

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



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Global Festival of Faith Sunday - February 9, 2014

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Special Global Worship Services
9:45 a.m. - Intergenerational Sunday School in the Parish Hall

First Lutheran Church will be celebrating the global church and our unity in the body of Christ through special worship, music, preaching and activities for all ages on Sunday, February 9. This year First Lutheran is blessed to have several special guests who will be sharing their energy, passion for the global church, and love for Christ as they lead our worship services.



Preaching at both services will be **Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson**. Along with varied work with the ELCA, Pastor Amy spends one month each summer teaching English at a Coptic Catholic Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. She is the daughter of Dave & Doris Walter of First Lutheran.

Aleksandra Seliverstova, visiting from Ingrian Lutheran Church, Companion Synod in Russia, will join our celebrations.

Leading worship through music will be talented guests **Tom Witt** and **Mary Preus**. They have been part of the ensemble *Bread for the Journey*, which sings music from around the world, and helps bring that music to congregational worship. They have led music for 13 years at ELCA Global Mission events and assemblies.



Between services will be a lively and informative **Intergenerational Sunday School** in the Parish Hall. For all ages, this special Sunday School will include music with Tom & Mary, and will lift up First's mission partners around the world with activities and fun beginning at 9:45 a.m. There will not be regular Sunday School classes on this day. Kids, parents, and people of all ages will enjoy this time of song and celebration!

Global Festival Choir Opportunity: If you like to sing with rhythmic joy, please be part of the Global Festival Choir! This musical group is being gathered to participate in both services on Feb. 9. A rehearsal will be held Saturday, Feb 8 at 4:00 p.m. led by Tom Witt and & Mary Preus. This special choir is open to young and old - all are welcome! Anyone interested should contact Jason Branham through the church office, 728-3668, ext. 212. There will be a casual, international theme potluck meal following rehearsal.

FLC Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 2014, 4:30 p.m. - Parish Hall

There will be a light supper, childcare and children's activities. The 2014 Mission Plan will be presented. The time has changed to encourage broader participation. Please call the church office if transportation to the meeting is needed. 2014 Mission Plan Review opportunities: Sunday, Feb. 2 at 10:00 & 12:00

VISION & MISSION

THE PEOPLE OF FIRST
LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL....

Love one another as
Christ loved us by:

honoring, respecting,
and affirming one another;
practicing Christian hospitality;
ministering to the elderly,
and to those with special needs.

Grow in Faith through:

strong Christian spiritual
education programs for all ages;
small group Bible studies;
inspirational worship, art and music;
cultivating a life of prayer;
compelling youth and family ministry.

Share the Gospel through:

a positive Christ-centered atmosphere;
joyful fellowship with one another
in Jesus' name; intentional,
prayer-filled communication;
gathering around the table.

Spread the Gospel through:

active individual and
congregational involvement
in outreach to the local community;
active individual and
congregational involvement
in global ministries.

The Builder is organized along key
elements of Christian Discipleship. The
goal is to provide a resource to assist
individuals and the church body as a
whole on the journey of spiritual
transformation:

- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Study
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Giving
- ◆ Serving
- ◆ Relating

THANK YOU FROM PASTORS APRIL & JUDD LARSON

A Word of Thanks to First Lutheran Church

*We always give thanks to God for all of you
and mention you in our prayers, constantly
remembering before our God and Father your work of faith
and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus
Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the perfect farewell! We are so grateful. How did you make it happen with only four days after all the Christmas and New Year's celebrations? On top of that, one of the "coldest ever" days of January.

Your heartfelt expressions of love brought a warm breeze from the South on that frigid January 5th. We are overwhelmed in our thankfulness for your thoughtfulness and generosity. The day was perfect in every way from the children's music in worship, the hymns, our last communion together, fellowship and cake in the welcoming space, more worship, delicious warm pasta farewell lunch thanks to Char Juntunen and her crew: Nancy and Vince Magnuson, Candy and Bob Madich, Sylvia and Gary Cross, Barb Nelson, Margaret and Steve Broderius, Terri, Vic, Stephanie, Stacie, Shania Krause and Nicole Feralin; exquisite parish hall decorations thanks to Stacy Christianson's all-nighter, and picture portraits from our past (how did you manage that, Chad?), thoughtful expressions of love and gratefulness written by so many of you in notes and on wood ornaments we will always treasure. Thank you to Patti Hallback and all the staff, to President Paula Tsufis for the generous program, our children's greetings read by Dan Badger and Becky Hoversten-Mellem, to Tom Whittaker for the "roast," and to Sara Ojard for accompanying the singing.

