

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Hank French
Ministers:
All God's People at First Lutheran

FIRST



2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-6667
(320) 632-1050 Fax
firstserv@flclittlefalls.org
www.flclittlefalls.org

“Servants of All”

October 2014

September 30, 2014



In this season of new beginnings and fresh starts, it is appropriate to look at ways to reinvigorate our faith life as we gather together as a community of believers here at First Lutheran. Take a moment to pray the prayer for Affirmation of Baptism below as we individually and collectively affirm the gift of faith in our lives. Then go out joyfully and be *First...Servants of All*.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Pastor Hank's Article
see page 2

**Congregational
News**
see page 3

Adult Opportunities
see page 5

**“Children First”
Preschool News**
see page 7

Sunday School News
see page 8

**Confirmation
Ministry**
see page 9

A Note from Pastor Hank

Well, things are up and running again after the summer months—Rally Sunday has come and gone, Sunday School has started again, the Men’s Bible Study has resumed (great breakfast, great conversation, great insights from God’s word), Children First Preschool is humming with the sound of kids learning, First Lutheran Youth (FLY) are back at it on Wednesday nights, and the youth Bible study (F.O.C.U.S.) gathers again at Subway before school on Mondays, 5th and 9th graders are back in Confirmation, the adult choir and the kids’ choir are back in rehearsal and ready to grace our worship with their music, the quilters are back at work creating beauty, the Martha Circle is back in God’s word, the Women’s Bible Study and the Book Club are challenging folks to keep on growing, and all the Commissions are busy planning and implementing the many ministries that keep First Lutheran faithful to God’s call to mission and ministry.

As you can see, this is a busy place, a faithful place, a good place to live out the call to follow Jesus in the Way of God. There are many opportunities for folks to learn and to serve and I encourage everyone in this community of faith to take advantage of these opportunities—for your own sake and for the sake of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

Two new opportunities for learning are starting up in October, On Sunday mornings, beginning on October 5th, there will be an adult class during the Sunday School hour. We will begin at 9:45 (that will give you time to grab a cup of coffee and a snack and greet your friends) and wrap up around 10:15. We will meet in the Library.

Then, on Monday, October 6th, we will begin an adult Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. During the first meeting, we will decide together both what we want to study and whether Mondays at 7:00 is the best time for everyone. Join us – there is always room at the table for one more.

Churches flourish when people of faith get personally involved in the ministries of the church—and people of faith flourish when they get involved with ministries that matter, that make a difference, that change people’s lives for the better.

Here at First, our various ministries are planned and implemented by Commissions: we have an Education Commission that ensures that there are quality Christian education programs for all ages; we have a Youth Commission that ensures that the faith formation and social needs of our young people are met; we have a Worship and Congregational Life Commission that ensures that our worship life is vibrant and that there are opportunities for our members to connect with each other in both meaningful and enjoyable ways; we have a Health Commission which sees to the physical, emotional and spiritual health of our community of faith; we have a Mission Commission that concerns itself with social justice issues in our community and our world; and we have a Facilities and Property Commission that makes sure that we are taking good care of our building and grounds.

Without people volunteering to serve on these Commissions, none of these good things would happen. I am extremely grateful to those who presently are giving of their time, their energy, their passions and abilities to keep ministry that matters moving at First Lutheran. And I would like to encourage more of you to get involved.

All of the Commissions could use two or three more people to join them in their areas of ministry. During the last few weeks of October, we will have a table up in the Gathering Space. On the table you will find a brief ministry description for each Commission and a sign-up sheet where you can volunteer to help. (You are only being asked to volunteer for one year—you don’t have to sign your life away!) Members of each Commission will be around, wearing name tags to identify the

Commission they serve on, eager to answer your questions.

So, think about it—where do your passions and interests lie, with kids, with education, with social justice, with health, with worship, with building issues? Pray about it—is God nudging you in the direction of a particular Commission? If the answer to that question is yes, then add your name to the list. I don't think you will regret it and your community of faith will be very grateful for your contribution to our faithfulness in ministry.

In closing, let me remind you that my door is still open and I still would love to have a one-on-one conversation with anyone who wants to. During my first month here at First, I had one-on-one conversations with 28 people. I would love to visit with as many if not more in October.

Blessings to you all in Christ,

Pastor Hank



Council Highlights

- ✠ Approved resolutions for “Children First” Christian Preschool 2014-15, “Children First” Advisory Team 2014-15, and the preschool budget.
- ✠ Approved a change to Amber Sobiech’s position to Christian Education Coordinator/Worship Volunteer Coordinator.
- ✠ Approved updated staff ministry descriptions for Jay Kiel, Youth and Family Minister, Tracy Moe, Parish Nurse, and Amber Sobiech, Christian Education/Worship Volunteer Coordinator.
- ✠ Heard that Jay Kiel, Youth and Family Minister is enrolled at Augsburg College in the Youth and Family Ministry degree program. Approved two days per week for attending class.



