

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Jake Dyrhaug, Pastor

**FIRST**



**“Servants of All”**

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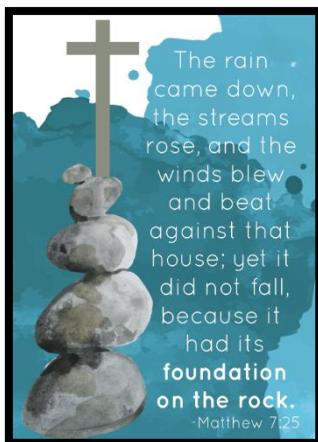
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August 2016, Newsletter

July 27, 2016

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**September 24-25, 2016**



Come for worship, food, fun, music and fellowship as we celebrate 125 years as a congregation here in Little Falls. On September 25, 1891 six Norwegian immigrant families came together to form the Little Falls Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Over the years, the congregation continued to grow to over 1,000 persons today as we worship, live, and serve together as First Lutheran Church of Little Falls, a member congregation of the ELCA.

Plan to come on Saturday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. for a fun evening of musical entertainment by many gifted folks from the congregation. There may be a surprise visit from a couple of our favorite Norsk ancestors. A dessert social will follow the show.

Sunday morning festive worship is at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. with Rev. John Dietz, Assistant to the Bishop, NE MN Synod preaching. Fellowship hour is at 9:30 a.m. A congregational picnic lunch is planned at 12:00 noon with fun activities, games and fun for all. Remember to be “First...Servants of All.”

**Pastor Jake’s  
Notes**  
*see page 2*

**Fellowship  
Opportunities**  
*see page 3*

**Mission Life**  
*see page 6*

**Youth Education**  
*see page 7*

**“Children First”  
Christian  
Preschool**  
*see page 8*

**Youth News/  
Vacation Bible  
School**  
*see page 9*

## Notes from Pastor Jake

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### On a Quest

*“Search and you will find....” Luke 11:9*

With the Vacation Bible School theme of “Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World”, the kids and adults will be searching for where God is leading us—we need Jesus, the Light of the World, to illumine the way as we seek God’s way. It can get pretty dark and scary sometimes, but with Jesus, we know where we’re going and even things in caves can be beautiful! Have you ever gone on a “cave tour”? I remember as a kid we stopped at “Niagra Cave” near Harmony, Minnesota, to journey deep below ground, with all the stalagmites and stalactites. With the lights lighting it up, it was really very beautiful! But I was glad the lights were on, because without the light it would have been the opposite. With Jesus, we need not be afraid, because we have the Light of the World with us always to light our path as we are on our various quests!

The main quest for us as Christians is to follow Jesus and learn to serve God and each other more in his likeness. There are many other quests that come along too. In the next couple months we will be “on a quest” for several.

**VBS “Cave Quest”**—August 1-5 youth and adults from First Lutheran and other guests from the community will come together to explore the Bible and seek our awesome God.

**Pastor Hank French preaching**—on the quest of faith, Rev. Dr. French, resident theologian and well-known pastor, will be leading liturgy and preaching for both services at First Lutheran as the Council has granted me a weekend off to go camping with my family in Wisconsin. I asked Pastor Hank if he’d be willing, and he said he’d be happy to fill in for me.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**—the various teams and committees have been on the quest of preparing for this milestone event for First Lutheran on Saturday-Sunday, September 24 and 25,

including a “family reunion” with opportunities to reflect, enjoy a little entertainment, humor and fun!

**On the Quest of Ordination as a Lutheran pastor**—Jay, Stephanie and daughter Raelynn will be headed to Michigan following their last Sunday with First Lutheran, August 7. We pray for God’s blessing on them as Jay begins study at Western Theological Seminary on the track to ordained ministry. There will be a big event that morning to thank the Kiels for all they’ve done here and to wish them the best in their days ahead as they follow God’s call.

**Quest for a new Youth and Family Minister and a new Child Care Attendant**—with Jay and Stephanie heading to Michigan, the Church Council and Youth and Family Minister Search Team have been at work seeking candidates to interview. If you know of someone you think would be interested, please have them call the church office or email us at [jdyrhaug@flittlefalls.org](mailto:jdyrhaug@flittlefalls.org) or [sgustner@flittlefalls.org](mailto:sgustner@flittlefalls.org) and we’ll send them a description of the position. We are hoping to have someone on board for both positions by September.

