

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Charles 'Jake' Dyrhaug, Pastor



2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-6667
(320) 632-1050 Fax

firstserv@flclittlefalls.org
www.flclittlefalls.org

May 2016, Newsletter

April 26, 2016



Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 15
Celebration Offering

This year, as First Lutheran celebrates 125 years of worship and serving together, we will receive a celebration offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 15 as a part of observing this milestone in the life of the congregation.

For the past sixteen 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 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 May bulletins for this cause, or write "Celebration Offering" in the memo line of your check. Please give as you are able on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Pastor Jake's Article
see page 2

**Congregational
Updates**
see page 3-4

Adult Opportunities
see page 5

Mission News
see page 6

**"Children First"
Christian Preschool**
see page 8

**Congrats to our
Grads!**
see page 9

Notes from Pastor Jake

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

As the days come closer to the month of May, right around the corner, I am looking forward with great anticipation to joining you there as your new pastor! The days are full with much happening at quite a pace now. It looks like we sold our house already, so that helps with our moving plans, as it went faster than we anticipated. I'll be attending the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly with your voting members, and then we're planning to move into wherever we'll be staying the first week of May. Sunday, May 8, will be my first Sunday with you. I'm already feeling at home, and we're not even there yet!

My family—Stephani, Karis and Ben—were just finding a time together when we can come for the pictures for the new First Lutheran directory. Stephani will be done working at Pioneer Care in Fergus Falls by then as we close on our house just prior to that. Karis will be coming for the picture from Alexandria, where she works at Jo-Ann Fabrics, and Ben will have just finished up his freshman year at Concordia College, Moorhead, and he'll be able to be with us before he heads to Wapo Bible Camp in Wisconsin where he'll be a counselor for the summer. They are looking forward also to meeting you, of course! It's always a big project to put those church directories together, but they really help people

get to know each other. And I can tell you it sure helps a new pastor and family to put faces together with names those first few months.

The thought dawned on me that this will be the third "First Lutheran" where I have belonged throughout my life—my home congregation in Bemidji, at First Lutheran in Battle Lake where we've been for about seven years, and soon Little Falls!

"First things first," I'm thinking as we are in the steps of moving to a new place. In this day of websites and various technologies, I have enjoyed getting to know you a little better ahead of time through your church webpage. Something that caught my eye was the phrase you have there in reference to yourselves, "First...Servants of All." I like that. As Jesus said, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (*Matthew 20:26*). It's what being a follower of Christ is about. To go from being members to disciples and servants—that is the calling God has for us as a result of the gospel. My family and I are excited to join you in the community of faith which makes up First Lutheran, Little Falls. And we look forward to growing with you in faith and service in the days ahead!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug

Service of Installation Sunday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. (one service only)

Pastor Charles 'Jake' Dyrhaug begins called ministry here at First Lutheran officially on May 1. His first Sunday with us will be May 8, the Seventh Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day. Sunday, May 15 we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost together.

Pastor Jake will be installed as Pastor of First Lutheran on Holy Trinity Sunday, May 22. We will have **one combined service of worship** that day at

10:00 a.m. Bishop Tom Aitken will be present to lead worship and installation. The congregation will gather following the service for a meal in Stoltz Hall.

Please plan to be present on May 22 for this special day in the life of the congregation. Welcome to First Lutheran Little Falls, Pastor Jake and Stephani, Karis and Ben, we are excited you are here!

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS TELL . GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL .



A Final Note from Pastor Hank and Bobbi

As I “head out the door,” I wanted to express the deep gratitude that Bobbi and I feel for the time we have spent with you. Your faith and faithfulness have inspired us, your hospitality, inclusivity and generosity have warmed us, and your witness to the love of God disclosed in the life and teachings of Jesus has encouraged us.

A special thanks to the staff. It has been an honor to serve with you in the ministry and mission of First Lutheran and I will long remember the laughter we have shared as we have worked together for the “Lord of the Dance.”

We are excited for First Lutheran as you head toward the future God is preparing for you under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Jake Dyrhaug. God is with you on the journey, and as the great medieval mystic, Julian of Norwich, once wrote: “All will be well; all will be well; all manner of things will be well.”

