

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

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***“Servants of All”***

June 2017, Newsletter

May 25, 2017



**Day of Pentecost**  
**Sunday, June 4**  
**Celebration Offering**

Soon congregations will conclude the season of Easter with observance of the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, June 4. To learn more about this special day and the gift of the Holy Spirit, see the article on page four. Following a remodeling project completed in the year 2000 and for the past seventeen years we have honored our history and celebrated all that is to come by receiving a special offering on Pentecost Sunday. These offerings are dedicated to immediately reducing the principal amount on our mortgage. These gifts have been integral to our ability to maintain and upgrade our church home. The reasoning behind this is simple: we pay down our loan more quickly, pay thousands of dollars less in interest and free up dollars for mission. It's simply a matter of good stewardship.

We thank all who have contributed in any way to keep God's ministry and mission at the forefront of our life together. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins for this cause, or you may write "Celebration Offering" in the memo line of your check. Please give as you are able on Pentecost Sunday, June 4.

Thank you for your faithful giving! Come, Holy Spirit!

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**That’s in the Bible?  
Summer Preaching Series**

Have you ever heard someone quote the Bible, then wonder where exactly that verse came from? Me too! It just takes a quick Google search nowadays to look it up and find some information. For instance, “God helps those who help themselves.” (Hmmm... it may sound official, but it’s actually *not* in the pages of the Bible!) Mark Twain once said, “It’s not the parts of the Bible I DON’T understand that bother me most, it’s the ones I DO understand.” For example, Jesus said, “Take up your cross and follow me,” and Twain may have wondered what that looks like. There are verses that may surprise us with a closer look. We may think that a whale swallowed Jonah, but the Bible actually says it was a great fish. Or what happens in the story about the boy who dozed off during Paul’s sermon? Find out this summer with the preaching series, **“THAT’S in the Bible?!?”**

**June 11: “The creation story” Did Satan tempt Eve in the garden?** Did God imprison all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all?

**June 18: “Take nothing with you” Does God help those who help themselves?** Did God give instructions for the camp bathroom?

**June 25: “Do not be afraid” Does the Bible say, “This, too, shall pass?”** Did Jeremiah hide his underwear in the rocks?



**July 2: “Do not let sin exercise dominion in you” Does the Bible say, “Spare the rod, spoil the child?”** Did Elisha have children mauled for making fun of him?

**July 9: “My yoke is easy” Does the Bible say, “Pride goes before a fall?”** Were Ananias and Saphhira struck dead for withholding their offering?

**July 16: “The sower and the seeds” Does the Bible say, “God works in mysterious ways?”** Did Jesus tell Peter to get a coin for his taxes out of a fish’s mouth?

**July 23: “Hope that is seen is not hope” Does the Bible say, “Cleanliness is next to Godliness?”** Will Jesus have a tattoo when he returns?

If you have any unusual Bible questions, send them to me, and I’ll include them as best I can! Let’s dig into God’s surprising, awe-inspiring Word this summer!

In Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

**Daniel Ditmanson Now Program Director  
at Camp Onomia**

After nine months of serving at First Lutheran as Youth and Family Minister, Daniel Ditmanson has now moved to Camp Onomia, near Onamia, where he will be the new program director. We thank Daniel for his time with us, and we pray that God will bless him in this new chapter.

## Report from 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

The 2017 Northeastern Minnesota Assembly was held April 28-30 at Cragun's Resort with First Lutheran members Daniel Ditmanson and Sue Salvog attending as First Lutheran voting members. Pastor Jake Dyrhaug attended and helped with music leadership. Ted Pfohl also attended as a member of the synod council.

We welcomed guest theologian and keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Carlson, from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, who underscored the importance of our Lutheran theological perspective and why the sacraments matter.

In addition to hearing reports from the year from around the synod, assembly business included, elections, approval of synod constitutional amendments, approval of the 2018 synod budget, and approval of 2018 compensation guidelines.

We learned about Lutheran Social Services and the Center for Changing Lives in Duluth, our Companion Synods, the School of Lay Ministry, hunger, justice, immigration and refugee issues facing our world and the church. Our camps inspired us as they spoke about their energy for summer campers this year.

This was an Assembly of generous giving. A total of \$33,072.16 was given during the Assembly for seminary scholarships and seminary debt relief and for the work of ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for your gifts! Thank you to the First Lutheran quilters for the beautiful quilt given to the quilt auction.

