



First Lutheran Church

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

September 2019 Parish Visitor

From the Pastor...

We were blessed recently to see our daughter and her family in Freeman, SD – although the reason we gathered was sad: it was for the funeral of our son-in-law's Grandma Marie. Though there were some tears, it was also a great celebration of life for a well-loved woman.

Below is a snapshot of an experience that happened after the funeral written by our daughter, Pr. Rachel Wrenn. It's a beautiful little story – and a great word of encouragement to parents to bring their kids to worship/TLC/Confirmation/Youth Group. We can never hear too often that simple, yet profound truth: Jesus loves me this I know!

"Why are we going to check on the grave?" It's hours after the funeral. The family, flowers, and the last of her belongings have all been dispersed. We're driving back to the cemetery, not far from our route to the local supper cafe.

"Why are we going to check on the grave?" "The same reason we check on you at night before we go to bed: to see that you're cozy, tucked in tight, and everything's alright."

The cemetery is quiet. Where the casket stood—regal, shining in the noon sun—there's now a blanket of black. It's evident that Grandma's final minutes above earth were handled with dignity: the rectangle of dirt is defined by crisp edges and is already strewn with grass seed. A pink rose flower arrangement on top witnesses the recent ritual of mourning. The area exudes a feeling of rest, the silence cracked only by the clicking of seat buckles.

"It's ok kids, you can come out too."

We stand together, quiet. Charlie—one of her more rambunctious great grandchildren—squats down next to the dirt. He's unaware of the four pairs of grown up eyes on him, the four grown up tongues poised to intervene. He stretches out a hand. Gently patting the dirt, he murmurs,

"It's ok, Grandma...you're safe."

He moves deliberately to the top of the rectangle, next to her headstone. Reaching out again, he draws a small cross in the dirt, and croons,

"Jesus loves you, and so do I."

The nighttime blessing of a small child offered as her final earthly blessing. "You're safe; Jesus loves you." Words of comfort; words of hope. The echo of a delighted chuckle seems to hang in the air for a moment, and then all is quiet again.

Great Grandma Marie, Rest In Peace. You're safe; Jesus loves you; so do we. May your spirit of grace and love live on in your descendants. And may you be received into the arms of mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Children, Families and Youth News



September Kicks Off Many Youth and Family Events!!

Check out the Rock (youth newsletter) for details!
Watch for emails! Stay in the loop!

- Sept 8 **RALLY DAY** at First Lutheran
- Sept 11 Kick-Off Event for **Confirmation** (grades 7-8)
- Sept 11 **TLC Wednesdays, Worship, Suppers, and SHA** all start!
- Sept 11 Registrations for the **Junior High Synod Youth Gathering** in Willmar due (gr 6-8)
- Sept 13 **Grub Club** starts at HyVee
- Sept 18 **G3, Junior High Alive, and High School Bible Studies** start up!
- Sept 18 **Little League** Kick Off!
- Sept 22 **Senior High Pine Ridge Worship** at both 8:30am and 10:45am! Join us as the youth and adults share with you the faith-filled week that they experienced!
- Sept 25 **Adopt a Highway** (grades 7-8)
- Oct 2 Registrations for the 2020 **Senior High "High Adventures" Trip** are due!!

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!

September Milestones:

Rally Day, Sept 8: We are inviting all **7th Grade** students and their parents to celebrate the milestone of Entering Confirmation. During worship at 9:30 a.m., we will mark this Milestone with a stone marked with a symbol as well as receiving their Teen Bible. This Milestone Celebration is a time for the 7th grade youth to be reminded that they are baptized children of God, created in God's own image, and to celebrate this next step of learning on their faith journey.... and a celebration for the parents to walk with them and learn with them on this journey.

Kindergarten Milestone Celebration

Sunday, September 15th at both the 8:30am & the 10:45am Worship Services, Kindergarten students will be presented with a Milestone Bowl that represents all the meaningful moments that make up our lives and with the following Stones...

- Baptism Stone: Symbolizing their Holy Baptism
- Learning Stone: Symbolizing receiving knowledge about the word of God and the love of God from your family and the congregation
- TLC Stone: Symbolizing that they are being welcomed to Teaching the Love of Christ (TLC)



Sunday September 22:

9th Grade students and their parents will celebrate the start of high school. The freshman year is a time to be reminded that they are baptized children of God, created in God's own image, and how knowing that will help them face the trials and tribulations of High School.

