



**“Servants of All”**

October 2011

September 30, 2011



**“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)*

By this, Luther meant that Jesus Christ is a Christian’s only Lord—a Lord who commands us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. On October 30 we celebrate Reformation Sunday, a day to celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free!

The Sundays of October we will focus on Martin Luther’s teachings in The Small Catechism. The term catechism is much older than Luther’s work from 1529. It comes from the Greek *kata-echo*, which means “to repeat back.” By the year A.D. 400, Latin-speaking Christians used the word *catechism* to describe the basic instruction given to new Christians. As they learned, they recited the things they heard from their teachers. By the Middle Ages *catechism* had come to mean the three things that all Christians should know: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer. The Small and Large Catechisms came from sermons preached by Luther on these three things to which he added explanations of the sacraments, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

When Christians were asked in Luther’s day to define the church, they responded that the church is not so much a building or an organization but an event the Holy Spirit brings into being wherever the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered to call and gather believers. Here God is at work making us believers.

Many homes have at least one copy of Luther’s Small Catechism, you will want to get your copy out to use and refer to. Copies will also be available at church. Together we will study the catechism this month as we focus on knowing God truthfully and in the process understanding who we are as people of faith and children of God in light of God’s unbelievable grace.

**“This is most certainly true.” *Luther’s Small Catechism (1529)***

*Adapted from A Contemporary Translation of Luther’s Small Catechism, and Sundays and Seasons Year A, 2011.*  
© 2010 Augsburg Fortress Publishers

**Pastor Tony’s Article**  
see page 2

**Congregational  
News**  
see page 3

**Worship News**  
see page 4

**Adult Opportunities**  
see page 5

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

**Youth News!**  
see page 8

## Pastor Tony's Article

Late in the 1990's and through 2003, a company did some very creative radio advertising featuring "real men of genius." The point of the ad was a tongue-in-cheek look at the little things in the world that make a difference; things like "Mr. Chinese Food Delivery Guy," "Mr. Camouflage Suit Maker," and "Mr. Parking Attendant Flashlight Waver." Though this ad campaign was run by Budweiser, it was a funny look at the people who do jobs that get overlooked by most. While I don't think we need to have a celebration for "Mr. Pro Football Coach Cord Carrier" it is important to celebrate those in our lives who often go overlooked or unnoticed, and there are a lot of overlooked or unnoticed people in our midst.

Part of the reason these people are overlooked or unnoticed is due to personal preference. They remain overlooked or unnoticed because, as they see it, they are just doing what needs to be done; when in reality they are going above and beyond what needs to be done. Most of these people don't see what they are doing as an act of stewardship or service to God, but it most certainly is!

Here's an example of what I mean: when my younger sister and her boyfriend traveled from Texas to Minnesota to be a part of our son Kyle's baptism, I asked a congregation member if he could give them a ride from Minneapolis to Little Falls. After all it was the Friday before Labor Day and this member would already be in the Cities, plus it would save me a long trip fighting traffic. The congregation member agreed. All was on track; all that is, except for the airplane. My sister and her boyfriend were delayed. During their extended layover they called the congregation member to let him know they would be late and he could just go home without them. This member not only waited for four hours, but offered to bring them all the way to Brainerd. He did this without being asked. He did this without being compensated. He did this because it's what he does. He did this as a service to others and he probably did not see staying an extra four hours as anything abnormal.

I don't share the name of this member because I do not want to embarrass him as he is one of the people who do what they do because it's what they do. He is an example of someone who is serving God, but may not see what he is doing as service to God or as stewardship. As we serve others (giving of our time, talent, or resources) we are being stewards of what God has given to us and we are serving God. We are all children of the one God and when we give of our time, our talent, or our resources to help another child of God, we are serving our Creator.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen some great articles in the bulletin and around the church, in celebration of our 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. These articles have highlighted different members/stewards and talked about the importance of First Lutheran Church in their lives. The Commission for Mission has decided to continue working on these articles, but with a twist. They will be highlighting different people in our congregation who serve God in often overlooked and unnoticed ways, as well as highlighting what First Lutheran Church has meant to them over the years.

