



October 2012

September 28, 2012



Home-Brewed Faith

Sunday, October 7

The words that open the Baptismal liturgy are “as we live with God and His people we grow in faith, love and obedience to the will of God.”

Did you know that only 4 out of 10 people who attend church on any given Sunday will discuss their faith outside the walls of the church or even in their own home? Do you wish you could share your faith with others? Home Brewed Faith is an exciting opportunity to experience living with God and his people in a safe environment so that you can confidently be one of the 4 of 10 who openly discuss your faith outside the walls of church.

You are invited to a special event that will help you to do just that. This event is for everyone – whoever you are, whatever your home looks like, whether you live alone or whether you live with multiple generations in your household Home Brewed Faith is for you. Sunday, October 7, at 12:00 noon we begin a series of gatherings we’re calling “Home-Brewed Faith.”

Andrea Fieldhouse of EveryDay will be present to lead this faith-forming day and assist us with having faith-centered conversations in all aspects of our lives. Andrea is a graduate of Moorhead State University with degrees in psychology, sociology, and human development. She served twelve years as a youth minister and now serves in this non-denominational Christian ministry using her passion to equip people of all ages to live their faith every day, everywhere, in every relationship.

Andrea will share the message at all three services of worship on Sunday, October 7, at 8:00, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and lead an afternoon session following a noon lunch. We’ll enjoy home-brewed root beer as we share holy conversation. All are welcome to attend any portion of the day.

Plan on attending Home Brewed Faith so that you can let your light shine before others so that they may see God’s light shining through you!

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Worship Space Enhancement

Thank you to all who were able to attend the special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 23. Those in attendance heard Zerr Berg Architect, Brian Berg, present the work of the Worship Space Enhancement Team. Brian shared the concept plans for improvements to the worship space.

You can see the rendered drawings of the plan for the worship space in the gathering space. A few representative samples of pew chairs and suggested finishes are also available.

LuAnn Ferguson, regional manager for the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA was also present to share options for financing the enhancement project.

Copies of the plan with a breakdown of included items are also available at church. Final decisions on the plan details will not be made until after the congregation votes on whether to proceed with the project.

The Church Council has set Sunday, November 18 following the 10:45 a.m. service (12:00 noon) as the date for a congregational meeting to vote on the implementation of the enhancement project.

The Worship Space Enhancement team has scheduled times for listening sessions prior to the November 18 meeting. If you have questions or feedback about the project, team members are available to meet with you at the following times:

Wednesday, October 3	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 9	10:00 a.m.
Monday, October 15	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 17	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 24	9:00 a.m.
Thursday, October 25	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, October 30	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 31	9:00 a.m.

Please continue to keep the Worship Space Enhancement team and the congregation in your prayers so that we continue to move forward in being *First... Servants of all*.

Worship Space Enhancement team members are:

Stephanie Adams, Dave Buker, LaVerne Hempeck, Bob and Sonya Just, Darrell Larsen, Bruce Moller, Paula Monahan, Becky Nelson, Mary Pfohl, Nancy Ratzloff, Tammy Zwilling and Pastor David Sperstad



Women's Event: Advent by Candlelight Sunday, November 25, 6:30 p.m.

Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus minds and hearts on the birth of

Christ. Beautiful decorations and fellowship provide a delightful atmosphere for you to enjoy music and devotions by candlelight. This event is offered for those high school age and up.

First Lutheran table hostesses will set their table and provide dessert for eight guests. Advent by Candlelight is a perfect event to invite a friend or family member as your guest. Consider inviting someone new to the congregation, someone new to

the faith, someone who has experienced a loss or has had a significant life change. Perhaps you'll invite a co-worker, neighbor, relative, mentee, girlfriend, or 'soccer' mom; you get the idea: All are Welcome!

There is no charge for the evening. Seating is limited. If you would like to host or co-host a table, you are asked to set a holiday table with your own festive tablecloth, table settings and candles, and provide a dessert for the eight guests at your table. Hostesses should contact Camilla Larson at 612-804-1013 or Debra Yliniemi-Ahlin at 632-3951 by November 1. Guest reservations will be taken during the first week of November.



Council Highlights

- ✚ Approved hiring an interim preschool teacher and a teacher's aide for "Children First" Christian Preschool.
- ✚ Approved two changes to the First Lutheran Church constitution to be presented and voted on at the congregational meeting in January 2013.
- ✚ Heard that the Nominating Committee is searching for candidates for various leadership positions.

