



**Celebrating 120 years of Serving!**  
**First Lutheran Church Anniversary Celebration**



**Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Concert featuring The Green Lake Bluegrass Band**  
**Dessert and Coffee**

**Sunday, September 25, 2011**  
**Traditional Worship at 8:00 a.m.**  
**Celebration Continental Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Bluegrass Celebration Worship at 10:00 a.m.**  
**with the Green Lake Bluegrass Band**

The year was 1891. The Civil War had been over for only 25 years, Benjamin Harrison was President of the United States, women couldn't vote, and the game of basketball was just being invented. In Little Falls, six Norwegian immigrant families met to begin a church.

In the 120 years since, worship is no longer held in Norwegian; more than 22 pastors, several interim pastors and seven interns have served the congregation as well as numerous staff; two church structures have been built, remodeled, and expanded; parsonages have been built, purchased, and sold; hundreds of life events have occurred, marriages, baptisms, funerals; countless educational times and fellowship events have been offered.

On the occasion of the congregation's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1906, the pastor stated "God's word has been preached pure and clear." All these years later, God's word is still preached pure and clear and God continues to watch over and guide the congregation into the future. We are here to serve others First, and be "First...Servants of All."

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## Pastor Tony's Article

*On Friday, July 1, at 1:55 p.m. Pastor Tony and his wife, Kristin, welcomed their first child, a boy, to their family. Kyle Eric Miller Oltmann arrived in the world weighing 8 lb. 7 oz. and 23" long. Welcome Kyle!*

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My world has changed; no really it has. I know it might be difficult to believe, but having a kid has really changed my world; the world will never look the same. It's strange. One day the world is the way you have always known it and the next day things will never be the same...never the same. This is fairly obvious for a new parent and anyone who has ever had a kid will say the same, "things change overnight". Our house, diapers, bottles, blankets, rocking chairs, my bed, our dog, our car, our stairs, our coffee table, and many other common household items will never look the same.

This dramatic shift into parenthood has been, admittedly, a little difficult; as most dramatic shifts are. I longingly look back at the days of sleeping in for hours, but the rewards far exceed the drawbacks. I miss the times when Kristin and I were able to make our own plans. Despite the little difficulty, the rewards make the change so much easier to live with; that's for sure.

Not only is parenthood a dramatic change that takes effect swiftly, but it is a lifelong decision. It does not matter whether the child is grown, growing, young, and in some ways it does not matter if the child was given up for adoption; parenthood is a lifelong change. It will forever shape your life. It will forever make anyone a different person. It will have lasting effects on how the world is viewed.

It's also important to note that many parents don't make parenthood a choice, but freely accept the dramatic change. Others, like my wife and I made a conscience choice to become parents. Whether the choice was a conscience decision or not, is not important. No matter how parenthood was entered into, it is something that cannot be changed.

As I look at parenthood, and what I've written, there something notable...this is how we should look at not only our relationship with God but God's love. Our relationship with God should be something that completely reorients our world. Our lives before our relationship with God and our lives while in relationship with God should be profoundly different. It should totally shape our world view. This world view should be permanent and should be dramatic. Is this a description of where you are in your relationship with God? Does the description of parenthood above, work as a description of your relationship with God?

One of the good things about parenthood and our relationship with God is that we don't have to get it right straight out of the gate; we are not alone on this journey. No one ever gets it all right all the time; whether it's parenthood or our relationship with God. God's love and grace is ever present as we travel through our lives; guiding, correcting, forgiving, encouraging, supporting, pushing us to grow, and picking us up when we fall short. No matter where we are in our relationship with God, God is ready to walk with us as we go through life and be our ever present parent. Isn't God great!?!

In Christ,

Pastor Tony Oltmann



These are exciting times for First Lutheran!

Your church council leadership and staff have worked steadily on the *First Moving Forward* plans approved at the congregation's annual meeting in January. We have welcomed Pastor Tony as part-time clergy and this month we welcome Youth and Family Minister, Jay Kiel, to our ministry team. His arrival is a blessing and he will be a great addition to the staff at First.

Jay comes to us from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was recently married to Stephanie Hoffman, also from Grand Rapids. They begin their new life together with First Lutheran Church and Little Falls as their home. Jay has completed two years at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids. He will continue his studies toward a degree in Youth Ministry after he gets his feet on the ground here in Minnesota. Jay will assist the entire community of First to develop a stronger Youth and Family Ministry Program. It is our vision to enhance the spiritual lives of the entire congregation through Jay's call to ministry. Together we will further the Mission of God by being "First... Servants of All." Please pray for Jay and Steph as they begin to live out their call to ministry along side us.

