



# First Lutheran Church

We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.

## December 2015 Parish Visitor

### From the Pastors...

You've heard it said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I remember how fascinated we kids were with our new television – and the **five channels** we could choose between (**three** if you were picky about “snow” clouding the screen). We only need look at the exponential expansion of the visual media since those days to know that our thirst for images has far surpassed our hunger for the written word.

Yet the truth is that in many places of the Bible (a very picture-less book), the eyes of our **imagination**s are still delighted by the use of **word pictures**. Here are some examples:

Genesis 1 – When God speaks: *lights* are hung in the heavens, the *seas* are filled with fish, *plants* cover the land, *animals* creep, *birds* fly and *human beings* are created in God's image.

Ezekiel 37 – When the prophet is set down in a valley full of dry bones and commanded to prophesy, we're told that *suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together...*

Isaiah 11 – Recently at worship we heard those beautiful words about a *wolf* living with a *lamb*, a *leopard* lying down with a *kid*, and how a *little child* will lead them.

Then in the Gospels we meet the master story-teller who continues to fill our minds'-eyes with word pictures: a *lost coin*, a *good Samaritan*, a *mustard* seed and the **judging** of *sheep* and *goats*.

The formula is true: 1 picture = 1,000 words...Yet it's also true that the Bible continues to be incredibly applicable to our lives – through the use of **word pictures!** With our advances in technology, we are committed to tying those two together: God's Word **and** pictures.

Toward that end, we **invite, encourage, summon, urge, ask** every member of First Lutheran with anything from an advanced camera to a basic smart phone: **look for God-moments in your lives**. Then take pictures of what you see, and get them to anyone on staff. Then we'll be able to let everyone enjoy the power of 1,000 words of God's great love in just one picture.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Scott

## Children, Families and Youth News



Advent is here!! **ADVENT CANDLES and Devotions** are available at First Lutheran again for families. This festive 12" tall taper artfully displays a nativity scene below 24 numbers detailed in red and green to represent each day of advent. Each day your family can light the candle and watch one day melt away as you read a quick devotion for the advent season. It's simple, faith-filled, and easy to have this activity

become a tradition in your household. Don't forget to pick yours up in the narthex!! Questions? Just ask Tonya. Please: one per family.

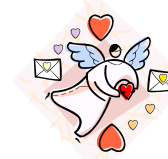


### Senior High MissionTrip FUNDRAISER UPDATES:



SAVE THE DATE! FLY **CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK**, SUNDAY DEC 6<sup>TH</sup> FLY will be hosting a Christmas Cookie Walk. Our walk will coincide with Children's TLC Christmas Program. Trays will be available for you to fill with your choice of yummy treats or we will have trays pre-filled up in the Narthex ready to go. Plan to join us and get your baking done with no mess in your kitchen!

**HyVee Cards available for Purchase!** The Sr High MissionTrip youth will be selling HyVee gift cards throughout the year as a part of their fundraisers. We have \$50 cards and \$100 cards. Everyone needs groceries...and its money you would spend anyway, if not all at one time, eventually. By using the gift cards, part of the money will go to the youth! Thanks!



### **It's Heart to Heart time again in Marshall!!**

Hey *junior high* youth...will you help out? Hey *senior high* youth! We need you all too!!! **Families want to help with driving? Families want to do this together?** Every year our youth help deliver the food boxes to various families for Heart to Heart..... but we need your help to do it!! *Many hands makes for light work!* And shorter routes! We will meet at the church on **Friday, December 18th after school**. We will divide up the town, and deliver the items. It's an awesome way to reach out and help during the season! Q's? Just call Tonya!

**TLC Wednesday & Sunday Joint Christmas Program Rehearsal Date  
Wednesday, December 2nd – 4:00pm**



**Students Need to Meet & Get Picked up...**

- **TLC Sunday Students: In pews in Gethsemane Chapel**
- **TLC Wednesday Students: In classrooms**

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45am  
TLC Sun & Wed Christmas Program**

Students report to Gethsemane Chapel by 8:45am

**“The Christmas Story”**

Presented by all Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade TLC Students



**3 For Heaven’s Sake in December will be on  
Sunday, December 13!!**

The 3 For Heaven’s Sake Class will be held on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am.

Be sure to change that on your calendars & hope to see you then!!



**TLC Christmas Break:** There will be no TLC December 23 through January 3.

**Confirmation Christmas Break:** There will be no Confirmation on December 23 or December 30.

**Other Important Items**

Each year we invite players of violin, viola, cello and string bass to play prelude music at First Lutheran for the annual Christmas Choir Concert Sunday at First Lutheran. String players of any age, get your fingers warmed up and bow rosined. String players from the community are very welcome also so bring your friends. We hope you will join us on Sat., Dec. 12, at 9:30 AM for rehearsal and perform Sunday, Dec. 13, as prelude music for both the 8:30 and 10:45 church services. If you have questions, please contact Diane Wright 507-532-9077 or Wes Myers - Marshall Public Schools Orchestra Teacher.



Beginning Experience of SW MN/Marshall, a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people is offering its "Coping With Life Alone" Series for ten weeks beginning Jan. 11, 2016. The Monday night sessions begin at 7:00 P.M. at the First Lutheran Church on Church and “A” Street in Marshall, MN.

