



# First Lutheran Church

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

## December 2018 Parish Visitor

### From the Pastor...

TAKE?

As I sit in my hot tub on my one morning off for the week, I listen to the geese fly by. I gaze at the light dusting of snow, that looks beautiful not only because there is not enough to shovel, but because our late rains have left the grass green and alive, poking through. It reminds me of sugar sprinkles on your favorite Christmas cookie.

As I watch the steam evaporate in the air and negotiate the temperature transition between my body and the cool atmosphere, I wonder is this the calm before the storm?

I received the list for spring courses, of which I will have to register for 3 times the number of courses I am currently taking. My first final assignments for grades are due mid December. My officials schedule for reffing elementary and high school basketball is highlighted on my calendar and will demand heightened awareness and physical fitness several nights each week. There are Christmas parties, holiday dinners and gifts that will require time, attention and preparation. I look at my deck railing and sigh, "yup that should get lights and garland too".

This season can be busy and if you let the demands and expectations of the world get a grip on you, it will spin you around until your sick, exhausted and see no meaning. This season is meant to be a time of *Thanksgiving*, *Compassion* and *Awe*. Jesus was born to give us life so we could live it abundantly, not kill ourselves baking and decorating; bustling around and spending way over our budgets.

I invite you to TAKE this season, not just give. TAKE time to talk with God, TAKE time to see Jesus in the face of a stranger, TAKE time to miss a loved one, TAKE encouragement in the fact that we are loved and cherished by our father and creator for who we are, not what we accomplish. TAKE an inventory of your personal gifts, not just the ones under the tree. If something seems like more work than fun, maybe your to do list needs editing. TAKE time to notice the beauty around you and TAKE solace in the message "For unto us a child is born, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign over David's throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this!" (Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV)

Take Blessing,

Sara Larson  
Lay Minister

## Children, Families and Youth News



Advent is here!! **ADVENT CANDLES** are available at First Lutheran again for families. This festive 12" tall taper displays 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 visit together about your days. It's simple, faith-filled, and easy to have this activity become a tradition in your household. Please, one per family.



Along with the Advent candles, First Lutheran will be passing out **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR BAGS**. Instead of receiving a treat every day counting down through the season of Advent, we're going to put something in a bag for people who make use of the FOOD SHELF. Every day you're invited to add something practical for a family to use like food items or personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, soaps, etc. (As part of your devotions, you could add the item to the bag after you light the advent candle?!)

The month after Christmas gets very busy at the food shelf so any items will be greatly appreciated! On or after December 26th (because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year), your family can bring your bag to the Kitchen Table-Marshall Food Shelf at 1400 S Saratoga.

Think of the blessings:

- It's a great and different way for your family to give as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.
- It will make you feel good knowing that you're doing something for another family.
- And it will be a wonderful field trip for your kids to see what the Food Shelf is all about. If you can't make it to the Food Shelf, simply drop off your full bag at First Lutheran and we'll make sure that it gets delivered.

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 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, Dec 12<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 Mission Trip youth are selling HyVee gift cards throughout the year as a part of their fundraisers. We have \$50 cards and \$100 cards. Everyone needs groceries....and it's 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 14th 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 9th

During the 10:45am Worship Service  
(No Regular TLC Sunday)

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

Presented by all Pre-K through 6th Grade **TLC Sunday Students**

#### Wednesday, December 12th

During the 5:15pm Worship Service

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

Presented by all Pre-K through 6th Grade **TLC Wednesday Students**

Both Christmas Programs will be  
Broadcast on Studio One (Charter 180 & Vast 17)

- December 15 & 16 @ 6:30pm
- December 22 & 24 @ 9:30am



### Winter Break

**TLC Winter Break:** There will be no TLC  
December 19th through January 2nd.

**Confirmation Winter Break:** There will be no  
Confirmation on December 19th through January 2nd.



### Other Important Items



#### Holiday Worship Schedule:

**Saturday December 22nd – 5:30pm**

**Sunday December 23rd - 9:30am**

**Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> – 3:00, 5:00, & 9:00pm**

**Saturday December 29th - No Worship**

**Sunday December 30th - 9:30am**

### Thrivent Member News

2018 is wrapping up. It is time to bring you up to date regarding Thrivent Financial and your benefits as a member of this organization.

