



First Lutheran Church

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

January 2018 Parish Visitor

From the Pastors...

O Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. –We Three Kings

It seems amazing to me that any of the characters in the Christmas story ended up worshipping baby Jesus at all. For all of them—Mary, Joseph, the shepherds—it seems a huge leap of faith takes them to his manger.

It is no less amazing that the magi arrive at the infant Jesus' side. We don't even know how a person could follow a star. They don't tend to move in such a way that you could follow them to a specific location! And these magi weren't even Jewish, which means they weren't even looking for a Messiah. They are the most unlikely people of all to be worshipping Jesus. It shows us that Jesus is usually a little, or a lot, more inclusive than we think!

But somehow, that star gets their attention. I'm not sure that I can imagine any star in the night sky that would cause me to jump in the car and start driving. But in some way, it must have looked different—must have struck them as a star that looked like it deserved following. This is a wild story. But we who have just celebrated Christmas know that God is a God of wild stories and impossible things.

As you put away your Christmas decorations and your Christmas lights, I wonder: What is God using to get your attention, to lead you in a new direction, perhaps far from where you had imagined? What fills your heart with wonder these days? What bright light from Christmas will you continue to hold in your heart?

I give thanks for all the ways God fills us with wonder and lights up our lives. Even if Christmas is over, the light of Christ still shines!

May you be filled with wonder this season,

Pastor Julie

Children, Families and Youth News



ANYONE NEED SOFTENER SALT???

FLY--Senior High will be selling Eco-Water Salt-Extra Coarse 50lb. bags starting January 17th. Cost will be \$8 per bag. This fundraiser will help cover costs associated with this year's National Youth Gathering to



Houston. We will sell until January 31. Delivery dates will be Saturday February 10 or Sunday February 11.and we will bring it to you! Contact the youth if you would like to order!



IT'S PIZZA FOR SUPPER!!!

Mark it down!! On **Monday January 22nd** we are predicting that...YOU WILL BE HUNGRY FOR PIZZA!! (Have you noticed this is a tradition by now?!) There's no school on this day so your kitchens will be a mess because the kids have been home all day and you will not want to cook supper. So TAKE

EVERYONE TO THE PIZZA RANCH in Marshall!!
The ELCA Youth Gathering Youth from First Lutheran will be serving at the Pizza Ranch in Marshall on January 22nd from 5-8pm! Bring yourself! Bring your families! Bring your friends! Bring anyone you can think of!! Money earned will go toward our trip this coming summer to Montana. Thanks so much for your support! We will get 10% of the meals sold that night during the time we are there and *100% of the donations!*

Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb 4!.....and that means its Noisy Offering Time!

HEY 1st LUTHERAN! Senior High Youth want to challenge YOU!!
Souper Bowl Sunday Feb 4th (yes! It's spelled wrong on purpose! ha ha!)

Bring loose change (or bills...but they don't make noise ☺) on the Wednesday January 31st Worship, or to the Saturday February 3rd Worship, or the Sunday services on February 4th and we are going to have a NOISY OFFERING to raise money for the hungry!! Start gathering coins now... ☺

Parent Forums

We will be continuing our series of forums being offered. **January 3rd** will be our CTI 14:21 Concert at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! Tell your friends. A free will offering will be taken.

February 7th at 6:15pm we will be discussing more on the "Internet, Social Media, and Different Apps" that are popular with teenagers today. We target these for the confirmation parents, but anyone is welcome.

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:

1st Graders Milestone Blessing of Prayer will be Sunday January 14 at either the 8:30 or 10:45am services. Your milestone class with your parents will be the same day between services at 9:45am in the unfinished basement.

3rd Graders Milestone Blessing of Stewardship will be Sunday February 11th at either the 8:30 or 10:45am services. Your milestone class with your parents will be Wednesday January 31st at 6:15pm in the unfinished basement.

6th Graders Milestone Blessing "God Loves Me" will be Sunday February 11th at either the 8:30 or 10:45am services. Your milestone class will be Wednesday February 7th at 6:15pm.



Reminder:

TLC Wednesday will begin again Wednesday, January 3!

TLC Sunday will begin Sunday, January 7!



8th Grade Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting

On **Wednesday, January 24 at 7:15 pm (right after Confirmation)** there will be a meeting in the Gethsemane Chapel for **8th Grade Confirmation Students and their parents and 8th Grade Confirmation Captains**. This meeting will have information for you about dates and events leading up to your Confirmation day!

Other Important Items

New Member Orientation

We are believers seeking to invite all into the Caring, Sharing, and Growing ways of Christ!
Are YOU interested in becoming a member of the family of faith called First Lutheran Church? Or would you simply like to find out more information about First Lutheran Church?