10th Grade ...getting your driver's license! When you get your driver's license, it is an exciting time for both youth and parents. The preparing for and receiving of the license brings many new rights and responsibilities. The license requires new stewardship of time and resources, challenges and opportunities for communication, and occasions for service. It is a time to celebrate also, what it can mean for you in your faith life. Even if you may not have gotten your official license yet because of when your birthday is, please join us at one of the services so that we can celebrate YOU and your families in worship.

11th grade will celebrate their quest milestone. A "QUEST" is the act or an instance of seeking or pursuing something; a search. When you become juniors, it seems like college, careers, interests, etc. all start becoming a part of people's conversations with you. It may seem like a time with unknowns or a lot of questions. But at First Lutheran, we want to celebrate this time with you as an opportunity to listen to where God is calling you in your life and how the cross is the central part of this compass.



Wednesday, September 4th

7th & 8th Grade Parent/Student/ Confirmation Captain Confirmation Orientation!

This is a mandatory meeting please MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

7th Grade Confirmation Students, Parents, & Captains will meet from 6:00pm

8th Grade Confirmation Students, Parents, & Captains will meet from 7:00pm

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Parents of Confirmation Students, remember to bring your student's Confirmation Registration Form and the check for their Confirmation Meals & Curriculum (if you haven't turned them in already) with you to the Orientation. Confirmation Captains may pay in advance for Confirmation meals at the Confirmation Orientation as well. The cost of the meals for the year is \$42.00.

Rally Day is Sunday, September 8th!!!!

Coffee will be served beginning at 9am. The Worship service will begin at 9:30am followed by an ALL CHURCH meal of grilled Hot Dogs, chips, & ice cream. ALL ARE WELCOME!! Come to Rally Day and experience meaningful worship, friendly fellowship, good food, and games, as we kick off our Program year at First Lutheran!



- **TLC Wednesday Begins September 11th**
- **Confirmation Begins September 11th**
- **TLC Sunday Begins September 15th**

Christian Education



Installation

First Lutheran Teacher Installation:

During Rally Sunday Worship on **Sunday, September 8th at 9:30 am**, all those involved in Christian education at First Lutheran - TLC Teachers, TLC Shepherds, TLC Volunteers, Confirmation Team Captains, Bible Study Leaders, Convo Leaders, and Substitute Teachers will be called forward to participate in the First Lutheran Teacher Installation for 2019-20. Thank you so much for giving of your time and talents and for passing on your faith!

Other Important Items

New Member Orientation

We are believers seeking to invite all into the Caring, Sharing, and Growing ways of Christ!



Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family

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...

- Wednesday, September 11 @ 6:30pm
- Sunday, September 15 @ 9:45am

The New Member Orientation Sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Contact the church office @ (507) 532-2429 or firstluth@iw.net if you or someone you know is planning on attending. Childcare will be provided, just please let us know if you will need childcare. New Members will be welcomed Wednesday, October 9 at 5:15pm, Saturday, October 12 at 5:30pm and Sunday, October 13 at 8:30am & 10:45am.

Happy anniversary! Congratulations! Cheers! Best wishes! Well done!

These, along with many other well-deserved paeans of praise, will be shared on four important occasions here at First Lutheran over the next twelve months.

The first happy occasion is just around the corner. At worship on Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sunday, Sept. 1, we will say a big thank you to Susan Jones – she started playing the organ here on Labor Day weekend **35 years** ago!!!

Then on the last weekend in September (Saturday the 28th and Sunday the 29th) we will celebrate another amazing highpoint: it will be Rosie Sorum's **50th anniversary** of playing the organ for our worship services!!!

We will observe our third milestone event right after Christmas. Saturday, Jan. 11 and Sunday, Jan. 12 will mark the **20th anniversary** of First Lutheran's Faith Chest ministry. Each of the 500+ faith chests gifted to families have been made by Mike Klein – to whom we offer a deep and heartfelt word of thanks.