**Quest for Cookies and Conversation**—beginning Thursday, August 18, Stephani and I invite you to join us for “Cookies and Conversation”, just a kind of get-to-know-you on Thursday nights from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the church library room next to the office. We’ll be calling from the church to have groups of about 10 come each week until we are from the “A’s” to the “Z’s” in the church directory. It may take awhile, but it’s a great way for us to share some pictures and some of our story and to hear the story of First Lutheran and where you feel God calling the congregation today.

May God lead us in all our quests at First Lutheran this coming month as we enjoy these last awesome weeks of summer!

In Christ,

Pastor Jake

## Fellowship Opportunities



### **Green Fair Folk Festival at St. Francis Convent**

**Wednesday, August 3, 4:00-8:00 p.m.**

This outdoor event sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls is an evening of ecological awareness with music, food, exhibits, storytelling, other activities, and much more. Many local businesses and educational groups will be present. From 6-8 p.m., St. Francis Music Center will present musical acts. And other local musicians will celebrate music as a universal language that crosses all borders. Young people from First will make balloon (biodegradable!) animals—they're always a big hit! Come gather to enjoy, learn and see many local favorites and use these wonderful opportunities to enhance our care for the planet and make our world a better place for all.

### **Bible Studies:**

#### **Women's Bible Study**

Watch for more information on a new study for the fall. This group will meet on Wednesday evenings. Start date and sign up to be announced soon.

#### **Men's Bible Study Breakfast**

All are welcome to come for breakfast and Bible study! We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. The guys will resume meeting after Labor Day on Wednesday, September 21. Come when you can, leave when you must!

### **Luther Crest Bible Camp Quilts for Camp Extravaganza held at Carlos Creek Winery Saturday, October 17**

Luther Crest partners with Carlos Creek Winery's Fall Apple Fest event with over 5,000 participants. Apple Fest begins at 11:00 a.m. with fun events such as: pumpkin carving, pumpkin chucking with catapults and trebuchets, pie eating contest, live music, and more. Quilt viewing begins at noon in the barn. There will be silent auction, artisan crafts for sale, wine tasting, live quilt auction begins at 2:00 p.m. This event will be fun for the entire family all day long! Food and beverages will be available to purchase throughout the day. Carlos Creek Winery is located at 6693 County Rd 34 NW, Alexandria, near Luther Crest. Let's support the Bible Camp at this event!

### **Oasis Central Minnesota Fundraiser**



### **"Holiday Bizarre" Dinner Theater At Falls Ballroom**

**Wednesday-Thursday, August 10 and 11**

Bring a friend and come for this evening of food, song, and laughter and support the outreach of Oasis Central Minnesota, the host organization of the weekly Share A Meal held each Thursday at First Lutheran.

Social hour at 5:00 p.m., dinner and show begins at 6:00 p.m. The church ladies (some you will recognize!) and Little Falls' hilarious native son, Jason Schommer will entertain you!

Tickets are \$25.00 each and are available at the Oasis office in the historic courthouse building or by calling Oasis at 632-9140.

## Music Ministry Opportunities at First Lutheran Church



Do you love to sing praises? Do you have instrumental musical gifts? You are encouraged to consider one of the many musical opportunities that First Lutheran Church offers. Many groups will begin practicing in August and September.

**GRACE NOTES CHOIR:** for ages high school and up, will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, August 31, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Barb Stumpf continues to direct the choir this year. The Grace Notes Choir sings two or three services per month.

**ANNIVERSARY CHOIR:** for ages high school and up, will sing along with the Grace Notes Choir for the FLC 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend activities. The commitment for this choir will be attendance at Wednesday night rehearsals starting on August 31, performing at the anniversary celebration concert on Saturday, September 24, and singing for both anniversary celebration services on Sunday, September 25.

**PRAISE TEAM:** for ages high school and up, will have a kick-off jam session on Wednesday, August 24, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with dessert! All current, former and future praise team members, and anyone interested in singing with us, are encouraged to attend. We will learn a few new songs for the upcoming year. The praise team commitment is one or two Sundays per month, and a rehearsal the Wednesday prior to those Sundays.

**FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** for children Kindergarten through grade 5, will begin rehearsing Wednesday, September 14. Rehearsals are after school on Wednesdays through

December 14. Your child may ride the school bus to church. Registration forms and bus permission slips will be available as of August 5. Adult helpers are also welcome to assist with this group.

**WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE and SERVANT MEN'S GROUP:** these vocal groups provide gifts of music at worship occasionally and are always welcoming new members.

For more information on any of these groups, or if you are interested in becoming a cantor, worship assistant or providing a gift of music either vocal or instrumental, please contact Director of Music Ministry Becky Nelson, 320-360-0209 or [rpnelson@brainerd.net](mailto:rpnelson@brainerd.net).



**Farewell for  
Jay and Stephanie Kiel and Raelynn  
Sunday, August 7**

Plan to be at worship on Sunday, August 7 as we bid farewell to the Kiel family. Jay has served First Lutheran as Youth and Family Minister for the past five years. We celebrate with them as Jay begins a new journey at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, on a path to ordained ministry in the ELCA.

We are thankful for the energy that Jay has poured in to youth ministry here in our midst and we wish the family all the best in this important move.

Jay's last day is Tuesday, August 9. All are welcome to a farewell celebration meal planned for after the 10:30 service on Sunday, August 7 as we express our thanks and best wishes to the Kiels!

**Parish Nurse News** Tracy Moe RN

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**Dispose of unwanted, unused, outdated medications safely**

Periodically clean out your medicine cabinet by sorting through prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and supplements to determine whether they are expired and possibly ineffective.

If you are unsure what is in a bottle, take it to your pharmacist or health care provider for identification.

Medication, if not disposed of properly, can lead to accidental ingestion, unlawful misuse or overuse.

The Little Falls Police Department and the Morrison County Sheriff both have a drop box for any unwanted, unused, or outdated medications. Residents outside the area should check with your local law enforcement agencies for disposal sites and 'take back' programs.

For more info about medication disposal check: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm>

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

In the theme verse for the anniversary celebration from Matthew 7:25 we are reminded that this house has its foundation on the solid rock which is Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are encouraged to consider and share what First Lutheran means to you during this upcoming celebratory time. Visit the bulletin board in the gathering space and select a paper 'rock' to write your thoughts and add to the 'foundation.'

**Ministry Positions Available:**

**Youth and Family Minister**

As Jay Kiel prepares to depart for seminary, the congregation has begun a search for a full-time Youth and Family Minister. The Youth and Family Minister will develop and carry out ministries of faith formation for children, youth and families to live a life centered in Christ. The Youth and Family Minister will lead by example, work creatively and collaboratively, and provide dynamic leadership, and organization. Experience in youth ministry is preferred but not required. Previous experience in a similar role could apply. Intended start date is September 1, 2016. If you or someone you know fits this description or for more information, contact Pastor Jake Dyrhaug at [jdyrhaug@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:jdyrhaug@flclittlefalls.org) or (320) 632-6667.

**Child Care Attendant:**

First Lutheran is blessed with the gift of many children. As a church family, we want to provide safe, quality care for these precious little ones in the Child Care Space on Sunday mornings and at other events. We are presently seeking candidates to serve as Child Care Attendant. The qualified person must be 18 years of age or older, have previous child care experience, and possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills. If you or someone you know is interested in serving in this position, please submit your resumé to the church office. For a complete ministry description, please ask in the church office, 632-6667.

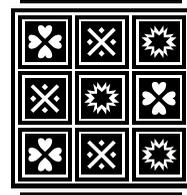
## Mission Life

### Oasis/Share A Meal Community Paint A Thon

Thank you to the First Lutheran Church team who have volunteered their time on Saturday, August 6 to give a fresh coat of paint to the home of a local resident. This is a great time to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ right here in our own community. Thank to Jerome and Karen Haaland for coordinating the team.

### Home Delivered Meals August 29-September 2

First Lutheran participates in the Home Delivered Meals program locally. Together with other groups in the community we share the delivery of meals a week at a time. Our next dates to deliver meals are Monday-Friday, August 29 to September 2. Volunteers meet at the Buckman building at 9:45 a.m., you will pick up the meals and deliver to the assigned route. You'll be done by 11:00 a.m. This is a valuable service that assists people to remain in their homes. If you or someone you know would consider being First Lutheran's coordinator for this servant opportunity, please call the church office at 632-6667. Thank you!



