

THE BUILDER

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

According to the Grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 3:10-11

Advent/Christmas

Wed. Advent Services, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 6- St. Nicholas Day
 Dec. 13 - St. Lucia Day
 Dec. 20 – Blue Christmas

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 (Sunday)

10:00 a.m. (4th Sunday of Advent)
 3:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 (Monday)

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 (Sunday)

10:00 a.m. – First Sunday of Christmas

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The Holy Season of Advent

A season of re-discovery



Advent is a season full of possibility. On a macro scale, it's filled with the possibility that God whom we pray will come will actually do so ushering in the fullness of God's reign. Advent then is a season of hope that the promises we hear in Scripture will come to fruition in new and abundant ways.

On a micro level, Advent is a wonderful season of possibility for ritual, for making meaning, for remembering or catching sight of the holiness of our ordinary, everyday lives. We are reminded even as our liturgies pray for the second coming that God already has come into our lives in the birth of Jesus, our Immanuel, God-with-us. We are reminded as we prepare for Christmas celebrations that the extraordinary has been met in the ordinary.

Advent helps us with this re-discovery because it is a season of senses. As the days grow shorter we light candles to scatter the darkness. We bring pine branches into our homes dressed up as trees and wreaths bringing the scent of creation inside. We bake cookies and treats that only come out this time of year and the tastes bring to mind other years pulling the past into the present. We listen to carols (one hopes not through muzak) and recall this ancient story. In the Northland we feel the cold of the wind on our face and the warmth of our homes as we enter in.



Advent with all these sensual experiences beckons us to stop and take note, to breathe deeply, to watch and see that God is not far off in another plane, but God is here among us, making the ordinary every day experiences of life a place to encounter the One whose coming we await.

In that way, Advent becomes a holy place and a holy time.

May all of us in the midst of this season that becomes too busy and harried, be slowed by our senses to know the wonder that God is here.

May hope, peace, and joy be yours this Advent.

Pastor Dianne
 Pastor Dianne

HOLIDAY GREETING

The FLC staff ventured up to the roof for the best view of the city and the lake to wish you a Merry Christmas! Check it out on the web and social media!

WELCOMING

Welcome people to worship on Christmas Eve!

On Christmas Eve, First Lutheran Church will be offering hospitality of cookies, cider, and friendly hosts. Would you be willing to be a host family at either the 3:00, 5:00, or 10:00 p.m. service? Three families will be needed for each service.

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or call Nancy in the church office at 728-3668, ext. 204.

Christmas Goodies

When making your Christmas cookies, please consider making an extra dozen or two to share at our Christmas Eve hospitality times.



The Builder is organized using the Ministry Teams as a guide to share news. The following symbols may be used to show what team is represented as we share the mission of Growing in Faith, Spreading God's Love, and Gathering in Community.

-  Evangelism
-  Local & Global
-  Lifelong Learning
-  Stewardship
-  Worship

FROM VISION COUNCIL

Gathering in Community

from Joanne Jokela

The Vision Council is in the process of developing plans and goals to live out our mission of growing in faith, spreading God's love, and gathering in community. "Gathering in Community" brings to mind how the First Lutheran Church community sustains us as we attend worship, participate in Bible studies, music groups, and annual events such as the fall festival and lutefisk dinner. At times we gather with the larger community through global mission connections and local organizations that serve people in need. We are exploring new and deeper meanings of "gathering." It is comfortable to continue to gather with the familiar people and places, and can be difficult to envision new ways of gathering.

Families make plans to gather for Thanksgiving and Christmas and for many this may be the only opportunity of the year to be together. In my family, until last year, our Thanksgiving gathering had continued to be at my mother's home for more than 50 years. Gradually, the younger generations have taken on more of the responsibilities for planning holiday gatherings. This year it's doubtful that my mother will be able to leave a care facility and be at her home for Thanksgiving. She won't be able to travel to Duluth for Christmas. We will need to make adjustments again and deal with unpredictable circumstances. These changes are hard, but not unexpected, and we will continue to gather in a new way.

The hymn, *Gather Us In* by Marty Haugen, is one of my favorites. The words describe the idea of "gathering in" an inclusive community that brings light to the dark places in our community and in our world. My hope is that we will expand how we gather in community at FLC by reaching beyond what is familiar and comfortable and building deeper relationships with both long time members and people we have yet to meet.



Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of your name...

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song...

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone. (ELW 532)

faithlovecommunity

First Lutheran Church

- Growing in Faith
- Spreading God's Love
- Gathering in Community

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Calling All Angels

We are blessed with the opportunity to provide gifts for families and teenagers in transitional housing during this Christmas season. On the first Sunday of Advent there will be a tree filled with Angel Tags, all with wishes of children and families in Duluth.

Many families and youth from places such as the American Indian Community Housing (AICHO) and Renaissance House are in need of extra help this Christmas to provide some special gifts for their families. This is a wonderful way to share in the upcoming Christmas season with others by demonstrating Christ's love through helping others. Please stop by the Angel Tree and take one of those angels off the tree (the goal is to have them ALL taken!). When you have chosen an Angel, **please sign up in the book next to the tree, matching the angel color and number with the pages.** Instructions will also be available at the Angel



Wrapped gifts, with the angel tags, are due to the church by Sunday, Dec. 17.

Tree. Financial contributions are also welcome (submit to the office). There are people eager and ready to shop for extra gifts.

FLC Families Tell the Story of Christmas

Look for a very exciting video featuring First Lutheran families as they share with us the Story of Christmas. We're very excited about this and hope you will watch. You might even get goosebumps while watching! The video will be released on Dec 17 online and on social media channels. A link will also be sent in First News.

Seasonal Changes

Not only do changes come with each of the four (or in Duluth, three) seasons, but they also come with each new liturgical season. These changes are a way of slowing down and marking time. They are a little jarring on purpose - to keep us from complacency; to awake us anew to God's activity in our lives and the world.

Advent brings us the color blue and an Advent wreath of candles. This year instead of increasing the light from week to week, we will be extinguishing the candles as we reflect how silently the Light of Christ enters our world.

We also will be changing the sanctuary to have the altar in front with kneelers set around. It, perhaps, feels incongruous to think of the weeks leading up to Christmas as contemplative and even penitential, but in the church year, Advent is considered a little Lent. It is a time for prayer and meditation; it is a time of watching and waiting; it is a time to not get so caught up in the hoopla that we miss "the reason for the season."

Each week the sanctuary will be transformed a little more to represent how our hearts and minds are transformed *to* receive and *by* receiving this One whose coming we celebrate in the next liturgical season we call Christmas!