- **Disaster Assistance:** This year there have been many disasters which have hit different parts of the country, Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Wisconsin Flooding, California Wildfires and the Iowa Tornadoes just to mention a few. From now until December 31, 2018 Thrivent will help with either matching money up to a million dollars to disaster relief or provide a means for donation to those affected by the disaster. Go to Thrivent.com and click on the Disaster Relief link to find out more. This is open to anyone whether you are a Thrivent member or not.
- **Thrivent Action Teams:** Are you a Thrivent Member? Have you used your Thrivent Action Team(s) for this year? There is still plenty of time for you to request seed money for a fundraiser, service project or educational event. It can be something for the church or community. Each Action Team event is given \$250.00 seed money to help with the event. Each Thrivent Benefit Member can do 2 Thrivent Action Team events per year. Not sure where to start, contact Tonya, Kits or Pastor Scott, at the church or Twila Henning, First Lutheran Church Congregational Advocate, at 507-360-0828 for ideas. To apply for a Thrivent Action Team, go to Thrivent.com. You will need to be a registered user to create a request.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Another Thrivent Member benefit is Thrivent Choice Dollars. As we near the end of 2018 make sure all your choice dollars are designated to the charity of your choice, you have until March 31, 2019 to designate your 2018 dollars, why not do so sooner rather than later. Thrivent no longer notifies members or automatically distributes Thrivent Choice Dollars, if you are not sure if you have Thrivent Choice dollars check with your local Thrivent Representative or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice Dollars, they will be able to provide you with your amount and assist you with designating these Dollars. You can also go online at Thrivent.com to designate your dollars.

### First Lutheran Women News

#### Important Dates

December 1	10:00am Christmas Tea
December 2	7:30pm Kitchen Planning Meeting
December 3	1:00pm Quilting
December 5	9:30am Rejoice Bible Study @ Boulder
December 10	7:00pm Esther Circle
December 12	6:00am Deborah Circle
December 12	9:00am Hannah/Elizabeth Circle
December 17	1:00pm Quilting
December 19	9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder





The Lyon County Heart to Heart Christmas tree is up in the Narthex. The Heart to Heart organization provides a food box for every family and a gift for every child in need at Christmas.

Our Heart to Heart tree has ornaments on it with a child's age bracket. Take an ornament from the tree and purchase an age appropriate gift. Bring your unwrapped gift with the ornament attached and place it back under the tree. The gifts will be brought to the armory about December 10<sup>th</sup>, in time to be wrapped and delivered for Christmas.

**The women's board will show their appreciation to our quilters on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Our small group of quilters were able to give quilts to students at SMSU, families in need and sent quilts to Lutheran World Relief at our SWMN Synod convention this past June. Thank you quilters, you truly are appreciated.

The quilters have decided to not meet in January, February and March. The weather was not in our favor last year and it needed to be cancelled on most Mondays so we will stay home warm and safe and resume again in April on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month. Because we will not be meeting we are asking that you hold your donations during this time. If anyone is interested in doing some sewing over the winter give Dawn a call at 507-828-8157.

#### **Christmas Tea December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

The program and speaker will also be offered in the Quarry Café at Boulder Estates at 2 pm that afternoon.

#### **January 26/27<sup>th</sup> – Bold Women's Weekend**

During this weekend women will lead the entire service.

Watch for sign-up sheets to see where you can help to "Share your Bold"

## **Shetek Lutheran Ministries**

# **CANEWS FROM CAMP**

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empower**

#### **Shetek Lutheran Ministries Quilting Retreat**

January 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> 2019

Enjoy a crafting weekend at SLM! Spend time in a relaxed, Christ-centered environment sewing, bonding with other crafters of faith, eating delicious food and engaging in daily devotions. Questions? Contact SLM at 507-763-3567 or at [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)

#### **Mark your Calendar**

2018

Lutefisk Supper – December 2

Winter Fun Day – December 27

2019

Snowshoeing & Stargazing –Jan. 11

SLM Quilting Retreat – Jan.18-20

Scrapacular – January 25-27

Family Ski Day – Jan. 27 2-4pm

Family Snowshoe Day-Feb. 2

SLM Annual Meeting – Feb. 10

Women's Tea & Ski – Feb.10

Winter toddlers & trees – Feb. 23

For more information call 763-3567

or check out our [www.shetek.org](http://www.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 – Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 5pm

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

**Sara Larson, Lay Minister**

E-mail: [sjlgal@frontiernet.net](mailto:sjlgal@frontiernet.net) Phone: 507-828-8423

[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)