



# January 2024 Parish Visitor Newsletter

## *FIRST* Notes from Pastor Sara *Ten Words that will Change Your Life*

A new year has arrived, full of possibilities, changes, and adventures yet unknown. How might God be inviting us to begin it?

A lot may be changing in our church and world, but the foundations are not changing. The promises of God's faithfulness through the centuries and God's redemption in Jesus will not change, no matter the changes all around. When we lose track of these two promises, we can coach ourselves to return to the faith and teachings we have received, and then stand firm.

Standing firm, however, is not stillness and lack of action. Standing on God's promises is a lifetime of small choices and daily changes, often in our attitude, and usually away from quick, human assumptions and reactions.

Mid-way through Advent, verses from 1 Thessalonians 5 were our scheduled Scripture readings. I found myself returning to a phrase taught me long ago, by a high-energy speaker at a Christian retreat. As he coached us in faithful thinking and active faith, he said something like, "Do you know *the ten words that will change your life?*" I didn't then, but once I learned them, I haven't forgotten. They give guidance for the small thought choices we make each day in trusting God in each new circumstance.

I shared these ten words in a Wednesday worship service in December and I share them now, as we enter 2024, encouraging you to memorize them, and ask God to teach you anew what they may mean for your life, and for our life together as a faith family.

<sup>16</sup>**Rejoice always,**  
<sup>17</sup>**pray without ceasing,**  
<sup>18</sup>**give thanks in all circumstances.**  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

These ten words won't work the miracles within, for Jesus does that, but they will direct your attention, again each day, to God and his Holy Spirit's presence with us. Looking to God, trusting God, is what changes our lives.

We are God's people. You are God's child, marked with the cross of Christ forever. Let your light shine and let your heart be glad in Jesus, who gives new life.

A blessed 2024 to you all!

*~Pastor Sara Vanderpan*



## **Children & Family News**

Samantha Nielson, Director of Education

**Reminder:** TLC Wednesday will begin again January 3 & TLC Sunday will January 7!



### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting**



On **Wednesday, January 17 at 7:55 pm** (right after Confirmation) there will be a meeting in the Fellowship Hall for **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students, their parents, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Captains.**

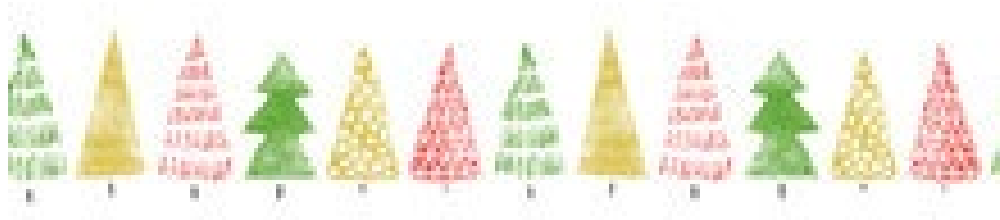
This meeting will have information for you about dates and events leading up to Confirmation Day 2024!

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent/Child Prayer Workshop**  
**Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 10:15-11:00 a.m.**  
in the FLY Zone (basement)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Milestone – Prayer**

First Grade students will receive their **Prayer Stone** on **Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** at the **9:00 am worship service**. This Milestone for First Grade students contains an education portion as well. There is a workshop and pillow-making for all **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students & their Parents** after the worship service on the same **Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:15-11:00am** in the Fly Zone (basement).





## **Youth & Family News**

Bailey Long, Director of Youth & Family

### **MILESTONE MINISTRY AT FIRST LUTHERAN!!**

What is a Milestone?

A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important and God is here, too." Marking a milestone is a biblically based spiritual practice for both home and congregation. It helps all generations recognize God IS the central core of their lives every day!



#### **Upcoming Milestones:**

1<sup>st</sup> Graders Milestone Blessing of Prayer will be **Sunday, January 14 at the 9:00am service**. Your milestone class with your parents will be the same day after service at 10:00am in the unfinished basement. (See Samantha's full article)

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Milestone Blessing of Stewardship will be Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00am worship service. Your milestone class with your parents will be **Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** in the unfinished basement.

