



First Lutheran Church

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

May 2015 Parish Visitor

From the Pastor...

Have you ever thought of John 3:16 being about stewardship? I hadn't, but at a retreat I recently attended, the presenter reframed things for me. He said John 3:16 is the primary stewardship verse he uses because it talks of God's unimaginable generosity, and that is at the core of stewardship. Then he challenged us to consider that the only way we can truly fathom God's generosity is by being generous ourselves. Has that been true in your life?

Consider that in the Old Testament days, farmers would give the very first fruits of their harvest to God, and they would actually burn the offering on the altar. That same farmer would not know whether locusts would come and devour everything on the very next day. It took an enormous amount of trust to bring your very first harvest to God.

And how much trust does it take for us to do the same!?! When we give the first chunk out of our paycheck (and I don't mean just to the church, but to all of the places we give), we too don't know if the car will break down or an illness come our way. We are stepping out in faith, and that can be difficult.

But sometimes we think that if we don't or can't give 10%, there's no point in trying. Here's what the presenter told us: start somewhere and start small, and wherever you are now, try raising it by 0.5% next year, and 0.5% next year, and along the way, pay attention to what God is doing in your heart. He also challenged us to realize that 10% is not the finish line. Rather, we are all encouraged to continue to grow and live into God's generosity.

Time and again as I am learning about stewardship, I am reminded that this is not really about the church budget. Yes, the church needs money to function, and I do want to thank you for all of the ways you have been generous, but giving is really about learning to trust in God. It's about our walk with Him.

So here's my question for you: In your life, how have you been made most aware of God's generosity?

God's Blessings,
Pastor Julie

PRAYER REQUESTS: First Lutheran has both an email and a phone prayer chain ... requests for prayers can be emailed to the church office firstluth@iw.net or phoned in to the church at 532-2429.



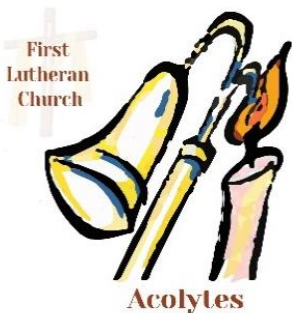
Children, Families and Youth News



We would like to offer a huge **Thank You** to all who teach, assist or help in any way with our Christian Education Programs here at First Lutheran! We are blessed that each and every one of you chooses to share your faith!! You have given so much of your time and talents in ways that have blessed so many!! THANK YOU!!!!

Another big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make our TLC Meals throughout this year a success once again! Many of you helped by financially sponsoring your meals too and this allows us to keep our price low! You are greatly appreciated!

The Pizza Crew, Education Committee, Bill and Gayle Kremer, Praise Teams, First Lutheran Women, Outreach Committee, Porischs & Brandts, Social Ministries, Executive Committee, Worship and Music, Stewardship Committee, Prayer Shawl Ministries, Property and Management Committee, Karen Murphy and family, Youth and Family Ministries, Chancel Choir, Spirit Handbells, and Eric Luther with the Whopper Feed!



Acolyte Installation: New Acolytes will be installed on Sunday, May 3 at both the 8:30am and 10:45am services. Students who have received training are: Hannah Babcock, Lucy DeVaan, Tiffanie Downing, Sophia Fischer, Riely Gilbertson, Olivia Houseman, Reese Jensen, Skyla Lamfers, Lincoln Mellenthin, Kira Murphy, Madelyn Murphy, Halle Pedersen, Gavin Peterson, Kaitlyn Runia, Ella VanDrunen, Taya Weber, & Abby Wendland.



First Lutheran Confirmation Service: First Lutheran's Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at 2pm. Twenty of our young members will be affirming their Baptisms as we the Body of Christ stand with them on this new journey of faith.