If so, please choose one of the upcoming New Member Orientation sessions to attend...



Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family

- Wednesday, January 24 @ 6:30pm
- Sunday, January 28 @ 9:45am

These New Member Orientation Sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Contact the church office if you or someone you know is planning on attending at (507) 532-2429 or at firstluth@iw.net. Childcare will be provided if needed; please let us know if you will need childcare.

New Members will be welcomed Wednesday, February 7 at 5:15pm; Saturday, February 10 at 5:30pm and Sunday, February 11 at 8:30am & 10:45am.



**Join us for an Angela Thomas Women's Bible Study:
STRONGER finding hope in fragile places.**

God is greater than every struggle you will ever face. Every. Single. One. Today, because of Christ, you can live stronger. Join us for a 7 week Bible Study by Angela Thomas that will guide you into biblical truth so you can live a confident, transformed, Christ-radiating life marked by His strength. The cost of the member book is \$13.50.

- Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Movie Room (4,6,8)
Beginning January 10th

Registrations are available in the Narthex and are due by Friday, January 5th

Stewardship event SMSU 2018

Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Series title: "Blessed to be a Blessing" (or "Living God's generosity") Presentation 1:
January 13, 2018-- SMSU, Marshall campus or Livestream

TITLE: Live Generously. Be Happy.

"Do you want to know who the happiest people on the planet are?" asked ELCA New Testament professor, Dr Mark Allan Powell to the full sanctuary. "They are people who live generously."

Generosity pours God's abundant grace into the world! Happiness flows from this generous living.

You are invited to a day of inspiration and learning at SMSU, one that provides a "toolbox" so you can help cultivate a generosity culture to be lived in your setting. Participants in "Live generously. Be happy." will be equipped to *connect* generations, *equip* households, and *create* faith practices that grow a spirit of



Be generous to live happily

generosity in all ages.

Be prepared! This is a day packed with multi-sensory activities, conversations, scripture stories, fun facts, prayers and blessing! This type of learning means that a minimum of six people participate from a congregation—either in person at Marshall SMSU or via Livestream. Bring families or create groups. Multi-generations—from elementary to retired—are invited to attend together as we "explore how all ages are stewards of God's abundant grace and broaden our understanding of sharing, saving, and spending with a spirit of generosity throughout our homes, congregations, and communities."

As you leave, we'll send you with a toolkit of resources and experiences to *Live Out Generosity*. You'll be empowered to take these back into your congregations to use as an all-ages-welcome bible study, part of an intergenerational learning hour, as ideas for connecting all ages together in faith practice and mentoring, or even the foundation for a congregational retreat. Come! Join in a Day of Joy to Hear, Connect, and Live out God's Abundance!

First Lutheran Women News

Important Dates

January 3 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study
January 3 5:15pm Women's Board Meeting
January 8 7:00pm Esther Circle
January 10 6:00am Deborah Circle
January 10 9:00am Elizabeth/Hannah Circle
January 15 1:00pm Quilting
January 17 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder
January 24 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder
January 27 & 28 Bold Women Weekend
January 31 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

CANEWS FROM CAMP

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers

Mark Your Calendar

2018

January 12th-Snowshoe & Stargazing

January 21st – Toddlers and Trees

January 26th -28th –Scruptacular Retreat

February 11th -Women's Tea & Ski

February 16th & 17th -Couples Retreat

March 10th – Pre-Marriage Retreat

March 10th – Family day making maple syrup

March 16th & 17th – Confirmation Retreat

March 25th – Sugarbush

For more information call 763-3567 or check out our

www.shetek.org



Help send Kids to camp...Become a Pelican/Timber member today. For more information call 763-3567 or www.shetek.org

Scruptacular

January 25, 2018 @ 4:00 pm - January 28, 2018 @ 1:00 pm

- Spend time in a relaxed, Christ-centered environment scrapbooking, bonding with other crafters of faith, eating delicious food and engaging in daily devotions. Be inspired by the creativity of others and gain ideas from a scrapbooking consultant. All crafters are welcome! Registration includes hotel style housing, meals, snacks, make-and-takes and retreat leadership.



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 11am and Thursdays at 5pm

Charter 180 & Vast 17

Church Office Phone: 507-532-2429

Church Office Email: firstluth@iw.net

Pastor Scott Fuller

E-mail: revscottfuller56@gmail.com Phone: 507-476-8961

Pastor Julie McCain

E-mail: pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com Phone: 310-938-1346

www.1stlutheran.org

You can view our Facebook page from this site too!

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