



# First Lutheran Church

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

## December 2016 Parish Visitor

### From the Pastors...

#### Are You Ready?

Are you ready for Christmas and all that this season entails? Were you ready for Thanksgiving? It's a time when so many of us experience bursts of: "Wow, I love this season! It's my favorite time of the year, and so magical!" while simultaneously feeling like there is no possible way to be everywhere we need to be and accomplish everything we need to accomplish in this season filled with such flurries of activity. By the end of it all, many of us will feel as if we've been run over by a truck, wondering where on earth the holiday season went, and mostly just happy to have survived.

Every year I tell myself that I won't allow myself to get stressed out about buying the right gift or having the perfectly decorated house, but it's just so easy to get swept up. Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ—a time to "prepare him room," and make space for him in our lives and our hearts. And if you've found a way to do that, I am thankful. But if you're struggling, if you're aware that you've already succumb to the stress, then give yourself a break. The very reason that that tiny baby comes to in the first place is because we seem to have trouble figuring things out on our own.

And He will come no matter what your Christmas season looks like this year. We sing the words "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," remembering Jesus will come and ransom us from whatever holds us captive. He'll show up and take up residence in our hearts, even if we've struggled to prepare, or failed to prepare at all. That's what the Christmas promise is really about. We can relax. Jesus has got this.

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Julie

### 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 Montana Trip FUNDRAISER UPDATES:

SAVE THE DATES! **FLY CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALKS!** FLY will be hosting TWO Christmas Cookie Walks. Our walk will coincide with Children's TLC Christmas Program on **Sunday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**. Trays will be available for you to fill with your choice of yummy treats **ON SUNDAY** or we will have trays pre-filled up in the Narthex ready to go on both Sunday AND Wednesday. Plan to join us and get your baking done with no mess in your kitchen!



#### HyVee Cards available for Purchase!

The Senior High Montana Trip 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! They make awesome Christmas gifts too! 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!!! *Parents* 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 16th** 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 Christmas Programs

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**During the 8:30am Worship Service**

You're all invited to...  
**"The Christmas Story"**

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

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**During the 5:15 Worship Service**

You're all invited to...  
**"The Christmas Story"**

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



**TLC Christmas Break:** There will be no TLC December 21 through January 1.

**Confirmation Christmas Break:** There will be no Confirmation on December 28.

## Other Important Items

2016 is almost over and that means it is time to sign up to help with one of First Lutheran Church's important ministries: the radio broadcast ministry for 2017. Each Sunday, the service is aired on the local radio station at a cost of \$93.00. Here is an opportunity for us to help with this ministry in a simple way.

If you wish to sponsor a Sunday broadcast, please sign your name next to the date of the Sunday of your choice on the clipboard found on the table in the narthex. A month before your sponsored Sunday, you will receive a postcard reminding you to call the church office to tell Becky what wording you would like printed in the bulletin. A check / cash for \$93.00 should be brought to the office or put into the offering plate. Please make a notation on your check that the money is for a radio broadcast. You may call the office if you have a question or cannot get to church to select a Sunday to sponsor.

A broadcast may be sponsored in memory of someone, in honor of a special occasion or person in your life, in gratitude for something, or you may choose not to have any wording at all. Thank you, so very much, for your part in this vital ministry.



### Holiday Worship Schedule:

**Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>** 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 9:00pm

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>:** 8:30am only

**Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>:** 4:00pm

**Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>:** No Worship



## First Lutheran Women News

### Important Dates

December 3	10:00am Christmas Tea
December 5	1:00pm Quilting
December 7	9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder
December 7	5:15pm Women's Board Meeting – Movie Rm
December 12	7:00pm Esther Circle
December 14	6:00am Deborah Circle
December 14	9:30am Elizabeth/Hannah Circle
December 19	1:00pm Quilting
December 21	9:30am Rejoice Bible Study @ Boulder
December 28	9:30am Rejoice Bible Study @ Boulder



### First Lutheran Funeral Meal Ministry

2 Corinthians 1:4: *He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

First Lutheran Women take leadership for the Funeral Meal Ministry. All member households are part of this ministry and are divided into 5 alphabetical groups. When a member dies, the family contacts a Pastor who assists with funeral planning. Details include the family making contact with one of the funeral coordinators who assists with details for the meal which follows the funeral. After this discussion, the coordinator contacts households through callers from one alphabetical member group to request their support of the funeral meal. Presently member households are contacted to give their support in one of three ways:

- 1.) provide 1 dozen cupcakes for the meal;
- 2.) give a \$5.00 donation to cover meal expenses; or
- 3.) assist with tasks during the meal preparation and/or service.

**Starting in January, 2017, First Lutheran Women and the Pastors are implementing a new procedure for contacting households for their support of the Funeral Meal Ministry. A major change will be that there will no longer be callers for each alphabetical group asking for food or money. We take this opportunity to recognize everyone who has served in the caller role – your contributions have been invaluable and we are grateful for your accomplishments.**

Additional changes include:

- 1.) **Food will no longer be requested from member households.** All food for the funeral meal will be catered. First Lutheran Women will continue to cover the cost of cupcakes, condiments, and coffee. The cost for all other food requested for the funeral meal will be covered by the family of the deceased. All leftover food will go to the family.
- 2.) **All member households are asked for an annual \$10.00 donation to cover expenses. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. You may place your funeral donation envelope in the offering plate or take it to the Church Office. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church with a memo identified as “Annual Funeral Meal Ministry Donation”.**
- 3.) Member households will continue to be divided into 5 alphabetical groups to address the need for funeral meal workers. **Members who have worked at a funeral during the last year will be asked to be part of a funeral worker list from their alphabetical group. Other volunteers are needed – if you are interested in being a funeral worker, please contact the Church Office (532-2429; firstluth@iw.net) to add your name to the Funeral Worker List.** We also need 5 **“Worker Champions”** – one from each alphabetical group -- who would be willing to contact members of their group when additional workers are needed for a funeral meal. **Please contact the Church Office (532-2429; firstluth@iw.net) if you are interested in becoming your group’s Worker Champion.**

**Families continue to share how important the Funeral Meal Ministry has been to them in their time of need.** You, the members of First Lutheran, have provided this support and play a very important role in this ministry. We feel these changes will only strengthen this important work for families. Please contact us if you have questions.

Kim Christianson (christianson.kim@gmail.com) 530-2301

Shirley Anderson-Porisch (kporisch@charter.net) 828-1945

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries

# CANNEWS FROM CAMP

*Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers*

### Mark Your Calendar

Lutefisk supper - December 4<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. 2016

Winter fun day – December 29<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade 2016

Summer Staff Reunion – December 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 2016

Stargazing and snowshoeing – January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

Scraptacular – January 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> 2017

For more information go to our website [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) or call 763-3567

**Help send Kids to camp...Become a Pelican/Timber member today  
For more information call 763-3567 or [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)**

### SLM Winter Fun Day

December 29, 2016 \* 3rd-6th grades

Cost: \$25 per youth, \$10 deposit due with registration (included in total cost)

9:30 – 4:30p.m.



Come to camp over your holiday break to be reminded of God's love and to have a blustery blast with winter camp activities like: snowshoeing, broomball, Bible Time, Cross country skiing and more!

## **Worship Schedule**

Wednesdays - 5:15pm Advent Worship

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)