6<sup>th</sup> Graders Milestone Blessing "God Loves Me" will be **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00am service**. Your milestone class will be **Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm**.

#### **Eco-Water Fundraiser: ANYONE NEED SOFTENER SALT?!?!?**

FLY Senior High will be selling Eco-Water Salt-Extra Coarse 50lb. bags in January! This fundraiser will help cover costs associated with this year's SUMMER TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS FOR THE GATHERING.

Delivery dates will be a Saturday in February and we will bring it to you! Contact the youth if you would like to order or ask Bailey!





# S H E T E K

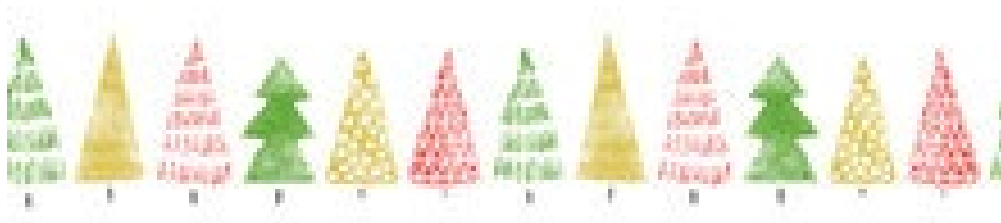
## L U T H E R A N M I N I S T R I E S

### Planning ahead for SUMMER

#### FIGURING OUT YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR???

I'm really not crazy!! Make sure that Shetek Summer Bible Camp is on that calendar somewhere and then work from there! Get the scoop on summer camp either on **Shetek Wednesday - January 24** or **Shetek Sunday - January 28!**

There is something for everyone and every age. We want your family to experience the love of Christ at camp! There is no place like it!! The church scholarships are \$100 for a week long camp and \$50 for a mini camp. Check it out!! (Special scholarships may be available by calling Bailey.)



### Outreach News

Tonya Tomasek, Director of Outreach

#### New Member Sunday is January 14, 2024

We are really proud of our faith family and love how we welcome individuals and families openly and walk with them wherever they are at on their faith journeys.

We will be having a **Welcome for New Members** on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at the 9:00am worship service.

If anyone is interested in becoming a new member or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Tonya at [tonya@1stlutheran.org](mailto:tonya@1stlutheran.org) or 507-530-1697.



## Your community. Your support. Your choice.

Help Lutheran organizations that are near and dear to you—even First Lutheran Church.

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can now recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars SM, part of the Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program.

### Here's how Choice Dollars works:

- Designated Choice Dollars are based on qualifying insurance premiums, qualifying contract values and qualifying Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership.
- Choice Dollars are made available as premiums are paid, contract value is determined, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership is identified.
- Choice Dollars can be directed to First Lutheran Church by visiting [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT (1-800-847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice."

### Help support what matters most to you by directing Choice Dollars

**Check your eligibility**—and act today! Visit **[Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)** or call **1-800-847-4836** and say "Thrivent Choice." Or contact: Joshua Johnson at (507) 532-2559 Your local Thrivent Financial representative

Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) for complete Terms and Conditions.



### **MARK IT DOWN AND JOIN US!! BLIZZARD BLAST!!**

The Youth & Family, Education, and Outreach Committees are teaming up to host a night FAMILIES won't want to miss!! You are invited to join us on **Friday, January 26th**, for our **Blizzard Blast!** Come in your PJs for a night full of family fun, a movie, and snacks. Mark it down on your calendars! More details to be announced!

**Online Directory:** Don't forget to log in and complete your family information on the Church Directory. Add your smiling faces. Please reach out to Tonya if you would like her to help you complete this task!