A second exciting new ministry opportunity has arisen. We have learned of the potential opportunity to partner/associate with Sugar Creek Bible Camp of Ferryville, Wisconsin in the ministry use of approximately 50 acres of undeveloped waterfront property on upper Gull Lake. In order to explore this venture a task force has visited the property and the executive director of Sugar Creek. Those visiting have seen the immense possibilities to further the gospel through the limited development of this property. Currently there is a small cabin, a fire ring, and an outhouse at the site. We will keep you informed about the continued talks and progress of conversations as we continue to move forward. If this opportunity intrigues you, please contact the church office to be involved.

First Lutheran continues to offer a variety of opportunities for continued faith and spiritual growth and fellowship for ALL stewards:

- Koinonia (small group dinners) groups
- Men's, Women's, Adult, and Youth Bible Studies
- Sunday Morning Education opportunities for all ages
- Quilters and Prayer Shawl Groups
- Adult and Youth Choirs
- Cornerstone Fellowship Lunches
- Praise Team and instrumental music activities
- Mission activities
- Prayer Group
- 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events
- Activities and trips of all kinds
- New ideas that you wish to see!

Grab the excitement and become involved in something that interests you and strengthens your faith and the faith of others. You'll find many opportunities in the pages of this newsletter.

*First is Moving Forward!* We'll see you in ministry together.

A fellow steward,

Pastor Dave Sperstad

[dsperstad@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:dsperstad@flclittlefalls.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship Schedule  
Fall 2011 – begins Sunday,  
September 11**

- 8:00 a.m. – Traditional liturgical Worship  
9:30 a.m. – Contemporary/Praise Worship  
10:30 a.m. – Sunday Morning Education  
Ministry  
10:45 a.m. – Traditional liturgical Worship

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY “A Servant’s Point of View”

First Lutheran Church is celebrating 120 years of mission and ministry in Little Falls and around the globe. As a part of our celebration we will feature interviews with a variety of our members. We hope you will be blessed by the way they have been impacted by their faith life at First Lutheran and the ways they serve and walk in our world as **FIRST...Servants of All**.

If you have a story you would like to share about your life as a servant at First Lutheran Church, please call Linda Weiss, 632-1733.

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### ✝ Erin Makela ✝

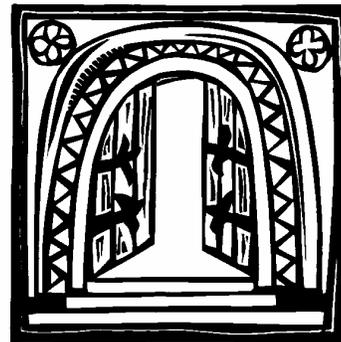
Erin Makela, age 23, is the daughter of Ron and Monica Makela, and is a life-long member of First Lutheran; she was baptized and confirmed here. Erin recently graduated from Luther College with a degree in Elementary Education. She has spent several summers as a camp counselor at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria. Erin is home in Royalton for the summer after teaching English at a private school in Pristina, Kosovo. Kosovo is a Muslim country, but Erin has never heard the call to prayer and hasn't seen citizens unfurl prayer mats to pray several times a day. As a Christian in this Muslim country Erin doesn't feel threatened. The language spoken in Kosovo is not similar to any in the other European countries. Erin navigates the streets and the system by being savvy!

When Erin studied in England several years ago she and a fellow student longed for the tunes and liturgy of *With One Voice* and *The Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)*. When a parent visited them they brought both volumes to the girls. Erin has those books with her in Pristina and uses them while she worships in her apartment with her guitar as accompaniment. She says that each Easter there is a Christian worship service that rotates yearly from city to city. A couple took Erin to Easter worship this year. The service was spoken in Albanian. Banners written in Albanian proclaimed **REJOICE and CHRIST IS RISEN**. A translator helped them interpret the message and Erin recognized some of the songs led by a local Christian musician. She sang along in English as

everyone sang “Blessed Be Your Name.” Some people in the crowd were hearing for the first time the story of Jesus and the women who first heard the news that He Is Risen. The message proclaimed in the sermon emphasized that we are all disciples of Christ and that our words and our actions tell others that we are Christians.