Help prepare the sanctuary manger for baby Jesus!

On Sunday mornings during Advent we will prepare the sanctuary manger for baby Jesus during the Young Disciples' time. Children will be invited to share about their kind acts and words that make the world a gentler, kinder, more welcoming place for Christ. For each word and act, we will add straw to the manger creating a soft and warm place for Baby Jesus to lay his head.

For those who wish, we will also send families home with some straw to make your home manger soft and welcoming for Christ, too.

At home, pick a day to get out your creche or nativity scene. Keep baby Jesus hidden somewhere, and wait to put him in the manger on Christmas Eve. You could also put the Magi with their camels on a shelf on the other side of the room since they do not arrive at the scene until Epiphany, January 6, or have them start in another room and follow a star every night until they arrive at the manger on Epiphany.

Every time one of your children does or tells you about a good deed or shares a kind word, straw can be placed in the manger or stable. So for instance, you can do faith-at-home in the midst of the chaos of making dinner. "Jaspar, how kind you are to help your brother. I think that's worth 5 pieces of straw. Go put them in the manger; you are making the world a more welcoming place for Jesus!"

This is one way you and your family can get ready for the coming of the Christ child! Maybe you'd like to use this poem, too!

Place straw in the manger, prepare a soft bed,
For Little Lord Jesus to lay His sweet head.
Each piece a symbol of good deeds and kind words we say,
We'll welcome the Savior with us Christmas Day.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Advent Devotional

Advent is a time of preparing for the coming Christ. To help you in your journey a devotional will be available to use. There are a couple of different ways to use the devotional.

First off, there will be a devotional booklet available at the Welcome Desk. The booklet includes a scripture reading, reflection questions, and devotional thoughts. Use the book as an individual or share in the readings as a family.

There will also be theme words for each day to use as a photo prompt. The purpose of this is to focus on that word and what it means devotionally. Then as you go throughout your day, you may see something that reminds you of that word, or something that evokes a response to that word. If you have a smart phone or camera take a picture and upload it to your favorite social media platform. #hashtag the word each day and also add hashtag #FLCAdvent2017.

Pick and choose what works for your Advent practice. Prompts will also be shared daily on FLC's Instagram and Facebook page. Be sure to follow!

Family Fellowship Event

The whole church family is invited to a Christmas Sing-Along on Sunday, December 17 at 3:30 p.m. Meet in the Parish Hall. Bring your singing voice, and if you have an instrument (ukulele, guitar, etc) you'd like to play, bring that too and join in on playing songs. The chords and words will be provided. You provide the sound!

Christmas Time Childcare

Are you looking for some time without the kids to do some holiday shopping, wrap presents, go out for a meal, or maybe just sit in the quiet while staring at your Christmas tree? The FLC Synod Journey group wants to help you out during this busy time of year!



enough supplies and food. Sign-up online or at the kiosk in the Upper Commons.

Sunday, Dec. 10 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. the high school youth will provide childcare (all ages welcome!) at FLC. Come for all or part of the time. Suggested donation of \$5/hour/child. Activities and a meal will be provided. Pre-registration is requested by Wednesday, Dec. 6, so there will be



Season of Advent

During the season of Advent we center our focus on the One who is to come. Sundays we will be "quieting" candles on the Advent Wreath until only the Christ Candle remains. The midweek vesper services will honor the festival days of two saints whose unique stories and traditions reflect the light of the Christ Child.

Dec. 6 - St. Nicholas Day

Nicholas, an early bishop of the church, was known for his compassionate care and anonymous gifts to the poor. In his silent and generous giving he points to the ultimate gift and giver, Jesus.

Dec. 13 - St. Lucia Day

Lucia was one of the early Christian female martyrs who devoted her life to God and serving the poor. The stories of St. Lucia give hope for the good things to come and symbolize light overcoming darkness.

Dec. 20 - Blue Christmas

On this final Wednesday of Advent we approach the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. In the midst of the joyful celebrations of the season, for many who are experiencing loss and grief, it can be a painful and lonely time. On this darkest day we will gather together with our losses and yearning, seeking the return of light and hope.

Your help needed

The midweek services begin at 5:30 p.m. On Dec. 13 and 20 we'd love to offer a simple meal following Advent services. In order for this to happen, we need someone to help organize this or cook. Call the church office and speak to Nancy (728-3668).



Bake St. Nicholas Cookies

College/Young Professionals are invited to come to First Lutheran on Sunday, December 3, from 4-6 p.m. to make St. Nicholas cookies for the Festival of St. Nicholas/Advent

Service on Dec. 6. Meet in the church kitchen.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Sunday School Christmas Program **Sunday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.**

Come to hear the Christmas story through the voices of our children! With liturgical leadership from our older youth, Sunday School kids 2 years through 5th grade will be proclaiming the birth of Jesus through music and narrative for our worship service. Following the service, all are invited to the parish hall for a light lunch and fellowship.

Christmas Lunch Helpers Needed!

Volunteers - adults, youth, families - are needed to help with the lunch set-up on Saturday morning, Dec. 16, or help with serving and cleanup on Sunday, Dec. 18. *This is a great opportunity for volunteering and being involved!* If you can help, please contact Ann Beck at the church office (728-3668 x202).

Creation Care & Fundraising all in one!

The youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston next summer are collecting glossy paper as a fundraiser. Turn those holiday ads and catalogs into cash for FLC youth! There's a bin behind the kiosk in the Upper Commons to place your shiny paper items.

If you need help getting items to church or carrying them in, please let Deb Westerberg know.

What can be collected:

- Magazines & Catalogs
 - Slippery Newspaper Inserts
 - Plain White Office Paper with Black Ink
- Note:** *No colored paper or colored ink.*

Other Upcoming Family Fellowship Events:

- ➔ Sunday, January 14 @ 3:30 p.m. - Board Game afternoon. All ages invited. Bring your favorite board game and some snacks to share!
- ➔ February (date TBD) - Trampoline Park
- ➔ March (date TBD) - Spring Fever Beach Party



Congratulations to Nathan Bich, Britta Jones, Keely Nelson, and Leila Samuelson for their public affirmation of their faith during worship on October 29. God's blessing to them as they continue in their faith journey.

Growing in Faith Together

As Sunday School children are busy with Advent activities and preparing for the Christmas program on Dec. 17, there **will not** be a G.I.F.T. Sunday in December.

The next G.I.F.T. Sunday will be January 7 at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All ages are welcome to gather, to grow, to be a part of community as we explore the theme "This Changes Everything!"



Promise Preschool Christmas Program

Join the children and staff of Promise Preschool for their Christmas program on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following the program.