The students being confirmed are: Miranda Eberling, Tucker Elsen, Makenzie Enderson, Emma Fischer, Holden Greeley, Izach Harris, Jordan Hunsley, JaRae Lamfers, Samantha Nielsen, Bryce Paulsen, Olivia Peterson, Mason Plante, Cole Remme, Matthew Scott, Hunter Smidt, Kaia Sueker, Brooklyn Sukalski, Rachel Thomsen, Treyton Weber, and Simon Zahrbock.



Confirmation Sunday is a time when we celebrate those among us who are looking to deepen their faith and their participation in the Body of Christ. It is also a time for all of us to re-affirm our Baptism and our calling to proclaim the Gospel in the world.



The VBS Student Registration Form is on the last page of the Parish Visitor

OR ... NEW THIS YEAR ... Register and Pay online at

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/1stlutheran>



VBS Celebration: On Wednesday, May 20th, come to the Everest 2015 VBS Celebration! We will start with a Whopper Feed (free will) at 5:30pm, followed by a program at 7pm. Take time to visit the story rooms with your child(ren) too!

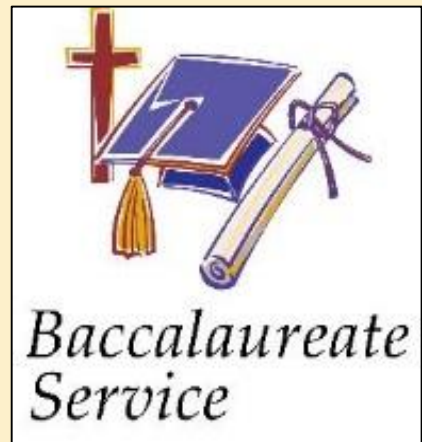


CLASS OF 2015 RECEPTION AND BACCAULAUREATE SERVICE



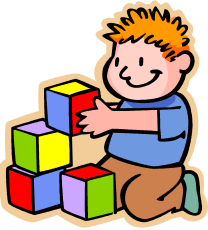
We at First Lutheran Church congratulate you on your upcoming graduation from high school. What an incredible milestone....and we celebrate this with you and your families!

The **Senior Reception for the Class of 2015** and their immediate families will be on Sunday, May 10th at 9am with a breakfast. The Baccalaureate Worship Service will follow at the 10:45am. Plan to bring your graduation gown and your confirmation stole and wear them during worship....so...ask mom where the stole is?!?! Ha ha!!



First Lutheran's Class of 2015: Ben Alberg, Landon Alcorn, Brittney Andreas, Hunter Babcock, Jessica Blanchard, Sarah Buysse, Miranda Fischer, Avery Hasch, Josh King, Jazlyn Lenort, Michaela McKenzie, Jerry Mercie, Lindsay Moberg, Robbie Moe, Hannah Peterson, Tom Roelfsema, Bryan Rose, and Addy Schaefer.

SENIORS: IF YOU HAVE NOT BROUGHT IN YOUR SENIOR PICTURE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR CLASS COMPOSITE, PLEASE DO SO ASAP! THANKS!



"DATE NIGHT! CONTINUES BY POPULAR DEMAND TO FAMILIES AT FIRST LUTHERAN": Do you ever feel like it's too much to go out on a date with your spouse AND then pay for childcare on top of it? First Lutheran's youth are sponsoring a "Date Night" just for you! On **June 5th from 6-9pm** we will watch your kids at the church while you enjoy an evening together on the town. And it's FREE!

Reservations deadline will be Sunday, May 31st. We will stand firm on this deadline date so that our ratio of sitters to kids is perfect. A registration form/waiver will be provided via email or at the church and will be needed by the deadline to hold your spots. *Please feed your kids supper before you drop them off.* A snack and an evening of faith-filled fun with the older kids will be provided!! Questions? Just ask Tonya!



Thanks for your continued support of the Detroit Youth!

Hy-Vee Cards Available for Purchase: The Detroit youth will continue selling the HyVee gift cards as a part of their fundraisers. We have \$50 cards and \$100 cards. Everyone needs groceries – and it is 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!