While living in Kosovo, Erin misses many things that we take for granted here in the U.S. One of them is a postal service that actually delivers the mail to your address. With that said Erin also misses red Twizzler's candy. We would all love to send her Twizzler's but sadly they would probably never get to her. So, whenever you are in the candy aisle “remember Erin”!

We are thankful to Erin for serving as the teacher of First's preschool summer day camp and for leading worship as a part of the praise team. Please keep Erin in your prayers as she returns to Pristina in a few weeks, and as she continues to live out her faith as a servant of all.



## Adult Opportunities



### **Higher Ground Music Festival 2011 Friday-Saturday, August 5-6 Winsted, Minnesota**

Come for the seventh Higher Ground Christian Music Festival held in Winsted (45 minutes south of St. Cloud) on Friday and Saturday, August 5 and 6. Headliners for the festival are MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Kutless, Go Fish and many more. Reserved camping is available on site. Kids age 10 and under are free! Tickets are available online at [www.hgmusicfest.com](http://www.hgmusicfest.com) or by phone at 877-840-0457.

### **Men's Bible Study Breakfast**

All are welcome to come for breakfast and Bible study! We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:15 a.m. Our next meeting time is Wednesday, September 7. Come when you can, leave when you must! Pastor Dave leads this study. Contact him for more information.

### **Cornerstones**

#### **(Seniors age 55 and better ☺)**

Are you interested in participating in senior fellowship? Bring a friend and a food item to share and come for potluck lunch. We gather on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 20, at 11:30 a.m. We'll meet in Stoltz Hall to share food, conversation and laughter!

### **Library News**

New in the library are eight Veggie Tales DVD's – check one out for fun family viewing. New adult fiction by award-winning author, Walter Wangerin, Jr. "Naomi and Her Daughters." Naomi's husband and sons are dead. Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth return to Israel where their choices lead to the founding of the reign of the kings of Israel and Judah. Wangerin uses the biblical books of Judges and Ruth to explore themes of love, faith, grief, and community during a time of war and political instability. Stop by the library to check things out!

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### **Church Council News**

Church Council did not meet in July, however the council wants you to be aware of a few updates:

- The sanctuary has received a fresh coat of paint.
  - New laminate flooring has been installed in the Sarah Room. Thanks to the crew that provided the labor!
  - Sabbatical planning for 2013 is underway.
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## Adult Opportunities

### **Bible Study** **“Different Gospels, Same Jesus?”** **Begins Monday, September 12** **7:00-8:00 p.m.**

Being an adult doesn't mean you have all the answers. In fact, being an adult mean you have tougher questions and need truthful answers. First Lutheran offers Adult Bible Study classes at a variety of times to assist adults learn about and grow in relationship with God and grow in their God given faith.

We go to a store to buy what we think we need, but where do we go when we need spiritual and personal guidance? Being part of an Adult Bible Study conversation gives us encouragement and guidance to cope with the demands of life. So don't hesitate! Jump right in and you will find others who will help you discover God's truth. All are welcome to attend.

Pastor Dave will lead conversation and study on the different accounts and stories of Jesus contained in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We will also look at other Gospels (good news), such as Mary, Thomas, Timothy, Peanuts, and the Simpsons?. Bring a friend!

We meet at church for six sessions on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The Monday, September 12 through Monday, October 17— See you there!

### **First Lutheran Twins Trip** **Wednesday, September 28** **MN Twins vs. Kansas City Royals**

We have group rate tickets for this evening game. We plan to carpool to Big Lake and ride the Northstar Rail to Target Field. Seating is limited, plan now to attend. Ticket price for the game is \$23.00 each. Northstar Rail cost is additional. Twins fans Matt Dahl, 632-8207, and Ted Pfohl 632-4760, coordinate this event!

### **Coming this fall:** **Koinonia: Dinner** **for Eight Groups**



I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. *Philemon 1:6*

What are Koinonia (coin-a-knee-a) Groups? In New Testament times, the first Christians discovered what the Bible calls *koinonia*, a Greek word variously translated as “fellowship,” “community,” “communion,” “intimacy” and “friendship.” As Christians experienced that *koinonia* with each other, they also grew into *koinonia* with God. *1 John 1:3, 6-7; Phil. 1:5; 2:1*

Koinonia Groups help us experience the same *koinonia* that energized the early church, the same growing intimacy and deepening fellowship, with each other and with God.