A special thank you for your gifts totaling \$3,676 which will now release **The ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarship** begun by Bishop Ann Svennungsen and the women clergy of the ELCA in honor of the first woman bishop and in remembrance of her son Ben Splichal Larson.

There are so many of you who have carried us these final days of intense packing, with gifts of packing assistance, loading the truck with our furniture and personal belongings prior to the anniversary of the Haiti earthquake at Luther College and then another truck with all of our books and papers this past week. Thank you to the four Tims: Tim Churchill, Tim Holst, Tim Johnson, Tim Schandel; Jackson Churchill, Beth Holst, Chad Christianson, Jeff Hallback, Patti Hallback, Michaelo Abasori, Becky Kilgore, Ann Niedringhaus, all the Zimmermans-Paul, Karen, Andrew and Sarah.

continued on p. 3

THANK YOU

continued from p. 2

Thank you for the gifts of food and meals from FLC members: the Vision Council farewell dinner, Paula Tsufis, Bedassa Tadesse & Iftu Dor, Sylvia and Gary Cross, Mickey and Cliff Wiklund, Beth Holst, Lynn and Bill Bentfield, Tim and Leslie Churchill, Scott and Becky Hoversten-Mellem, Elaine and Jerry Elness, Char Juntunen, Ann and Bob Niedringhaus, the Staff farewell lunch, and our local text study pastors.

It was six years ago this coming March at the Conference of Bishops that Bishop Peter Strommen invited me to think about and pray about being Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church and four years ago January on the night of the Haiti earthquake that the Call Committee named Pastor Judd as candidate of choice. Thank you to all who received the ministry of the Senior Pastor and the Associate Pastor and thank you to all who came to love and trust their called pastors—the promise made by the congregation in the letter of call. Our time together in worship, in prayer, in conversation, in the Word of God is a treasured memory we carry with us always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor April Ulring Larson
Pastor Judd H. Larson

Pastor April Ulring Larson
and Pastor Judd Larson

Welcome Pastor Becky Wagner

Please see article on p. 17.

WELCOME PASTOR GREG GARMER

Dear friends in Christ,

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (I Corinthians 1:4-9)



It is fitting for me to address all of you members of First Lutheran Church as "Dear friends in Christ," for although most of you don't know me, I am First Lutheran Church and its work and witness in very many ways since I moved to this city with my wife Mary and son Michael in the year 2000.

It was then that I was called to be the pastor at French River Lutheran Church in Duluth Township, located up the North Shore on the Ryan Road, about half way between the Lester River and the community of Knife River. I served as the pastor of FRLC, an ELCA congregation of over 400 members, from 2000 until January 1, 2013 when I retired after completing over 40 years in called ministry in the ELCA and one of its predecessor bodies, the ALC. Our family moved to Duluth from Willmar, where I served a two point parish in Kandiyohi, MN for seven years. Previous to that I served Faith Lutheran Church in Morris, MN from 1981-1993. Before that I was an Associate Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect, IL, and my first call was as an Associate Pastor at Glenwood Lutheran Church in Glenwood, MN.

Now, after a year of retirement, Bishop Aitken and your Vision Council have asked me to provide part-time, fill in pastoral services while the congregation moves toward calling an interim pastor. In that capacity, I hope to be available to all of you as needed and I welcome you to call on me for the same.

Of course, it will be a steep learning curve for me to get to know all of you, so I thank you in advance for your patience, understanding, and help with keeping track of the details that make a difference in your life and in the life of First Lutheran Church.

To that end, I offer the above quotation from the second lesson for the second Sunday of the Epiphany as a word from St. Paul that is as fitting for us as Christ's church today as it was when first addressed to the church in Corinth two millennia ago. Together, may we walk with Christ!

In faith and friendship,

Pastor Gregory Garmer

FROM ELCA'S PRESIDING BISHOP

A note from FLC President, Paula Tsufis

Here is an article from the ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton that was printed in the January 2014 issue of *The Lutheran*.



Getting to what really matters

All our work flows from being a church first, foremost by ELCA's Presiding Bishop, Pastor Elizabeth A. Eaton



When I served a parish in Ashtabula, Ohio, I had the opportunity to be part of a bond issue campaign for the school system. Those of you who have served in a similar capacity know the bruising intensity of local school politics. The French Revolution pales in comparison.

On our first try the bond issue failed by a narrow margin. On our second try we had our heads handed to us. We decided to hire a consultant.

At a strategy meeting the consultant asked us what we thought was the one thing we needed to do in order to pass the bond issue. We had all kinds of ideas: better campaign literature, more radio ads, more coverage in the local paper, compelling photos of adorable but underserved children, puppies. The consultant listened until we ran out of ideas. "No," he said. "The one thing you need to do to pass the bond issue is to have one more vote than the opposition."