SCHWAN'S CARES FUNDRAISER: For the remainder of the year, we will continue to receive a 5% profit of sales when you use our code! There are two ways to order:

1. Click this link <https://www.schwans-cares.com/f/46234> which will take you to the website.
2. Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: 18657

Thanks for your continued prayers and support!



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

DON'T FORGET ABOUT BIBLE CAMP THIS SUMMER: Shetek Lutheran Ministries has so much to offer youth, families, grandparents ... all people! Shetek has worked hard to continue to provide excellent faith building opportunities for our families. And there are some new and exciting camps being created as well as the old favorites! Demands continue to rise for families, and their children as the times in our world change. Summer Bible Camp is the greatest way to keep our young people and families grounded and focused on their faith journey and their love in Christ. It doesn't mean that the demands are not going to be there—but it does promise to remind us that there is a loving God who is with us during all of the changes. And allows us to have some fun in our faith for a week! ☺



Help us keep Bible Camp a priority. Scholarships are provided for all members of First Lutheran. \$50 for week-long camps and \$20 for half week camps. HOWEVER, money is NEVER a reason to NOT go to camp. Special scholarships are also provided and remain confidential. Just contact Tonya at 532-2429 or 530-1697.

KEEP THE "SON" IN YOUR SONSHINE THIS SUMMER!

Shetek Day Play for Grades 1 and 2 (completed) will be Tuesday, July 14. This is an amazing full day at Shetek where the kids will get a little taste of what it is like to go to camp. Counselors! Games! Bible Time! Food! Environmental Education! And Swim time too! Invite your friends to come too!! More details and registration forms will be coming to you soon via email! Questions? Just ask! Any parents want to come and help chaperone ... just volunteer! ☺

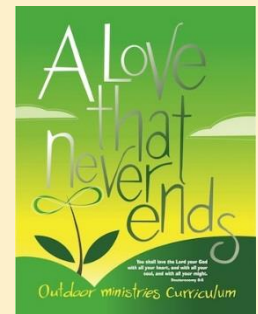
First Lutheran's Day Camp with Shetek Lutheran Ministries:

The theme for 2015 is "A Love That Never Ends". The dates are July 20 through July 23 – and daycamp is for kindergarten (going into) – 6th grade (completing).

WHY DAY CAMP???

1. We believe in providing MANY awesome opportunities and options to grow in our faith!
2. We want to give you a "taste of camp" right here at First Lutheran Church!
3. We believe that it's important for us to remember that God's "love for us never ends" in this world!
4. We are committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ!

It will be an incredible week of the energetic Shetek Staff, Bible study, games, crafts, worship, camp songs, snacks, skits, and GROWING IN YOUR FAITH!! Registration information and details will be coming next month! Mark it on your calendars today!!



First Lutheran Women News

Important Dates

- May 4 – Quilting, 1-4pm – Hosted by Deborah Circle
- May 6 – Women's Board Meeting, 5:15 pm in the Movie Room
- May 11 – Esther Circle on Hebrews, 7pm in the Fireside Room
- May 13 – Circle Bible Study Day
- May 14 – Ascension Day Program, Hope Lutheran Minneota
- May 18 – Quilting, 1-4pm & General Meeting, Hosted by Deborah Circle
- May 21 – Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7pm in the Fireside Room



Ascension Day Brunch: You have been cordially invited to attend the annual Ascension Day Brunch observance at Hope Lutheran in Minneota on Thursday, May 14th beginning at 9:30am. This is the 25th Anniversary of this special event. The guest speaker for the day is Pastor Tim Larson of Calvary Lutheran/Willmar, who was Hope Lutheran's pastor when they began this tradition. Hope Lutheran welcomes him back to share the message of Ascension Day. All Women of the ELCA, Prairie Conference, are invited! RSVP to Hope Lutheran by May 11th.