If you know of someone who serves others in an overlooked or unnoticed way, let us know. They don't have to serve in the church; it could be a service done outside of the church building and be in no way connected to an official church function. We are on the lookout for people who are serving others in some way. If you know of someone who serves, let a member of the Commission for Mission, Pastor Dave, Pastor Tony, or Sue Gustner know. We would love to be able to bear witness to where God is at work in and through the members of First Lutheran Church. Let's celebrate these silent stewards; the unnoticed, the overlooked.

Pastor Tony  
[toltmann@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:toltmann@flclittlefalls.org)



## 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Thank You!

On Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25 we celebrated First Lutheran Church's 120<sup>th</sup> year of mission and ministry in Little Falls and the surrounding area. Please share your appreciation with the anniversary celebration team: Lois Anderson, Mary Larson, Nancy Ratzloff and Linda Weiss. Thank you to the team, to the church council leadership, to those who were interviewed, to all guests and visitors, to Rev. Sally (Smith) Ankerfelt who brought the message on Sunday, to the Green Lake Bluegrass Band for their musical gifts shared on Saturday evening and at Sunday worship, to our Norske ancestors—Ole, Sven and Lena, to those who shared their floral gifts, all who helped to bring or serve food or did clean up, and special thanks to anyone who helped in any way—you are all appreciated! We look forward with enthusiasm to what God has in store for the congregation in the future as we continue to live and serve as "First...Servants of All!"

### 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 '1<sup>st</sup> 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. ☺

## Pictorial Directory

The next Lifetouch Photography sessions are Thursday-Saturday, October 13-15, these will be the last dates for photography. There is no cost to the church and no sitting fee for your family. If you have not scheduled a time yet, please do, the directory won't be complete without you! You will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory for participating. In just one trip, you will be photographed, choose your photo, and have the opportunity to purchase studio quality portraits and greeting cards. You may sign up for a photo session on-line, go to [flittlefalls.org](http://flittlefalls.org) and click on the link found on the home page or on the 'coming up' page, you will be guided through the signup process. For more information, contact Mary Larson, 632-8203, or the church office.

### When to Contact the Church Office: 320-632-6667

[firstserv@flittlefalls.org](mailto:firstserv@flittlefalls.org)

-  When you or a family member is hospitalized or will be hospitalized.
-  When there is a birth or death in the family.
-  When there is a crisis.
-  When you change your address or telephone number.
-  When new neighbors move in near you and they are looking for a church home.
-  When you have good news to share.
-  When you have a suggestion to make or a concern to share, you can contact a council member or a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Team.

Pastor Dave, Pastor Tony and lay visitors are available to call on you and walk with you in times of sadness and joy.



### Council Highlights

- ✦ Heard that 21 youth and 4 adults are registered for the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering with the NE Minnesota Synod Journey.
- ✦ Regretfully accepted the resignation of Aisha Thompson from her position as “Children First” preschool aide and First Lutheran Childcare Attendant.
- ✦ Approved hiring a Childcare Attendant.
- ✦ Heard that “Children First” preschool will hire two part-time teacher’s aides.
- ✦ Heard about a successful start to the Sunday evening youth groups.
- ✦ Heard that proceeds from “Children First” Christian preschool booth at the Little Falls Art and Craft Fair were about \$2,000.

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

### Thrivent Members

About 30% of Thrivent members have Thrivent Choice Dollars that can be directed to the Lutheran organization of your choice. Notification has been mailed to qualifying members. If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars available for you to direct, please consider designating those dollars to First Lutheran Church or “Children First” Christian Preschool by calling: 800-847-4836 and saying “Thrivent Choice”, an operator will then assist you. This is the only way our church will receive Thrivent funds. If you have questions about this change, please 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!



