



# First Lutheran Church

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

## November 2015 Parish Visitor

### From the Pastors...

I've never noticed it before, but it seems to me that fall is all about change. We watch as the temperatures dip and go back up. First snowfall, in all its beauty and difficulty, marches closer and closer. Every day we wake up to more firey leaves, more leaves on the ground, and a little less light in the day. Change is everywhere we look, and it feels a little bit like life. Our lives are moving along at a rapid pace, and everything it seems, is changing. The ground beneath our feet is shifting, and sometimes it feels as though pretty soon there won't be any ground beneath our feet at all.

So in the midst of all that, I want to draw you back to a word that serves as an important for me: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

But we all know that rejoicing and giving thanks is not our natural way of being in the world. We can all think of plenty of situations in the last week when we did not want to give thanks! So why would God set us up for failure by giving us an impossible demand? Well, because it's God's will!

It is God's will that our hearts grow to overflow with gratitude, and we know that absolutely nothing is impossible with God. So where's a person to start? Start small. On a bad day, look for a beautiful flower or a kind smile. A roof over your head or a good meal. Look for anything for which you can give thanks. Keep doing that, and then trust that God is at work in you.

For my part, I'm giving thanks for you! May you also find many blessings for which you can give thanks.

Pastor Julie

## Children, Families and Youth News



### Sabbatical Update from Tonya.....

As you read this I will either have just a few days left on my sabbatical OR I will be back. The three months went really fast. Some areas were easier than I thought they would be....others were as hard as I thought they would be. But either way I am truly thankful to be given the opportunity. Thank you to the staff, youth committee, adult leader volunteers, families, and youth for all that you have done to make this a possibility. Ministry is about the people. Without a doubt, you all are amazing. You are a blessing to me!

Looking back, my sabbatical started with the funeral of Tim's 52 year old cousin. My sabbatical ended with the funeral of MY 52 year old cousin. Every good Lutheran asks..... "So what does this mean?" I have pondered this, a lot. There is no meaning for them. We just live in a world that is broken. Cancer is what it is. God's grace helps us get through this brokenness and we are promised to see our loved ones again.

I also think all of this has reminded me of other things. Was this time used exactly how I had envisioned it? No. Yes, this time was about studying and resting. But this time also reminded me how precious family is. My sabbatical has reminded me of this. I have to admit that sometimes I put work ahead of a lot. The last time I had been home to the farm was Christmas..... Within the last three months, I was home three different times for a few days each time. Time with my parents, my brother's family, and relatives I haven't seen in a long time. This needs to happen more.

Time cleaning out Tim's cousin's home has been precious time to spend with his family. Having basic conversations, memories shared that I hadn't known, finding hidden treasures to hold dearly. Even though family lives in the same area doesn't mean we always take the time out of our "oh so structured" schedules and just "be" with them. My sabbatical has reminded me of this God given gift also.

So again, thank you for the sabbatical. I'm ready and excited to join in our ministry together again!

## WELCOME BACK TONYA!!!

On Sunday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, at both the 8:30 and 10:45 services, we will welcome Tonya back from her sabbatical. We're inviting everyone to wear a **First Lutheran** t-shirt (any kind: FLY, Mission Trip, VBS, National Gathering, High Adventure, etc.) as a way to say Welcome Home to our great Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

**First Communion Instruction for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students & their Parents...**  
**Wednesday, November 11 at 6:15pm in the unfinished basement.**



**First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services.** Come and join us as we celebrate with the following First Lutheran students receiving The Lord's Supper for the first time and/or receiving their First Communion Milestone: Hannah Babcock, Morgan Blum, Sydney Brandt, Lyam Brooks, Lucy DeVaan, Tiffanie Downing, Caden Ellingson, Owen Elsen, Sophia Fischer, Riely Gilbertson, Olivia Houseman, Lucas Kayser, Skyla Lamfers, Dalton Landgraff, Lincoln Mellenthin, Kira Murphy, Kaidin Otto, Beret Pedersen, Halle Pedersen, Gavin Peterson, Kaitlyn Runia, Keaton Runia, Levii Stefansen, Jessica Stucker, Ella VanDrunen, Taya Weber, Abby Wendland, Lilly Whitesitt, Kaia Williams, Cora Fischer



