



First Lutheran Church

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

March 2017 Parish Visitor

From the Pastors...

40 Days of Prayer

I once knew a pastor who was trying to figure out how to honor his wife's upcoming 40th birthday – especially since she had laid down this law: no one was allowed to mention her forty years. She did not want the number 40 on her cake, nor did she want 40 candles or 40 balloons – she just wanted the day to pass without anyone making a fuss.

After supper that evening, the pastor suggested that they have family devotions (that had not been part of their practice, but the kids had been forewarned to agree). He read a portion of scripture about the Israelites, then asked his children how many years they had spent wandering in the wilderness... They looked at each other and quietly said, "40."

Then he read a verse from the story of Noah, and asked his kids how many days and nights it had rained. Again, they glanced at each other and, smiling, said, "40." Then he read a verse from the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert, and asked the kids how many days and nights he had fasted. This time they *got it* and said loudly, "40!"

He asked the kids how many days and nights Moses had spent on the mountain waiting for God...they smiled and loudly cheered, **40!!** Finally, he asked how many years David reigned as king, at which they stood and yelled, **40!!**

There is nothing magical or spiritual about the number 40 in the bible – but it's obviously a popular one. The season of Lent is 40 days long (it starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, without counting the Sundays in between – don't blame me for the mathematical gymnastics required to figure that one out!!) to honor the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

To that end, we're inviting you to experience the season of Lent by following 40 days of prayer (you can download it from the homepage of the website - it's in the Connect section). But to make it simple, we're going with 40 days straight from Ash Wednesday to Palm/Passion Sunday (including Sundays!).

Each day we'll be directed to pray for something specific. In addition, I invite you to keep a journal (or record in your memory) of how your eyes may have been opened to the cause or concern for which you were praying. I'd be interested to hear your insights.

May your 40 days of prayer be a doorway to a great experience of Lent.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Children, Families and Youth News



Greetings Sports and Activities Fans!

Your family life is likely busy with school, sports, music and other great activities. As crazy schedules become overwhelming, we know that you may not be able to regularly participate in your spiritual community here at First Lutheran Church.

Don't worry about it – our church cheers you on because God will still use you. When you participate in your family activities, you are where ministry happens – with people, caring for and affirming them where they are, every day. At church you've learned to *love because Christ first loved us* (1 John 4:19), so we encourage you to demonstrate Christ's love on the stage or on the field, in the bleachers or in the band. You represent Christ and First Lutheran by reflecting God's grace, love, hope and peace. Our church needs you there.

Know also that in the busy-ness of life, we will continue to offer regular worship, fellowship and study opportunities. So when you can, hit the pause-button on life, leave the rat-race behind for moment, come be with us as we gather together to worship, pray and taste the goodness of God's grace. If you need to, come late, leave early, wear your uniform, bring your whole car-pool gang, come as you are. You will be welcomed with open arms in the name of Christ.

Worship services during Lent (March 1-April 5) are at:

6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays (supper is 5:00-6:05 p.m.) 8:30 a.m. on Sundays
5:30 p.m. on Saturdays 10:45 a.m. on Sundays

Here is the list of our Holy Week worship services in April:

12th at 6:00 p.m. Wiggle Worship (for families with children 3rd grade and younger)
13th at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
14th at 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship
16th at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday

Also, we have posted on our website (www.1stlutheran.org) something for you to use for a brief evening family discussion time – it's a sheet for simple home devotions called God's Story, Our Story. So when you get a moment as a family, light a candle, dim the lights, create a cozy atmosphere. Join together for a family discussion celebrating God's presence in your life and how God can use you to care for, welcome and affirm people in our community.

You know that *Too Busy* can lead to *Quickly Empty*, so be sure to schedule a Sabbath for you and your family. You are in our prayers, and we'll rejoice when we see you at church!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott, Pastor Julie, Kitsi, and Tonya



Hy-Vee Cards available for Purchase!

The Montana Trip youth will continue selling the 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! Thanks!

Annual Youth Sponsored Lenten Suppers for you and your family!

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 5:00-6:05 pm in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday. 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!!



It's Senior Class Pictures Time

If you have gotten your Class of 2017 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!

SENIOR HIGH: MONTANA TRIP TO SPONSOR SPRING FUNDRAISER THE ANNUAL 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 for a two week period. Everything is set up in the unfinished basement.



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

Bidding will start on Sunday March 26th.

We will finish up on Sunday April 9th for brunch. The brunch will start at 9:15am and run until 11:00am 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...and appreciate you all!



IT'S PIZZA FOR SUPPER!!!

Mark it down!! On **Monday March 27th** YOU WILL BE HUNGRY FOR PIZZA....again!! There's no school on this day and the kids have been home all day So TAKE EVERYONE TO THE PIZZA RANCH in Marshall!!

The High Adventures Montana Trip from First Lutheran will be serving at the Pizza Ranch in Marshall on March 27th 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!!



Family Lenten Devotions Available

March means the start of the Season of Lent. Devotions will be available at First Lutheran again for families. Each day, your family can sit together away from the hectic schedule for a little quiet time. Take a tour of Jerusalem throughout the season of Lent and follow Jesus on his Holy Week journey to the cross. Each day, a colorful sticker is added to the easy-to-assemble Jerusalem centerpiece. Questions? Just ask Tonya. Please, one per family.

Hey Seniors! Apply for a College Scholarship

First Lutheran is able to offer a \$500 college scholarship to one of you! Requirements are basically that you're involved at church, attending college in the fall, and have some goals for your future, which you'll write about in your essay. Applications can be found at the church or on our website. The deadline is April 28, 2017!