### Music Opportunities:

#### Senior Choir

For those who have the gift of song, there is no greater ministry than to lead the assembly in worship and praise. Senior Choir is open to all singers high school age and above. Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. For more information about the choir, contact Becky Nelson, Director of Music Ministries, at 749-2336, or [rpnelson@brainerd.net](mailto:rpnelson@brainerd.net), or Director Kathy Pederson, 468-2324 or 630-3731.

#### The Followers’ 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 will be provided. 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](http://www.flclittlefalls.org). For more information, contact Becky Nelson at 749-2336 or [rpnelson@brainerd.net](mailto:rpnelson@brainerd.net).

↔↔↔↔↔↔↔**Adult Opportunities**↔↔↔↔↔↔↔

**Women's Circle:**  
"To Follow and Serve:  
The Gospel of Mark"  
Mother and Brothers  
Mark 2:1—3:35

**Martha Circle**  
The Martha Circle meets Monday, October 17 at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Mary Kult is the hostess and reader.

**Women's Bible Study**

"When You Pray – The Lord's Prayer" video study with Dr. James Nestingen. We continue this study on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. There is nothing to purchase—we have Bibles to use. Come for lively discussion and bring a friend.

**Cornerstones  
(Seniors age 55 and better)  
Potluck Lunch**

**Tuesday, October 18, 11:30 a.m.**

We gather for potluck lunch on Tuesday, October 18 at 11:30 a.m. at church. Please bring a dish of your choosing to share—there's always plenty to go around! Bring a friend and come for food, and fellowship! For more info, talk to Pastor Dave.

**Men's Morning Bible Study  
Wednesdays, October 5 and 19  
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. For more information, speak with Pastor Dave.



**Adult Bible Study  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.**

**"Different Gospels, Same Jesus?"**

We continue this study through Monday, October 17 on the different accounts and stories of Jesus contained in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We also look at other Gospels (good news) from Mary, Thomas, Timothy, Peanuts, and the Simpsons. Pastor Dave leads this study.

**Gospel of Mark**

For three Mondays, November 7, 14 and 21, we will read and study the Gospel of Mark which will be the basis for the lectionary readings for 2012. The next church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27. Pastor Dave leads this study. Come and bring a friend!



**Luther Crest Bible Camp  
Christmas Trip to Branson  
Tuesday-Sunday  
November 29-December 4**

Kick off the Christmas season with Luther Crest on an adult travel event to Branson. Holiday sights and sounds come alive as we experience wonderful shows including Andy Williams, Shoji Tabuchi, Tony Orlando, The Lennon Sisters, the Miracle of Christmas stage presentation, and a tribute to John Denver. The event closes with the traditional Concordia College Christmas Concert. You will enjoy delicious food, comfortable transportation, great stops, and great people. For more information, contact Paul Hanson at Luther Crest, 320-846-2431 or via email at [paulh@luthercrest.org](mailto:paulh@luthercrest.org).



### **Lutheran Social Service Rummage Sale**

**Wednesday, October 12, noon to 6:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, October 13, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Friday, October 14, 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 Dorie Anderson at 632-5180. 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 3**

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. This year Habitat celebrates the milestone completion of its 500,000<sup>th</sup> home in Maai Mahiu, Kenya and the beginning of the 500,001<sup>st</sup> home in Paterson, New Jersey. 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 22 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

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

### **Daylight Savings Time Ends Remember to set your clocks *back* one hour on Saturday, November 5!**

## "Children First" Christian Preschool Update

Greetings from "Children First" Christian Preschool!

It is a new year of Preschool! We welcome 42 new and returning preschoolers and their families. Get to know the families by checking out the family scrapbook pages hanging along the gallery wall next to the kitchen. This year's staff teachers are April Kiffmeyer and Peggy Rekstad. Teacher's aides are Jessica Gustafson and Stephanie Kiel.