### TLC Wednesday & Sunday Joint Christmas Program Rehearsal Dates

- **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9:30am in the Sanctuary**
- **Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4:00pm in the Sanctuary**

### **Looking Ahead...**

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45am**

**TLC Sun & Wed Christmas Program**

Students report to Gethsemane Chapel by 8:45am

**"The Christmas Story"**

Presented by all Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade TLC Students



**Dad's  
Belgian  
Waffles**



**Serving Waffles, Sausages, Flavored Syrups and Beverages**

**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:30pm**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

**CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE**

The Education Committee is hosting this **Dad's Belgian Waffle Fundraising Event**. Come enjoy great food and great fellowship! Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door. Purchase your tickets in advance in the Church Office during office hours, in the Narthex & in the Convo area between Sunday Morning Services, or in the Fellowship Hall during the TLC Wednesday Meal Time. The money raised will go to bring Special Events to TLC Wednesday & TLC Sunday Students. Possible Special Events may include...Inflatables at the VBS Celebration Night, Family Christian Concerts, Magicians, a Donkey at First Lutheran on Palm Sunday, etc.



The following people were welcomed to our family of faith at First Lutheran in October!! There is also a New Member Bulletin Board located in the Narthex with pictures of the New Members as well. Be sure to introduce yourself to our newest brothers and sisters in Christ if you haven't already!!

**Bradley & Kathy, Zach & Malia Bloemker**

**Ben, Jessica, & Carson Butzke**

**Lori Folk**

**Anna Hawkinson**

**Dusty & Marie, Braxton, Jaylen, & Harrison Koster**

**John & Caroline, Olivia & Noland Munson**

**Theresa, Samara, & Cyrus Sumerfelt**

**Dane & Lori, Katie, and Emma Tammeus**

**Bryce & Lisa Verkinderen, Michael, Zachary, & Lucy**

**Tom & Angela, Dylan & Sydney Larson, Tristan, Trevor, & Tanner Fales**

## **Other Important Items**

Hello Everyone, It's that time of year once again when the Stewardship Committee will be conducting the fall pledge drive. I know in the last few years we have campaigned long and hard because we really needed to create awareness of our financial needs. We won't be doing that this year. Oh, we will still be conducting the Stewardship Drive, we just won't be doing the hard and long campaigning. Instead, we started with the top 10 List for each month. We started this at Rally Day in September. We hope this is a monthly reminder about your Stewardship Commitments to First Lutheran. We will be handing out the pledge packets on Wednesday, October 28; Saturday, October 31; and Sunday, November 1 during services. We will be conducting the pledging on Wednesday, November 11; Saturday, November 14; and Sunday, November 15. We ask that you thoughtfully consider your time, talents, and financial giving for 2016. If you have any questions you can contact any Stewardship members or the church office. Thank you for your time and consideration and God Bless.

Linda Bloom Scott, EJ Moberg, Glenn Olson, John Pollock, Doug Kunde, Cliff Carmody.



We remember those members who have died since last All Saints Day. We ask the Holy Spirit to bless the memory of these loved ones, and other departed relatives and friends. We also pray that God would strengthen us to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ for all people through our words and deeds until suffering and death will be no more.

Mildred Rewerts  
Jean Neiman  
Elaine Kronke

Gerald Hetland  
Irene Timm  
Dorothy Wiener

Mildred Sivertson  
Robert Grong  
Lois Holten

On this day of remembrance, we also recognize those families who have celebrated a baptism in this congregation over the last year. We pray that God would bless, protect and guide them as they continue to walk their journey of faith in Jesus Christ.