Koinonia Groups will form in September and meet for four months. Couples and singles gather in groups of six to eight in homes for fellowship and a meal. Together they will determine what, when, and where works best for them. The group can be all ages, some couples, some singles, a nice “mix.” This is a great way to get to know people and grow closer in community with God.

You don't have to be a gourmet cook to understand the nourishment that comes with gathering over a good meal. Group members will share hosting the group. Each month, the host provides the entrée and beverages. The other participants complete the meal by bringing an appetizer, a salad, a side dish, and dessert.

The groups are designed for adult fellowship. It is a great way to meet people and enjoy a casual evening together. After all, where “two or more are gathered in His name” around good food, it's got to be a good thing! Prayerfully consider your participation in a Koinonia Group and watch for more details. For more information, talk with Pastor Dave.

## Mission Life

### Oasis/Share A Meal Community Paint A Thon Saturday, August 6

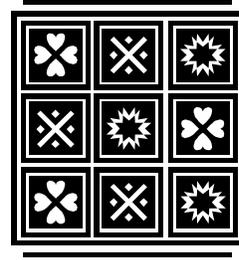
Can you spend a Saturday morning helping to paint a home for a local resident? This annual event is a great time to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ right here in our own community. Confirmation students—perhaps you and your mentor will want to use this for your service project. This is a BYOB (Bring Your Own Brush!) event. For more information, call coordinators Jerome and Karen Haaland at 632-8828, or the church office, 632-6667.



### Green Fair and Peace Concert at St. Francis Convent

**Wednesday, August 3, 4:00-8:00 p.m.**

This outdoor event sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls is an evening of ecological awareness with music, food, exhibits, storytelling, other activities, and much more. Many local and state businesses and educational groups will be present. From 6-8 p.m., St. Francis Music Center will present music from Sestri, a women's Slavic chorus, and a fiddle contest. Other local musicians will celebrate music as a universal language that crosses all borders. Pastor Dave is recruiting a few people (young and old) to learn to make balloon (biodegradable!) animals—they're always a big hit! Come gather to enjoy, learn and see many local favorites and use these wonderful opportunities to enhance our care for the planet and make our world a better place for all.



### Camp Knutson 25th Annual Quilt Auction Saturday, August 13, 2011

Camp Knutson, nurtures the well-being of persons with special needs in a setting which celebrates God's love for community and creation. In 2010, over 1,000 campers with heart disease, HIV or AIDS, Down syndrome, severe skin diseases, autism or other diseases were served. A quilt from the First Lutheran quilters along with many others will be auctioned. First Lutheran provides assistance on the day of the sale. Your support of the auction is greatly appreciated. If you would like to attend and share a ride, contact Marlene Williams, 632-4290.

### Luther Crest Scramble A Fun(d) Raising Golf Tournament Monday, August 15 Camp Changes Lives!

Why not gather a foursome for this fun(d) raising "Best Ball" tournament on the course at Lake Miltona Golf Course, Alexandria. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.; "shotgun start" tee time is at noon. Supper will be served at Lake Miltona at 5:00 p.m. The fee is \$75.00 per person covers green fees, cart rental, and meal. You are encouraged to give a gift in support of Luther Crest at this event. Past tournaments have made a significant impact on the camp's ministry. To register, call the church office, 632-6667.

### Children's Choir

All kids in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are welcome to sing with the children's choir. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 14 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Transportation from Lincoln and Lindbergh Elementary schools to First Lutheran Church will be provided. Parents are asked to register for this singing opportunity. For more information, contact Becky Nelson at 749-2336.

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### 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. Please enroll your child to ensure they receive a Bible. If you have questions, please call Gail Hittesdorf at church, 632-6667, or at home, 632-2218.

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### Sunday School: Fall 2011

The Sunday Morning Education Ministry team is actively planning for the upcoming Sunday School year. We are seeking others to participate with the team to organize and prepare for rotational classes, take attendance and offering, and assist with other activities on Sunday morning. Put your time, talents, and love for the Lord into action and sign up to be a crew leader, teach a learning station, or teach a class. Watch the gathering space at church for more information. The fun begins on Sunday, September 18. For more information, contact Simon or Beth Storkamp, 632-4747, or Gail Hittesdorf, 632-6667 or 632-2218.

