over coffee and treats and have a great time. We accept cotton sheets and cotton material in good condition. Quilts or lap quilts are available for purchase if your home or family has a need. Last year over 100 quilts were donated to students, hospitals, and care centers. Quilts were also donated to fundraising benefits/auctions for those in need. A quilt donated to Camp Knutson, a summer camp for special needs youth, received the high bid of \$1,400! For more information, contact Pat Moller, 320-630-4880, Marlys Plante, 632-8055, or Marlene Williams, 632-4290.

Men's Morning Bible Study Wednesday, September 4

All men of the congregation and friends are invited to Men's Bible Study which resumes on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 a.m. at church. The study includes breakfast. Come when you are able, leave when you must. In order to accommodate schedules, meeting dates may vary. The next study is September 18. For more information, call the church office at 632-6667 or Doug Luepke, 584-5957.

Afternoon Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, September 11, 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome to this study led by Pastor Hank French. The study is normally offered two times per month, the September dates are Wednesdays, September 11 and 25. The group will begin the fall study by comparing the beliefs of the major world religions with Christian beliefs. For more information, contact the church office.

Book Club

All adult readers are welcome to read with this group. The selection for September is [The Girl from the Train](#) by Irma Joubert. Readers, please secure your own copy of the book. The group meets in the church library on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the month's book. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.

Chapel Prayer

Each Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. is a time of prayer in the chapel. All are welcome to come and share prayer concerns and a time of intentional prayer. Come when you are able.

Music in Worship

Something incredible happens when we sing! As we join together singing a hymn or praise song, something awakens not only in the heart of each person but also in the collective heart of First Lutheran Church.

“Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 5:18-20

The First Lutheran Church music program depends on participation (a worship service is not a spectator sport). At the very least you are expected to sing along! In addition, you are invited to become part of the musical leadership in our wonderful congregation. Here are ways that you can get involved musically:

Grace Notes Choir loves having new singers! Rehearsals for the 2019-2020 season will begin on September 11 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Barb Stumpf, Grace Notes Choir Director, for more information 320-630-3926.

Special Event Choirs are short-term choir commitments. This year we are looking for short term singers to join the Grace Notes Choir on the following dates: Consecration Sunday, October 6, one service at 10:00 a.m., Advent Lessons and Carols service, Sunday, December 15, at both services, and Christmas Eve, 5:00 p.m. service.

Followers of Jesus Children’s Choir rehearses after school on Wednesdays, September 11-December 11. Registration forms are available at the registration desk in the gathering space. Bus transportation from school to church is available.

Praise Team Singers and Instrumentalists lead the 10:30 contemporary worship service every Sunday. Many musicians lend their talents and we are always excited to have new members.

Cantors lead the congregation in the Kyrie and a Psalm as well as other parts of each traditional liturgical service, normally at 8:30 a.m.

Please contact Becky Nelson, Director of Music Ministries, for more information 320-360-0209 or rpnelson@brainerd.net.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School – “Roar!” this year! Over 130 children and youth had a great experience learning that God is Good! The Vacation Bible School Mission Project, Operation Backpack provided over 74 backpacks filled with school supplies to area schools! Due to your generosity we were able to also contribute boxes of extra supplies to the schools. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, backpacks, sorted, counted, packed, and delivered the backpacks! You have assisted many children with learning needs. Thanks for being Jesus’ hands and feet in this part of the kingdom.

Thank you for your helping hands during the month of August:

-  All who assisted in any way or attended Vacation Bible School.
-  All who helped with the booth at the Green Fair Folk Festival at St. Francis campus.
-  Those who assist with care center worship services.
-  Those who provide care for the church gardens and landscaping.
-  Those who attended and helped with the quilt auction at Camp Knutson.
-  All who served in any worship opportunity.
-  All who quietly provided a helping hand to another person in need.

Sunday Morning Education Ministry Begins on Rally Sunday, September 15 9:35-10:20 a.m.