New Steward/Member Group

This small group experience is for any worshiper at First Lutheran Church who wants to become a steward of this church, and for any current member/steward who wants to help welcome new stewards. The purpose of the group is to help all servants grow in discipleship at First Lutheran. Childcare is provided as requested. Stewards are asked to attend **one of the following sessions:** Sunday, October 28 or Tuesday, October 30, both at 6:30 p.m. New stewards will be received in worship on All Saints Sunday, November 4. If you would like to be a part of this group or for more information, contact the church office.

Adult Book Club Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.

All adult readers are welcome to read with this group. The current selection is: Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. Readers, please secure your own copy of the book. The group will meet in the church library on Tuesday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m. to share and discuss the month's book. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.

Taking Faith Home

Faith begins in the home. This fall we continue to offer a resource for your use during the week—look for the insert in each weekly bulletin, it contains daily Bible readings for the week, prayers, blessings, and ideas for your use at home. Our thanks to the donor who provided the gift of this insert material so that we may all grow in our faith. Take Faith Home!



Music Opportunities:

Senior Choir

For those who have the gift of song, there is no greater ministry than to lead the assembly in worship and praise. Senior Choir is open to all singers high school age and above. Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. For more information about the choir, contact Becky Nelson, Director of Music Ministries, at 749-2336, or rpnelson@brainerd.net, or Director Kathy Pederson, 468-2324 or 630-3731.

The Followers' of Jesus Choir

All kids in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are welcome to sing with the children's choir. Rehearsals are Wednesday, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Transportation from Lincoln and Lindbergh Elementary schools to First Lutheran Church is provided by school bus. Parents are asked to register for this singing opportunity. Registration forms are available in the gathering space or on the church website at www.flclittlefalls.org. For more information, contact Becky Nelson at 749-2336 or rpnelson@brainerd.net.



Lutheran Social Service Rummage Sale

Wednesday, October 10, noon to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 11, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday, October 12, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

The Rummage Sale sponsored by the women of Bethel Lutheran and First Lutheran will be held at Bethel, 901 West Broadway. This is always a huge 'recycling' sale, and many hands are needed on set-up days (Monday and Tuesday) and for clean-up on Friday. The fellowship of working together to make this LSS mission a success is great! All proceeds benefit Little Falls area LSS group homes and other local LSS programs. Your donations of good used clothing, toys, books, linens, small appliances, etc. may be brought to Bethel during the mornings before the sale, between 9:00 a.m. and noon. To make other arrangements for drop-off, contact Bethel Lutheran at 632-2316. Please, no televisions, computers or computer parts.

For more information, please call Karen Haaland at 632-8828.

Who Is My Neighbor? Opportunity

Do you have an extra hour or two to provide care for residents of the Lutheran Care Center? Volunteers are needed to assist in several ways. You can help to bring residents from their rooms to the chapel for worship on Sunday or Thursday, or play cards with the residents on Saturdays. The care center also welcomes pet visitors. If you can offer your time to provide this care for those living at the care center, please contact Donna Hegstrom, 632-3441 or Sharon at the LCC, 632-9211.

World Habitat Day

Many Homes – One Community
Monday, October 1

Habitat for Humanity Morrison County urges your prayers on World Habitat Day for the ministry of Habitat and for ways that you might become involved in Habitat's mission to end poverty housing. You can make a difference right here at home by providing financial support, volunteering to help build the current home or on other projects. For more information, call the local Habitat office at 616-2084.



Annual Fall Craft and Bake Sale
at Lutheran Care Center
Saturday, October 20
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Plan to attend this annual fundraiser at the Lutheran Care Center. The funds raised are used to purchase Christmas gifts for the residents and for other resident needs. There will be baskets to bid on, delicious baked goods and craft items. Donations of filled silent auction baskets are welcome. For information about the craft sale, selling or donating craft items or bake sale items, or helping with the sale, call Donna Hegstrom, 632-3441.

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Remember to set your clocks *back* one
hour on Saturday, November 3!

Thank You!

On behalf of Oasis Central Minnesota, I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time for this year's Paint A Thon. The home turned out wonderfully and the homeowner is thrilled with the results. Thank you for your continued support

Tim Poland, Oasis Central Minnesota



Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

On behalf of the 2012 Morrison County Relay for Life, I want to thank you for your generous donations to include the beautiful inspirational prayers offered by Pastor Tony Oltmann, and the tables and chairs. With your help, we were able to raise \$150,000 for the fight against cancer.

Thank you! Tracy VanHercke



Dear Bible School kids,

Wow!!!! Your school supply bags saved the day! How thoughtful and kind to share your resources with Lindbergh families. Please accept our heartfelt thanks. Your giving really makes a difference!

Sincerely, Laura DeChaine, School Social Worker



VBS Participants and Staff at First Lutheran,

Thank you so much for the generous donation of backpacks and school supplies to Lincoln Elementary and Dr. S.G. Knight elementary students. We greatly appreciate your kindness and support.