YOUTH & FAMILY

6th-8th Grade Youth Group

On Sunday mornings 6th-8th graders meet up in the 'Youth Room for a time of games, snacks, hanging out, and digging into God's Word. This year we are going to do something called Peer Ministry Training. It's all about being a Good Samaritan kind of leader, where someone cares, welcomes, and affirms others face-to-face, one-on-one, friend-to-friend. Peer Ministry Training gives you tools to be this type of leader and friend at church, on your team, in the choir, in scouts, working a job, hanging out with friends, spending time with your family, doing all the great things you do!

Typically the schedule will be

1st Sunday: GIFT in Parish Hall (6th-8th graders will be providing some leadership to these mornings)

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays: Meet in Youth Room

3rd Sunday: Sell Cinnamon Rolls

Here's December's Schedule:

Dec. 3 – Meet in Youth Room

Dec. 10 – Meet in Youth Room

Dec. 17 –Cinnamon Roll Sunday (meet in kitchen)

Dec. 24 & 31 – No Class

Journey/Confirmation Schedule

The Fall session has wrapped up for 3rd, 6th, 7th-8th, and 9th-10th graders. The 3rd graders became familiar with their new Bibles and participated in a Bible scavenger hunt. Sixth graders dug into the Lord's Prayer. 7th & 8th Graders explored God's story in the New Testament. And our 9th-10th Graders wrestled with questions of faith.

The Winter Session will begin on January 10th. 3rd Graders will meet for 3 more sessions on Worship. And 4th -5th Graders will meet for 6 session on Baptism and Confession & Absolution.



Cinnamon Roll Sundays



Cinnamon and caramel roll sales will now be on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Families, Cinnamon Roll Sundays happen with your help! There are 3 ways to help out:

1. On the Saturday before Cinnamon Roll Sunday, there's a need for a family or two to prep the rolls. The rolls are pre-made, frozen "pucks". You simply place them on the pans and make up some caramel sauce. The whole thing takes about 60-90 minutes.
2. Then on Sundays, help is needed starting at 8:00 a.m. to bake the rolls and plate them for sale.
3. 6th-8th grade Sunday School students (and others who would like to earn money for camp, summer trips, etc.) help sell rolls between services.

The next Cinnamon Roll Sunday is Dec. 17.

Please contact Deb to let her know how you'd like to help!

Cookie Baking!

7th-12th graders – you're invited to bake up some cookies on Sunday, December 3 from 12:15-3:30 p.m. Meet in the church kitchen and bake up a storm of delicious goodies to donate to the Arrowhead Juvenile Detention Center's Holiday Party. Lunch will be provided.



Summer Camp registration is now open!

Spend time at Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion next summer and you will experience a week of a lifetime! It's a chance to try some new things, meet new friends, explore your creative side, learn team work, be silly, sing, laugh, and learn what it means to live as God's people in the world.

New this year: The Early, Early Bird Discount!

Register by **February 15** and save. Cost will increase by \$50 after February 15 to the Early Bird Rate until April 10. Each FLC youth that attends Camp will also receive a campership if registered by April 10.

Visit <http://www.vlmcamps.org> to learn more about the summer camp schedule, programs, and rates.

NEWS OF THE FIRST FAMILY



A Loss in the Family

Please keep these families in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one:

Family of Dorothy Simensen

Family of Marie Olson

Family of Paul & Carol Nelson on the death of their son Christopher Nelson

Family of Elaine Elness

Family of Diane Skomars on the death of her sister-in-law Judy

Family of Ruth Johnson on the death of her sister Marge Long and her brother-in-law Edward Kobbeman

Family of Doris Walter on the death of her sister Orpha Raun

Family of Erna Peterson on the death of her brother Jerome Barstad

Family of Jeff & Lisa Karlgaard on their recent miscarriage

Family of Joanne Jokela on the death of her mother Dolores Dahl



Baptisms

11/5/2017 Scarlett Marcella Freeman
Child of Zach and Lindsey Freeman

11/5/2017 Sophia Marie Stacks
Child of Hannah Thiede



Confirmed *Sunday, October 29, 2017*

Connor Bich
Britta Jones
Keely Nelson
Leila Samuelson

WORSHIP / MUSIC

Music Opportunities

Please let Karen (ksande@flcduluth.org) know if you can participate or if you have questions.

★ Lessons & Carols Service at Aftenro Home

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2:00 p.m.: Readers, ringers, pianists, and other musicians of all ages are invited to help lead the weekly service at Aftenro (510 W. College St.).

★ Young Musicians Needed for Sunday School Christmas Program

Instrumentalists and pianists are invited to play for the December 17 Sunday School Christmas Program. Solos, duets, or ensembles will play sacred Christmas carols for the prelude and throughout the service.

★ Musicians Needed for Christmas Eve Services

Middle school/high school/college through adult instrumentalists are invited to play in Intergenerational Ensembles for Christmas Eve, December 24. Younger musicians generally play for the 5:00 p.m. service and adults for the 10:00 p.m., but let Karen Sande know what will work for your family.

Apostle Choir Resumes January 10

There will be a 5 week winter session focusing on singing and hand chimes, meeting Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15 p.m., January 10 - February 7.



- Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd graders can come all 5 weeks: Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, and Feb. 7
- Third graders have 3 weeks of confirmation first, then can come to choir Jan. 31 and Feb. 7
- Fourth and Fifth graders are in confirmation all 5 weeks.

Contact Karen (ksande@flcduluth.org) if you have questions.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship Notes

Live Radio Broadcast: KDAL AM 610, 8:30 a.m. Sundays
Live Streaming of 8:30 service, go to www.flcduluth.org.
 Or go directly to www.kdal610.org.

Worship Schedule

Sun., Dec. 3 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 1st Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7,17-19;
 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Wed., Dec. 6 5:30 p.m. - St. Nicholas

Sun., Dec. 10 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13;
 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Wed., Dec. 13 5:30 p.m. - St. Lucia

Sun., Dec. 17 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126;
 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Wed., Dec. 20 5:30 p.m. - Blue Christmas Evening Prayer

Sun., Dec. 24 10:00 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent

Only one service on Christmas Eve morning to celebrate
 the 4th Sunday of Advent

Readings: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46-55;
 Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sun., Dec. 24 3:00, 5:00 & 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve

Readings: Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus:2:11-14;
 Luke 2:1-20

Mon., Dec. 25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day

Readings: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7;
 Luke 2:1-20

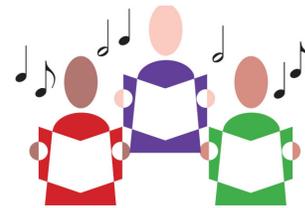
Sun., Dec. 31 10:00 a.m. First Sunday of Christmas

Only one service on Dec. 31
 Readings: Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7;
 Luke 2:22-40

Readings are from Revised Common Lectionary.



