



First Lutheran Church

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

February 2015 Parish Visitor

From the Pastor...



Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
(Genesis 3:19)

These are the stark words that we will hear at worship on Ash Wednesday (February 18th) when the sign of the cross is made on our foreheads in black. They are the same words used by God in Genesis 3 to remind the first man and woman that the lives of all mortals will end in death, which is ironic in a couple of ways.

First, the serpent had just insinuated that the opposite would be true if they dared eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The serpent said to them, *You will not die* which, I'm pretty sure, they heard as a promise that they would *never* die. God has to correct that misconception.

The second ironic twist is that God has to remind them *at all*. The serpent had also assured the two: *when you eat of (the fruit), your eyes will be opened and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil* (Genesis 3:5). My guess is that they stopped listening after the words *you will be like God*. And, as we all know *all too well* from our own struggles in life, that serpent-promised knowledge falls far short of the sales pitch.

Yet the good news is that we don't stand alone when we look into the truth of that brutal mirror. And the great news is that, through the gift of Jesus Christ, the image we see staring back at us is, wonder of wonders, the new Adam, the new Eve, the forgiven child of God in each of us – reborn every day of our lives to live and love and serve as God has always intended.

Throughout the season of Lent we will be examining this struggle between sin and salvation as it plays out in some of the parables told by Jesus. Read through them and note the tension between the way we act and how God is calling us to live. Pay special attention to God's passion for showing grace to all people.

Matthew 18:15-35	The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 20:1-16	The Laborers in the Vineyard
Matthew 22:1-14	The Wedding Banquet
Matthew 25:14-30	The Talents
Matthew 25:31-46	The Last Judgment

I hope that your journey through the season of Lent is filled with the good news of God's gift of grace.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Scott



Wednesday Lenten Worship

Very soon we will focus our eyes and our hearts on Christ's cross. The Lenten season calls us to take stock of our hearts as well as our relationship with God, all the while calling us toward mindfulness in our daily walk with Him. Lent is also a time of penitence, a reminder of our failings and our frailty; for me, however, it becomes more of a yearly reminder that no matter whether I succeed or fail at taking stock of things and being mindful, Christ died and Christ was raised for me, and for you as well! I hope that you are blessed with an awareness of both this Lent!

This year, we'll continue having two Wednesday Lenten services, one at 4:30 pm, and one at 6:30 pm with a youth-sponsored meal in between. We'll also continue to use Holden Evening Prayer.

Each week, the Wednesday sermons will draw on the rich imagery of rocks in Scripture. For example, in the Psalms, God is often referred to as our Rock. He is something solid on which we can always stand. On the other hand, in John 8, many are ready and willing to stone an adulterous woman. In that case, the rocks will become the burdens of judgment and sin that we carry.

Each week, as you enter the sanctuary, you'll be invited to pick up a stone as a concrete symbol of the sermon theme. We'll invite you to hold your stone as we explore the stone's meaning, and as the sermon concludes, you'll either be invited to take your stone with you as a reminder, or to leave it behind and give it back to God.

I hope to see you in Wednesday worship, and hope and pray that it helps us all keep our eyes and our hearts focused on the cross.

In Christ,
Pastor Julie

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Pastor Scott Fuller

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Pastor Julie McCain

E-mail: pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com Phone: 507-200-0470

www.1stlutheran.org

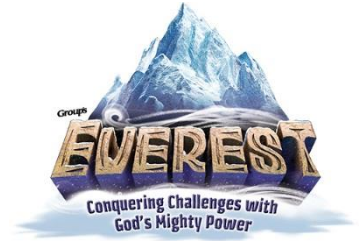
You can view our Facebook page from this site too!

Youth Web Site – www.first-lutheran-youth.blogspot.com

Children, Families and Youth News



Planning time is here!!



We are assembling our **Vacation Bible School Planning Committee** and would like to have our first meeting SOON! There are many ways to help out!! Here's a few...