In October we will begin our field trip days to Pine Grove Manor, St. Otto's Care Center, Lutheran Care Center, and Bridgeway Apartments. If you or someone you know would like to spend time with the preschoolers by chaperoning a field trip, please contact a staff member.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or visited the "Children First" booth at the Little Falls Arts and Crafts Festival and the Kids' Day booth. Ongoing fundraisers include the collection of inkjet cartridges, Campbells product points and Coborn's FoodClub receipts. These all add up to

### **Sunday Morning Education Ministry**

Sunday School begins on Sunday, October 2 at 10:30 a.m. Preschool and PreKindergarten classes meet in the Esther Room (south side of education wing). Kindergarten through fifth grade gather for opening in Stoltz Hall. Grades 6-12 meet in the Youth Room. Parents/guardians may pick up preschool/prekindergarten children between 10:30-10:45 a.m. in their classroom. Older children may be picked up in Stoltz Hall. As a safety concern, adults please come into the building to pick up your children rather than meeting them in the parking lot. Thank you!

Please check out the volunteer signup board in the gathering space for ways that you may share your time, talents and faith journey with children and youth at First Lutheran.

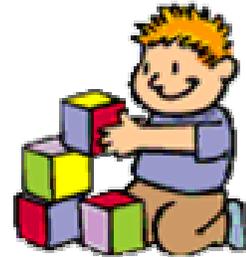
Please contact, Gail Hittesdorf at 632-2218, or Beth or Simon Storkamp, 632-4747 for more information.

benefits for the preschool. Thank you to those who give generously of their time and talents and to all who provide financial support through tuition assistance, scholarships, assistance with field trip costs 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.

Watch for the 2012 God's World Calendar fundraiser beginning in October, orders will arrive in time for Thanksgiving delivery.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Gail Hittesdorf, Director



### **Adult Book Club Thursday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m.**

All adult readers are welcome to attend an organizational meeting on Thursday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. We gather to discuss dates, times and frequency of meetings, and the books that you are interested in reading and discussing together. For more information, contact Tifanii Dahl, 632-8207





## 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 ends on Wednesday, October 5. Thank you to Nancy Ratzloff for leading two sessions of class, and to the fifth graders, their parents, and Pat Moller for helping to make the communion bread that was used in worship on Sunday, September 18.

**Ninth Grade:** New Testament class with Pastor Dave continues on Wednesdays through October 26 (no class on October 19).

**Tenth Grade:** Lutheran Identity class begins on October 5 and meets on Wednesdays through November 16 (no class on October 19). Susan Gustner will teach this class.

**Eleventh Grade:** Confirmation Reception for confirmands, parents, and mentors is Sunday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. Students will present their projects and mentor activities and prepare for Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation practice will be Saturday, October 29, at 8:30 a.m. Confirmation Sunday is October 30, 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 30, 2011, 10:45 a.m.**

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

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Chantelle Anderson | Spencer Fenske |
| Jordyn Himley      | James Jopp     |
| Colten Kruzel      | Aaron Moller   |
|                    | Trista Saulter |

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



**Advent Craft Sale**  
**Saturday,**  
**December 3**  
**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!

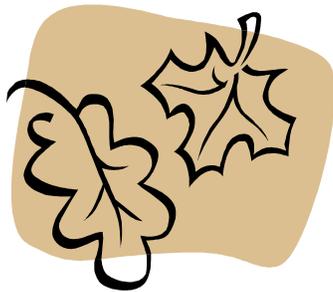
As in past years, we welcome your donations of crafts, bake sale items, and assistance with the sale. There will be a delicious soup luncheon, musical entertainment and lots of treats and gift items to buy! This year's sale will benefit youth programs at First Lutheran. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## News of the Family

+

Zoe Beatrice Giese, daughter of Tony and Teresa Giese was baptized on Sunday, September 18.

+



Items for the **November NEWSLETTER** are due on **October 20, 2011!**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends**  
**Remember to set your clocks *back* one**  
**hour on Saturday, November 5!**



**“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)*