Finally, we'll have a great excuse for another party next summer when we celebrate Tonya's **30th year** of Youth Ministry in this great congregation (she assures me that she started at a very young age!!). Imagine the positive spiritual impact that Tonya has had on so many families!

To all of these wonderful musicians/co-workers/friends/servants of God, we say thank you for your years of service – and for your willingness to continue blessing our opportunities to honor the Lord with your much-appreciated talents!

COLLEGE STUDENT NEED:

Pr. Jeff Greathouse of Lutheran Campus Ministry is asking for our help. On Wednesday, September 11th, SMSU will be having their first *Mustang Market* of the year. This is a combined effort with the University to address a significant concern: 80-100 students a month experience financial stress and cannot afford to purchase some basic goods like food and personal hygiene items.

We are being asked to collect:

- **Laundry pods**
- **Feminine products**
- **Sample sizes of personal hygiene items**

Someone from Campus Ministry will be here on Tuesday, Sept. 10th to pick-up our collected items. Thank you for donating to this important cause.



Women's Bible Study

Join us beginning **Wednesday, September 18** in the Movie Room from 7-8pm for this Small Group Study titled ***Making Sense of Scripture*** by David Lose. During this 7 week Bible Study, participants are invited to engage in a conversation, one that could be imagined happening around the kitchen table, about seven major questions of the Bible. More than a regular biblical source book, *Making Sense of Scripture* is a conversation that encourages participants to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the

participants to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind. We will be meeting in a variety of ways during this Bible. The first meeting on Wednesday, September 18 will be a face-to-face meeting, others will be online, and the final meeting time will be face-to-face again. The cost of the member book is \$13.00. Registrations are available in the Narthex and in the office. They are due by Wednesday, September 11.

First Lutheran Women News

Important Dates

September 4	5:30pm Women's Board Meeting
September 9	7:00pm Esther Circle
September 9	1:00pm Quilting
September 11	6:00am Deborah Circle
September 11	9:00am Hannah/Elizabeth Circle
September 16	1:00pm Quilting
September 30	1:00pm Quilting



Esther Circle invites you to join them in their upcoming bible study ***No Other Gods, the Unrivaled Pursuit of Christ*** by Kelly Minter. In this 8-session study learn to identify the gods you may be unknowingly serving and the lies they tell you. As you dethrone your modern-day idols, you will be set free for the more abundant life Jesus gives. You will discover Jesus can what no other god can. Esther Circle meets the **2nd Monday of each month** beginning in September from 7:00-8:00 pm at the church. Please contact Kim Christianson at christianson.kim@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in this fellowship opportunity. We hope you can join us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

*An informational meeting will be held **September 17th** at 7 pm in the Fireside Room
"Prayer is a very precious medicine, one that helps and never fails" Martin Luther.*

Not only does this ministry involve the **making** of the prayer shawls it also includes **delivering** them to those in need.

This ministry combines knitting (crocheting) and praying as you make beautiful prayer shawls with love and care for those in great need. When the prayer shawl is completed it will be given to someone who is suffering and in need of our love and prayers; a loving reminder of God's comfort and presence.

Prayer shawls are tangible symbols of love. They are warm hugs of empathy and support; a private place of escape in which to rest, relax, and renew; something to hold on to when all else seems to be slipping away. A way of feeling God's unending love and the encouragement to know that God is with you every step of the way, every day.

*We have seen comfort and peace, tears along with smiles on the faces of members who have received our shawls. Kind words back from them on how the shawl made them feel that **First Lutheran truly is like a giant family that cares.***

**If you wish to make shawls on your own or are interested in delivering the shawls contact the church office at (507) 532-2429 or Dawn Planting at (507) 828-8157 loving_mom_3@hotmail.com

Together our hands can become God's hands, resulting in a caring touch.

Worship Schedule

Saturdays - 5:30pm

Sundays - 9:30am (8:30am & 10:45am beginning Sept. 15th)

Radio – Sundays at 11am on 1400AM or 101.7FM

Local Cable TV – Wednesdays at 10am 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

Sara Larson, Lay Minister

E-mail: sjlgal@frontiernet.net Phone: 507-828-8423

www.1stlutheran.org

You can view our Facebook page from this site too!

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