Warm Regards, Anita Larsen, School Social Worker

Sunshine Chairperson is Mary Larson. Please call 632-8203 if you know of someone who is ill, hospitalized, etc., so that she may send them a card.

Forget-Me-Not Support Group
For those affected by pregnancy and infant loss

Tuesday, October 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Lakewood Health System, Staples, invites those who have experienced the loss of their baby during pregnancy, at birth or during infancy to attend this special, non-denominational support group. Meetings are held at Lakewood Health System, Main Campus, on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Whether your loss was recent or was experienced in the past, all – parents, family and friends are invited to attend for comfort and reflection. The group is facilitated by Kathy Dobson, Licensed Social Worker, and Melinda Guzman, Registered Nurse.

Are you a Facebook™ fan?

Many First Lutheran members and friends use this social networking site to stay in touch, share, and communicate in a new and fun way. First Lutheran has a Facebook page!

Search for us under the name '1st Lutheran Little Falls, MN' (be sure to use a number 1) and 'like' our page—you'll be able to view and upload pictures, get current event updates and give feedback, write recommendations or maybe find a little bit of inspiration for your day.

We have friends all over the country. Thanks for being our Facebook friend. ☺

"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from "Children First" Christian Preschool!

It is a new year of Preschool! We welcome 35 new and returning preschoolers and their families. Get to know the families by checking out the family scrapbook pages hanging along the gallery wall next to the kitchen. This month we learned that we are special and that God loves us! We made new friends and shared about our families.

In October we begin our field trip days to Pine Grove Manor, St. Otto's Care Center, Lutheran Care Center, and Bridgeway Apartments. If you or someone you know would like to spend time with the preschoolers and residents by chaperoning a field trip, please contact a staff member. Thank you to Andy's Charter for transportation support; we appreciate their generous contribution to this activity!

Thank you to everyone who assisted, volunteered or visited the "Children First" booth at the Little Falls Arts and Crafts Festival and the Kids' Day booth. We raised over \$1900 for the preschool and completed one quilt top for a Habitat for Humanity family.

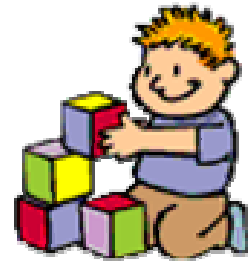
Preschool families are conducting a voluntary Gifting Contribution Campaign through the mail. We have already been blessed with \$1,300 in gifts in support of the Christian ministry of the

preschool through this campaign. Thank you for your support!

Ongoing fundraisers include the collection of inkjet cartridges, Campbells product points and Coborn's/Cashwise FoodClub receipts. These all add up to benefits for the preschool. *Thank you* to those who give generously of their time and talents and to all who provide financial support through tuition assistance, scholarships, assistance with field trip costs, Thrivent Choice® dollars, and general contributions. "Children First" appreciates all of you!

Registration is open to all who are 33 months of age through Pre- Kindergarten. We accept registrations all year pending class openings. Please contact me if you have questions.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Gail Hittesdorf, Director



Mission Sunday October 21

As we continue to live out our mission as *First...Servants of all* here at First Lutheran we have set aside several Sundays throughout the year as Mission Sundays. Our next date is Sunday, October 21. We will once again transform Stoltz Hall into a food-packing area for Food for Kidz. Bring the family or a friend and spend some of your morning packaging food for hungry children around the world. There is a task for everyone, and we will train you! This is the cause that Pastor Dave and Ron Makela pedaled 1500 miles to support!

Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 16

The annual Sunday School children's Christmas program is an event that reminds us of the reason we celebrate Christmas—the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. If you or someone you know would like to assist with the preparation of this program, please contact Gail Hittesdorf or the church office. There are many ways to assist, several are 'behind the scenes.' Thank you !

Sunday Morning Education Ministry

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.” Proverbs 22:6

Sunday School has begun! We welcome everyone and thank all who have made a commitment to teach/lead Sunday School classrooms and Rotation stations. The Sunday School hour begins by gathering in classrooms at 10:30 a.m. and runs through 11:30 a.m. Children will remain in classrooms until pickup. Parents attending the 10:45 service may pickup their child at 11:45 a.m. Due to concern for each child's safety we ask that parents pick up their child in the classroom.

New this year, all children will meet with their teacher (shepherd) in a classroom allowing for a smaller class setting to develop closer friendships. Please check the sign at the entrance to the Education Wing to locate your child's assigned classroom.