Thank you for the beautiful congregational gift of locally crafted pottery—made by the same potter who hand-crafted your beautiful communion ware. It will be cherished. And thanks for the many cards and gifts we received at our “retirement party” on Sunday. It was a great afternoon—thank you!

Shalom,

Hank and Bobbi



Congregational Pictorial Directory

Pictorial directories help to create a stronger sense of community among us, help to tell about God’s ministries here, and celebrate our life together. The Lifetouch Photography sessions are scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, May 5-7, and Tuesday-Thursday, May 10-12. There is no cost to the church and no sitting fee for your family. You will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory for participating. In just one trip, you will be photographed, choose your photo, and have the opportunity to purchase studio quality portraits and greeting cards. Please plan to participate; the directory won’t be complete without you!

You may sign up for a photo session on-line, go to First’s website at fclittlefalls.org and click on the link found on the ‘coming up’ page, you will be guided through the signup process or you may call the church office to signup. Thank you for being a part of this project!

News of the Family



Ava Marie Reese, daughter of Ashley and Travis Reese, was baptized on April 24. Welcome to the family of God!



A Celebration of Life memorial service for Celo V’ec was held at First Lutheran on Sunday, April 20. May God grant peace and comfort to his family and friends.

Update from Jay Kiel

Dear members and friends of First Lutheran,

In the summer of 2010, I worked as a program director for YouthWorks in the Quad Cities. During this summer I met a group of youth and adult leaders from First Lutheran Church. At first, the week that they were in the Quad Cities was like any other week; we had good worship, served the surrounding community in various ways and had fun group-building events and activities. Yet, as the week went on, there was something special about this group. Little did I know at that time, just over a year later, Stephanie and I would be packing our cars and driving to Little Falls. This past almost five years has been a very meaningful journey, there have been learning experiences of many kinds, and there has been great hand-in-hand ministry with staff and congregation of First Lutheran. Through this journey I have discerned a call to become an ordained pastor. This came through the great relationships that have grown through our time at First Lutheran and in the Little Falls community.

This discernment has led us to pursue seminary, and I have been accepted into the Masters of Divinity program at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. I have also started the candidacy process to become an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The church council has graciously agreed to register me as a member of First Lutheran church for this process. I am thankful and honored by their support.

Stephanie and I are very excited about this adventure and continuing of education, yet this also comes with a whole mix of other emotions. This news means that Stephanie, Raelynn and I will be relocating in order for me to start school in the fall of 2016. Sunday, August 7 will be my last Sunday serving as youth and family minister at First Lutheran.

I am forever grateful to the community of faith that First Lutheran is for being so supportive and helping me grow and learn throughout my time here. I want to say very clearly that I believe things are very good at First Lutheran, I am excited about our new journey with Pr. Jake, I am excited about the opportunities that youth and children have, I believe we have meaningful worship, and we have a commitment to serving our neighbors. I thoroughly enjoy working with each of the staff, it is a joy to work with such an energetic and compassionate staff.

I am looking forward to this summer, I am excited about our upcoming middle school and high school mission trips, days spent at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Vacation Bible School and more. It is going to be another great summer of hand-in-hand ministry with First Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,
Jay Kiel

Council Highlights

- Expressed thanks to Pastor Hank and Bobbi French for their 21 months of service.
- Approved receiving a special offering for mortgage principal reduction on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.
- Received with regret the resignation of Jay Kiel as Youth and Family Minister, effective August 7. Agreed to register Jay for ELCA candidacy in NEMN Synod as he attends seminary, and approved financial support of \$5000 over four years through the Mundahl Seminary Fund.
- Heard an update on stewardship drive, 62 pledges received to date. Members are encouraged to return their card as soon as possible.
- Heard that \$1000 received at Lenten Soup Suppers will be presented to Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County, and Oasis Central Minnesota.
- Heard that Pastor Jake Dyrhaug will be present with us on Sunday, May 8. Installation for Pastor Jake is Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m. (one service only).