- Publicity Coordinator – help get the word out!!
- Decoration Coordinator – be creative; construct a fun & exciting environment!
- Child Care Coordinator – oversee child care providers & help plan activities
- Snack Coordinator – oversee snack preparation, delivery, & clean-up
- Music Team Coordinator – recruit dance leaders & organize skits
- Registration Coordinator – process registrations & help on Registration Day!
- Crew Leader Coordinator – assist in training & supervising Crew Leaders
- Imagination Coordinator – assist in planning & gathering materials for the student projects (art projects & science experiments!)
- VBS Celebration Night Coordinator – assist with planning the VBS Celebration Night activities & put together a set up and tear down crew.

Please call the church office 532-2429 or email me at kmarks@iw.net & let us know how you'd like to help!

3 For Heaven's Sake on February 8th! The 3 For Heaven's Sake Class will be held on February 8th (instead of our normal February 15th schedule). Be sure to change that on your calendars & hope to see you then!!



Annual Youth Sponsored Lenten Suppers are scheduled again! Help support Youth and Family Ministry at First Lutheran! Enjoy a nice warm meal together as a family. Invite your friends to join you too. Meals are served from 5- 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall on February 18th (Ash Wednesday), February 25th, March 4th, March 11th, March 18th and March 25th. These meals are made and served by the youth as a fundraiser for their programming costs. This is why the price is higher than our "light meals on Wednesdays".

ADULTS: (12--UP) \$6.00
YOUTH: (5--11) \$4.00
CHILD: (4--UNDER) \$2.00
Family Cap of \$20.00



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY!!

Silent Auction

SENIOR HIGH DETROIT TRIP TO SPONSOR SPRING FUNDRAISER ... SILENT AUCTION AND MEAL!

Looking ahead....The month of March promises to put the FUN in FUNdraiser! We will have our annual Silent Auction filled with various items and services for you to bid on.



Anyone is welcome to put something on the auction to help out the youth!

- Bidding will start on Saturday, March 14th from 5:30-7pm.
- We will finish up on Sunday, March 29th for brunch and run until 11am to celebrate the close of the bidding and announce whose bids were the top.

Auction items will be publicized soon as well as the meal and prices. Thanks for supporting the youth!! We definitely need you all!

Hy-Vee Cards Available for Purchase! The Sr. High National Youth Gathering youth will be selling Hy-Vee 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. They are good at any Hy-Vee.... And good for gas too! By using the gift cards, part of the money will go to the youth! Thanks!



Senior Class Pictures Time again!! If you have gotten your class of 2015 senior pictures taken or are going to be taking them soon....please remember to bring in a wallet size picture for our Class composite. Thanks!



First Lutheran Women's News

Important Dates

February 2: Quilting, 1-4pm - hosted by Deborah Circle

February 3: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7pm in the Fireside Room

February 4: Women's Board Meeting, 5:15pm in the Movie Room

February 7 & 8: BOLD WOMEN'S WEEKEND

February 9: Esther Circle on Hebrews, 7pm in the Fireside Room

February 10: Kitchen Cleaning, 10am. ANY volunteers are welcome!!

February 11: Circle Bible Study Day

February 16: Quilting, 1-4pm - hosted by Deborah Circle



Welcome New Members!



We welcome these new members on January 28th, 31st and February 1st!

Caroline, Tyler, Dalton, Landon, & Riley Alcorn

504 Lincoln Avenue, Marshall; 507-537-1772

Caroline is self-employed as a Daycare Provider. Caroline has four sons, Tyler is 22 and a senior at SMSU, Dalton is 21 and a Junior at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, Landon is a Senior at the Marshall High School and Riley is a 7th grade student at the Marshall Middle School. The Alcorn family comes to us through affirmation from Holy Redeemer in Marshall, MN. Kitsi Marks is sponsoring for the Alcorn family.

Jeff & Susie, Sophie, Olivia, Koby, & Bella Anderson

601 Kathryn Avenue, Marshall; 507-337-0366

Jeff is a Team Leader/ Designated Coordinator for Habilitative Services Inc. in Marshall. Susie is a Para Professional at the Marshall Middle School. Sophie is a 7th grade student at the Marshall Middle School, Olivia is a 2nd grade student at Parkside in Marshall, Koby is a Kindergartner at Parkside in Marshall, and Bella is 4 years old.