## The Little Wooden Church

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:13-16

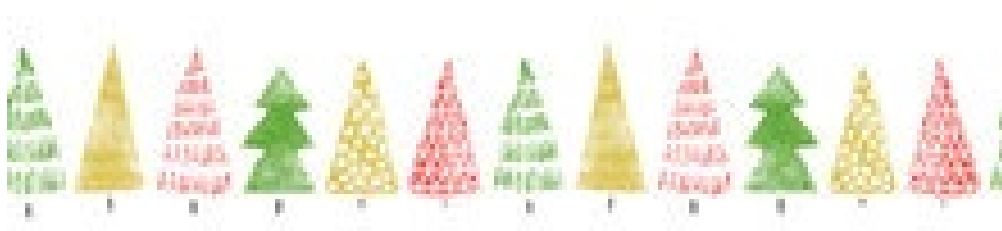
We will be putting out the little wooden church again for the children to be able to give their thanks and offerings during the worship's offering time. Be looking for it up by the altar in January!



**NEW! Peace By Piece Quilters** is a new group has started up!  
They meet every Thursday at 1pm in the new quilt room on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Education Wing.

Come and join the fun!

If you have questions, please call the church office.



## Other Important Items



**Coloring For Christ** will meet on Monday, January 8th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come with your coloring supplies as we focus on Valentine's Day. Everyone is welcome who enjoys adult coloring! Please call Paulette Hanson @ 507-530-0284 if you have questions.

**Coats for Kids** is collecting used and gently used coats. The collection barrel is in the Narthex. United Community Action Partnership (UCAP) is collecting coats that will be distributed to those who need them.

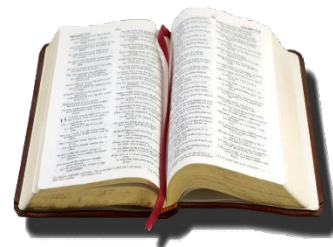
**Here are some guidelines for donations:**

- Coats can be for children and adults.
- Both new and gently used coats can be donated, used coats will be cleaned by Carroll's Cleaners before distribution.
- If there is a gently used coat with a broken zipper, UCAP has someone who can replace the zipper.
- Collections will be picked by United Community Action Partner





**Something is "Brewing" again!** Bible & Brew meets on Thursdays at 5:30pm at Brau Brothers Brewery in Marshall. A handful of past participants will rotate the leadership role. The content is based on the discussion for the upcoming Sunday liturgy. A variety of beverages are on hand there and it's okay to just have water! Many attendees also enjoy something from the menu. Come as you are! Come when you can!



**The Ministry Site Profile** is step 3 in the process to call a new pastor. As you are all aware, our church has gone through a lot of transition among our office staffing and as we have navigated through all this transition, our MSP Team took a brief hiatus. During the hiatus, we encouraged our congregational members to fill out a survey that will help our MSP Team in filling out and composing our Ministry Site Profile.

Our team reconvened on Tuesday, December 5th and met with Pastor Troy Pfilbsen from Litchfield, MN, employed by the ELCA office in Chicago. He was able to share the results of the congregational survey with our MSP Team. The results and information that was shared with our MSP Team was insightful and will give us some valuable information for our ministry site profile and Pastor Troy will continue to be a resource for our team as necessary. Our MSP Team will meet again on January 9th to start working on the ministry site profile and preparing an update for the congregation.

We would like to invite First Lutheran members to stay after worship on Sunday, January 14th, as we will provide information about the survey, an update of our ministry site profile, and the call process. Again, we want to reiterate and remind everyone to be patient with the process and continue to pray for your Executive Committee and MSP Team.

We want to wish you all a blessed Holiday Season and thank you for your continued support!



**Executive Committee Update:** The short-term rental agreement regarding the Presbyterian Church's use of the Gethsemane Chapel has been extended through the month of February. We continue to partner with our friends in faith who are in need a worship space. We also need to balance this responsibility with attending to the many needs of our church right now. Stay tuned for more discussion to be had about this in the coming weeks and at our annual meeting on February 4.