The main thing is the main thing.

All of the ideas we had come up with (well, maybe not the puppies) were means to pass the bond issue. If advertising or publicity became our primary focus we would be distracted from our goal. Stating the simple fact that all we needed to do was to get one more vote than the opposition brought clarity to the campaign.

We do many wonderful and important things together as the ELCA. We alleviate hunger, we're stopping malaria, we give voice to the most vulnerable in our society, we shelter the homeless, we heal the sick, we rebuild communities after disaster strikes, we work for justice. I am not suggesting that we stop doing any of this. But we must be clear that we are church first. We aren't a non-governmental organization. We aren't the government. We aren't the American Cancer Society.

Baptism makes a difference and makes us different. We are in Christ. Baptism means the death of our old self. This implies sacrifice. It should also mean that we as church do not fit in with the surrounding culture. There are many socially conscious, kindhearted, generous, morally upright, compassionate atheists in the world. How are we distinguishable from them? If our life together consists primarily of being affirmed by God's unconditional love and doing works of justice and charity without understanding that God has brought about the transformation of justified sinners through the costly grace of the crucified Christ, then we are not church.

How are we to live as church first? This is how I see it. At the center of our life together is worship and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. When we gather for worship we turn our gaze away from ourselves to the source of our life and hope and salvation. When we gather for worship we are encountered by the living God in Scripture, proclamation of the gospel and the sacraments. God meets us and transforms us. We taste, touch and see the love of God in Christ. Sinners are forgiven. Freed from the incessant human striving for self-justification we can be "lost in wonder, love and praise" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 631).

We are a community of spiritual discernment. Employing secular business strategies can be very helpful to the church so long as they are used in service to God. But as church it is important that we understand the difference between decision-making and discernment. Decision-making is something we do. Discernment is something we receive from the Spirit. Paul takes an entire chapter (1 Corinthians 2) explaining this. We need to move beyond reliance on human thinking and strategizing to a place of deep listening — intentional, intense, disciplined attending to God.

We are a community of faith. Our members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization need to be intentional about incorporating prayer, worship, Scripture study, silence and giving into daily life. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified.

We are church first. All of our work flows from this. Let's keep the main thing the main thing.

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YOUTH & FAMILY

Camp-a-Thon 2014

Grades 3-12, Friday, Jan. 31, 5 p.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Camp is coming to FLC! Grades 3-12 will be joining some of the Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry summer staff for an exciting evening/overnight event on January 31. The youth attending will receive a \$20 scholarship towards Bible camp this summer at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry!

Giants Ridge Ski Trip

Monday, February 17 (President's Day - No School)

Open to all 6-12th Graders. Families and additional adults are welcome, but may have to drive their own vehicle depending on numbers. If skiing, snowboarding, tubing, or snowshoeing is your thing, you've no excuse to miss this trip.

COSTS: Group Rate on 15 or more

FREE = Seat in the van!!!

Prices for ages 13-adult / 12 and under

\$26/\$16 = Lift Ticket

\$18/\$15 = Ski Rental

\$22/\$22 = Snowboard Rental

\$10/\$6 = Nordic Pass

\$10/\$7 = Nordic Ski Rental

\$15 = Tubing for 2 hours (\$3 each additional Hour)

\$24 = Snowshoe rental and pass for all day

\$6 = Helmets

Bring your own food (suggested) or buy chalet food (plan \$10-\$15 for a meal there). **Vehicles will leave from First Lutheran at 8:00 a.m. and return around 5:30 p.m.**

NOTE: If you want to go, turn in your rental info and money to First Lutheran before Feb. 10. Talk to Chad for details.

Camp Sunday Registration, Feb. 2

Time to start thinking about ~~SUMMER CAMP!~~ February 2 will be Camp Sunday, where we focus on our partnership with outdoor ministries. Sign up begins that day for all the different summer camping options at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries. Representatives from VLM will be at First Lutheran to answer any questions you might.

SAVE MONEY! If you sign up on Feb. 2 (earlier, but no later), not only will you get the VLM Early Bird discount, but First Lutheran will **match it!** You could save up to \$100 on a week of camp (PLUS the scholarship from Camp-A-Thon, read the article above). For the 2014 Camp Schedule go to www.vlmcamps.org.

Eat. Paint. Love!

Hey kids! Do you want to create a work of art and exhibit it in the Gathering Space? Families and children (ages 0-18) are invited for **an afternoon of food and art on Sunday, Feb. 16** after the second service in the Parish Hall. Lunch will be served for the families and children and then you'll be creating a work of art to be exhibited. The theme of this exhibition is LOVE. There will be a young artists' reception on Wednesday, Feb.