### Registration for Sunday Morning Ministry, age 3-grade 12 Confirmation, grades 2-11 Youth Groups, grades 3-12

Parents of children ages 3 years – 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Watch your mail this month for a mailing on Education & Youth Ministry for the coming year. Registration and health forms for kids, and list of opportunities for adults to work with youth, will be included. Please note that registration is required each year for participation in Education and Youth Activities. Additional forms will be available in the church office or on the church web-site at [www.flittlefalls.org](http://www.flittlefalls.org). Forms should be returned to First Lutheran as soon as possible. See the mailing for more details!

### Confirmation Ministries

**Third Grade:** Parents and youth entering third grade are invited to attend a Bible overview meeting on Wednesday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss the course on Family Devotions on the Gospel of Mark to begin in September. Youth will receive their Bibles during worship on Sunday, August 28.

**Fifth Grade:** Class on Stewardship begins on Thursday, September 8 as we serve Share A Meal together. Class will continue on Wednesday, September 14. Watch for a letter with details about this class.

**Sixth Grade:** During the week of Vacation Bible School (August 1-5), youth entering seventh grade in the fall will be studying the Lord's Prayer with Pastor Dave. Watch for a letter containing more information about this class.

**Ninth Grade:** New Testament class begins Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m.

**Tenth Grade:** don't forget your mentor activities – the summer will fly by quickly!

## "Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from the Preschool,

"Children First" Christian Preschool staff and Advisory Team are excited to welcome Peggy Rekstad to the teaching team. Peggy will teach the "Noah's Animals" (3 year old) class, and the "Friday Friends" class with April Kiffmeyer.

This fall we offer the following classes.

- ☺ *Noah's Animals*—for children 33 months to three years old, meeting Monday and Wednesday (this class is full), or Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- ☺ *Jesus' Gems*—for four and five year olds, meeting Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Register soon!
- ☺ *Friday Friends*—for 33 months to PreK, this additional class creates a three-day week.
- ☺ Interested families are encouraged to inquire and register early to allow time for the necessary paperwork and/or medical appointments to be completed. Registration forms are available on the church website, [www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org), or at church in the gathering space.

If you are able to financially assist a family with tuition expense scholarship, please let us know.

### Thank you!

Thank you to Erin Makela and helpers, Haylee Hittesdorf and Kinbrae Sperstad, for leading two weeks of Summer Preschool Day Camp. 21 children ages 3-5 enjoyed learning about how God made them special, and about their five senses through stories, craft projects, puppets, songs and games. What a fun time. ☺

Upcoming dates for preschool families or those interested:

- ☞ Green Fair Folk Festival, Wednesday, August 3, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Francis Campus, Little Falls. Visit the preschool booth at this free family-friendly event that promotes a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.
- ☞ Morrison County Fair, Thursday-Sunday, August 11-14.
- ☞ Preschool Open House, Monday, August 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. for Monday/Wednesday class or Tuesday, August 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m. for Tuesday/Thursday class. Open House is for anyone interested in visiting or registering.
- ☞ Parent Orientation, Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m. at the church. At least one preschool parent, guardian, or grandparent must be in attendance. Given the importance of the information covered, we ask for all parents involvement and request that no children attend.
- ☞ Arts and Crafts Fair Booth, Saturday-Sunday, September 10-11 (Broadway and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street).
- ☞ Classes begin for students, Monday-Tuesday, September 12-13, class sessions on these days are 1½ hours with a parent/guardian attending.

Thank you to all who supported "Children First" at the Coborn's Brat Stand! "Chico Bags" lightweight, re-usable, washable bags are available in the church office for just \$5.00. Preschool operations are supported only by tuition, donations, fundraisers, volunteerism, and your many prayers. First Lutheran graciously provides the facility needs. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry to children and families!

In Christ's Service,  
Gail Hittesdorf, Director, (320) 632-2218  
[childrenfirst@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:childrenfirst@flclittlefalls.org)

**Gospel Gang (Grades 3-5)**

**Summer Fun at Summerland  
Sunday, August 7  
12:30-5:30 p.m.**

Bring the family and a friend and come along to Summerland Family Fun Park in St. Cloud for an afternoon that includes unlimited use of the waterslide, mini-golf, go-karts, moonwalk, bumper boats, food and FUN! Cost is just \$10.00 per person. Signup is underway now at church, or call the church office, 632-6667.

**Pioneer Camp  
At Camp Onomia  
Grades 1-3**

**Sunday, August 7-Tuesday, August 9**

Youth who have completed grades 1-3 are invited to attend this "away" camp experience, Sunday, August 7 thru Tuesday, August 9. You will get a sampling of all the great things camp has to offer: worship, Bible stories, swimming, games, and more. Pastor Dave will go to camp with the kids. Camp Onomia is located on Lake Shakopee outside of Onamia. Registration materials have been mailed to families with children completing grades 1-3. Please call the church office at 632-6667 if you did not receive a mailing, to register, or for more information.