### Camp Knutson 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction Saturday, August 13

Camp Knutson, at Crosslake nurtures the well-being of persons with special needs in a setting which celebrates God's love for community and creation. In 2010, over 1,000 campers with heart disease, HIV or AIDS, Down syndrome, severe skin diseases, autism or other diseases were served. A quilt from the First Lutheran quilters along with many others will be auctioned. First Lutheran provides assistance on the day of the sale. Your support of the auction is greatly appreciated. If you would like to attend and share a ride, contact Marlene Williams, 632-4290.

### Luther Crest Scramble A Fun(d) Raising Golf Tournament Monday, August 8 Camp Changes Lives!

Why not gather a foursome for this fun(d) raising "Best Ball" tournament on the course at Lake Miltona Golf Course, Alexandria. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.; "shotgun start" tee time is at noon. Supper will be served at Lake Miltona at 5:00 p.m. The fee is \$100.00 per person covers green fees, cart rental, and meal. You are encouraged to give a gift in support of Luther Crest at this event. Past tournaments have made a significant impact on the camp's ministry. To register, call the church office, 632-6667.

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## Welcome Three-Year-Olds!

Each year we help to prepare our three-year-olds for Sunday School by inviting them and their parents/guardians to participate in a welcome gathering. This year's gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. Children and their parents/guardians will visit their classroom, meet their teacher, share a treat, and get acquainted with one another. Any child who is three years old by September 1 is welcome. Three-year olds will receive the gift of a story Bible at worship on Sunday, September 18. Please enroll your child to ensure they receive a Bible. If you have questions, please call the church office, 632-6667.

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## Confirmation Ministries

**Third Grade:** Parents and youth entering third grade are invited to attend a Bible overview meeting on Wednesday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss the course on Family Devotions on the Gospel of Mark which begins in September. Youth will receive the gift of a Bible during worship on Sunday, August 28.

**Fifth Grade:** Class on Stewardship begins on Wednesday, September 14. Watch for a letter with details about this class.

**Sixth Grade:** During the week of Vacation Bible School (August 1-5), youth entering seventh grade in the fall study the Lord's Prayer with Jay Kiel.

**Seventh and Eighth Grade:** as we transition into the new confirmation schedule, these two grades will meet together with Pastor Jake to study the Old Testament, beginning Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. Watch for a letter about this class.

**Ninth Grade:** this class will meet the New Testament and Lutheran Identity beginning Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**Tenth Grade:** Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. for confirmand, parent, mentor reception. Confirmation Day on Reformation Sunday, October 30 will be here soon!

## Sunday School: Fall 2016 Rally Sunday, September 18, 9:30 a.m.

We are getting ready to kick-off another year of Educational ministry at First Lutheran Church. Parents and children ages 3 through grade 12 will gather in Stoltz Hall for an opening and introduction to Sunday School on Sunday, September 18. We will review and introduce Sunday School leaders and Commission for Education members. There will be a special treat for all!

Regular Sunday School sessions will begin on Sunday, October 2 at 9:30 a.m. so that all may enjoy the celebration of the congregation's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, September 25.

Education Commission members and volunteers are recruiting teachers, leaders and helpers for the upcoming Sunday Morning ministries. If you are interested in sharing your faith through cooking, storytelling, song, music, games, arts and crafts, etc., please contact the church office, any Commission for Education member or the church office at 632-6667.

### Registration for Sunday Morning Ministry, age 3-grade 12 Confirmation, grades 2-11 Youth Groups, grades 3-12

Parents of children ages 3 years – 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Watch your mailbox for a mailing on Education and Youth Ministry for the coming year. Registration and health forms for kids, and list of opportunities for adults to work with youth, and a schedule for confirmation is included. Please note that registration is required each year for participation in Education and Youth Activities. Additional forms will be available in the church office or on the church web-site at [www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org). Forms should be returned to First Lutheran as soon as possible. See the mailing for more details!

## "Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from the Preschool,

This fall we offer the following classes.

- ☺ *Noah's Animals*—for children 33 months to three years old, meeting Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- ☺ *Jesus' Gems*—for four and five year olds, meeting Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- ☺ *Friday Friends*—for 33 months to PreK, this additional class creates a three-day week.
- ☺ Interested families are encouraged to inquire and register early to allow time for the necessary paperwork and/or medical appointments to be completed. Registration forms are available on the church website, [www.flcittlefalls.org](http://www.flcittlefalls.org), or at church in the gathering space.

