



“Servants of All”

June 2015, Newsletter

June 30, 2015

Reaching Out in Mission

Looking for a way to put your faith into action? Have some free time this summer? Here are some opportunities to consider:

- 🌐 Volunteer to paint a home with the Paint A Thon on Saturday, August 1. *See page 5.*
- 🌐 Deliver Meals on Wheels during the week of August 3-7. *Call the church office to volunteer.*
- 🌐 Volunteer or give a gift in support of outdoor ministry at Luther Crest Bible Camp.
- 🌐 Walk or support a walker in the Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, on Friday, July 17 at Flyer Field.
- 🌐 Give a donation to Food for Kidz, ELCA World Hunger, or Morrison County Food Shelf. People are hungry year-round.
- 🌐 Bring a friend and come to share fellowship over a nutritious meal at Share A Meal, served each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at First Lutheran. Watch for First Lutheran’s turn to prepare and serve a meal this summer.
- 🌐 Support one of the many ELCA missions with a financial gift or the gift of your time. *Contact the church office.*
- 🌐 Share your gifts with kids at VBS, August 3-7, 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- 🌐 Volunteer to assist with food distribution for Ruby’s Pantry. *See article on page 5.*
- 🌐 Visit with or read to a resident at a care center or a shut-in.
- 🌐 Knit or crochet a prayer shawl for someone who can use a comforting hug.
- 🌐 Save your aluminum cans (and other items!) for recycling. Save the earth!
- 🌐 Provide prayer or financial support to First Lutheran youth participating in summer trips or camps: high school youth traveling to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit, middle school traveling to Duluth, or youth attending a Bible Camp.

Thank you for all the ways that you show the love of Christ in our community and world!

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Notes from Pastor Hank

Well, it took a while but the glories of a Minnesota summer finally seem to have arrived—time to be outdoors, gardening, biking, jogging, walking, on a lake or a river, fishing or swimming, swatting mosquitoes and checking for ticks. And may the loving God who gave us this beautiful blue-green planet to live on bless you all with a rejuvenating summer and keep you all safe as you do the things with family and friends that give you joy.

Let me update you on the Stewardship Drive. To date we have received 90 commitment cards representing a total of \$219,502 in pledged income for the year beginning June 1st. That is a wonderful response, and I am very grateful to those who have sent in a commitment card to let us know how much they hope to be able to give in support of First Lutheran in the next 12 months.

If you have not yet sent in your commitment card, it's not too late, and I encourage you to let us know what you hope to be able contribute to the ministries than make First Lutheran the great church that it is. It is important that we be able to show the next pastor of First Lutheran that we are able to support the mission and ministry that we are calling him/her to. If you have misplaced your commitment card, you can get another one at

church during the next couple of Sundays, or just phone in or email in the amount you hope to be able to give. And thank you.

We rejoice with Steph and Jay Kiel on their adoption of a baby girl. Keep little Raelynn in your prayers that she might grow strong in body, mind and spirit. And keep Steph and Jay in your prayers that they may take great joy in their parenting of this beautiful child.

And speaking of prayer—pray for our High School kids and their adult leaders as they prepare to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan, and pray for our Middle School kids and their adult leaders as they prepare for their summer mission trip to Duluth. May all these kids and their leaders grow in faith through these experiences and may they travel well and safely.

Peace and every blessing to you all,

Pastor Hank

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to meet and seek discernment from the Holy Spirit as we search for a pastor. To date, we have prayerfully considered:

- a pastoral candidate through review of the Rostered Leader Profile (in-depth candidate information), interview, review of references, and visit to the home congregation of the candidate to hear preaching and observe relationships with the congregation.
- a second pastoral candidate through review of the Rostered Leader Profile and interview. We are completing reference checks.

We have received the Rostered Leader Profile of two additional pastoral candidates. At the time of this writing, we are seeking information in initial reference contacts. We have not determined whether or not we will pursue an interview with either candidate.

We are appreciative of the prayers and support of the congregation as we continue our work. Submitted in Christ's Peace,

Mary Pfohl
Call Committee Chairperson

Report from Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

The 2015 Northeastern Minnesota Assembly was held May 1-3 at Breezy Point Resort with First Lutheran members Doug Anderson, Les Hittesdorf, and Mary Pfohl and attending as First Lutheran voting members. Ted Pfohl also attended as a member of the synod council. Jay Kiel attended as a guest.

Keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen who brought a message on the power of forgiveness.

Assembly business included, election of voting members to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, elections to the synod council, approval of the 2016 synod budget, and approval of 2016 compensation guidelines.

Celebrated the ordination of Pastor Mark Wagner at Friday evening worship and celebrated with eleven pastors who were recognized for milestone ordination anniversaries, five of these pastors have been ordained for 50, 60, and 70 years!

We heard about the mission work that is ongoing by Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Hunger ministry, Camping ministry, and youth ministry.

In addition to offerings received, \$20,277 was raised for ELCA World Hunger through the Marketplace, Silent Quilt Auction, and Ingathering of Quarters. Thank you to the First Lutheran quilters for the beautiful quilt given to the auction.

The Synod Assembly provided an opportunity to worship, pray, and grow in our discipleship and mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Questions, concerns, or comments? Please contact any of those who attended or check the Synod webpage found at nemnsynod.org.

Invite! Sunday, May 31

This is an opportunity for all to come together to share food, fellowship, fun and worship. We'll start the morning at 8:30 a.m. with continental-style breakfast in Stoltz Hall. At 9:30 a.m. Jay Kiel and the Commission for Congregational Life will lead a conversation adapted from one of the NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge topics: Invite! What is a story of *invitation* that has made an impact on your life? Throughout the Gospel narrative, Jesus invites and invites again. Rich, poor, old, young, the in crowd and those on the outside looking in – Jesus invites everyone!

We will gather together for one worship service at 10:30 a.m. Come for all or part of the morning. For more information, questions, or ways you can be involved, contact Commission for Congregational Life Chair Mary Pfohl at 632-4760.

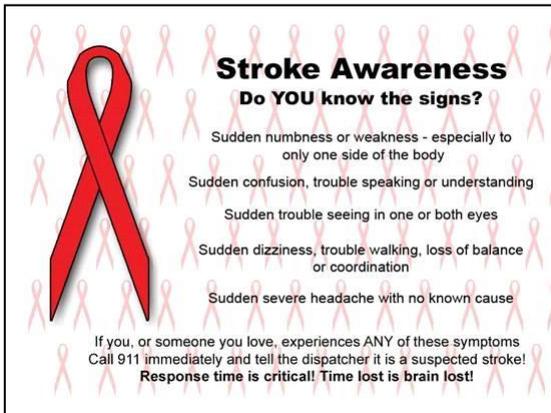


Council Highlights

- ✚ The council accepted with regret the resignation of Ty Gangelhoff from the council.
- ✚ Heard an update from the Call Committee that one candidate has been interviewed.
- ✚ Received a thank you from David Hoadley for support for roster process.
- ✚ Approved support for Annalee VanDenheuevel trip with Real Hope for Haiti.

Crane Meadows Nature Walk
Sunday, June 14
12:00 noon

Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 14 we will gather at Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge for a nature walk. Crane Meadows is located about 5 miles east of Highway 10 on County Road 34. The Platte River Hiking Trail offers a scenic 3.5 mile hike along the river to the edge of Rice Lake. The trail has three loops of varying distance. Sandhill cranes and a host of other wildlife may be seen or heard as they use the sedge meadows, shallow lakes, wetlands, grasslands, oak woods, and other habitats on the Refuge. The trails are not difficult and consist of crushed rock and grass. The Commission for Health will fuel you up with healthy snacks and drinks before your walk to sustain you to lunch. If you would like directions or to share a ride, please contact the church office. Come join in fellowship outdoors!



Music and Worship Article

written by Paula Monahan

I'm writing this from the gorgeous Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. One of our experiences was visiting Washington and Lee University in Lexington. The very next day we toured the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. After watching the Emmy Award-winning film, "Field of Lost Shoes," which described in detail the New Market battle of the Civil War, we walked the New Market Battlefield ourselves, exactly where the Virginia Military Institute Cadet Corps from Lee University marched from their classrooms to the front lines, many to their deaths. It was a powerful experience, to be at the university one day and walking the battlefield those young cadets walked 151 years ago the next day. They were not yet trained to fight when they were called to the front lines; yet they went without hesitation to fight for their country and for freedom.