Adult Opportunities

May Martha Circle

The Martha Circle will meet Monday, May 9, at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Hostess is Diane Grosso.

Adult Studies and Events

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. through May 20 when we will take a break for the summer months. Wednesday, May 18 we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Black and White Restaurant for breakfast. Come when you can, leave when you must!

Book Discussion Group

All adult readers are welcome to read with this group. The May selection is Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother by Sonia Nazario. Readers, please secure your own copy of the book. The group meets Tuesday, May 31 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion. For more info, contact Tifanii Dahl, at 632-8207.



Church Clean Up Monday, May 2

All are invited to the church at 4:30 p.m. (or earlier if you are able) to help with outdoor cleanup and window washing. We will do the windows in the church inside and out. We also plan to replenish the mulch and replace a few shrubs. Donations of bags of natural color cypress mulch are welcome as are financial donations. This is a good service project for youth (and everyone!). Your hands to make our church home look its best are needed. Please contact Doug Anderson at 632-5458 or the church office at 632-6667 for more information.

We have added a new book to the church library:

A Country Doctor's Casebook

Author: Roger A. MacDonald

In the years after the Second World War, a young doctor took up his post in one of the most remote regions of northern Minnesota. His term of service turned into a lifetime of caring for the people who made this isolated and often lonely place their home. The story of this remarkable adventure in frontline medicine forms the heart of this wonderful book. As a storyteller, MacDonald shows us the beauty of this remote region and the charm of those who make their lives there. With respect, affection, and humility, MacDonald relates his experiences with those who placed their well being in his hands. The result is a warm and warm-hearted tale of the life of a north country doctor.

Caregiver Café

A Place for Caregivers to Connect

If you or someone you know is a caregiver, you may be interested in this support group. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at First United Church fireside room. Come and share the gift of your experience and receive support from other caregivers. The group is facilitated by Horizon Health Faith in Action. For more information, call Horizon Health, 320-468-6451.

In Search Of:

Do you or someone you know have a gently used baby gate (pressure-mount only please) that you would donate for the childcare space? We are making safety alterations to the child care door and could make use of a gate to assist with keeping the little ones safe. We hope to locate a gate prior to Vacation Bible School week, August 1-5. Thank you!

**Lutheran Social Service Rummage Sale
Wednesday-Friday, May 11-13**

The spring Lutheran Social Service (LSS) rummage sale co-sponsored by Bethel and First Lutheran Church women will be held at Bethel Lutheran, at 901 West Broadway, on:

- Wednesday, May 11, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 12, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 13, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- ☞ Dollar Bag Sale Day

Proceeds from the sale are used to benefit residents at the Lutheran Social Services group homes in this area. Set up days are Tuesday and Wednesday morning, clean up begins at noon on Friday. Volunteers are much appreciated, there is lots of ‘stuff’ to organize – come when you can! The sale is a wonderful recycling opportunity for good, usable, clean clothing, books, linens, small appliances, toys, etc. Clean grocery bags, paper or plastic, are also needed. Please, no televisions, computers or computer parts, or non-working electronics. Sale items can be brought to Bethel in the morning, beginning Monday, May 2, or on the set-up days. For more information, contact Karen Haaland, at 632-8828.



God's work.
Our hands.

**Servant Opportunity:
Home Delivered Meals
Monday-Friday, June 13-17**

First Lutheran participates in delivering meals in the community. Our next dates to deliver meals are Monday-Friday, June 13-17. Meet at the Buckman building at 9:45 a.m., you'll be done between 11:00-11:30 a.m. Contact the church office at 632-6667 to sign up or for more information, or watch for sign-up when you are at worship. Thank you!



**Annual Community Paint-A-Thon
Oasis/Share A Meal
Saturday, August 6**

The Paint-A-Thon committee is recruiting teams to paint a home in Morrison County on August 6. Over the past 20 years, over 175 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. Would you be willing to be a painter? Contact the church office to sign up. Thank you for making a difference in the community we share!