Registration is held the first two Monday nights starting at 6:30 P.M. Registration is then closed for that session. The support group is open to people of all denominations. There is a \$75 fee to cover the cost of materials. This series is designed for those wishing to work through the grieving process following the loss of a loved one. If you wish to pre-register or have other questions concerning level participation, contact:

Laurie W: 507-829-6692 or [wall.laurie33@gmail.com](mailto:wall.laurie33@gmail.com) MaryAnn S.: 507-828-2866 or [maryannschultz83@gmail.com](mailto:maryannschultz83@gmail.com) Mary J.: 507-872-6251 or [yote1@centurytel.net](mailto:yote1@centurytel.net)



**2015 Angel Tree** - Make a donation to our Missionary and an Angel ornament will be placed on the tree in the narthex in recognition of your gift and the Angel is yours to keep after the Christmas holiday. Members from the Social Ministries committee will be available in the narthex for you to make a suggested missionary donation of \$25 (although any amount is welcome) and choose your Angel (from November 29 through December 20) on Wednesdays, Saturday

nights and between Sunday morning services. The Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Johnson is a seminary professor at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga, Cameroon, Africa.

**First Lutheran Women News**

**Important Dates**

- December 2 5:15pm Women’s Board Meeting - Movie Room
- December 2 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder Estates
- December 5 11:30am-1:30pm Christmas Luncheon – Fellowship Hall
- December 7 1:00pm Quilting
- December 9 6:00am Deborah Circle Meets
- December 9 9:30pm Hannah/Elizabeth Circle Meets
- December 14 7:00pm Esther Circle – Fireside Room
- December 16 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder Estates
- December 17 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry – Fireside Room
- December 23 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder Estates
- December 30 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder Estates



Hello Women of First Lutheran!

I am sending you an update on what your Board of Officers has been busy doing this fall. The year started in September with the installation of officers. We welcome two new Board members, Sue DeSaer and Janet Landby. Thank You for your willingness to serve!!

We also had a GENERAL MEETING for ALL Women of the church between services on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Sept. A second GENERAL MEETING was held on November 1<sup>st</sup> between services. These GENERAL MEETINGS are for your benefit to come and learn about our activities and to offer suggestion and/or questions about what the Women's Board is or should be doing. Please come and learn. There are two more GENERAL MEETINGS planned for the women on January 10<sup>th</sup>



and on April 10<sup>th</sup>, both held between services on those Sundays. At the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we will go over the BOLD WOMEN service honoring women of faith in our lives.

In October, several women attended the Conference Gathering hosted this year by Christ Lutheran in Cottonwood. Our speaker shared information about the Hospice Program. We also spent an afternoon playing Bingo with the residents at Morningside Heights Care Facility. This was a fun afternoon and time well spent for those of us that were able to come and help. The last Wednesday in October was our turn to serve the TLC meal at 5:30pm.

Now we are in November and we are being THANKFUL and wanting to share with others. The two trees have been set up in the Narthex. The tree branch is our GIVING Tree and every year we choose a cause for our donations to go to. This year we are accepting donations for the HOUSE OF HOPE.

The Christmas tree is for the HEART TO HEART program. We will accept donations for both trees until November 30<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited to invite you to a Christmas Lunch on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:30 – 1:30. A simple meal is planned, devotions and caroling, AND A MAGIC SHOW. Tickets are \$10 to cover expenses and are on sale from Board members and at church between services. The Youth have agreed to have cookies for sale after the lunch so come and get a start on your Christmas baking.

BOLD WOMEN Sunday the last weekend in January so we have started making plans for that special Sunday.

Just look around you and see the many things women are doing in our church. THANK YOU!!!! All of you women, old and young, for using the gifts/talents God has blessed you with to serve others and help out. You are a blessing.... Thank you especially to the women who serve on the Board besides everything else that you do for the church.... I (we) appreciate you.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS. May PEACE and JOY come to you!!!!

In service to Christ and the women of First Lutheran

Karen Y Murphy

President of First Lutheran Women

## **Shetek Lutheran Ministries**

# **CANews FROM CAMP**

*Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers*

**Thank you for your support!**

**The Shetek staff and board would like to thank you for your support!**

**Your gift enable us to offer outstanding programs, maintain the day to day operation, provide camperships, and continually update out facilities.**

**As we look forward to the future we are excited about all that is ahead as God continues to lead us in new directions.**

**May God richly bless you for your support!**

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas!**

### **Mark Your Calendar**

- **Lutefisk Supper – December 6th 5:30p.m.**
- **Beginning Snowshoeing – December 18th 3-5p.m.**
- **Winter Fun Day – December 29th**
- **Summer Staff Reunion – December 29th & 30th**
- **Stargazing and Skiing – January 2nd 8-10p.m.**
- **Scraptaacular Retreat- January 22nd -24th**
- **2nd Annual women's Tea and Ski- February 6th**
- **Marriage Retreat – February 12th-14th**
- **SLM Annual Meeting – February 14th**

For more information go to our website [shetek.org](http://shetek.org)

## **Worship Schedule**

Wednesdays - 5:15pm

Saturdays - 5:30pm

Sundays – 8:30am & 10:45am

Radio – Sundays at 11am on 1400AM or 103.3FM

Local Cable TV – Tuesdays at 7:30pm and Wednesdays at 1:30pm

Charter 180 & Vast 17

**Church Office Phone: 507-532-2429**

**Church Office Email: [firstluth@iw.net](mailto:firstluth@iw.net)**

**Pastor Scott Fuller**

E-mail: [revscottfuller56@gmail.com](mailto:revscottfuller56@gmail.com) Phone: 507-476-8961

**Pastor Julie McCain**

E-mail: [pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com) Phone: 310-938-1346

[www.1stlutheran.org](http://www.1stlutheran.org)

You can view our Facebook page from this site too!

Youth Web Site – [www.first-lutheran-youth.blogspot.com](http://www.first-lutheran-youth.blogspot.com)