The hymn "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" by Samuel Francis Smith seems perfect to highlight, with both Memorial Day and the 4th of July being celebrated this time of the year. May God bless the thousands of soldiers who have fought, and continue to fight, for our freedom!

"My country, 'tis of thee,
 Sweet land of liberty,
 Of thee I sing.
 Land where my fathers died,
 Land of the pilgrim's pride,
 From every mountainside,
 Let freedom ring!

"Our father's God, to Thee,
 Author of liberty,
 To Thee we sing.
 Long may our land be bright
 With freedom's holy light;
 Protect us by Thy might,
 Great God, our King."

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Psalms 33:12



Mission Opportunities



What Should I Save?

There are many ways that you can be involved in mission right from your own home. We can all be good stewards of the earth and help others at the same time by saving a variety of things. Here is a list of ways that you can help. If you know of other projects, you may contact the church office with this information for future publication.

- Coborn's Food Club coupon points (given with your cash register receipt); Coborn's Videos for Learning stickers; UPC codes from Campbells, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, Prego; V8 labels; Pace lids; inkjet cartridges, laser/toner cartridges, old cell phones, old laptop computers—"Children First" Christian Preschool receives cash or teaching materials from these items. Drop off in the church office.
- Cotton fabric (large enough for 7 inch squares) for the First Lutheran quilters. Bring to the church office.
- Cancelled stamps for Sons of Norway. Give to Marlene Williams or the church office.

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution Monday, June 22

Oasis Central Minnesota continues to bring Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution to Little Falls. Ruby's Pantry is a community outreach of Home and Away Ministries a non-profit organization that provides surplus food to anyone interested, there is no income qualification. Recipients are asked to bring their own box and a cash donation of \$20.00. Food is distributed at Bethel Lutheran Church, 901 Broadway Ave. West on the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer to assist with food distribution, call Oasis Central Minnesota, at 632-9140.

- Aluminum cans for the First Lutheran youth program. You can leave bags of cans by the church garage. Please close bags securely.
- Building materials, new and used, and other items may be donated to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The ReStore generally accepts: building materials, furniture, cabinets, appliances, plumbing, electrical and much more! If you have an item to donate call the ReStore to see if it's something they can accept at 218-828-8517.
- Recycle—at home and at church. Your assistance with recycling is appreciated. We can recycle office paper, newspaper, glass, plastic, cans, cardboard, and more. Thank you!

Re-use: save those items that you no longer need or use and donate them—the fall or spring LSS Rummage Sales, a cooperative event of Bethel and First Lutheran is one place to donate. Your donation provides funds for Lutheran Social Service homes in the area.



Annual Community Paint-A-Thon

Oasis/Share A Meal Saturday, August 1

The Paint-A-Thon committee is recruiting teams to paint a home in Morrison County on August 1. Over the past 16 years, over 150 homeowners have benefited from this program. It takes 10-12 people, 4-5 hours each, to make a big difference in someone's life!

First Lutheran will again sponsor a painting team. Jerome Haaland will coordinate this year's team. Thanks, Jerome! Can you spend a Saturday helping to paint a home for a local resident? This is a BYOB (Bring Your Own Brush!) event. Contact the church office to sign up. Thank you for making a difference in the community we share!

Thanks * Thanks * Thanks!

LSS Rummage Sale

First Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran hosted another successful rummage sale! Sale proceeds will be donated to Lutheran Social Service group homes in Little Falls. Thanks to all who donated items, worked or helped in any way. Start saving now for the next sale in October 2015! Thank you!

Karen Haaland

NE MN Synod Hunger Team

You quilters amaze us! Every year your generosity and creativity transform our Synod Assembly. You inspire us with your dedication and commitment to World Hunger! Because of your endeavors we raised \$9,655.00 for World Hunger. Many thanks from your Synod leaders and the Hunger Team. Gratefully, Northeast Minnesota Hunger Team

Sunday School News

Sunday School is taking a summer break. Planning is in the works for an exciting 2015/16 Sunday School year. If you or someone you know would like to be part of planning/organizing/leading a team of children and youth or a rotation station, please contact the church office or any of the members of the Commission for Education.

Thank you to all who shared their faith and developed relationships with children and youth over the past year. Thank you to those who committed to the full year of Sunday School ministry. You are a blessing! The God-given gifts of all are greatly appreciated!