**F.O.C.U.S. (Fixed on Christ Until Sunday)  
Youth Bible Study  
Monday morning at 7:00 a.m.  
when school is in session**

Youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to meet each Monday for breakfast and bible study each week when school is in session. Watch for more information about this great way to start your week. For more information, talk to Pastor Dave.



**Friday Night Youth  
and Family Bonfire**

Fridays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. (or so)

Beginning Friday, August 5

Bring a friend, the family, and a lawn chair and come to church for an evening bonfire. We'll gather around the fire ring for s'mores, conversation and fun. Hosts are Les Hittesdorf, 632-2218, and Elizabeth and Simon Storkamp, 632-4747. Can't come this week? We plan to meet each Friday, same time, same place!

**Getting to Know You  
Open House  
for Youth and Family Minister  
Jay Kiel**

This month we welcome First's new Youth and Family Minister, Jay Kiel to Little Falls! Two families have offered to host open house times for youth and families to gather and get acquainted with Jay and his wife Stephanie. Let's give the Kiels' a warm welcome to youth ministry!

**Wild and Crazy Saints (Grades 6-8)**

Sunday, August 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
at the Robb and Maria Orr family home  
20737 213<sup>th</sup> Street

**High School (Grades 9-12)**

Sunday, August 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
at the Carl and Liz Rydeen family home  
11816 Hilton Rd



## Vacation Bible School

**“Pandamania”  
“Where God is Wild about You!”  
August 1-5, 2011  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Come on down to the bamboo forest with Pandamania Pete and his friends. Bring a friend or invite a family without a church home. VBS is for kids ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. At “Pandemania: Where God is Wild About You!” kids will explore Psalm 139 and experience God listening to them, watching over them, and loving them, no matter what! Thank you, God!

Pandemania has a rotational style where kids move to a variety of bamboo forest locations with their “crew.” All are welcome to the Friday closing worship at 11:30 a.m. followed by picnic lunch. Kids and staff will share their VBS experience in worship on Sunday, August 7.

Youth volunteers, youth preschool leaders, and all crew leaders are asked to be at church at 8:00 a.m. each day. Donuts and beverages will be served!

VBS is a joint effort of First Lutheran and First United Churches. To register, your child must be 3 years old (by September 1, 2010) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. You may pick up a registration form at church or you can find the form on the church web-site, [www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org). Registration is free; you are encouraged to register your child even if they may not attend every day.

If you are interested in helping with VBS, there are many fun ways for you to get involved. You can participate for the full week or for part of the week. Thanks to all who have volunteered to date. Please check the gathering space board for items you can donate to make VBS fun!

For more information, contact Gail Hittesdorf, 632-2218. Come and learn that God is wild about you! Thank you, God!!

**Watch for it:  
“Converge”**

**See You at the Pole  
Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 a.m.**

See you at the Pole™ is all about prayer. It’s about you coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole. Come and pray for your school, friends, families and the world.

## **VBS Mission Project Operation Backpack**

Our VBS Mission project this year is “Operation Backpack.” We will collect backpacks (new or gently used) and the school supplies needed to fill them. Backpacks will be distributed to nine local schools for area kids in need. Last year over 90 backpacks filled with supplies were donated to local schools! Supply lists are available on the gathering space bulletin board. Donations may be brought to the collection box in the gathering space. Thank you for your support!

### **News of the Family**

Cayden Christopher Rudolph, son of Cheryce and Chris Rudolph, was baptized on July 24.

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Jean Olson and Brian Anderson were united in marriage on July 23.

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Items for the **September NEWSLETTER** are due on **August 19, 2011!**



### **Summer Worship Schedule June through August**

Sunday Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Summer Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. continues through September 4. Stay after the 8:00 a.m. service, or come early for the 10:00 service, for coffee (leaded and unleaded!), treats and fellowship in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy your vacation but don't take a vacation from church! Aren't you glad God doesn't take the summer off?

### **Can Care Collection**

Recycling is one way to save the earth. Bring your empty cans to the church secured in a plastic bag—you can leave them next to the garage door. This on-going fundraiser provides money for youth activities.

Keep saving those aluminum cans! Thanks!