Nine members of the Apostle Choir, with Pastor Dianne, led the Sunday afternoon worship service at Aftenro Home on November 5. Front row: Tatiana, Taraji, Addy, Andrew. Back row: Andrew, Annika, Trevor, Annika, Zach.



Do you love singing Christmas music?

We are hoping to add some extra singers to our adult choir during the month of December. We sing on Sunday mornings for the 8:30 service and will also sing at the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. If you are able to participate in some way, please contact Jason for more details: jason@flcduluth.org

Order Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas

Help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please fill out this form and attach a check (made out to FLC) for \$13 per plant. Return to church office by Mon., Dec. 18.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Plants _____ at \$13 each = \$ _____

Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):



WORSHIP / MUSIC



Candlelight Vigil on 5th Anniversary of Sandy Hook Shooting

Thursday, Dec. 14, Noon to 1:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church - Gathering Space

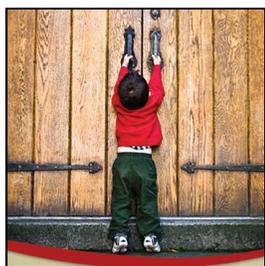
First Lutheran Church is hosting a vigil to honor the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting and the victims of the Texas church shooting as well as all victims of gun violence.

All are welcome to join the Northland Brady/Protect Minnesota chapter and other co-sponsors to light a candle and remember the victims. There will be brief remarks with music and a bell ringing. Post cards will be available to sign to Senators for a new bipartisan bill to strengthen our background check system.

Contact Mary Streufert – 218-724-9084 or Joan Peterson 218-428-6570 for more information

Christmas Festival: “No Room?” with the National Lutheran Choir

This cherished annual event creates a holy experience for audiences in the awe-inspiring Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. In 2017, the birth of Christ as a refugee story is more poignant and relevant than ever. In this time of unwelcome, discord, and deepening division, is there room for Christ to be born today?



Friday, December 8, 4:30 & 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9, 8:00 p.m.

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Tickets: Adult \$30 | Senior \$27 | Student \$10 | 17 and under FREE. Call Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 or order online at NLCA.com.

FLCW NEWS

FLCW Bible Study Gathering

All FLC women are invited to attend any of the gathering meetings listed. Call church office for info.

Ruth Gathering

Mon., Dec. 4. - 5:00 p.m. - Shirley Wuchter's home

Leah Gathering

Tues., Dec. 12 - 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall

Mary & Martha Gathering

Thurs., Dec. 14 - 7:00 p.m., Upper Commons

Dorcas Gathering

Wed., Dec. 20 - 10:00 a.m., Upper Commons

Esther Gathering

Wed., Dec. 20 - 1:00 p.m., Lakeshore

Naomi Gathering

Thurs., Dec. 21 - 12:30 p.m. - Nancy St. Marie's

Calling all Cookie Lovers and their Favorite (Ugly) Holiday Sweaters!

Dust off your favorite (ugly) Holiday Sweater and wear it to the annual FLCW Holiday Cookie Exchange in the Gathering Space, **Sat., Dec. 9 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.** Invite a friend or two and their “Ugly” Holiday Sweater to join us. *Cookie exchanging begins at 9:30.* Please bring one dozen cookies (*no nuts or coconut please*) in a disposable container for donation to the *St. Louis County Jail* family Christmas party. For exchanging: bring at least 3 dozen cookies. To showcase the cookies as our decorations and add to the festivity of the tables, creatively arrange your exchangeable cookies in a basket or on a platter. Don't forget to bring a large container to carry away your cookies! Happy baking!



Note: Bring an extra dozen for hospitality time after Christmas Eve services.

FLCW December Luncheon

Thurs., Dec. 14

11:30 a.m. fellowship time/12:00 noon lunch

All women are invited to attend the December First Lutheran Church Women's luncheon on Wed., Dec. 14. Come early for punch and a time to visit, then stay for a noon lunch. A choral group from East High School will sing Christmas carols for all to enjoy.

STEWARDSHIP

Kicking Your Holiday Stress Habits

Stewardship of Caring for Yourself

Submitted by Carlene Sippola, Stewardship Team

Don and Nancy Tubesing said it perfectly in their book, *Kicking Your Holiday Stress Habits* – “Let’s face it. The holidays are usually marked by profound conflicting emotions. We feel exhilarated. We feel despondent. We feel irritated then filled with love. We feel anxious and peaceful. We feel expectant then disappointed. Even when the holidays seem “perfect” and go exactly as planned, the increased tempo and stimulation may be draining. It’s no wonder we need time to ‘recover’ from the holidays.”



I want to share with you a few words of wisdom taken from the Tubesing’s book that will help you care for yourself this holiday season.

Set priorities – List all of the things you want to accomplish before and during the holidays. Cross out unnecessary activities.

Know what “goodies” will fill you – What kind of contact will be fulfilling for you? What kind of gift exchange will be meaningful to you? What do you need to keep your heart and soul feel refreshed?

Give yourself permission to feel – Listen to yourself. Embrace your feelings. Pay attention to your inner messages.

Make positive contact with others – Holidays give us natural opportunities to connect with the spirit and gifts of the folks around us.

Give meaningful gifts – Give presents (buy or make something) and give presence (pledge your time and attention).

Take care of yourself – Don’t over-eat, over-drink, over-party – these celebration habits sap your vitality and diminish your ability to participate fully in the holidays.

Laugh – Laugh a little or a lot, depending on your level of stress. Laughter reduces tension and provides perspective.

Pay attention to your spirit – Holidays invite reflection. Nurture this opportunity as part of your celebration. Take time to sit down by the side of the road and let your soul catch up with you.

Breaking habits isn’t easy. New behaviors and attitudes feel awkward for a while. Change is usually uncomfortable as well as stimulating. Go ahead and take the risk! Experiment. Tamper with tradition. Try something new. Treat yourself to a more meaning-full and satisfying holiday.

Excerpted with permission from *Kicking Your Holiday Stress Habits* by Don and Nancy Tubesing.

Need help with your budget?



Need a little help getting control of your budget? Consider **Lutheran Social Service Financial Counseling Services**. You can schedule an appointment, held right at First Lutheran Church, on the first Wednesday of the month. The next day of appointments is Wed., Dec. 6. You can also schedule appointments anytime at the Lutheran Social Service offices in the Ordean Building in downtown Duluth. Call 218-529-2220.