Real Hope for Haiti Mission Trip June 15-22

Real Hope for Haiti is a mission organization with a priority of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those they serve. First member Annalee VanDenheuvel will travel with a team of six to Haiti on June 15-22. The team will focus on medical needs and on children's needs. Annalee plans to focus on activities with children. First Lutheran church council has voted to provide support to Annalee for the trip. The team will bring supplies along on the trip, your donations of supplies are welcome. You can get a supply list a church. You may also wish to consider a donation to Real Hope for Haiti; you can write your check to First Lutheran with RHFH in the memo line, or you can donate directly at realhopeforhaiti.org or RHFH, 15215 Endeavor Drive, Noblesville, IN 46060. For more information, contact Annalee at 320-232-9366.

Library Corner

These books are new additions to the library:

Children's Books:

The Rainbow Fish

The Way I Feel

Panda Bear, Panda Bear,

What do you See?

What Will I Do if I Can't Tie My Shoe?

Germ! Germ! Germ!

Youth:

American Girl: Aloha, Kanani

Adult Fiction:

The Letters, by Suzanne Fisher

Book Club

We meet Tuesday, June 30, at 7:00 p.m. for discussion. The selection for June is In the Shadow of the Rising Sun by Judy Hyland. This book is out of print but you may find used copies on Amazon.com. Readers please secure your own copy of the book. The July selection is My Salinger Year by Joanna Rakoff. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.



Advent Craft Sale and Luncheon
Saturday, December 5

We know it's barely summer, but the time will fly so now's the time to work on items for the Craft Sale – so be creative! Be sure you have this date on your calendar. If you or someone you know is interested in assisting with this annual event, please contact the church office.

Confirmation Ministry

Sixth Grade: Looking ahead – Class on Prayer during VBS week, August 3-7. Watch your mailbox for a letter with more details.

Tenth Grade: Summer will fly by quickly, remember to keep working on mentor activities!

**2nd Annual
Take Back the Night
Thursday, June 4, 5:30 p.m.
Maple Island Park
(if inclement weather –
Franciscan Sisters Gym)
hosted by Hands of Hope**

There will be a clothesline display for victims, survivors, and loved ones affected by domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. Speakers are Phyllis Michaels and Roger Bruhn. Phyllis delivers a positive and inspiring message about a life shattered and reclaimed from an act of domestic violence, she speaks candidly about being stalked and shot by her estranged husband, its effects on her, her family and community. Roger Bruhn addresses men's role in identifying, preventing and stopping domestic violence. Men who batter women rely on other men to remain silent and do nothing. Mr. Bruhn has spoken to law enforcement, high schools, and civic organizations and is a member of the Minnesota Men's Action Network. Little Falls Police Department will sponsor kids fingerprinting. The evening ends with a march for peace.

**14th Annual Golf Scramble
to benefit the ministry at
Luther Crest Bible Camp
Monday, August 10 at Miltona Golf Club**

Why not get a foursome together and spend a fun day playing this "Best Ball" tournament on the course. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.; "shotgun start" tee time is at noon. Supper will be served at 5:00 p.m. You can play this scramble for \$100 per golfer. The fee per golfer covers green fees, cart rental, golf balls, driving range, and meal. You are encouraged to give a gift in support of Luther Crest at this event.

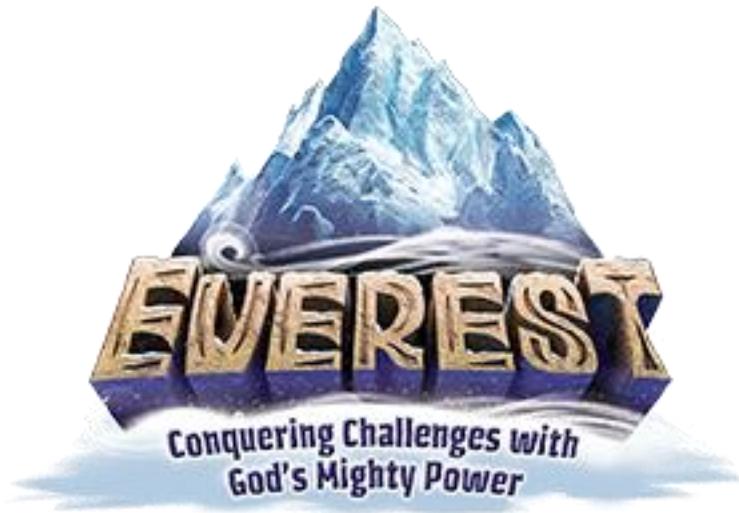
Past tournaments have made a significant impact on the camp's ministry. To register, call the church office, 632-6667 or register online at www.luthercrest.org



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

Again this year! Luther Crest is partnering 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 is from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 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!