Preschool/PreKindergarten classes use the 'Sparks' Curriculum. Families may also purchase the Sparks Story Bible which correlates with the curriculum, or you may wish to order a Bible as a gift, please sign up in the Preschool/PreK Sunday School classroom. The Sparks Story Bible is not required for Sunday School but is suggested as a good way to reinforce learning at home. The hardcover Bible is colorful and contains over 100 Bible stories. The cost of the Bible is \$16.00. Order deadline is October 15.

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade experience a rotational style Sunday School. Children rotate to a new station each Sunday for 3 or 4 weeks as they learn the Sunday School lesson through hands-on cooking, games, storytelling, science, video, or arts and crafts. "Out of Egypt" is the first rotation with a focus on the book of Exodus and Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Youth in grades 6-12 meet in the youth room for opening/information/social time then separate into grades 6-8 (Middle School), and 9-12 (High School) for class time.

There are Sunday School ministry opportunities available immediately or throughout the year to teach, lead, or do administrative/housekeeping tasks. If you are interested in teaching but are afraid you don't know what's involved, please feel free to stay and experience the Sunday School hour with your child. You may also want to team teach with someone who has taught before. There are many delightful children to make your experience a good one! Please see the sign up board in the gathering space and prayerfully consider a Sunday School ministry opportunity. If you have questions, please contact any of the Commission for Education members or Education Director, Gail Hittesdorf.

Commission for Education Members: Stephanie Adams, Pam Czech, Jennifer Ganglehoff, Lora McChesney, Tracy Moe, and Amber Sobiech. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Commission for Education, please contact Gail.



**Family Hayride
at Larsen's Farm
Sunday, October 14
1:30-5:30 p.m.**

Dress for the fall weather and bring the family and friends to enjoy God's creation. We'll carpool to Darrell and Arlene Larsen's farm near Bowlus for a hayride. All are welcome to this fun afternoon. Please call the church office for directions if you would like to meet at the farm. We'll be back at church around 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Ministries

Parents: If you have not yet registered your children for confirmation and youth ministry activities, please do so now. Forms are available in the church office. Eleventh and Twelfth grade students must register in order to participate in youth activities.

Third Grade: Parents and youth should be finishing up Family Devotions on the Gospel of Mark. Home visits will be done in October; please call the church office to schedule a visit before the calendar is full!

Fifth Grade: Class on Stewardship ended on Wednesday, September 26. Thank you to Nancy Ratzloff and Pastor Tony Oltmann for leading the class, and to the fifth graders, their parents, and Pat Moller for helping to make the communion bread used in worship on Sunday, September 16.

Ninth Grade: New Testament class with Pastor Dave continues through October 10.

Tenth Grade: Lutheran Identity class begins on October 24 and meets on Wednesdays through November 28 (no class on November 21). Pastor Dave will teach this class.

Eleventh Grade: Practice for Confirmation Sunday is Saturday, October 27, at 8:30 a.m. Youth will affirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 28, at 10:45 a.m.



Confirmation Sunday

October 28, 2012, 10:45 a.m.

Congratulations to the following youth who will affirm their Christian faith and become adult disciples (members) of First Lutheran:

Briana Anderson	Austin Olson
Tucker Brastad	Jennifer Ronning
Alea Cekalla	Shayna Sassen
Grace Duxbury	Brittany Smieja
Michael Fregin	Alaina Thompson
Haylee Hittesdorf	Blake Toso
Chloe Hoerter	Jalen Wuchko
Austin Motschke	

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they affirm their faith.



**Advent Craft Sale
Saturday,
December 1
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Can Care Collection

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

In just two short months the Advent Craft Sale and Luncheon will be here. We trust you are making plans to attend!

As in past years, we welcome your donations of crafts, bake sale items, and assistance with the sale. There will be a delicious soup luncheon, musical entertainment and lots of treats and gift items to buy! This year's sale will benefit youth programs at First Lutheran. Your support is greatly appreciated.

News of the Family

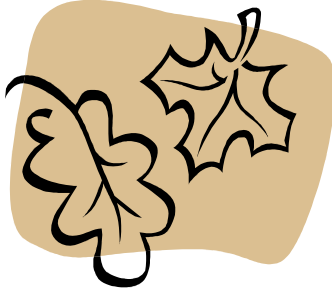
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Owen Francis Zwilling, son of Chuck and Tammy Zwilling was baptized on Sunday, September 9.

Beau Patrick Bradley Williams, son of Stacy Kronbeck and Aaron Williams was baptized on Sunday, September 9.

Savanna Lee Pollock, daughter of Norm and Sarah Pollock was baptized on September 9.

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Items for the **November NEWSLETTER** are due on **October 19, 2012!**

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Remember to set your clocks *back* one
hour on Saturday, November 3!



“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

The Freedom of a Christian (1520)