The Synod Assembly provided an opportunity to worship, celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, 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](http://nemnsynod.org).

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### Thank you!

- ✚ Thank you to the New Consecration Sunday stewardship team and to all who assisted with this effort in any way to work towards a successful conclusion to the drive.
- ✚ Thank you to the Sunday School station leaders and shepherds and all who made Sunday School a priority this year.
- ✚ Thank you to all who graciously assisted with yard cleanup for a community resident and yard cleanup at here on the church grounds.
- ✚ Thank you to Earl Pilloud for coordinating and all who came to assist with maintaining the oil finish on our sanctuary pew chairs.
- ✚ Thank you to all who donated items and/or helped to assemble the 80 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.
- ✚ Thank you to all who faithfully tend to the week-in, week-out needs of ministry in this place. You are appreciated!



### Council Highlights

- ✚ Accepted with regret the resignation of Daniel Ditmanson, Youth and Family Minister, effective May 14. Daniel has accepted a program director position at Camp Onomia.
- ✚ Heard that the New Consecration Sunday response was positive with an 11% increase in giving anticipated for the coming year.
- ✚ As previously agreed, the Council will review the annual budget at the June 13 meeting.
- ✚ Began discussion of ministry needs for Youth and Education ministry staffing.

### Summer 21 Day Wellness Challenge

We may think of our personal health in its purely physical aspects. Is my blood pressure good? Do I maintain the appropriate body weight? Am I in good physical shape? Do I eat the correct foods? Personal health also includes many wholistic life aspects. As the summer begins you may want to try this challenge to improve your overall wellness. Take 21 days (or more!) to try these suggestions. Here's to wellness!

1. Run a nice long bubble bath.
2. Journal ten things you are grateful for.
3. Take a walk outdoors.
4. Call someone you love.
5. De-clutter your room or desk.
6. Take a social media sabbatical
7. Make a list of short term goals.
8. Read a daily devotion.
9. Slow down. Sit and watch the sunset or sunrise.
10. Get rid of five things you never use.
11. Eat lunch outside.
12. Unsubscribe from unnecessary emails.
13. Send an encouraging text to five people.
14. Wake up 30 minutes earlier to pray.
15. Plan a coffee date with a friend.
16. Go the entire day without complaining.
17. Create/update a worship music playlist.
18. Make time for a wholesome breakfast.
19. Do one thing you have been putting off.
20. Research something new in your skill-set.
21. Don't overthink. Practice being present.

Even though Easter Sunday seems like a distant memory, here at First Lutheran Church, we are still celebrating the Easter Season. Perhaps you've noticed we are singing many Easter-ish songs in our worship services. Our sanctuary is still decorated with Easter butterflies. The big finish of our Easter celebration is coming up on June 4, the last Sunday of the Easter Season, the Day of Pentecost.

The word "pentecost" means the "fiftieth day." The *Jewish Festival of Pentecost* (also called the Feast of Weeks) occurs on the fiftieth day after the Jewish Passover. (Passover coincides with our Easter celebrations.) In Acts 2:1-21, one of our scripture readings for the Day of Pentecost, Luke portrays the people of Jerusalem gathered for the Jewish Festival of Pentecost. During this gathering, the assembly witnessed the Holy Spirit, "like a mighty rushing wind and divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them" (Acts 2:2). Inspired by God's presence and love, the disciples began to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection. So, on the fiftieth day of Easter, the Christian church celebrates the Day of Pentecost, remembering the culmination of the Easter message as Jesus becomes present in our lives through the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit among us heals, forgives, inspires and unites us.

On the Day of Pentecost, the worship services will be filled with hymns and songs about the Holy Spirit and inviting the Holy Spirit to fill and renew our hearts. The church will be decorated with special paraments. The pastor will wear red vestments to signify the work of the Spirit. You are invited to wear red also, as a reminder of the tongues of fire that descended on the disciples during the Festival of Pentecost fifty days after the first Easter Sunday. Come, Holy Spirit!

*Written by Director of Music, Becky Nelson*



## 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);—“Children First” Christian Preschool receives cash or teaching materials from these points. 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.
- 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.