Vacation Bible School
August 3-7
Everest!—Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power



Youth and adults will explore the Bible and learn that: God has the power to provide, to comfort, to heal, to forgive, and the power to love us forever! Vacation Bible School is Monday, August 3 through Friday, August 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. VBS is for youth age 3 (by September 1, 2014) through fifth grade. Kids will have fun as they start each day at *Base Camp* and play *Glacier Games*, enjoy a movie at *Kidvid Cinema*, have a *Bible Expedition*, make a project at the *Imagination Station* and have a snack at *Mountaintop Treats*. We will wrap up each day at *The Summit Celebration!* Registration is underway. Pick up a form at church, or download it from First's website, www.flclittlefalls.org. Early registration makes planning easier. VBS is a collaboration of First Lutheran and First United congregations. We will meet Trek Rockrambler, the world-famous climber who wants you to know that seventh grade through adult volunteer participation

is encouraged. You can sign up to become a station leader, leader, preschool leader or a helper. Please prayerfully consider how you can share your time and talents during this fun week.

For more information, call Amber Sobiech, 616-9626, Caitlin Skluzacek, 320-333-9450, or the church office, 632-6667.





“Children First” Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from “Children First” Christian Preschool,

“Children First” says goodbye to preschoolers going to Kindergarten in the fall and welcome to all children registered for the 2015/2016 Preschool year! We enjoy seeing the growth and changes in the children under our care and entrust them to their future in God’s hands. Planning for the fall is underway.

Preschool enrollment for the 2015/2016 school year continues throughout the summer. This fall “Children First” offers two classes for children ages 4 year-old-PreKindergarten and two class times for children age 33 months-3 years. We again offer the “Friday Friends” class to provide a three day a week experience for preschoolers. Registration forms are available in the gathering space at First Lutheran or on the website at www.flclittlefalls.org. A \$60.00 non-refundable registration/activity fee is required at the time of registration. Please contact the church office or Gail if you have any questions or wish to view the classroom.

If you or someone you know has a little person of preschool age, consider enrolling them in this quality, Christian early childhood program.

Watch for “Children First” over the summer at:

Little Falls Dam Festival Parade – Saturday, June 20

The Green Fair Folk Festival at St. Francis Campus – Wednesday, August 5

Preschool Open House – end of August

Little Falls Arts and Craft Fair – Saturday-Sunday, September 12-13

If you can assist with any of these activities, please call Gail at 632-6667 or 320-291-4698.

This has been a fun and event filled year. God has blessed “Children First” with wonderful children, caring families, many volunteers and financial contributors, an awesome staff and advisory team as well as great friends. We have watched the Preschoolers grow in God’s love and learning. We are looking forward to next fall as we see returning faces and are rewarded with many new faces.

Have a great summer and God’s Blessings to all!

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Gail Hittesdorf, Director

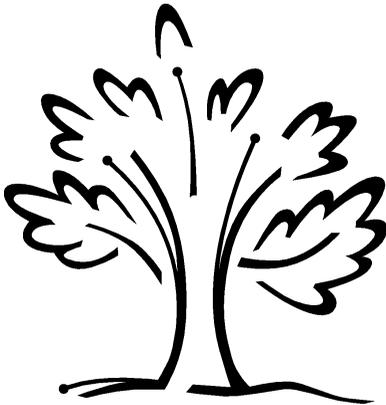
News of the Family



Elena Ann-Mae Kozumplik, daughter of Peter and Sara Kozumplik, was baptized on May 3. May God's blessings shine on this new member of the family of God.



Florence V. Greene died on May 23. Her funeral service was held May 28 at Shelley Funeral Chapel. May God grant peace and comfort to her family and friends.



Congratulations! On June 1 First Lutheran celebrates 26 years of being smoke-free.

Items for the **July NEWSLETTER** are due on **June 20, 2015!**