**Little Falls Care Center
Bake, Plant and Craft Sale
Thursday, May 26
8:00 a.m. to noon**

Come to the sale; all proceeds directly benefit the residents of the Little Falls Care Center. Your donation of plants, craft items or baked goods are welcome. If you would like to donate a Silent Auction Basket with the theme of spring, flowers, garden items or other, please bring to the Care Center by Thursday, May 19. Donated plants can be brought to the Care Center on Wednesday, May 25, Baked goods can be delivered early on the day of the sale. For more information, contact the church office or First Lutheran's representative on the LFCC volunteer board, Donna Hegstrom.

Music and Worship Article:

written by Paula Monahan

“William How, a 19th-century English bishop, put David’s words into verse form in this great stewardship hymn:

“We give Thee but thine own,
what e’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

“William How had a burning desire to minister to the masses of London. This was the era of the Industrial Revolution, when multitudes had left the tranquility of the English countryside to work in the burgeoning factories and dockyards of London’s East Side. It was the stuff of a Dickens novel. Endless slums. Child labor. Long hours. Poverty. Alcoholism. Squalor. William was called the ‘Poor Man’s Bishop’ as he visited, counseled, preached, evangelized and provided for the needs of the desperate.

“If only we would realize that when we give to God we’re only giving from what He has already given us. Someone said, ‘It isn’t whether we’re going to give ten percent of OUR income to God. It’s whether we’re going to keep ninety percent of HIS money for ourselves.’

“Coming to Christ, we give Him all we are and have, and we become His stewards.”

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” 1 Corinthians 8:9

Adapted from “Then Sings My Soul” by Robert J. Morgan

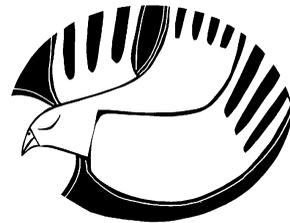


Sunday School News

Thank you to all the children, parents, teachers, station leaders, classroom helpers, opening leaders, and all who have participated and supported the Sunday School sessions in any way – you are all appreciated! Special thanks to those who committed to being present most every Sunday, they are: Debra Yliniemi-Ahlin, Michelle Dahlberg, Jessica Gustafson, Jasmyne Habas, Jay Kiel, Camilla Larson, Trisha Laubach, Lindsey Nagorski, Becky Nelson, and Annalee VanDenheuvel. Your time and gifts are so appreciated; we could not do it without you.

Sunday, May 15 is our last session of Sunday School until fall. There will be special end-of-year fun on that day, don’t miss it!

The Commission for Education is seeking adults to become a part of the Sunday School experience for fall 2016-spring 2017. Please prayerfully consider how you might share and develop relationships with all God’s children at First Lutheran. For more information, contact Jay in the church office.



“Grace Notes” Choir

The choir will continue to sing at 8:30 a.m. worship through Pastor Jake’s Installation Sunday, May 22. If you or someone you know love to sing but haven’t been singing with the choir, consider coming for rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. This is a perfect short-term opportunity to share musical gifts with the congregation. For more information, contact Barb Stumpf, 632-8372.

"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from the "Children First" Christian Preschool!

The final month of the preschool year is here! We will enjoy God's creation and celebrate summer.

"Children First" Preschool final classes for the year will be the week of May 18.

Preschool families and friends are invited to a "Children First" Fun Favorites program on Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19 from 10:45-11:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. We will present highlights from the year.

Families with children birth through PreK are invited to a community fun night on Thursday, May 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary. This event is sponsored by TCC, ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education)/Preschool Pals, "Children First" Christian Preschool, MOPS (Mother's of Preschoolers) and Little Falls Daycare Association. This is a time for families to enjoy activities, supper, and musical entertainment at no cost. There will be an information table highlighting early childhood activities available and prize drawings. For more information, contact Gail.

Dutch Mill Flower Bulbs have been ordered with delivery prior to Mother's Day. On-line ordering is available through the end of May at <http://groups.dutchmillbulbs.com/childrenfirstpreschool.php>

Registration for the 2016/17 Preschool year is underway.

Class offerings are:

- Noah's Animals (33 mos-3 yr)
Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday
- Jesus' Gems (4 yr- PreK)
Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday
- Friday Friends (33 mos-PreK) an added class day for those families wanting a 3-day Preschool experience.