26 from 5-7 p.m. in the Upper Commons to showcase these lovely new paintings.

Hello from Promise Preschool!

We have turned the corner into the New Year with so many fun memories to look back on and even more to look forward to. We continue to enjoy playing outside and are also busy studying winter weather and animals. We will review shapes, numbers and colors of the rainbow, which remind us of God's great love and Promise.

2014-2015 School Year Enrollment Process

From the dates of February 16- 28, FLC members will have priority to register. We offer both a morning and afternoon class for children ages 33 months to 5 years on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We also offer a morning Pre-Kindergarten class Monday through Thursday. Please direct questions to Sarah Ching at 728-3668 ext. 214.

Promise Preschool Fundraiser

Wednesday, February 12

Please support Promise Preschool by joining them on **Wednesday, Feb. 12** for a "Hot Potato" bar in the Parish Hall from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Suggested donations is \$5 person/ \$20 family.



YOUTH & FAMILY

Taste of New Orleans is Back Again!!!

The one day your stomach won't want to miss! Come celebrate Fat Tuesday early in the Parish Hall on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 9:30-10:45 a.m. for a unique experience for future youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, 2015. You'll get to taste some wonderfully made beignets (a pastry that is the state doughnut of Louisiana), hear amazing live jazz music, and participate in a Silent Auction. Bring your whole family as we get a Taste of New Orleans and enjoy some great southern atmosphere. The youth will be taking a free will offering to help cover expenses of the journey.



Get You Duluth Lutheran Gear Here!

Beginning February 23 at the Taste of New Orleans fundraiser, the youth will be selling Duluth Lutheran gear to help raise funds for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. There will be a variety of items from aprons, to mugs, to apparel on display in the Parish Hall and second floor. It's a great way to show your proud to be a Lutheran from Duluth (but not too proud). Some items may be limited for immediate purchase so be the first! After that, orders will be taken for a second printing. FLC is partnering with other ELCA churches in the area to help support this life changing event.

Cinnamon Rolls

All Families: Come and help with the set up, making and selling of cinnamon rolls. This month the prepping will be done during the Camp-a-Thon. They will be made and sold on Sunday, Feb. 2 starting at 8:00 a.m. Those who can come will get dollars for their youth account. Parents are also encouraged to help as Chad gives additional dollars to families that work together. The money fundraised can be used towards any FLC activity.



Faith Quest Sunday School kids in Grades 1-5 have been studying the story of *Jesus Feeding 5,000* in January. One of their workshop activities was decorating reusable grocery bags that will be donated to CHUM's food shelf. It has been a fun service project, that will be continued with the March Food Drive! Pictured here are a few of the kids and their bags, with workshop leader Tammy Fanning.

Looking Ahead to Wed., March 12



All ages are welcome to the First Communion class scheduled for Wed., March 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Adult Ed Room (following the Lenten supper). This is designed for elementary age students, along with their family, to better understand the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This involves one class session, with a weekly family study guide. The First Communion celebration will be on Sunday, March 30. Contact Ann Beck for more information.

3rd - 6th Grade VLM Retreat

Youth in grades 3-6 are invited to the VLM Retreat on March 14-15 for 23 hours filled with games, worship, learning, and new friends! The cost is \$45 per camper and a registration form is needed to be filled out (available online at vlmcamps.org or talk to Chad) and turned into Chad box! This year will be at Camp Hiawatha near Grand Rapids and there are only 17 spots available for FLC so sign up now (last year we had 20 so it will fill up fast)!

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Adult Education

10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Christian education is at the very heart of the church, with people of all ages nurturing faith and growing in commitment to discipleship. Grab a cup of coffee, greet each other in fellowship, and come to one of the topical discussions or studies each Sunday! Large group forums are typically in the Parish Hall, and more interactive presentations/small group discussions in the Adult Ed Room (next to the nursery)

February 2

Practice Discipleship - Our 5th Faith Practice: Worship (Parish Hall)

Includes a short video message from Bishop Tom Aitken, followed by guided table discussion about what this means in our lives. Member Dave Walter will facilitate the discussion. Join the dialogue - you'll enjoy the conversation. A special invitation to our younger members to be part of the discussion!

FLC Mission Plan Review (Adult Ed Room)

Presentation by the Vision Council, for additional review and discussion. This will be presented at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, following the 2nd service.

February 9

Global Festival of Faith - 9:45 in the Parish Hall.

Sunday School for all ages for this church-wide event! See cover article. All are welcome!