Other Important Items

New Member Orientation: We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ! Those who are interested in joining First Lutheran Church, mark your calendars for the upcoming New Member orientation sessions! Please choose **ONE** to attend.

- Sunday, June 7 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, June 10 at 6:10pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, June 17 at 6:10pm in the Fellowship Hall

Childcare will be provided -- Let us know if you need it.

New Members will be welcomed on Saturday, June 27 at 5:30pm and Sunday, June 28 at 9:30am. Please contact the church office if you or someone you know is interested in joining First Lutheran.

Lutheran Night at Target Field: Back by popular demand, the First Lutheran Congregation will again participate in Lutheran Night at Target Field!

When: Thursday, July 30th. Southwest Coaches charter bus will leave the church parking lot at 2pm for the 7:10pm game vs the Seattle Mariners.

Fee: \$38.00 per person (includes transportation and non-refundable left bleacher seat ticket) due at time of registration.

Limited seats available – Please register by Monday, July 6th

Families are welcome – anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a sack lunch or eat at the game! Registration forms are available in the church office, the narthex, and on the church website.



Community Items

Beginning Experience of Southwest Minnesota, a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people is offering its Level I Series for eight weeks beginning April 27, 2015. The Monday night sessions begin at 7pm at the First Lutheran Church on Church and "A" Street in Marshall, MN. Registration is held the first two Monday nights starting at 6:30pm. Registration is then closed for that session. The support group is open to people of all denominations. There is a \$60 fee to cover the cost of materials. This series is designed for those wishing to work through the grieving process following the loss of a loved one through death, divorce or separation. All dialogue is confidential and facilitators are trained individuals who have suffered a similar loss. If you wish to pre-register or have other questions concerning level participation, contact Anna H. at 507-530-2639 or

hawk33@charter.net, Kevin A. at 507-227-1116 or aanenson@msn.com, Tammy B. at 507-227-1625 or tbhappiernow@hotmail.com.

Music on Mother's Day at Augustana: Join Augustana on Mother's Day for a special afternoon of music when the three Augustana choirs and the Augustana Orchestra take to the stage at the Washington Pavilion. In addition to a massive combined work (Francis Poulenc's "Gloria,") the concert features four student musicians who are winners of a rugged competition earning them the opportunity to solo on stage with the orchestra. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available through the Washington Pavilion Box Office and range in price from \$15-\$20 (reduced rates for seniors) and are free for students K-12. All seats are reserved.

Worship Schedule

Wednesdays - 5:30pm (beginning May 6th)

Saturdays - 5:30pm

Sundays - 8:30am & 10:45am

**The Summer Worship Schedule begins on May 24
Wednesdays at 5:30pm, Saturdays at 5:30pm
and Sundays at 9:30am**

Radio – Sundays at 11am on 1400AM or 103.3FM

Local Cable TV – Tuesdays at 7:30pm and Wednesdays at 1:30pm
Charter 180 & WOW 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: 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

First Lutheran Church VBS 2015 Registration Form

May 18th – 21st from 8am – 11:30am
Pre-K thru 6th Grade (must be 4 by July 1st 2015)

Registration Fee after April 18, 2015: \$25/student (\$60 Family Cap)

**If you register after May 4 you are not guaranteed a T-Shirt

5th-6th Graders: Register as a Leader In Training.

Do your own crafts/projects, help out your Crew Leader & get an Everest Bandura to wear.
Take \$5 off registration fee - and write LIT on the 'Additional Comments' line.

Child First Name	_____
Child Last Name	_____
Age	_____
Gender (Circle One)	Female Male
Grade Leaving	_____
Birthdate	_____
T-Shirt Size	_____
Allergies/Medical Concerns	_____
Parent Names	_____
Amount Paid	_____
Address	_____
Home Phone	_____
Email	_____
Mom Cell	_____
Dad Cell	_____
Emergency Contact Name	_____
Emergency Contact Phone	_____
Emergency Contact Cell Phone	_____
Additional Comments	_____