### **Thanks \* Thanks \* Thanks!**

First Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran hosted another successful rummage sale! Sale proceeds of over \$1,500 is donated to Lutheran Social Service. Thanks to all who donated items, worked or helped in any way. Start saving now for the next sale in October 2017! Thank you! Karen Haaland

### **Lenten Soup Supper Proceeds**

Thank you for your generous donation to Oasis Central Minnesota’s programs. Your continued support makes our programs possible. Thank you! Rose Surma, Oasis Central Minnesota

Thank you all for your generous donation of \$500 to our Flyer Pride packs. We appreciate your efforts by hosting the Lenten soup suppers and filling our children’s tummies!

Sincerely, Cindy, Laura, Anita  
Little Falls Community Schools



### **Annual Community Paint-A-Thon**

### **Oasis/Share A Meal Saturday, August 5**

The Paint-A-Thon committee is recruiting teams to paint a home in Morrison County on August 5. Over the past years, over 160 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. 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!

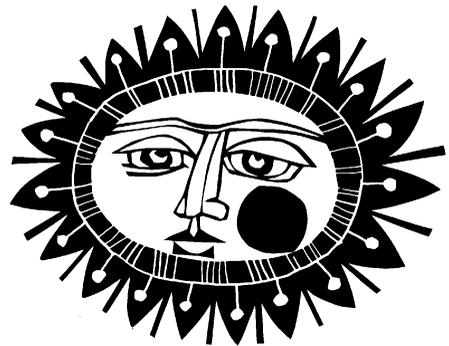


**2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering  
June 23-July 2, 2018**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”  
*Ephesians 2:8*

This ELCA event for high school youth takes place every three years and gathers over 30,000 youth and their adult leaders to grow in faith, experience new things, have fun and be challenged in an intentional Christian community. This is not a vacation. We will travel by coach bus with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Journey group of 400-450 youth and leaders from our synod. Together we will experience a servant event in Galveston, Texas and then travel on to five days at the gathering in Houston. This journey requires a big commitment from the youth participants, families, adult leaders, and the congregation. We will be getting to know one another, preparing, praying, planning, fundraising, and having fun together during the year leading up to the trip.

Families are encouraged to begin talking about this once in a lifetime journey with their students who are completing eighth grade through eleventh grade this year. This event will have an impact on the life of your student for years to come. Registrations and initial deposits (\$250) will be due by August 31. Please watch your mail for more information and/or plan to attend the Information Meeting on Wednesday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.



**Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 6:30 p.m.  
Informational Meeting**

Students who complete eighth grade through eleventh grade in 2017 are invited to learn more about this awesome trip opportunity June 23-July 2, 2018. We will journey with 450 others from the NE MN Synod and learn “What does this mean?” in Galveston, Texas. Then we will gather with 30,000+ youth in Houston where we will be immersed in service and a deeper faith and find that “This Changes Everything.” Come and learn more about this terrific opportunity—watch your snail mail for more details about this week. For more information, contact Pastor Jake or Sue Gustner in the church office.



### Advent Craft Sale and Luncheon Saturday, December 2

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 7-11. Watch your mailbox for a letter with more details.

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

#### Sunday School News

Sunday School is taking a summer break. Planning is in the works for an exciting 2017/18 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 Education Ministry Team.

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!



### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Scramble to benefit the ministry at Luther Crest Bible Camp Monday, August 7 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 11:30 a.m.; “shotgun start” tee time is at 1:00 p.m. 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.

Last year’s tournament made a significant impact on the camp’s ministry. To register, call the church office, 632-6667 or register online at [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org)



#### Book Club

We meet Tuesday, June 27, at 7:00 p.m. for discussion. The selection for June is The Healing by Jonathan Odell. Readers please secure your own copy of the book. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.

#### Middle School Mission Trip July 2-7 St Paul

Ten middle school youth and two adult chaperones will spend a week in mission with YouthWorks in the city of St. Paul. The youth and leaders will have their final meeting on Sunday, June 25 at 5:00 p.m. at the church to go over the preparations for the trip. Families please turn in registration and health forms and final payments by the date of this meeting. Thank you!