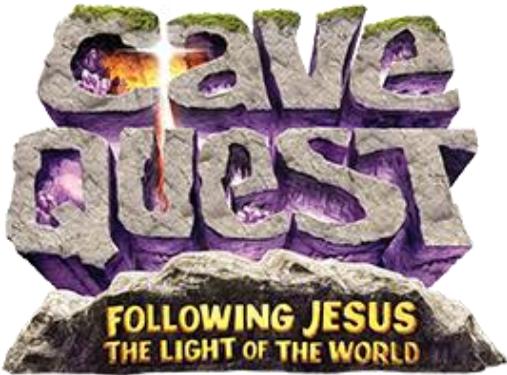
Registration fee is \$60.00 and is nonrefundable. Monthly tuition is \$85.00 per month. Friday Friends class is an additional \$35.00 per month. All classes will meet from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Brochures and registration forms are available in the First Lutheran Church office, on the Welcome counter in the Gathering Space or on our website. If you have questions or would like to visit, please contact Gail.

Watch for "Children First" Christian Preschool in the community this summer. Upcoming activities include: Dam Festival Parade Float-June 18, Green Fair Folk Festival-August 3, Little Falls Arts and Craft Festival Booth-September 9-10. Also look for our hay bale at the Morrison County Fair!

Thank you to all who keep "Children First" in prayer and support us in so many ways. Thank you to all who gave monetarily during the year and all who contributed to our Gifting Campaign. We raised well over \$3,000.00 for outreach ministries with BridgeWay and St. Otto's Care Center along with supporting our classroom with supplies. Thank you for another awesome Preschool year. God's blessings to you all!

Yours in Christ's Service,
Gail Hittesdorf, Director
320-632-6667





**Vacation Bible School
August 1-5, 9:00-noon
“Cave Quest”**

Following Jesus the Light of the World!

Cave Quest will help you to be grounded in the rock-solid foundation of Jesus’ love. Plan to be here for this over-the-top underground adventure! Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this great week of ministry with young people. Are you unsure, or new to Vacation Bible School? There are experienced individuals wanting to work with you. Registration forms are available now in the gathering space at church or go to flclittlefalls.org click on ‘Education’ and ‘Vacation Bible School’ for the link to the registration form. Watch for the sign up board for Bible School volunteers and for donations requested for the week. For more information, contact Jay Kiel, 616-581-4425 or 632-6667.

Can Care Collection

Keep saving those aluminum cans!
Save a can – Save the earth –
Save our youth budget! Keep those cans coming!

Summer Bible Camp

It’s not too late to register for an awesome week at summer Bible camp! First Lutheran supports the ministry of Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria with mission plan dollars and with time and prayer. Children of all ages (adults too!) will learn how God chooses us, provides for us, forgives all, and sends us out to love as we explore the summer theme. If you or someone you know is interested in Bible Camp, please ask in the church office.



Graduating Seniors

**FLC Baccalaureate Sunday, May 15
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Brunch**

We will honor the graduating seniors at the 10:30 a.m. service on May 15. Following worship, brunch is served to the students and their parents. Coordinators are the junior class parents. Please keep the graduates in your prayers.

- Owen Brastad*
- Laura Fregin*
- Noah Jones*
- Ellie Riitters*
- Kendra Wheeler*
- Isabelle Zapata*
- Isaiah Zapata*

Congratulations! Go with God!

First Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, Minnesota 56345-4402

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

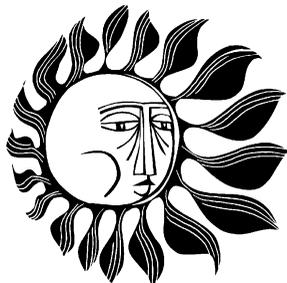
NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 14
Little Falls, MN
56345

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship using a variety of liturgical settings
- 9:35 a.m. Sunday School Hour-thru 5/15
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship led by a Praise Band

Holy Communion is served at all services.

Come and See!



Items for the **June NEWSLETTER** are due on **May 20, 2016!**