October 2017 Memorials & Gifts



Gifts to Radio Ministry in memory of Karen Spooner by John & Beryl Bredeson, Bob & Candy Madich.

Gift to Time for Renewal in memory of Jim Schwarze - brother-in-law of Carol (Paul) Anderson by Bruce & Helen Gildseth; **in memory of Karen Spooner** by Dave & Marcia Lothner.

Gift to Roof Repair in memory of Karen Spooner by Jim & Carol Settergren.

Stories

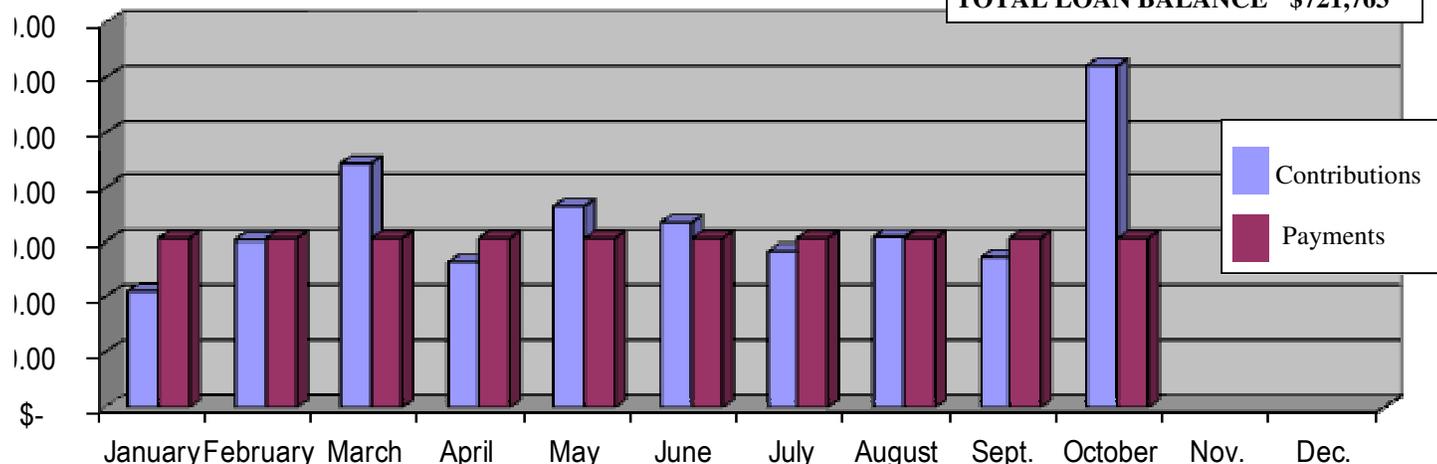
The Ministry Teams are beginning to gather stories and photos of how God has been revealed in our midst this past year. When you think about it, was there a worship service, a service ministry moment, a stewardship question, a teaching event, a conversation, a meal, a Bible story, an experience this year that moved you, that opened you or someone you know up to Jesus Christ in a new way? Did you have an “aha” moment? A moment of connection? Ministry is not about numbers but about changed, deepened, and broadened lives. Help us to tell the story of how God has made a difference in your lives and in the world through FLC. Send your stories and/or photos to Nancy (nancy@flcduluth.org) or Pastor Dianne (pastordianne@flcduluth.org).

STEWARDSHIP

Please remember TFR (Time for Renewal) in your giving.
Give by visiting www.flcduluth.org/stewardship or using your TFR offering envelope.

October 2017	
Contributions	\$ 6,229
Payments	\$ 3,064
TFR Bank Loan Balance	\$471,763
Foundation Loan Balance	\$250,000
TOTAL LOAN BALANCE	\$721,763

TFR Mortgage Information 2017



2017 Mission Plan Update

	October				Annual Mission Plan	2016	
	Mission Plan	Actual	Year to Date Mission Plan	Year to Date Actual		Year to Date	Actual
Ministry & Mission gifts	\$65,436	\$77,126	\$594,122	\$592,691	\$759,979	\$591,599	
Plus Other Income	2,992	1,707	42,987	39,870	58,000	41,750	
Total Income	68,428	78,833	637,109	632,561	817,979	633,349	
Less Expenses	68,776	67,167	685,626	666,114	823,233	667,049	
Cash surplus (Deficit)	-\$348	\$11,666	-\$48,517	-\$33,553	-\$5,254	-\$33,700	

Giving for the Ministries & Missions of FLC

Weekly offering through:

Oct. 22	\$16,013
Oct. 29	\$18,311
Nov. 5	\$17,300
Nov. 12	\$12,440

Worship Attendance

Oct. 22	261
Oct. 29	382
Nov. 5	396
Nov. 12	385

Hunger Offering

Amount donated to the Hunger Offering in October: \$907.56

New Ways to Give!

FLC has some great new tech tools that make giving easier than ever. Look for our **Giving Kiosk** with a credit card swipe in common areas this season. Download the **"Give Plus Mobile"** app from Vanco to give right from the convenience of your own mobile device! Or, text your donation to our dedicated text line, **218-325-9535**, for a fast and secure donation. Look for more info and how-to's around the church and online. Feel free to give Megan or Janet a call at the church offices if you have questions.



STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for a great month of giving in October!

The congregation raised \$14,351 for the new roof; this offset the cost by 20%. There was also an increase in mission and ministry giving and TFR income was twice what FLC usually receives. I'm so encouraged by last month and am hoping the remaining months of 2017 are just as bountiful. - Janet Freund, Finance Manager

Caring Ministry: Journeying through Grief

The death of a loved one is one of the greatest losses one can experience and the grieving process may be a lonely and isolating journey. Grief affects one emotionally, physically, and spiritually, and can feel overwhelming. While there aren't magic words to remove the pain, it can be helpful to simply know that the unexpected ways grief impacts us are natural and normal and shared by others.

To help walk with those in our community who are experiencing this loss, the FLC Caring Ministry team has purchased sets of four short books to give grieving people during the first year following the loss of their loved one. Called *Journey through Grief*, each of the four books focuses on the feeling and issues a person is likely to be experiencing at certain points in the grief journey.

If you or someone you know is suffering from loss and seeking words of comfort, support, and hope, please contact Ann at the church office (728-3668 / ann@flcduluth.org). If you feel called to participate in caring ministry by connecting with those isolated by grief or homebound due to age, your gifts are needed. And if you would wish to donate financially to support the purchase of these resources, that too would be most appreciated.

An Adult Forum on grief and mourning will be held Sunday, Dec. 10, hosted by Time to Live/Time to Die team.

