



Worship Space Enhancement

Celebration and Dedication Sunday: Sunday, October 6

10:00 a.m. worship followed by a catered lunch

You are invited to be present at worship on Sunday, October 6. On this special day we gather together in *ONE* service of worship at 10:00 a.m. to dedicate to God's glory the renewal of the space in which we lift our voices in praise and hear God's word preached. Rev. Vicki Taylor, Assistant to the Bishop, NE MN Synod, will be our guest that day as we give thanks for many years of faithful worship in the sanctuary and look forward to the next 50 years of worship in a warm and welcoming space.

Many people have invested time, thought, prayer, resources, and energy to envision the enhanced space and to help the project come to fruition. We are thankful for all of these efforts! You are a blessing!

Please continue to keep the congregation and all those who come through the doors of this facility in your prayers as we continue to move forward being *First... Servants of all.*

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Pastor's Article

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. *Deuteronomy 26:1-2 NRSV*

⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, *Galatians 6:9-10 NRSV*

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." *Matthew 9:35-38 NRSV*

The harvest is plentiful...

In October, we decorate with harvest decorations, we will go on a hayride (you're invited!), the trees change colors and the leaves fall. We prepare for the coming months of cold and dare I say, snow?

The word "harvest" is used 82 times in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. There is good said about "harvest" and some not so good.

Often in October, churches have "stewardship" campaigns. The message of such campaigns is "How much will you give financially next year?"

Truth be told, 'finances' aren't what Stewardship is all about! Stewardship in God's terms is about how we care for and put to use what he has entrusted to us. At First, we no longer call ourselves "members" but "stewards." The word "member" implies that as a part of the church congregation, I am entitled to something. As Lutherans, it is our understanding that the only thing we are "entitled" to, as the sinners that we are, is death and eternal damnation.

However, we have heard the Gospel! The Good News of Jesus Christ is that we have been called from our tomb of death and into life and invited to be fellow servants, not of ourselves, but of the Gospel that has called us!

Being a steward suggests the process of developing a disciplined Christian lifestyle that is practiced in and through the church. It is also practiced through one's occupation, community involvement, neighborhood, anywhere and everywhere a Christian goes. We learn stewardship in the church, not for the sake of

servicing the church, but to serve the world with our entire lives! The stewardship of the Gospel begins where we are. It is both inside and outside the congregation! We share the responsibility and accountability for being "good stewards" with others who also have been called by the Gospel. I can't say this enough: what we *do* is just as, if not more, important than what we *say*. Someone has wisely observed that "It is not enough to talk the talk, unless we also walk the walk." A similar message appears on a recently observed sign: "If you don't live it, you don't believe it!"

As part of a community called First Lutheran, we stand together as "First...Servants of All." This reveals itself in the pattern of our words and our deeds—through our caring, sharing and serving. Stewardship unfolds with the willingness to be held accountable for the outcomes of an entire community that affirms our choice of being a servant over the pursuit of our own self-interest.

You are a laborer and servant of the Gospel – what is your call and how do you respond to that call – to be "First... Servants of All?"

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. *1 Corinthians 4:1*

⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining.¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. *1 Peter 4:9-10*

Pastor David



Council Highlights

- ✦ Approved resolutions for “Children First” Christian Preschool 2013-14 and “Children First” Advisory Team 2013-14.
- ✦ Leadership will continue to explore options for part-time pastor position.
- ✦ Heard about mission project for the fall, Operation Christmas Child.

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:** Wednesday, October 16 or Sunday, October 20, both at 6:30 p.m. New stewards will be received in worship on All Saints Sunday, November 3. If you would like to be a part of this group or for more information, contact the church office.



Women’s Event: Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, November 24, 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

Thrivent Choice®

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has made available \$15 million dollars in Thrivent Choice® funds. If you or someone you know is eligible to direct Choice® dollars and have not done so, now is the time to direct your dollars. Between October 1 and November 30, Thrivent will **double** all Choice dollar directions made to congregations, including First Lutheran. Let’s not miss out on putting these dollars into use in mission! Thank you to all who continue to remember First Lutheran and “Children First” preschool as they direct their charitable Choice dollars. For more information or for help directing your Choice® dollars, contact the church office.

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!

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 eight guests. 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.



Lutheran Social Service Rummage Sale

Wednesday, October 9, noon to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 10, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday, October 11, 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 Monday, October 7

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the first Monday in October to be World Habitat Day. This is a time to recognize the basic need for adequate shelter in a world where it is lacking for so many. 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 26 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Plan to attend this annual fundraiser at the Lutheran Care Center. The funds raised are used for a variety of 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 2!



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 rehearsals begin on Wednesday, October 2 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.

**Newsboys in Concert
Sunday, October 20
Rivers Edge Convention Center
St. Cloud**

Don't miss this concert close to home featuring the Newsboys along with For King and Country, Moriah Peters and Rapture Ruckus. The Newsboys Christian rock band has released 16 albums with some of your favorite Christian rock songs, such as, He Reigns, In Christ Alone, I Am Free, It Is You, Mighty to Save and many more. General admission tickets are \$20.00, groups of 10 or more \$15.00, artist circle tickets, \$27.00. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., concert begins at 6:00 p.m.



Dear Bible School kids,

Sincere thank you for the school supplies gathered and donated from VBS youth. We appreciated the materials and Royalton Elementary students will put them to great use.

With thanks and gratitude,
Annalee VanDenheuvel
Royalton Elementary School Social Worker



VBS Participants and Staff,

Thank you on behalf of the students and staff at Lincoln Elementary and Dr. S.G. Knight school for the wonderful donation of backpacks and school supplies. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Warm Regards, Anita Larsen
School Social Worker

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 all new and returning preschoolers and their families. In September we spent time getting to know one another and making friends. We all completed "All About Me" pages. Check your child's backpack for the opportunity to learn about classroom friends.

In October we begin our field trip days to St. Otto's 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. We will learn about Community Helpers in October. If you are a police officer, fire fighter, nurse, dentist, etc. and would like to visit the classroom, please contact us to schedule a time.

Thank you to everyone who assisted, volunteered or visited the "Children First" booth at the Little Falls Arts and Crafts Festival. We appreciated the assistance and support during Saturdays heat and Sundays drenching rain! Proceeds support classroom projects, activities and supplies.

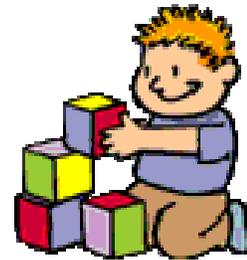
Ongoing fundraisers include the collection of inkjet cartridges, Campbells product points, Dairy Queen wrappers, and Coborn's/Cashwise FoodClub receipts. These all add up to benefits for the preschool. You may place these items in the

collection boxes in the gathering space or the preschool area. Last year's collection of these items raised more than \$200.00.

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 have openings in both classes and a waiting list for a Monday/Wednesday Noah's Animals (33 months-3 years) class. We accept registrations all year pending class openings. Please contact me if you have questions.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Gail Hittesdorf, Director



Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 15

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 !

Mission Sunday October 20

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 20. 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!

Sunday Morning Education Ministry

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

Sunday School is now underway! We are so glad to see students and parents for our time of learning together! Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School begins to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning in the Education wing classrooms. Thank you to Jessica Gustafson and Amber Sobiech for teaching the class, and Jessica Ambuehl and Haylee Hittesdorf for assisting. Parents are asked to escort children to the restroom prior to the start of class and to sign-in when dropping children off in the classroom. Children will be released to the care of parents following classtime.

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade “Dig Into the Bible” is the first rotation. Children are learning that God inspired many people to write down the stories and teachings of the Bible and that God inspires people to read and study the Bible to help them live faithfully. Children are also learning how to find specific Bible verses and are learning the names of the books of the Bible. Thank you to

all leaders: Annalee Vandeneuval, Michelle Dahlberg, Ravonne Whitford, and Sue Sperstad. Thank you also to our Rotation leaders: Tanna Stucky and Beth Cooper. More leaders are needed for groups and for the Rotation stations of Cooking, Art, Science/Games, Storytelling/Video. Substitute leaders are also welcome. Please prayerfully consider how you may use your gifts and check the Sunday School sign-up board in the Gathering Space for these ministry opportunities.

Youth Sunday School 6-8 Grade and 9-12 Grade meets each Sunday morning in the Youth room for food, fun, faith-filled learning and activities with Curt Madsen, Jay Kiel, and Les and Gail Hittesdorf.

If you have questions please contact the church office or Gail Hittesdorf.



**Family Hayride
at Larsen's Farm
Sunday, October 13
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.

Spark Family Magazine

Spark Family is a family-friendly resource that First Lutheran provides to help families fit faith into everyday life. This colorful magazine is published quarterly and available at the church. Each issue is based on seasons and themes from the Bible. There are 48 pages of activities that you can use at home, keep in the car, or have handy to start conversations at any time. It is perfect for children preschool through grade four.

This resource will be a great addition to your child's Spark Story Bible. Look for the Spark Family issues on the gathering space tables and help yourself!

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 25. Thank you to Nancy Ratzloff 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 15.

Ninth Grade: New Testament class with Pastor Dave continues through October 9.

Tenth Grade: Lutheran Identity class begins on October 23 and meets on Wednesdays through November 20. Pastor Dave will teach this class.

Eleventh Grade: Practice for Confirmation Sunday is Saturday, October 26, at 8:30 a.m. We will have a light breakfast. Youth will affirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 27, at 10:45 a.m.

Can Care Collection

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



Confirmation Sunday

October 27, 2013, 10:45 a.m.

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

Tremayne Collins	Emily Marlette
Austin Fenske	Justin Moe
Rachel Groves	Haley Olson
Kaitlin Hanson	Michael Orr
Nikolas Himley	Kassidy Overn
Jason Jopp	Kinbrae Sperstad
Hannah Krupke	Alicia Storkamp
Dilan Lange	Maja Sullivan
Maddison Larsen	Forest Wonderlich
Emily Leisenheimer	

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



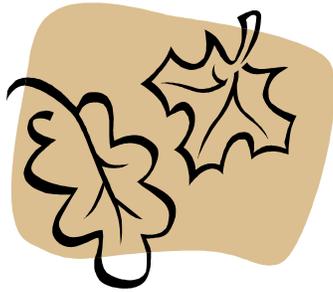
**Advent Craft Sale
Saturday,
December 7
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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.

Reminder:

Sunday, October 6 there is **ONE** service of worship at 10:00 a.m. We will celebrate and dedicate the worship space to God's glory.
See you there!



Items for the **November NEWSLETTER** are due on **October 18, 2013!**

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Remember to set your clocks *back* one hour on Saturday, November 2!



“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)