**Meals on Wheels:** First Lutheran will be responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels the first two full weeks of February 2024. The dates are February 5-9 and 12-16. Please sign up under Serving Schedule on the Webpage or call the church office. If you have any questions, you can contact Twila Henning at 507-360-0828.



*January 2024*



14 Keeley Island Drive  
Slayton, MN 56172  
(507)-763-3567  
camp@shetek.org  
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Join us for our Winter Family Camp!

*Or just come out and see the beauty of the season here.*

### **Wish List**

- Vest style life jackets
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- **Summer Staff -**

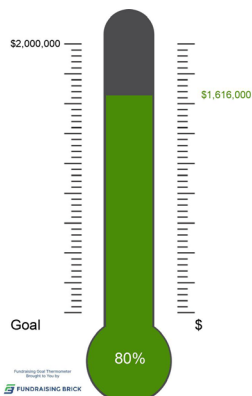
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

### **Mark your Calendar**

- January 17-21 Quilt and Craft Retreat
- February 23-25 Winter Family Camp
- Register at [shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or

Call (507) 763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal!  
\$1,616,000 in gifts and pledges! Our challenge goal is \$2,000,000 and with increased costs, our budget has changed for our different phases. More info on our website.  
<https://shetek.org/slm-master-plan/>



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!





**S H E T E K**  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Enjoy quilting and crafting at SLM! Spend time in a relaxed, Christ-centered environment crafting, bonding with others, and enjoying delicious food. Be inspired and share inspiration with others!

Participants stay in the Lakota Retreat Center, which also serves as the main "creation station" for the retreat and provides a relaxing and comfortable setting for the weekend. Lakota features lakeside views, cozy meeting spaces, and 17 sleeping rooms, each with a private bath. Linens provided.



## Quilt & Craft Retreat on January 17- 21, 2024

Wednesday	Arrive in the Afternoon
Thursday	Arrive anytime - 6:00pm Supper
Friday	Arrive anytime - 9:30am Brunch
Saturday	Brunch @ 9:30am & Supper @ 6:00pm
Sunday	Brunch 10:00am and departure

**Register online at [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org) or complete the registration form below.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you are interested in a beginning quilting class \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your registration & 450 non-refundable deposit by Jan. 10, 2024 to:

**SLM**  
**14 Keeley Island, Drive**  
**Slayton, MN 56172**

**CIRCLE ONE Cost: \$220 (Wed- Sun), \$190 (Thur-Sun)      \$160 (Fri-Sun)**

Registration fee includes private housing, meals, snacks, make & takes, and retreat leadership. You provide the projects and creativity!

*As a participant in a SLM Retreat Program, I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents arising while at camp. I also give permission for the use of photographs, videos, and electronic images of myself.*

**Participant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## First Lutheran Worship Schedule

Wednesdays 6:00pm   Saturdays 5:30pm   Sundays 9:00am



Radio 11am Sundays on 1400AM or 101.7FM  
Local Cable TV 10am Wednesdays and 5pm Thursdays  
Spectrum 180 & Bluepeak 17  
[www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall](http://www.youtube.com/c/FirstLutheranChurchMarshall)



Church Office Phone: (507) 532-2429  
Office email: [office@1stlutheran.org](mailto:office@1stlutheran.org)

Pastor Sara Vanderpan  
Interim Pastor  
[pastorsara@1stlutheran.org](mailto:pastorsara@1stlutheran.org)

Tonya Tomasek  
Director of Outreach  
[tonya@1stlutheran.org](mailto:tonya@1stlutheran.org)

Bailey Long  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry  
[bailey@1stlutheran.org](mailto:bailey@1stlutheran.org)

Samantha Nielsen  
Director of Education  
[samantha@1stlutheran.org](mailto:samantha@1stlutheran.org)

Ann Schlenner  
Office Manager  
[ann@1stlutheran.org](mailto:ann@1stlutheran.org)