The Sunday morning schedule is intended to allow families to worship together at the service of their choice and conveniently attend Sunday School. Preschoolers meet with their teachers in a classroom setting. Rotational style education ministry is used for children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Youth participate by rotating through areas such as cooking, drama/storytelling, arts and crafts, and games as we explore a theme that coincides with the scripture readings used in worship for a three week period. Middle School and High School youth meet separately. If you or someone you know has a passion for teaching and youth, there are many levels of involvement and something for each one's gift!

For more information, contact the church office, 632-6667.



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, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. Children and their parents/guardians 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 Rally Sunday, September 15 at both services. Please enroll your child to ensure they receive a Bible. If you have questions, please call the church office, 632-6667.

Confirmation Ministries

Parents/Guardians: Please register your children for confirmation and youth ministry activities now. Forms have been mailed to families or are available in the church office. High School students, please register in order to participate in youth activities.

Third Grade: Youth entering third grade have received their Bibles. Parents and youth will share Family Devotions in September. If your third grade student missed the class on August 21 or was unable to receive their Bible, please contact the church office to make other arrangements.

Fifth Grade: class on Stewardship meets in September. Youth will practice stewardship by making communion bread together on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. Communion bread will be served at Holy Communion on Rally Sunday, September 15. Class continues on September 18, and 25, at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to the adult leaders for leading these sessions.

Seventh Grade Confirmation: This class will meet together for ten sessions with Pastor Jake to continue their study. Classes begin on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. Students and parents/guardians should have received a letter about the class and the class schedule. If you did not receive a letter or if you have questions, please contact Sue Gustner in the church office.

Ninth Grade: Confirmation Reception on Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m. for students, parents, and mentors. We will share a light lunch, students will share mentor activities, and we will prepare for Confirmation Sunday. Watch for a letter with more information about this gathering time. Confirmation Sunday is on Reformation Sunday, October 27 at 10:30 a.m. worship service.

"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from "Children First" Christian Preschool!

Welcome new and returning families! We are excited to begin a new year!

We begin the year with Parent/Guardian Orientation on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:00 p.m. This is a time for Parents/Guardians to become familiar with our programming, Parent Handbook, and State of Minnesota mandated information. The information shared during this time will not be "child-friendly" so we ask that children not attend this orientation. The first day of class is Monday, September 9 for all preschoolers. This session will meet from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Students and parents will experience the classroom together for one-half hour, and then the parents/guardians will attend a special session while the children have fun! Please bring a photo of your preschooler along with two photos of something they enjoy doing and a family photo. Regular classroom time begins Tuesday, September 10 and Wednesday, September 11 from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

"Children First" Christian Preschool is in its 19th year. "Children First" offers children in our care, an opportunity to grow and develop daily through play, literacy, math, science, technology, and creative arts. Christian faith and learning is woven into each day. Each child in our program benefits from one-on-one teacher time, small group learning catering to the groups' development level, along with combined large group experiences. We communicate with our parents throughout the preschool year working as a family to ensure that preschoolers are ready for their future Kindergarten experiences.

Our class structure is flexible to meet the needs of families. Class choices include: Monday-Friday, Monday-Thursday, Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday or add a Friday to create a 3-day Preschool Week. All classes meet from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Registration/Enrollment forms are

located in the Gathering Space at First Lutheran Church or on the First Lutheran Church website. There is a \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee. Monthly/yearly tuition fees are listed on the yellow registration form. "Children First" registers students throughout the Preschool year whenever parents feel children are developmentally ready for a Preschool opportunity. All ages 33 months through Pre-Kindergarten are welcome! If you would like to discuss Preschool or come for a visit, please contact me.

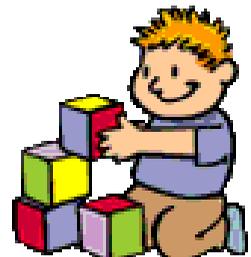
"Children First" will again host a booth at the Little Falls Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday and Sunday, September 7 and 8, 2019. Our booth will be located on the corner of Broadway and Second Street (courthouse corner). We will be serving hot chocolate, coffee, pop and water. We look forward seeing you at our booth and at the Fair! If you wish to volunteer your time at our booth contact Gail or sign up on the Volunteer Sheet located on the Gathering Space.