First Lutheran opened its doors to provide a warm reprieve for those participating in the Thanksgiving Day Gobble Gallop. Do you recognize any of these runners?



Creation Care Take the five light bulb challenge!



In 2016, about 279 billion kilowatthours (kWh) of electricity were used for lighting by the residential and commercial sectors in the United States, about 10% of total energy use in those sectors. Most of that power is lighting incandescent bulbs, which are notoriously inefficient. In contrast, halogen incandescent, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs) use 25-85% less energy and last 3-25 times longer. On top of saving energy, since they're so long-lasting, you'll save resources and landfill space. Plus, for every five CFLs you install, you'll keep 900 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Challenge yourself to replace at least five of your incandescent bulbs in your home with energy efficient bulbs. You won't just be doing the environment a service, you'll save up to \$75 per year!

Homebound Ministry & Poinsettias

At this time, during the holiday season, we are focusing on caring connections with members who are no longer able to attend worship. If you are aware of someone who is currently homebound that we might not know of; if you would be willing to deliver a small poinsettia plant with a friendly visit; or if you would like to learn more about participating as a home communion minister, please contact Ann Beck at the church office, or annbeck@flcduluth.org. Poinsettias will be available at the church for delivery the first week of December.



LUTEFISK, SALMON & MEATBALL DINNER

BE A FINN FOR THE DAY!

Annual Lutefisk- Salmon- Meatball Dinner Wednesday, Dec. 6

Sign up to volunteer for this special dinner.

Help is needed for serving the Dinner on Wed., Dec 6! Spots **at all times of the day** are still open and must be filled in order to serve the anticipated 1000 diners in a timely manner.

Jobs to be done:

Tuesday, Dec. 5 - Prep Day

- Peeling potatoes
- Rolling meatballs
- Assisting cooks in various ways - cutting lemons, unwrapping butter, filling salt, pepper, allspice, and cinnamon/sugar shakers
- Setting tables and preparing the dining room.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 - Day of the Dinner

- Dress in Scandinavian clothing if possible...
- Serving on the buffet line
- Serving bread & lefse
- Pouring coffee and beverages/clearing and resetting tables in the dining room and lower commons.**
- Dishing up ice cream
- Helping in the kitchen doing pots and pans and running the dishwasher
- Helping in the kitchen with setting up salads and other cold food items
- Singing the Lutefisk song!

If you can work for 2 hours or 10, there will be work for you! If you have never volunteered at this event, NOW is your chance.

All Wednesday volunteers, please check at the sign-up station near the Welcome Desk on Sunday, Dec. 3 if possible, to double check your schedule and assignment. **Check** your name off once you have received this information so a reminder phone call won't be needed. On Wednesday, check in with the Volunteer Coordinator in the Library.

Please email charjuntunen@hotmail.com or call Char at 218-590-0420 if you need to know this info.

Also, to leave parking spaces for our visitors, if you are able, please park away from the church (Rose Garden, synod lot, far parking lots, down the street a ways).

**Volunteer
help
needed!**

Be a Finn for the Day - December 6!

The Irish have St. Patrick's Day where everyone is Irish! December 6 is not only the Lutefisk Dinner from Noon to 7:00 p.m., not only the first Advent Service of the season at 5:30 p.m., but it's also the 100th Anniversary of Finnish Independence! You're invited to be a "Finn for the Day" kicking it off with Lutefisk, Worship, and Finland's 100th Anniversary party held at the Duluth Depot, on December 6 from 5:00-8:30 p.m.

The Finlandia Foundation Northland Chapter invites the public to join in this special celebration. The event kicks off with an opening of Finnish-American Art Exhibit "Together - Yhdessä", held in Steffi Gallery at the Duluth Art Institute (second floor of the Depot). The exhibit is named after worldwide Finland 100 anniversary theme.



The official program will take place between 6:30-7:30 p.m. and includes greetings from Mayors of Duluth and Superior, honoring of decorated Finnish veterans, reading of greetings from the President of Finland, live traditional Finnish music and more.

The night of the event the City of Duluth will also honor Finland by lighting Enger Tower in blue and white.

Complimentary refreshments and appetizers, inspired by Finland, will be served at this family friendly event. The event is open to the public with free parking located next to the Depot at the time of the event. Dress code is business casual. Attendees are invited to wear Finnish national dresses.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

will not be meeting in December. Next gathering will be Thursday, Jan. 11 at 1:00 p.m. in 3rd Floor Conference Room.



LIFELONG LEARNING

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Every faith journey needs nourishment and encouragement! Each Sunday you are invited to come to one of the scheduled programs or discussions. All are designed to inform, inspire, challenge and equip us to better understand God's Word, and to living a life of faith. There is no registration, no homework, and no time commitment. Grab a cup of coffee and come on in. Unless otherwise noted, forums and classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. On GIFT Sundays all ages meet together in the Parish Hall.

Schedule for December

DECEMBER 3

The Beginning of the Good News: The Gospel of Mark
- Parish Hall

This is not your typical Bible study! The first Christians *heard* the stories about Jesus; they didn't read them. Using a video of a live performance of the telling of the book of Mark, this will allow you to experience the gospel just as the early Christians did: in performance. Today will be an intro experience beginning with Chapter One. Along with the video performance, the study includes insights into the world in which the bible was formed, as well as discussion on the impacts of the story.

Advent begins a new church year, in which our Sunday gospel readings will come primarily from the book of Mark. *All are invited to begin the new year with this introduction to Mark in the Parish Hall.* In the following weeks, the study will continue in the Adult Ed room. No homework or reading, just show up and experience the living Word!

DECEMBER 10

Living in the Spiral of Grief - Parish Hall
Julie Eckman, Spiritual Director & Grief Group Facilitator, Pastor Dianne, Shirley Wuchter

To grieve is the process of accepting life's spirals of change with truth and courage. This forum will discuss the journey grief takes us on as we learn to live with our loved ones in new ways as we accept death and the pain that comes. Grief can be our teacher as we accept that Love is stronger than separation and longer than the permanence of death. This is the 3rd in a series of forums regarding "A Time to Live and a Time to Die", to help us better understand and prepare for issues around death.

Dwelling in the Word – The Gospel of Mark - Adult Ed Room

All welcome to this informal weekly Bible study and Discussion.

DECEMBER 17

Dwelling in the Word – The Gospel of Mark - Adult Ed Room

All welcome to this informal weekly Bible study and discussion.

Friday Morning Bible Study

Be sure to add Friday morning Bible Studies to your schedule! This pastor led Bible study meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Adult Ed Room.



Invite a friend or neighbor along this year. Have you met someone new at worship, a guest? Invite them to Bible Study. All are welcome - no preparation or homework required.