If you are able to financially assist a family with tuition expense scholarship, please let us know.

"Children First" Advisory Team and staff welcome back the teaching staff, Jessica Gustafson and Chrissi Gesme.



Upcoming dates for preschool families or those interested:

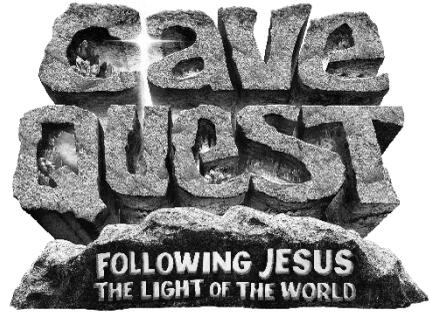
- ☞ Green Fair Folk Festival, Wednesday, August 4, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Francis Campus, Little Falls. Visit the preschool booth at this free family-friendly event that promotes a healthy and sustainable lifestyle. Children can adopt a Stuffed 'Pet' or bring your own stuffed 'Pet' for needed repairs and TLC.
- ☞ Preschool Open House, Monday, August 22, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Open House is for anyone interested in visiting or registering.
- ☞ Parent Orientation, Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 p.m. at the church. Parents only please, there is much information to cover!
- ☞ Arts and Crafts Fair Booth, Saturday-Sunday, September 9-10 (Broadway and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street). Volunteers welcome!
- ☞ Classes begin for students, Monday-Tuesday, September 12-13, class sessions on these days are 1½ hours with a parent/guardian attending.

Thank you to all who support "Children First" in any way, preschool operations are supported only by tuition, donations, fundraisers, volunteerism, and your many prayers. First Lutheran graciously provides the facility needs. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry to children and families!

In Christ's Service,  
Gail Hittesdorf, Director, (320) 632-6667  
[childrenfirst@flcittlefalls.org](mailto:childrenfirst@flcittlefalls.org)

## VBS Mission Project

We are supporting “Operation Backpack” once again. We are collecting backpacks (new or gently used) and the school supplies needed to fill them. Backpacks will be distributed to nine local schools for area kids in need. Last year over 90 backpacks filled with supplies were donated to local schools! Supply lists are available on the gathering space bulletin board. Donations may be brought to the collection box in the gathering space.



### Vacation Bible School “Cave Quest!” Following Jesus the Light of the World! August 1-5

Vacation Bible School is here!! Youth and adults will explore the Bible and learn along with Clark Cavern that: Jesus give us hope, courage, direction, love and his power...so *Follow Him!* We will start the day at *Sing and Play Rock*, then kids will have fun with *Spelunker Sports and Games*, enjoy a movie at *KidVid Cinema*, have a *Deep Bible Quest*, make a project at the *Imagination Station*, and have a snack at the *Cavern Café*. Everyone is welcome to come and wrap up the day at 11:30 a.m. at *Care Quest Closing!*

This year’s VBS will be a joint effort of First Lutheran and First United Churches. To register, your child must be 3 years old (by September 1, 2015) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. You may pick up a registration form at church or you can find the form on the church web-site, [www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org). Registration is free; you are encouraged to register your child even if they may not attend every day.

Thank you to all who participate and those who volunteer their time, energy, provide supplies, assist with setup/teardown, pray for this week, or help out with the week in any way.

For more information about Vacation Bible School contact the church office.

### Watch for it: “We Cry Out”

**See You at the Pole  
Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 a.m.**

See you at the Pole™ is all about prayer. It’s about you coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole. Come and pray for your school, friends, families and the world.

### Can Care Collection

Recycling is one way to save the earth. Bring your empty cans to the church secured in a plastic bag—you can leave them next to the garage door. This on-going fundraiser provides money for youth activities. If you can assist with taking cans to be recycled, please contact the church office. Keep saving those aluminum cans! Thanks!

## News of the Family



Grace Lorraine Saari was baptized on July 24.  
May God's blessing shine on this new member of  
the family of God.



Items for the **September NEWSLETTER**  
are due on **August 19, 2016!**

## Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. continues  
throughout the year. Stay after the 8:30 a.m. service,  
or come early for the 10:30 service, for coffee  
(leaded and unleaded!), treats and fellowship in the  
Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome!