Aria Lundberg  
Evelyn Maxwell  
Andrew Coudron  
Lincoln Abel  
Kaylee McDonald  
Elizabeth Hart  
Dominic Sietsema

June Kingsbury  
Ryan Fink  
Damien Henning  
Harper Griebel  
Jonah Fahl  
Liam Sirovy  
Cade Guenther

Jordy Brewers  
Brantley Luckhardt  
Brooklyn Moravetz  
Carson Butzke  
Austin Miller  
Liam Hutchinson  
Braelynn Pollock

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF on NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 22<sup>ND</sup>**

The Rev. David Wangaard will be at First Lutheran on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November to share with us about the wonderful ministry that Lutheran World Relief is involved in throughout the world. Pr. Wangaard serves as a relationship advisor with Lutheran World Relief.

He was born in Bloomington, Minnesota and attended St. Olaf College. Upon graduation from Luthern Seminary, he and his spouse, the Rev. Susan Tjornehoj, received calls to serve Teller and Brevig Mission Lutheran Churches in Northwest Alaska. Pastor Wangaard served as the Bishops Associate for Urban and Multicultural Ministry in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, as well as interim senior pastor in congregations in Minnesota and Maryland.

Because of his travels to Bolivia, Egypt, Cambodia, Tanzania and Kenya, David has seen first-hand the incredible impact Lutheran World Relief makes in our world. He has a daughter, Ingrid, who is a senior at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN.



The Marshall area Churches are hosting the Annual Community Thanksgiving service once again this year on Wednesday, November 25 at 7PM at Cornerstone United Methodist Church. The service is a long time tradition in Marshall and many churches participate.

The offering for the service goes to Western Community Action to give assistance to transient people who come and go through the Marshall community and are in need of assistance.

**First Lutheran Women News**

**Important Dates**

- November 1 9:30am Women's General Meeting - Sanctuary- Host: Esther
- November 2 1:00pm Quilting - Host: Elizabeth/Hannah Circle
- November 4 9:30am Rejoice Bible Study at Boulder Estates
- November 4 5:15pm Women's Board Meeting – Movie Room
- November 9 7:00pm Esther Circle – Fireside Room
- November 11 9:30am Elizabeth/Hannah Circle Meets – “Tempo Giusto”
- November 16 1:00pm Quilting – Host: Elizabeth/Hannah Circle
- November 19 7:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry – Fireside Room



**Shetek Lutheran Ministries**

**CANews FROM CAMP**

*Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers*

**Mark Your Calendar**

- **Toddlers & Trees – November 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Confirmation Retreat – November 6-7**
- **Lutefisk Supper – December 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30p.m.**
- **Beginning Snowshoeing – December 18<sup>th</sup> 3-5p.m.**
- **Winter Fun Day – December 29<sup>th</sup>**
- **Summer Staff Reunion – 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **Stargazing and Skiing – January 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-10p.m.**
- **Scrapacular Retreat- January 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual women's Tea and Ski- February 6<sup>th</sup>**
- **Marriage Retreat – February 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**
- **SLM Annual Meeting – February 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Shetek Lutheran Ministries  
Lutefisk Supper  
Sunday, December 6th 2015  
5:30p.m.  
Ticket \$14.00  
Must have reservation.  
For more information call Kathy  
at 763-3567*

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

## **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 – 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](mailto:firstluth@iw.net)**

### **Pastor Scott Fuller**

E-mail: [revscottfuller56@gmail.com](mailto:revscottfuller56@gmail.com) Phone: 507-476-8961

### **Pastor Julie McCain**

E-mail: [pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjuliemccain@gmail.com) Phone: 310-938-1346

[www.1stlutheran.org](http://www.1stlutheran.org)

You can view our Facebook page from this site too!

Youth Web Site – [www.first-lutheran-youth.blogspot.com](http://www.first-lutheran-youth.blogspot.com)