Note: There will be no Bible study on Dec. 29.



Mary Streufert helped out with warm hospitality at the Gobble Gallop on Thanksgiving Day.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Wishing you and your family a blessed
Christmas!

Visit the Library for Advent and Christmas books and videos for you and your family to enjoy.

New Books in the Library:

America's Blessings: How Religion Benefits Everyone, Including Atheists by Rodney Stark (Call #: 200.973 Sta)

Public Faith in Action: How to Think Carefully, Engage Wisely, and Vote with Integrity by Miroslaw Volf, Ryan McAnnally- Linz (Call #: 261.7 Vol)

A Selection of Adult Books on Display:

Christmas Poems selected and edited by John Hollander and J.D. McClatchy (Call #: 821.008 Chr)

Come, Lord Jesus: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany by Susan Briehl (Call #: 242.33 Bri)

In the Bleak Midwinter: Forty Meditations & Prayers for Advent & Christmas by Herbert Brokering (Call #: 242.33 Bro)

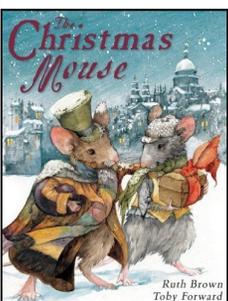
Making Room for Christmas: Preparing a Place for the Christ Child by Herbert F. Brokering (Call #: 242.33 Bro)

The Promise of Christmas is Jesus: A 30-Day Devotional by Jack Countryman (Call #: 242.335 Cou)

Spirit of the Lights by Chuck Frederick (Call #: 394.2661 Fre)

Treasured Stories of Christmas (Call #: 813.6 Tre)

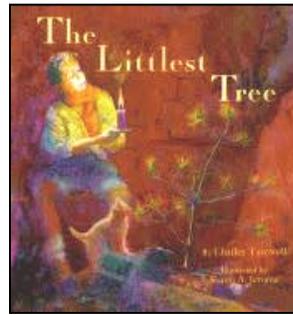
Books for Children:



The Christmas Mouse by Toby Forward (Call #: B For)

Fear Not, Joseph by Julie Stiegemeyer (Call #: B Sti)

Itsy Bitsy Christmas by Max Lucado (Call #: B Luc)



The Littlest Tree by Charles Tazewell (Call #: C Taz)

Sacred Songs of Christmas: Family Treasury (Call #: C Con)

A Treasury of Christmas Stories and Songs (Call #: B Tre)

Videos and DVDs for Adults:

Christmas Across America (Video #508)

The Nativity Story – New Line Home Entertainment (DVD #26)

Videos and DVDs for Children:

Animated Stories from the Bible: The King is Born (Video #215)

The Toy That Saved Christmas - Veggie Tales (Video #264)

Saint Nicholas, A Story of Joyful Giving (DVD #21)

The Star of Christmas (DVD #22)

GLOBAL

Young Adults in Global Mission from NE MN Synod

Young Adults in Global Mission is a ministry and outreach of the ELCA. Young people from ages 21-30 take a year of the life and grow in faith and service through Christ around the world, coming home to share their experiences. Lauren Elwell, member of First Lutheran Church, is serving in Madagascar. You are encouraged to contact her through email to send your questions and your encouragement. Lauren can be contacted at laurenelwell1@gmail.com.



EVANGELISM

The Tinquist family enjoy the different programs for children and families at FLC and have felt very welcomed. They like the two different types of services and would like to see an evening service.



Brianna & Jeremy Tinquist, Landyn & Lainey



Brad, Dawn, Sam & Greta Anderson

Brad would like to see real bread and wine for communion, and continued support and choir programming for traditional music throughout the church year.



Hannah Thiede, Sophia & Liam

Hannah would like to see FLC continue to go into the community and spread hope and love, to open our arms to the lost and help all understand the whole of God.



Lynne & Keith Hamre



Shawn & Elicia Burns, Breck & Cullen

Welcome New Members



Brad & Becky Orn, HeLaina, Elyse, Reese, & Tommy

The Orn family "discovered" First Lutheran while they were biking by the Worship in the Park in Leif Erikson Park. They stopped to listen and enjoyed it. They also like the FLC community and want to be more involved and committed.



Brian & Hope Midboe, Emerson & Aubrey

A Productive Visit With Friendship Congregation in Russia

This is being written as we wait for our flight at the Helsinki Airport with traveling companions and new friends Pastor Tim Mantei, Chad Holdemen, and Paul Severson from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Butte, North Dakota (population 65!), returning from visiting (FLC) Friendship Lutheran Congregation in Petrozavodsk, Russia. We are exhausted, but rich with gratitude for all we have experienced and learned – in Spirit and in understanding of our shared faith and partnering ministry, and of the challenges our brothers and sisters face in rebuilding the Lutheran church in Russia.

Pastor Alexei Krongolm met us in Helsinki November 7, driving us then to the Ingrian Lutheran Church Seminary and Educational Center located in Koltischei, 20 km outside of St. Petersburg where we stayed 3 nights. Over the next 2 days we met with leaders of the Ingrian Lutheran Church, learning about their new sense of self-identity and self-determination as a “Russian” church, free of outside influence and with a renewed vision for outreach and growth from a servant-leadership and “bottom-up” model for spreading the Good News. While we were there the first copies of their very own study Bible arrived!

Alexei then drove us to Petrozavodsk where we enjoyed wonderful hospitality, worship with the congregation, lunches, informal gatherings, discussion over food, and home stays. We had a very informative meeting with the Church Council about their vision and challenges, and insightful conversation about the “state of the church” with Alexei and his wife Nadia. Along the way we visited several other Ingrian Lutheran congregations, including those at Deryvjanka and Chulna, satellite congregations of the Petrozavodsk church, with whom our friends from North Dakota are establishing a friendship relationship under the banner of *Vision Petrozavodsk* and our *NE MN Companion Synod* relationship with the larger Ingrian Lutheran church body. The visit exceeded our goals and we were humbled by the experience.

Gratefully,
FLC Members Paul and Carol Anderson, Brenda Sproat
For background information, visit our NE MN Synod and our FLC web sites



Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Crisis Nursery December Diaper Drive!

LSS Crisis Nursery counted 700 family visits last year by parents or caregivers who had suddenly lost a job or transportation, had to flee an abusive situation with no supplies, or living with friends, in a motel, or car.



The Crisis Nursery provides safe care for children from infancy through 12 years of age on a short-term basis when there is a crisis in the family. They provide emergency overnight care up to 72 hours and daycare by licensed providers, crisis counseling and support for parents, and emergency clothing and diapers for children.