Thank you First Lutheran!! During the Noisy Offering, the senior high youth collected \$777.45! (That's over \$150 more than last year.) FLY decided the recipient for 2017 will be "Beret's Light". The kids at the orphanage in Uganda eat the same thing for almost every one of their meals. Meals are mostly starch, and no meat or dairy. This money will be able to provide a healthier breakfast at the orphanage for almost a year! They will be making breakfasts consisting of rice, oatmeal and soy flour to provide more protein in their diets. Thank you First Lutheran for having some fun with us to collect an offering for an amazing ministry. You can find out more about Beret's Light on Facebook. "We're helping keep your light shining, Beret!"

Holy Week Wiggle Worship

Who: Families with children 3rd grade and under (parents, come too!)

What: A unique interactive style worship, complete with snack and craft, that will help kids learn the story of Holy Week and Easter!

When: Wed., April 12, 6 pm

?s: Pr. Julie, Kitsi, or Tonya!



TLC WOW (Wild on the Word) Memory Work Presentations:

TLC Wednesday & TLC Sunday Pre-K thru 6th grade students have been working in their classrooms and at home on various Memory Work Assignments. Beginning in March, each grade level will take turns presenting a portion of their memory work during Sunday morning worship services. This is the schedule...

- Sunday, March 5 **Pre-K Students** – Five Finger Prayer & prayer postures
- Sunday, March 12 **Kindergarten** – Table Prayers
- Sunday, March 19 **First Grade** – The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary Version)
- Sunday, March 26 **Second Grade** – Variety of Bible Verses
- Sunday, April 2 **3rd & 4th Gr**--Commandments 1-5 (3rd), Commandments 6-10 (4th)
- Sunday, April 9 **5th & 6th Grade** – Old Testament (5th), New Testament (6th)

Each TLC family will receive an email with all the details at least one week prior to the Sunday of your child's presentation in worship.

Register your children for Maker Fun Factory VBS 2017, pay the registration fee, AND register to Volunteer ALL online!! It's so easy!!



Maker Fun Factory VBS 2017 @ First Lutheran June 5-8 from 8-11:30am

PreK-6th Grade (must be 4 by September 1, 2016)
Early Bird Registration by May 5: \$20/student (\$50 family cap)
After May 5: \$25/student (\$60 family cap)

** If you register after May 5 you are not guaranteed a T-Shirt**

5th & 6th Graders: Register as a Leader In Training

Do your own craft/projects, help out your Crew Leader & get a T-Shirt. Take \$5 off your registration fee – and write L.I.T. on the 'Additional Comments' line.

Here is how to Register Online...

Go to the First Lutheran Website – www.1stlutheran.org and then...

1. Click on the Ministries tab
2. Click on Children, Youth, & Families
3. Click Register Online VBS 2017 (right side of page)

You can register children for VBS on that page AND register as a volunteer on that page if you are interested! Call the church office if you have questions 532-2429.



Acolyte Training: All 4th Grade Students who wish to be an Acolyte are invited to attend one of the Acolyte Training Sessions offered. You can choose to attend either **Sunday, March 12th from 9:40-10:30am** or **Wednesday, March 22nd from 3:15-4:15 p.m.**

There will be an installation of new Acolytes during both Worship Services on Sunday, March 26th where you will receive your Acolyte cross and Acolyte Stone for the 4th Grade Milestone Celebration. We hope you will consider becoming an acolyte. Contact Kitsi by email at kmarks@iw.net or in the church office at 532-2429 if you have any questions.

Other Important Items

Welcome to the First Lutheran Family of Faith!
We are believers seeking to invite all into the Caring, Sharing, and Growing ways of Christ!

Mitchel and Katelyn, Makayla & Braiden Eulberg

Jeffrey McCall

Gail Schepker



Concert March 30--Need Host Families!

We will be hosting the Northwestern College Choir on March 30! They'll perform a free concert for us--all we need to do is put them up for the night! Now we need host families who are able to provide a bed or air mattress as well as breakfast and a sack lunch. Most would like to be housed in groups of two, but we do have need for one group of 1 and one group of 3. We'll also need to provide a simple meal for them (about 40 people) before the concert, and we're in need of someone to help coordinate. If you're able to host college students or help with the meal, contact Pastor Julie! pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com

First Lutheran Women News

Important Dates

- March 1 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder
- March 1 5:15pm Women's Board Meeting – Movie Rm
- March 6 1:00pm Quilting
- March 8 6:00am Deborah Circle
- March 8 9:00am Elizabeth/Hannah Circle @ Judy Werner's – 400 N. Minnesota (ph.929-5826)
- March 13 7:00pm Esther Circle
- March 15 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study @ Boulder
- March 20 1:00pm Quilting
- March 22 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study @ Boulder
- March 29 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study @ Boulder



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

CANEWS FROM CAMP

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers

Mark Your Calendar

March 3-4 – Board Retreat

March 5th – All about Making Maple Syrup 3-4:30

March 11th – Pre-marriage Retreat

March 17 & 18 Confirmation Retreat

March 26th – Sugarbush Sunday

April 21 & 22 – Confirmation Retreat

April 23rd – Spring Toddlers & Trees

April 29th – Spring Clean-Up Day

For more information go to Shetek.org or Call 507-763-3567



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

Summer camp & Day Camp 2017

Registration is now open...Check out our brochure on line. www.shetek.org or call Shetek Lutheran Ministries at 507-763-3567 to talk about this ministry opportunity.

Start planning your camp Sundays

Contact Dana at dana@shetek.org or call 507-763-3567

Shetek Lutheran Ministries

Sugarbush Sunday

March 26th 2017 10:00am – 1:00pm

Tree tapping = Maple syrup & Pancakes



Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday - 4:15pm & 6:15

Wednesday Lenten Worship - 6:15pm

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

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