Dutch Mill is offering a Fall Flower Bulb order opportunity. You may order online at <https://groups.dutchmillbulbs.com/shop/?affiliates=childrenfirstchristianpreschool>. There are a variety of tulips, crocus, narcissus and other bulbs. Online orders will be delivered to your home. Or contact Gail at church to order. Thank you!

Thank you again to those who are choosing to sponsor tuition for a Preschool student. You remain anonymous but the Preschool families pass along a humble thank you! Also thank you to those who contribute through Thrivent Giving or other financial gifts, for the gift of time and talents, and to all who continue to keep the Preschool in their prayers. You are appreciated!

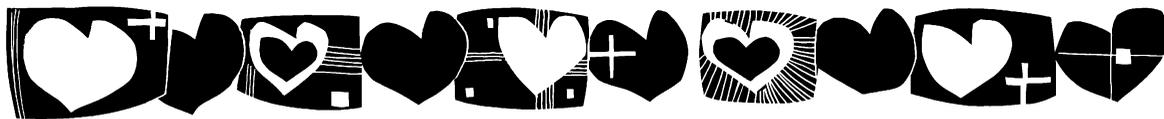
In Christ's Service,

Gail Hittesdorf
Director



Congregational Devotional Ministry

“Whoever is in Christ is a new creation.” 2 Corinthians 5:17



“Christ came into this world, making it clear how God loves us, and Christ is making everything new, giving us new vision.”
Pr. Jake Dyrhaug

How do you see Jesus? Have you had moments when you have felt your trust and confidence in Christ as Savior is clear and your faith roots go deep? Where have you had moments of doubt in God’s love and presence but then discovered He was near?

These questions speak to our journey of faith. Faith, a word frequently shared amongst those who walk with Jesus, is neither a “perfect” nor easy. Rather, it is ever changing, often providing comfort and confidence. Last year, we saw this as members of our First Lutheran family wrote and shared their journey of faith during Advent. The stories of faith did much to uplift, encourage, and support others.

YOUR faith story is also important to strengthen others. As we prepare for the upcoming Advent and Lenten seasons, we are seeking 40 to 50 individuals, couples, or family units who are willing to share their faith journey through a short devotion (approximately one page double-spaced). The devotion will be posted on the FLC webpage during the Advent or Lent with hard copies

for those who do not have internet access. The proposed theme for the devotions is “*Made New 20/20*”.

Please prayerfully consider sharing your story. For those who commit to writing a devotion, a short meeting for all devotion writers will be scheduled and devotion writing guide provided. As you consider this request, keep in mind the Advent devotions will need to be submitted approximately October 15 and Lenten devotions submitted approximately January 15. Thank you!

Contact Mary Pfohl at mary.pfohl@gmail.com or 320-632-4760 by September 10 if you are willing to commit to writing one or two devotions. Questions may be directed to any member of the Congregational Life Ministry Team.

Congregational Life Ministry Team: Jeff Bigalke, Cassie Neumann, Jerry Neumann, Kerry Olson, Ted Pfohl, and Mary Pfohl



Youth News



See You at the Pole **Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 a.m.** **“If...”**

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.

Students in grades 6-12 can gather around the middle school flagpole for a time of prayer with other students. Come for prayer that is focused on friends, teachers, families, leaders, community, nation, and the world. Students all around the world will be praying on this day.

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. A trip to the recycler would be helpful before the weather turns colder. If you can help bring cans to the local recycler, please contact the church office.



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!

News of the Family



Zakary Bryan Stavish and Myles Osbourne Stavish, sons of Kristyna and Bryan Stavish were baptized on August 4.

Vincent Winchester Olson, son of Kelsie and Randy Olson was baptized on August 18.

Welcome to the family of God!



Nancy Dalsted and Karl Stamm were united in marriage on June 22.

May God bless your life together!

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. continues throughout the year. Stay after the 8:30 a.m. service, or come early for the 10:30 service, for coffee (leaded and unleaded!), treats and fellowship. All are welcome!

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