The December Diaper Drive has a goal to collect 30,000 diapers for families in Duluth. Needed are sizes 4, 5, 6, and pull on styles. Checks or gift cards can be sent to the administrative office at LSS Crisis Nursery, 1 East 1st Street, #301, Duluth, MN 55802. Diapers can be dropped off at First Lutheran in the Upper Commons.



VISION COUNCIL

Vision Council meetings are open. You are welcome to see how your Vision Council works.

Vision Council Highlights 11/2/2017

Devotion: The council participated in a devotion from Called by God to Serve (Chapter 15). The council discussed what makes us strong, how we look to the future, and welcome and connect with new people.

Ministry Board Report: No report at this time; the board meets on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Property Board Report: The roof has been completed.

Treasurer Report: *See page 11.*

Senior Pastor Report: Ann Beck will be the staff person leading the ministry board, while Pastor, with the council president, leads the council.

Old Business: The council continued work with establishing FLC's vision/mission/goals. A rough draft will be forwarded to the Ministry Board for feedback. As feedback comes in, the council will review and incorporate it into FLC's goals.

Vision Council meeting closed at 8:00 p.m. with prayer led by the president.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, 6:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Room

GET CONNECTED

- Sign up for *FirstNews* weekly e-mail updates by sending a request to nancy@flcduluth.org.
- Sign up to receive a full color, digital issue of *The Builder* monthly newsletter via email by sending a request to nancy@flcduluth.org
- The website, flcduluth.org, is under construction. You can visit the old site while work is being done on a new version behind the scenes. If you can't find what you are looking for, call the church office (728-3668).
- Access the audio stream of the 8 a.m. service by navigating to KDAL610.com and click on "Listen Now" at the time of service.
- Looking for an audio archive? Call Megan at First Lutheran Church.
- Like and follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates, promotions, and celebrations of our faith community!

Megan Kress
Communications Specialist

LEADERSHIP

Please feel free to contact us.

VISION COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	ctzupancich@gmail.com
Teresa Zupancich	340-3223
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Jack LaVoy	729-6768
Past President	cmadich@aol.com
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Treasurer	jdjokela@gmail.com
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Margy Bell	C# 310-6930
Lifelong Learning	mdontje@netzero.net
Mary Dontje	C# 491-3617

KDAL AM Radio Broadcast

FLC Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Foundation invites and encourages members and friends of the congregation to sponsor a Sunday morning KDAL radio broadcast for \$100. The Foundation will match that gift with \$100 to cover the full cost of a broadcast (\$200). Call Nancy, 728-3668, to make arrangements.

Hospitalized? Death of a loved one?

If you or a family member is hospitalized or if there is a death in the family, please call the church office at 728-3668. Because of hospital policies, the church is not always informed when a member is in the hospital. For emergencies after hours, contact information is provided on the church answering system.



DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FLC Crafters Group The FLC Crafters will not be meeting in December because of Christmas. Plan on crafting together again in January.					1 7:00 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-AER	2 10:00 AA-PH
3 8:30 Worship-S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Rngrs 10:00 Forum-PH 11:00 Worship-S	4 5:00 - Ruth Gathering 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II-CH 7:00 Soj. III-CF	5 4:45 p.m. Extreme Parenting-PH/LC 6:30 Ministry Board-AER	6 8:00-4:00 LSS Financial Counseling-307 12:00-7:00 Lutefisk, Salmon & Meatball Dinner 5:30 Advent Worship 7:15 Soli Deo-MR	7 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS-PH,N 5:30 Vision Council-AER 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs	8 7:00 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-AER	9 9:00 Cookie Exchange-GS 10:00 AA-Bsmt
10 8:30/11:00 Worship-S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Rngrs 10:00 Forum/Study 2:00 Lessons & Carols at Aftenro 2-6 Childcare (p. 4) 7:00 Moms w/teens-UC	11 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:00 HIV Support-307 6:30 Soj. II-CH 7:00 Soj. III-CF 7:30 AGO - Ad Ed Rm	12 9:30 Leah Gathering-PH 11:30 Finance-307 5:00 Stewardship-PH 5:30 Time to Live/Die-CH 5:30 Evang/Wel-PH 6:00 Lifelong Lmg-PH 7:15 Local/Global-UC 7:15 Worship-PH	13 5:30 Advent Worship 7:15 Soli Deo-MR	14 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:15 MOPS Strng-GS 11:30 FLCW Luncheon 12-1 Sandy Hook Memorial Vigil-GS 2:00 OSL-CH 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 7:00 M&M Gathering-UC	15 7:00 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-AER	16 10:00 AA-Bsmt
17 Cinnamon Rolls 8:30 Worship-S 9:30 Short Sleeve Sunday-Fam Rm 9:45 Youth Rngr-MR 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Study-AER 11:00 SS Christmas-S 3:30 Sing-along-Aftenro	18 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II-CH 7:00 Soj. III-CF	19 4:45 Extreme Parenting-LC/PH	20 10:00 Dorcas Gather 10:00 Promise-PreS Christmas Program-S 1:00 Esther Gathering 5:30 Advent Worship 7:15 Soli Deo-MR	21 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 Quilting-PH 12:30 Naomi Gathering 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs	22 7:00 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-AER	23 10:00 AA-PH
24 No Sunday School 10:00 Advent Worship-S 3:00 5:00 & 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship-S	25 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Christmas Day Service 5:15 AA - PH 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS Bible Study-Rm 307	29 7:00 Sojourners I-CH	30 10:00 AA-PH
31 10:00 Worship-S No Sunday School	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <h3>End of Year Gifts</h3> <p>For contributions to be recorded as gifts for 2017, they must be received in the office by noon on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2017. All mail postmarked or received in January 2018 will be recorded as 2018 gifts. The IRS does not allow exceptions.</p> </div>					



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Asst. Director of Music Ministry
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The Builder Editor nancy@flcduluth.org

Custodial Staff: **Other extension numbers:**
Duane Sieger (232) Archives (211)
Carl Guldner Youth Room (225)
Promise Preschool (214)
Kitchen (218)

NOTE: No **program staff** available in the office on Mondays/day off.

WELCOMING STATEMENT

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace and forgiveness, regardless of: religious tradition, age, gender, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

The Builder Schedule

- The following date is the deadline for submitting articles.
- Articles submitted after deadline will be published in the next issue. If possible, e-mail articles to: nancy@flcduluth.org.

Deadline date:

January 2018 issue: Fri., Dec. 15, 2017

For more information about staff, programs and events at First Lutheran Church, please go to our website:

www.flcduluth.org



PLEASE RECYCLE