New Member Group

First Lutheran welcomes all into God’s ministry in this congregation. All worshipers are welcome to participate in the opportunities that are offered here and we encourage you to actively grow in your discipleship walk by taking part in Bible study, serving and fellowship events, and regular worship. If you are a worshiper at First Lutheran Church who would like to become a member of the congregation, or a current member who wants to help welcome new folks, or if you have questions, please contact the church office, 632-6667. An orientation session for new members will be scheduled this fall. Welcome!

Thrivent Appreciation Dinner

Thrivent members will be treated to a dinner on Tuesday, October 14 at Falls Ballroom. Doors open at 5:15 p.m., a dinner of chicken kiev, ribs, potatoes, corn, salad and dessert is served at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Thrivent representative Carlyle Olsen at 632-1655, by Wednesday, October 8. Responders will be eligible for prizes. Non-members pay \$5.00 for the dinner.



**Women's Event:
Advent by
Candlelight
Sunday
November 30,
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 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.

Parish Nurse News:

With the weather getting cooler and kids back in school we are encountering more illness around us. It is the time to think about getting our flu vaccine.

Get vaccinated as soon as vaccine becomes available in your community. Vaccination before December is best since this timing ensures that protective antibodies are in place before flu activity is typically at its highest. However, flu season can last as late as May so getting vaccinated later in the flu season could still provide protective benefit. About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies that provide protection against the influenza viruses in the vaccine develop in the body.

Flu vaccines are offered in many doctors' offices and clinics. Even if you don't have a regular doctor or nurse, you can get a flu vaccine at other places like your local health department, a pharmacy, an urgent care clinic, and maybe your school, college health center, or workplace.

Each year, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from the flu including an average of 20,000 children younger than five years of age. It isn't the flu that is killing people but the complications that come with the illness such as pneumonia and bronchitis. By getting your vaccine you are protecting yourself and others around you.

Tracy Moe, RN

(U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence is an epidemic in America: nearly four million American women are physically abused each year by the men who promised to love them. Children suffer the psychological anguish of witnessing this violence, and often experience abuse themselves. No matter how you say it, there's no excuse for abuse. If you need help or would like more information contact Hands of Hope at 632-1657 in Little Falls. Everyone deserves to live in a home that is free from violence.

↔↔↔↔↔↔↔**Adult Opportunities**↔↔↔↔↔↔↔

Women's Circle:
**"We Are Called:
Transforming Life and Faith"**
Isaiah 6:8

Martha Circle
The Martha Circle meets Monday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Mary Kult is the hostess and reader.

**Luther Crest Bible Camp
Quilts for Camp Extravaganza
held at Carlos Creek Winery
Saturday, October 18**

Luther Crest is again partnering with Carlos Creek Winery's Fall Apple Fest event with over 5,000 participants. Apple Fest begins at 11:00 a.m. with fun events such as: pumpkin carving, pumpkin chucking with catapults and trebuchets, pie eating contest, live music, and more. Quilt viewing begins at noon in the barn. There will be silent auction, artisan crafts for sale, wine tasting, live quilt auction begins at 2:00 p.m. This event will be fun for the entire family all day long! Food and beverages will be available to purchase throughout the day. Carlos Creek Winery is located at 6693 County Rd 34 NW, Alexandria, near Luther Crest. Let's support the Bible Camp at this event!

**Women's Bible Study
"The Way –
Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus"
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

We continue a study by Adam Hamilton, "The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus." This study with a 40-day focus uses historical information, archeological data and stories of the faith to follow the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism through his temptations to the heart of his ministry. All are welcome to come and learn more about the life of Jesus. Childcare is provided as needed. For more information, contact: Stephanie Adams, 632-3058.



**Men's Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays, October 1 and 15
6:15 a.m.**

All men of the congregation and friends are invited to Men's Bible Study. We meet on the first and third week of each month on Wednesday morning at the church for breakfast and conversation. The study will be completed by 7:40 a.m. to allow time to get to work.

Book Club

All adult readers are welcome to read with this group. The selection for October is The House Girl, by Tara Conklin. We meet on Tuesday, October 28 to discuss the book. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.

Are you a Facebook™ fan?

Many First Lutheran members and friends use this social networking site to stay in touch, share, and communicate

Search for us under the name 'First Lutheran Church, Little Falls MN' 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. Visit and 'like' our posts to continue to receive them in your news feed.