The Anderson family comes to us as transfers from St. Stephen Lutheran in Marshall, MN. Brian & Cindy Pfeiffer are sponsoring the Anderson family.

Paul & Nancy, Jessica & Joseph Blanchard

1505 Westwood Drive, Marshall; 507-829-4905

Paul is the college baseball coach for Southwest Minnesota State University here in Marshall. Nancy is a Physical Therapist at Big Stone Therapies in Marshall as well as the High School Girls' Varsity Golf Coach. Jessica is a Senior and Joseph is a Sophomore and they both attend Marshall High School. The Blanchard family comes to us as transfers from St. Stephen's Lutheran in Marshall. Jason & Karen Peterson are sponsoring the Blanchard family.

Chad & Keri, Emma, Eli, & Ella Cole

3154 300th St., Marshall; 507-828-9453

Chad is a Production Manager at Boerboom Ag Resources. Keri is a 5th/6th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Holy Redeemer School. Emma is a Sophomore at Marshall High School, Eli is a 7th grader and Ella is a 3rd grader both at Holy Redeemer School in Marshall. The Cole Family comes to us as transfers from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marshall. The Schlenner Family is sponsoring the Cole family.

Neil & Stacy, Landon & Salem Frost

112 McFarland Circle, Marshall; 507-532-2580

Neil is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones here in Marshall. Stacy is the Director of Development at SMSU in Marshall. Landon is a 7th Grade student at the Marshall Middle School and Salem is a 1st Grade student at Parkside Elementary in Marshall. The Frost Family comes to us as transfers from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marshall. Bruce and Deb Mitlyng are sponsors for the Frost family.

Steve & Janet Hamner

503 E Lyon St, Marshall; Steve - 507-390-5305, Janet - 507-390-1306

Steve is a retired teacher and is currently a Substitute Teacher for various school districts in the area. Janet is the Secretary at the Campus Religious Center at SMSU in Marshall. Steve and Janet are transfers from Trinity Lutheran in Owatonna, MN. Brian and Susan Jones are sponsoring Steve & Janet Hamner.

Lisa & Damien Henning

215 Oslo Avenue, Marshall; 507-829-4158

Lisa is an IT Specialist at ADM in Marshall. Damien is 2 years old. Lisa comes to us through affirmation from Good Shepherd Lutheran in Marshall and Damien will be Baptized here at First Lutheran on Sunday, February 22nd. Tami Dahl is sponsoring Lisa & Damien.

Mark & Jennie, Abe, Reese, & Shep Jensen

509 Lawrence Street, Marshall; 507-537-9687

Mark is in sales at MDI. Jennie is a Para Professional in Special Education for Marshall Public Schools. Abe is a Freshman at Marshall High School, Reese is a 5th grader at Marshall Middle School, and Shep is a 1st grader at Parkside in Marshall. The Jensen family comes to us as transfers from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marshall. Tim, Erin, Carson, & Charlie Moline are sponsors for the Jensen family.

David & Janet Landby

212 S. Collins, Ghent; 218-242-4050

David is employed at Schwan's. Janet is a retired Special Ed. Teacher and is presently working as a Teacher's Aide at Wee Care Preschool. David & Janet are transfers from Zion Lutheran in Warroad, MN. Cory, Amy, Berlin, & Estella Sauter are their sponsors.

Kevin & Deann, Mason, Gabby, & Dawson Reese

Kevin is a Group Product Manager with US Bank in Marshall. Deann is a Mental Health Professional at Avera in Marshall. Mason is a Sophomore and Gabby is a Freshman at Marshall High School and Dawson is a 7th grader at Marshall Middle School. The Reese family comes to us as transfers from St. Stephen Lutheran in Marshall. The Reese Family is sponsored by John and Stacey Voit.