**Vacation Bible School  
August 7-11, 9:00-noon  
“Maker Fun Factory!”  
Created by God: Built for a Purpose**

Youth and adults will explore the Bible and learn that: God made you, God is for you, God is always with you, God will always love you, and God made you for a reason! Vacation Bible School is Monday, August 7 through Friday, August 11, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. VBS is for youth age 3 (by September 1, 2016) through fifth grade. Kids will have fun as they start each day at *Sound Wave Sing and Play* and play at *Game Makers*, enjoy a movie at *Kidvid Cinema*, have a *Bible Discovery*, make a project at the *Imagination Station* and have a snack at *Snack Factory*. We will wrap up each day at *Funshop Finale!*

Registration is underway. Pick up a form at church, or download it now from First’s website, [www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org). Early registration makes planning easier. VBS is a collaboration of First Lutheran and First United congregations.

We will meet Ian Victor, a guy who’s successful at everything *except* inventing. He wants everyone to know that seventh grade through adult volunteer participation is encouraged. You can signup 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.

**Vacation Bible School Organizational Meeting:** Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. Whether you are a seasoned VBS volunteer or you haven’t helped with this fun event yet, please come for this first meeting to prepare for a great week of VBS to be held Monday-Friday, August 7-11. We will use Group Publishing’s program “Maker Fun Factory” to help youth and adults learn that we are Created by God and Built for a Purpose. There are many ways to help with this week, both behind the scenes and before the week begins and/or hands on activity during the week. You are welcome to bring your children age 7 and up to this meeting, we will have a fun project for them! Check out the signup board in the gathering space for more details about the week.

For more information, contact Coordinator, Gail Hittesdorf in the church office, 632-6667.



## “Children First” Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from “Children First” Christian Preschool,

Another Preschool year has come and gone! It is a bittersweet time for us as we say goodbye to Preschoolers headed to Kindergarten. We have enjoyed our time with them and hope they continue to grow in God’s love. We are excited to see new families, returning families and Preschoolers registering for Fall classes and are already planning exciting themes and activities to our 2017-2018 Preschool year!

Registration for 2017-2018 Preschool year is underway. “Children First” Christian Preschool registers children continuously throughout the year beginning at age 33 months.

Class offerings are:

\*Noah’s Animals (33 mos-3 year olds): Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday

\*Jesus’ Gems (4- Prekindergarten):

Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday

We offer Jesus’ Gems as morning or afternoon class. New this year is the opportunity to participate in both morning and afternoon class to create an all-day preschool experience for 4 year olds. Lunches will be supervised with a bag lunch being provided by each family.

\*Friday Friends (33 mos-Prekindergarten): an added class day for families wanting a three-day

Preschool experience. This class is mornings only for both age groups.

Registration fee is \$60.00 and is nonrefundable. Monthly tuition is \$85.00 per month. Friday Friends class is an additional \$35.00 per month. All morning classes will meet from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Afternoon class will meet 12:30-3:00 p.m. Brochures and registration forms are available in the First Lutheran Church office, on the welcome counter in the Gathering Space, or on our website at [www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org). If you have questions or would like to visit please contact Gail.

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 community events. We enjoy being part of the community and seeing your children out and about.

Thank you to all who keep “Children First” in prayer and support us in so many ways. Thank you to all who volunteered and visited our classrooms this past year. Thank you for another awesome Preschool year – God’s blessings. Enjoy the Summer!

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Gail Hittesdorf, Director

Cell: 320-291-4698

Email: [childrenfirst@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:childrenfirst@flclittlefalls.org)

Web: [www.flclittlefalls.org/preschool](http://www.flclittlefalls.org/preschool)

## News of the Family



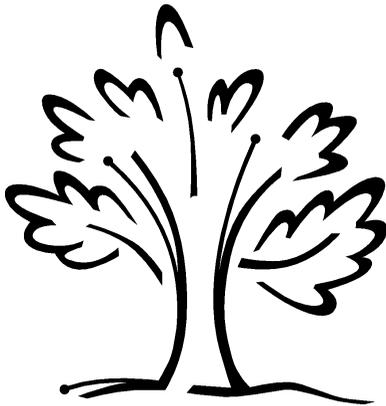
Nolan Matthew Morgan, son of Ted and Emily Morgan, was baptized on May 21, Welcome to the family of God!



### Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship using a variety of liturgical settings
- 9:35 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship led by a Praise Band
- Holy Communion is served at all services.

**Come and See!**



**Congratulations! On June 1 First Lutheran celebrates 28 years of being smoke-free.**

Items for the **July NEWSLETTER** are due on **June 20, 2017!**