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



Lutheran Social Service Rummage Sale

Wednesday, October 8, noon to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 9, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday, October 10, 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 Little Falls Care Center? You can help to bring residents from their rooms to the chapel for worship on Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday, or play cards with the residents on Saturdays. The care center also welcomes pet visitors. Those with a heart for the residents may consider serving on the care center's volunteer board. If you can offer your time to provide this care for the residents, please contact Sharon at the LFCC, 632-9211.

World Habitat Day Monday, October 6

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 Little Falls Care Center Saturday, October 25 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Plan to attend this annual fundraiser at the Little Falls 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, please contact the church office, or Sharon at the LFCC, 632-9211.

Daylight Savings Time Ends Remember to set your clocks *back* one hour on Saturday, November 1!

"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. Check out the family scrapbook pages hanging along the gallery wall by the kitchen and get to know the families and staff. In September we learned that we are special and God loves us! We made new friends and shared about our families.

October themes include Fire Prevention, Safety and Community Helpers. We will have many visitors such as, Firefighter Lisa, State Trooper Jason, EMTs and Nurse Tracy. One week we will have Fall fun with pumpkins—get your orange on!

In October we begin our field trip days to St. Otto's Care Center and Bridgeway Apartments. We look forward to spending time with the residents as we develop our social skills and build new friendships. Thank you to Andy's Charter for transportation support and 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 Fair and the Morrison County Kids' Day booth. We raised over \$1,500 for the preschool at the Craft Fair, and we completed a

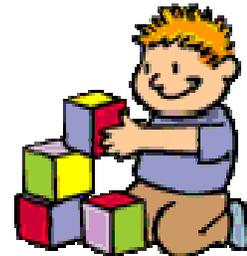
'handprint' quilt top for a Habitat for Humanity family.

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.

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



Thank you!



Dear Children of Vacation Bible School,

Thank you for your gift of school supplies for Royalton students. You made the day for some very lucky students ☺.

With gratitude, Annalee VanDenheuvel
Royalton Elementary School Social Worker

Thank you for your generosity and kindness in supplying Dr. Knight Elementary with backpacks and school supplies. We greatly appreciate the donations! Our staff and students Thank You!!

Warm Regards, Anita Larsen, Social Worker

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

On behalf of Lindbergh Elementary, please accept our heartfelt thanks for "Operation Backpack." Once again, your generosity helped numerous students to a positive start to their school year! Your donations made a significant difference! As always, thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely, Laura DeChaine

Sunday Morning Education Ministry

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

Sunday School is getting started. The first four-week section on “Paul” teaches us about how God’s call turned Paul from a persecutor of Christians to a follower of Jesus. God calls each of us to be followers of Jesus and promises to be with us.

With the new worship times of 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. we have Sunday School between the services at 9:35 a.m. giving families the opportunity to worship together before or after Sunday School. Students will have a new and exciting start to Sunday School time this year! All ages begin in the sanctuary with Becky Nelson, Debra Yliniemi-Ahlin and Camilla Larson leading us in prayer and song, along with a time to share our offering. Then three-year-olds and prekindergarten children will meet in a classroom setting. The kids in grades K-5 will rotate from Cooking, Storytelling/Video, Art, or Games—experiencing one station during each of the four weeks.



Family Hayride at Larsen’s Farm Sunday, October 12 1:30-5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

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

If you would like to help in anyway with sharing your talents or gifts in leading a rotation or helping with Sunday School in any way, please contact Amber Sobiech in the church office 632-6667, or at home 616-9626.

Coming up: Children’s Christmas Program

Do you have interest or excitement for the Christmas season?? Planning will soon get underway for the children’s Christmas program. Contact Amber if you would like to assist with coordinating any part of the program. 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, 9:30-11:30 a.m. 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!



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 24. 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 14.

Ninth Grade: New Testament class with Pastor Hank continues through October 8.

Tenth Grade: Lutheran Identity class begins on October 22 and meets on Wednesdays through November 19. Pastor Hank will teach this class.

Eleventh Grade: Practice for Confirmation Sunday is Saturday, October 25, at 8:30 a.m. We will have a light breakfast. Youth will affirm their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 26, at 10:30 a.m.

**Fields of Faith
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.
At Flyer Field**

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 26, 2014, 10:30 a.m.

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

Owen Brastad	Noah Jones
Laura Fregin	Ellie Riitters

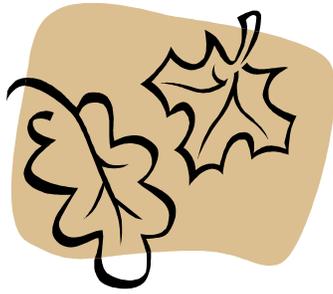
Please keep these young people in your prayers as they affirm their faith.



**Advent Craft Sale
Saturday,
December 6
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.



Items for the November NEWSLETTER are due on **October 20, 2014!**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends
Remember to set your clocks *back* one
hour on Saturday, November 1!**



“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)