Brad & Jill, Brevin, Kaitlyn, Keaton, & McKenna Runia

212 Deschepper Street, Marshall; 507-829-3461/507-401-3653

Brad is a Physical Therapist and Jill is a Physical Therapist Assistant at Big Stone Therapies in Marshall. Brevin is a 6th grader at Marshall Middle School, Kaitlyn & Keaton are 4th graders at West Side in Marshall, and McKenna is 3 years old. The Runia family comes to us as transfers from Trinity Lutheran in Balaton, MN. The Runia Family is sponsored by Pam Russell.

Denise & Madison Schumacher

712 Marguerite Avenue, Marshall; 507-828-9060

Denise is a Principle Planner for the Minnesota Department of Health and develops and coordinates training and communication for the agency. Madison is a Freshman at Marshall High School. Denise and Madison come to us as transfers from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marshall. Sue Strutz is sponsoring Denise and Madison Schumacher.

Other Important Items

Financial Peace University: The Stewardship Committee will be hosting the spring Financial Peace University Class. This is the faith based financial management class developed by Dave Ramsey. Classes start on Sunday, February 15th and will run for 9 sessions. Classes are held in the unfinished basement from 4:30-6pm. Registration is on the Dave Ramsey website www.daveramsey.com and click on classes and click on Financial Peace University, find the First Lutheran Class listing and register. The class packet is \$94 and is shipped directly to you. Any questions, you can contact Linda Bloom Scott at linda_bloom_scott@hotmail.com or any Financial Peace University Alumni. Any questions, call Linda at work (532-7592) or cell (530-2667).



New Classes Starting Soon!

Holy Redeemer School: HRS invites parents of students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2015 to participate in Kindergarten Come-N-See by scheduling an appointment to visit the kindergarten classrooms and witness the instruction that is provided. This opportunity is available from February 2nd through March 16th. Our Kindergarten Round Up will be held on March 24th at 5:15 p.m. Holy Redeemer School welcomes students of all denominations.

- Contact our office at 532-6642, e-mail cdesmet@holy-redeemer.com or go to our website www.holyredeemerschools.com for more information about any of these events.
- For further information contact Angela Fahl, 507-828-9457, email angelagfahl@gmail.com



Shetek Lutheran Ministries News

slbc@frontiernet.net

www.shetek.org

Mark Your Calendar

- Ski and Stargazing – January 17th 8-10pm
- January 23-25 2015—SCRAPTACULAR (Scrapbooking & Stamping retreat)
- Snowshoeing at Shetek – January 25th
- First Annual Women’s Tea & Ski- Jan. 7th
- *Marriage Retreat – February 13-15 2015*
- *Annual Meeting - February 15th 2pm*
- *Board Retreat – March 6&7 2015*
- *Confirmation Retreats –*
- *March 13-14 & 20-21 2015*
- *Sugar Bush – March 22nd 2015*
- *Pre-marriage retreat – March 28th 2015*
- *Community Maple syruping- March 28th*
- *Confirmation Retreat – April 17 & 18 2015*
- *Waiting for wings – April 19th*
- *Road Scholars – April 26th –May 1st*
- *Spring clean-up days – May 2nd 2015*
- *Pre-marriage retreat – May 2nd 2015*
- *Discovery day – May 16th 2015 10-4pm*
- *Volunteer Luncheon – May 23rd 12:00pm*
- *First week of camp – June - 7-12 2015*
- *Peder Eide- June 13th 5pm*
- *Summer service- June 20th 5:50*
- *Golf tournament –June 22nd*
- *Quilt Auction- June 27th 10:45*
- *Summer Service – June 27th 5:30*

SLM’s Annual Meeting...

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting will be held Sunday February 15th at 2p.m. Please join us at SLM’s dining hall. Coffee and cookies will be served after the meeting. We hope you can join us! Thank you for your Support!!

Check out our 2015 summer schedule at www.shetek.org
Theme – “A Love that never ends”
Sign up before April 1st 2015 for early bird rates.

Help send Kids to camp... Become a Pelican/Timber member today
Call for a Brochure 507-763-3567 or visit or website www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers