

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Jake Dyrhaug

Ministers:

All God's People at First Lutheran

FIRST



“Servants of All”

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

(320) 632-1050 Fax

firstserv@flclittlefalls.org

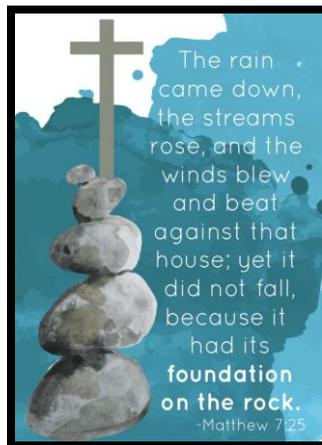
www.flclittlefalls.org

September, 2016, Newsletter

August 30, 2016

125th Anniversary Celebration

September 24-25



Saturday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.:

Music Celebration with dessert social hosted by the Grace Notes choir

Sunday, September 25:

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Festive Celebration Worship

With guest preacher, Rev. John Dietz, Assistant to the Bishop,
NE MN Synod

9:30 a.m. Fellowship hour

12:00 noon Congregational Celebration Meal

Special thanks to the celebration team for planning and preparation for this wonderful day in the life of the congregation!

Thank you for keeping the congregation and all those touched by ministry here in any way in your prayers as we continue in the years ahead to be:

First... Servants of all.

Pastor Jake's Article
see page 2

Congregational
Updates
see page 3

Adult Opportunities
see page 4

Music Ministry
see page 5

Parish Nurse News
see page 6

“Children First”
Preschool News
see page 8

Youth News
see page 9

“The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”
Matthew 7:25

This month First Lutheran Church of Little Falls celebrates its 125th anniversary! Think of all the changes the world has seen since 1891, when six Norwegian immigrant families came together to say, “Maybe we could build a church!” The Model T wasn’t built until 1910, so I imagine most walked or hitched their horses up to come to worship. They didn’t have radio until the 20’s for the most part. The 30’s experimental television broadcasts came on the scene, but it wasn’t until much later that most had “tv’s.” And then to think of the changes in society and the world on a global scale. It’s kind of mind-boggling. The fields of medicine, education, business and industry have gone through tremendous changes. Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with the world around us with all these changes, and it can seem like we’re walking on shifting sand.

One thing that hasn’t changed, though, is that a building needs a solid foundation if it is to stand strong through the storms. Just as the farmers and townsfolk knew around Little Falls in 1891, you have to get below the “frost line” and down below the topsoil, sand and clay, to lay your foundation stones or pour your footings. If that’s set, the rest of a building can be built square and stand the test of time. I was helping once with a building project, and it had been raining steady the day before. A crane suddenly started to sink into the mud a good two feet because there was nothing to hold it up! It took a tractor to pull it out. But down below that mud was a solid foundation which the building had been built

upon. It didn’t budge. Because it was built on a “rock” of the concrete foundation down deep.

The people of “Little Falls Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church” who assembled in 1891, whose name changed to “First English Lutheran Church” in 1922 because they were some of the first Lutherans to have services led in English in Little Falls, who became “First Lutheran” in 1991—all have seen many changes throughout the years, but what hasn’t changed all the way up to 2016 is that our foundation has been built on the rock of salvation in Jesus Christ. People try to build their lives on plenty of other things—the pursuit of fame or fortune or popularity, or filling their lives with being busy and entertained, or turning to other things even more like sinking sand. There’s a hymn that’s been around a long time, and we still sing it, “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand” which says it well—“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness...On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.” At First Lutheran Church, where we seek to be “First...Servants of All” still today, we celebrate 125 years this year, grounded solidly on that hope which stands strong through the ages!

In Christ,

Pastor Jake Dyrhaug



Council Highlights

- ✠ Heard that the week of Vacation Bible School was an amazing week with many young people from near and far in attendance! Thank you to all of the kids, families, and volunteers for making it a special time to learn about following Jesus the light of the world!
- ✠ Heard that interviews are scheduled for the position of Youth and Family Minister.
- ✠ Heard that Rally Sunday and the start of Sunday School is September 18. And that FLY—First Lutheran Youth—night will begin on Wednesday, September 14.
- ✠ Appointed Stephanie Adams and Doug Dahlberg to serve on the Nominating Committee along with those elected at annual meeting, Craig Ahlin, Michelle Dahlberg and Ted Pfohl. The Nominating Committee asks members to give prayerful consideration to serving in leadership positions in the coming year.

Worship Serving Opportunities

Each Sunday, many worshipers come to worship at First Lutheran Church, every week someone is here for the first time. **Your servant hands** are an integral part of providing hospitality to all who enter here. Stop at the table in the Gathering Space or call or email the church office to offer your gifts in service to Christ's body at First Lutheran. Serving areas are greeters, ushers, scripture readers, communion ministry, child care, coffee hospitality. You can sign up for a time that fits your schedule. **Sign up now for September and October.** Training for each serving ministry is available—please ask! For more information, contact the church office.

Financial Update

Thank you to all who faithfully contribute to our shared ministry at First Lutheran Church!

We want to give you an idea of the congregation's financial status so far this year. The following amounts are as of July 31. We have received as offering for the 2016 Mission Plan \$195,691 of the planned \$231,117 for this date. We have disbursed \$210,745 for expenses as of July 31. As you can see this is a deficit of \$15,054. Know that your ministry team staff and leadership works to keep expenses in line with the mission plan. We are aware that many of you are traveling or away from home during the summer months. We hope to see you in worship this fall and encourage you to give as you are able. Your mail-in offerings are appreciated when you are away.

Thank you to all who participate in the electronic funds transfer giving plan, Simply Giving. Simply Giving® allows you to automate your giving. This benefits First Lutheran by ensuring regular giving throughout the year and benefits the giver with ease of use. First Lutheran covers the nominal fee per transaction. Please see Sue or Gloria in the church office to enroll. Thank you!



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Adult Opportunities

Martha Circle

Martha Circle meets Monday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Hostess is Mary Larson. The group welcomes new members!



Quilters Group

The Thursday morning Quilters Group resumes meeting on Thursday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. The group welcomes anyone who would like to use their hands in service to others. You do not need to be skilled at sewing! There are a variety of ways to serve. And hey, there's always food! For more information, call Marlene Williams, 632-4290 or Marlys Plante, 632-8055.

Men's Morning Bible Study Wednesday, September 21 7:00 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.

The 7:00 a.m. study includes breakfast. Come when you are able, leave when you must. For more information, call the church office at 632-6667.

Book Club

All adult readers are welcome to read with this group. The selection for September is [I Am Malala](#) by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb. Readers, please secure your own copy of the book. The group meets in the church library on Tuesday, September 27, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the month's book. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207.

Luther Crest Bible Camp Quilts for Camp Extravaganza held at Carlos Creek Winery Saturday, October 17

Luther Crest is 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 will be 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!

Cookies and Conversation with Dyrhaugs Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Jake and Stephani Dyrhaug invite members of the congregation to the church library to enjoy coffee, Steph's home-made chocolate chip cookies and informal get-to-know-you conversation. We hope to meet with 10-15 of you each week. Things to consider: What is the story of First Lutheran and what brought you to this community of faith? What is something you enjoy doing? What are your hopes for First Lutheran in the years ahead? There are several ways to schedule: you can sign up on the schedule in the gathering space, call the church office, send an email to firstserv@flittlefalls.org, or schedule when office staff contacts you. Thank you – We look forward to getting to know you better!

Women's Bible Study

Watch for information about a new study for the fall. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Adams, 632-3058.



Music Ministry Opportunities:

The Followers of Christ Children's Choir

Wednesday, September 14

All kids in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are welcome to sing with the children's choir. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 14 from 3:30-4:15 p.m. Transportation from Lincoln and Lindbergh Elementary schools to First Lutheran Church will be 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.

Grace Notes Adult Choir Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Beginning August 31

We resume rehearsals this fall on Wednesday, August 31. We will gather at 7:00 p.m. and rehearse for one hour. The choir will sing at the 8:30 a.m. service two-three times per month. If you or someone you know loves to sing please come and use your voice to praise God! New singers are welcome! Schedules will be available at the first rehearsal.

Anniversary Choir

This is a short-term commitment to sing with the Grace Notes choir for the congregation's 125th anniversary celebration on September 24-25. Singers high school age and up are welcome. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. from now until the end of September.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Barb Stumpf, choir director, at 632-8372 or Becky Nelson, Director of Music Ministry, at 749-2336.

Worship and Music Article

written by Paula Monahan

125 years of mission and ministry! What a milestone! The theme for the celebration is "The Church's One Foundation."

In 1866, Samuel Stone wrote twelve hymns based on the twelve articles of the Apostles' Creed. "The Church's One Foundation" was based on the ninth article of the creed, which says: "I believe in the holy catholic (universal) church: the communion of saints." The next year there was an assembly of Anglican bishops from around the world. Stone's hymn became the processional for that assembly and has been one of the church's best-loved hymns ever since.

"The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord,
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her
and for her life he died.

"Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

"Through toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest."

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:11

Adapted from "Then Sings My Soul"
by Robert J. Morgan

Parish Nurse News:

Consider working these foods into your regular rotation to help strengthen your memory.

Salmon and Walnuts: They are particularly high in fatty acids, which are central to brain function. "Eating omega-3 fatty acids will promote healthier brain tissue and strengthen and maintain your memory," says Preston Estep, PH.D, author of *The Mindspan Diet* and director of gerontology at Harvard Medical School's Personal Genome Project.

Dark Leafy Greens: "Lettuce, spinach, kale, collards, and other dark leafy greens are especially good sources of vitamin K and other nutrients that have a positive effect on your brain health" Estep says.

Berries, Red Wine, and Chocolate: Your brain requires a huge amount of blood flow to operate, and these foods are all high in polyphenols and other compounds that help improve circulation, Estep says. "That's why anything good for heart health is also good for your brain."

Child Care Attendant

First Lutheran is blessed with the gift of many children. As a church family, we want to provide safe, quality care for these precious little ones in the Child Care Space on Sunday mornings and at other events. We are seeking candidates to serve in a paid position as Child Care Attendant. The qualified person must be 18 years of age or older, have previous child care experience, and possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills. From time to time, volunteer assistance is also welcome with child care. If you or someone you know is interested in serving in this way, please submit your resumé to the church office.

Sunday Morning Education Ministry Begins on Rally Sunday, September 18 9:35-10:20 a.m.

The Sunday morning schedule is intended to allow families to worship together at the service of their choice and also conveniently attend Sunday School. Preschoolers meet with their teachers in a classroom setting. T.R.E.K. (Teaching, Reaching, Educating, Kids) rotational style education ministry is for children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Youth participate by rotating through areas such as cooking, drama/storytelling, arts and crafts, games, and science/video as we explore a theme for a three to four week period. Middle School and High School youth meet separately. If you or someone you know has a passion for teaching and youth, there are many levels of involvement and something for each one's gift!

For more information, contact the church office, 632-6667.



Welcome Three-Year-Olds!

Each year we help prepare our three-year-olds for Sunday School by inviting them and their parents to participate in an orientation gathering. This year's gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. Youth and their parents will visit their classroom, meet their teacher, and get acquainted with one another. Any child who is three years old by September 1 is welcome. Three-year olds will receive the gift of a story Bible at worship on Rally Sunday, September 18 at both services. Please enroll your child to ensure they receive a Bible. If you have questions, please call the church office, 632-6667.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who came with brush in hand and served as members of First Lutheran's annual Paint-A-Thon team on Saturday, August 6. Thanks to Jerome and Karen Haaland for coordinating this year's team.

Thank you!

The Vacation Bible School Mission Project, Operation Backpack provided over 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to area schools! Due to your generosity we were able to also contribute boxes of extra supplies to the schools. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, backpacks, sorted, counted, packed, and delivered the backpacks! You have assisted many children with learning needs. Thanks for being Jesus' hands and feet in this part of the kingdom.

Thank you!

First Lutheran has provided a quilt and provided assistance for many years with the Camp Knutson quilt auction fundraiser. Camp Knutson provides a camp experience for persons with special needs such as those with heart disease, HIV or AIDS, Down syndrome, severe skin diseases, autism and other diseases. The auction is the main fundraiser for the camp and this year's event raised a total of \$60,276! Thank you!

Can Care Collection

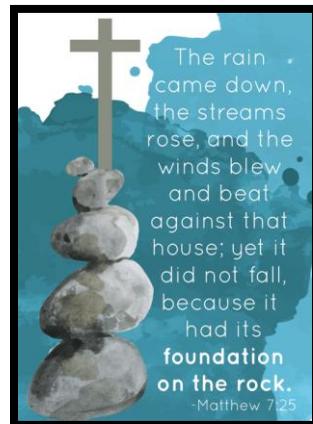
The congregation uses the proceeds from aluminum can recycling to fund youth activities. Your help collecting and saving cans for recycling saves the earth and helps the kids! You can bring your aluminum cans to church, place them next to the garage; please be sure bags are securely closed. We also are looking for a few folks with a trailer and some time to bring cans to be recycled (the garage is overflowing!). Recycling can be done here in Little Falls on Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or Wednesdays 2:00-6:00 p.m. If you can spend a few hours to help with this project, call Susan Gustner in the church office.

Thank You Thrivent Members!

Thrivent Choice: Thank you to all who have designated their Thrivent Choice dollars to First Lutheran Church and to "Children First" Christian Preschool. This year we have seen an increase in the number of Thrivent members who are eligible to donate these funds, and an increase in the donated amount. Thank you for putting your Thrivent Choice dollars to work in mission and ministry at First Lutheran! If you have questions about this program or would like assistance in designating your Thrivent Choice dollars, please contact the church office.

Thrivent Action Team® Opportunities

Thrivent Financial provides an opportunity for Thrivent members to make a difference in their congregation and community by the use of Action Team funds. The process is easy to do. Each benefit member can apply for two \$250 projects each calendar year. Associate members can apply for one project per year. First Lutheran has more than 60 members eligible for these funds. That is over \$30,000 per year! Many ongoing programs and/or special projects around our church home are eligible, let's make use of this opportunity. If you are a Thrivent member, you are encouraged to participate. Speak to Susan Gustner in the church office to learn more.



"Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from "Children First" Christian Preschool!

Welcome new and returning families and staff. We are excited to begin a new year with new class hours: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/guardian orientation is Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. The first days of class are Monday and Tuesday, September 12 and 13. These sessions will meet from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Students and parents will experience the classroom together for 1/2 hour, and then the parents will attend a special session while the children have fun. Please bring a photo of your preschooler, a family photo, a two photos of something your child enjoys. Wednesday and Thursday, September 14 and 15 will be regular classroom days.

We have openings in the following classes:

- ☺ *Noah's Animals* is a two-day class for children 33 months to three years old, meeting Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- ☺ *Jesus' Gems* is a two-day class for children four and five years old, meeting in two sessions, either Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- ☺ *Friday Friends* the addition of this class gives children a three-day classroom experience. Children must be enrolled in one of the other class times.

The preschool hosts a booth at the Little Falls Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday-Sunday, September 10-11. We're on the corner of Broadway and Second Street (courthouse corner). If you can help with the booth, please contact Gail.

'Give Us a Hand!' Come to Morrison County Kids' Day on Saturday, September 17 at the Morrison County Fairgrounds. We will make a quilt for a Habitat for Humanity family. Come and place your hand print on our quilt top!

"Children First" continues to collect the following items: Coborn's/Cashwise Food Club points (found on your grocery receipt), Campbell's food

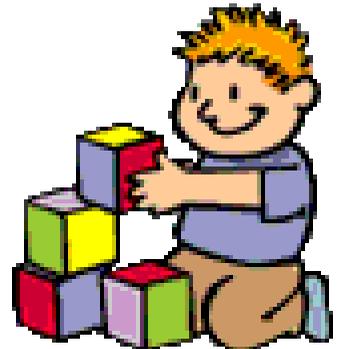
points (on the labels). You may deposit these items in the boxes in the church gathering space or in the education wing. The preschool receives money or gift cards in exchange for these items. Thanks for saving them for us!

Thank you to those who sponsor tuition for preschool students. Please consider whether you or someone you know can contribute all or part of tuition for a family in need, this is a life-long gift to a child and the families are so grateful for your anonymous gift! Thank you for your continuing support through Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent Action Team® or any other means. Please include "Children First" in your prayers as we begin an exciting new school year.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." *Matthew 19:14*

In Christ's Service,

Gail Hittesdorf
Director



Confirmation Ministries

Parents: Please register your children for confirmation and youth ministry activities now. Forms are available in the church office. Eleventh and Twelfth grade students please register in order to participate in youth activities.

Third Grade: Youth entering third grade have received their Bibles. Parents and youth will share Family Devotions in September. Each youth will receive a home visit in October. If your third grade student missed the class on August 24 or was unable to receive their Bible, please contact the church office to make other arrangements.

Fifth Grade: class on Stewardship meets in September. Youth will practice stewardship by making communion bread together on Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. Communion bread will be served at Holy Communion on Rally Sunday, September 18. Class continues on September 21, and 28, at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to Denise Dempsey and Nancy Ratzloff for leading these sessions.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Confirmation: As we begin a transition to a new confirmation schedule these classes will meet together with Pastor Jake to study the Old Testament. Classes begin on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. Students and parents should have received a letter about the class and the class schedule. If you did not receive a letter or if you have questions, please contact Sue Gustner in the church office.

Eleventh Grade: Confirmation Reception on Sunday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. for students, parents, and mentors. Students will share mentor activities. Confirmation Sunday is October 30 at 10:30 a.m. worship.

Youth News

FLY (First Lutheran Youth) Night Begins Wednesday, September 14 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to come for this fun night whenever there is school. The first night – September 14 – we will meet for a bonfire and roast hot dogs. Students in seventh and eighth grade can come at 6:00 for supper and attend confirmation class with Pastor Jake at 7:00 p.m. There will be time for games, conversation and fun! Parents, families, and other adults are welcome and encouraged to assist with these events. You can provide a meal, supplies for a meal, monetary donation, help with cooking and cleanup, leadership for an evening, or come and get to know the kids. Love for Youth and Love for Jesus makes this a great night! See you there!

Family Hayride Sunday, October 9 1:30-5:30 p.m.

We are invited to the farm of Darrell and Arlene Larsen for a hayride! Meet at church at 1:30 p.m. to carpool to the farm. Bring a friend and your family for some time in God's creation. You are also welcome to meet at the Larsen's farm, 6039 110th Avenue, Royalton at 2:00 p.m. Thanks Darrell and Arlene!

**NE MN Synod Middle School Gathering
✝️iBelong
Cragun's Resort, Brainerd
Friday-Saturday, November 18-19**

This fun gathering of youth in grade 6-9 is a great time to grow in faith, build friendships and digging into confirmation teaching in a unique way! This year's theme is the Apostles' Creed. We will be led by a band and keynote speaker. Register before October 16, your cost is \$40.00, after that date, \$50.00. First Lutheran covers \$25.00 for each youth. What a deal!

News of the Family



Lyra Rose Solomonson, daughter of Abby and Shawn Solomonson, was baptized on August 7.

Rowan William Walkoviak, son of Ashley and Brent Walkoviak, was baptized on August 7.

Liam Allen Peterschick, son of Nate Peterschick and Crystal Snyder, was baptized on August 14.

Evelyn Leora Virnig, daughter of Hannah and Hank Virnig, was baptized on August 21.

Ellie Sophia Ramos, daughter of Cyrena and Armando Ramos, was baptized on August 28.

Welcome to the family of God!



Items for the **October NEWSLETTER** are due on **September 20, 2016!**

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. continues throughout the year. Stay after the 8:30 a.m. service, or come early for the 10:30 service, for coffee (leaded and unleaded!), treats and fellowship. All are welcome!