February 16

"Bringing the Truth to Light: A Community Call for Racial Equity in Our Schools" (Parish Hall)

This documentary film, produced in Duluth by Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, will be shown with discussion to follow facilitated by the Anti-Racism Action Team. Discussion will hopefully lead us to move toward looking at what we can do to assure educational equity for all students in Duluth schools. We hope you will come and be enlightened and motivated to make a difference.

February 16

NOOMA Video & Discussion: BULLHORN (Adult Ed Room)

Can we really love God without loving others?

God loves everyone, so a Christian should, too. In fact, Jesus said that the most important thing in life is to love God with everything we've got and love others the same way. But it's not always easy to love everyone around us, is it? Sometimes we strongly disagree with other people's political views, religious beliefs, behaviors, or something else, and it makes it hard to love them when we feel like we're right and they're very wrong. But Jesus doesn't separate loving God and loving others. So maybe the best way for us to show our love for God is actually by loving other people no matter how hard it sometimes is. Maybe it's the only way.

February 23

Taste of New Orleans - All-Church Event & Youth Fundraiser - 9:30-10:45 a.m. (Parish Hall)



NOOMA: Have you been wondering what this NOOMA is all about?

The title NOOMA is the English phonetic spelling of Greek word pneuma, meaning spirit, or breath. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus.

Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in.

All ages are welcome and encouraged to come to NOOMA presentations, which will be offered regularly in the months to come. Watch, listen, explore ideas, be challenged, and grow in your faith.

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.

Sun., February 2 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Cor. 1:1-9;
Luke 2:22-40

Sun., February 9 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9;
1 Cor. 2:1-12; Matt. 5:13-20

Sun., February 16 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Deut. 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

Sun., February 23 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Reading: Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;
1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23; Matt. 17:1-9

Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary.

Missed last Sunday's worship in Duluth? Want to share our wonderful worship service or just the Gospel and Pastors' sermons with others? Go to www.flcduluth.org home page sidebar to download the audio file to play on Windows media player or iTunes.

Thank You Musicians

Apostle Singers, Soli Deo Gloria; 2nd Service Worship Leaders; Jubilation Ringers; Youth Ringers; Betty Preus, flute; David Fanning, organ; Evelyn & Sara Ojard, piano; Will Van Scoy, guitar; Mike Van Scoy, piano; Kathryn Elmer, harp; Lian Ojakangas, violin; Celka Ojakangas, viola; Kieran Ojakangas, cello.

Dec. 22 Festive Christmas Music during coffee hour: Tyler Zupancich, David Fanning, Nora Peterson, Jackson Churchill and Marcia Lothner, pianists; Greg Tiburzi, voice and guitar; Linda Bagley, Kristin Sande, Ellen Wold, Jorgen Baertsch and Nathan Sande, string ensemble; Ginger Backus and Cory Clay, recorder and guitar; Revoir Family-Sara, violin, Ryan, alto sax, Lisa, piano; Mark Knutson and Beth Storaasli, voice and piano; Patricia Dorn, voice, Jackson Churchill, trombone, Tim Churchill, bass; Youth Ringers.

Christmas Eve: Kathryn Elmer, harp; Malaika Magomolla, piano; Victor Krause, voice; Jubilation Ringers, Youth Ringers, Soli Deo Gloria. String ensembles: Joan Halquist, Jonathan Halquist, Annika Johnson, Makeela Magomolla, Ellen Wold, Jorgen Baertsch, Beth Domholdt, Kristin Elmer, Matt Rogotzke, Nathan Sande, Linda Bagley, Paul Bagley, Nathan Holst, Kaarin Evens, Kristin Sande, RaeAnn Johnson, Ethan Meyers.

Gustavus Adolphus Choir in Concert at FLC, Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2:00 p.m.

First Lutheran is pleased to host the Gustavus Adolphus College Choir, from St. Peter, MN, on Sunday, Feb. 2. They will sing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, then present a concert in the sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. The Gustavus Choir, one of the nation's foremost Lutheran college choirs, is under the direction of Dr. Gregory J. Aune.

Housing is needed for the choir on Sunday night.

Highlights of the concert program will include important choral works by Johann Christoph Bach, Randall Thompson, Georg Schumann, Jan Sändstrom, and a newly commissioned work by noted composer Eric Whitacre. The choir will also perform selected hymn settings, folk songs, and two spiritual arrangements.

First Lutheran needs to provide Sunday night housing for the choir, then they will continue on their tour Monday morning. Please contact Jason Branham or the church office if you can help. Many of these students would love to watch the Super Bowl with you on Sunday.

Worship Attendance

Wed., Dec. 18	77
Sun., Dec. 22	366
Tues., Dec. 24	899
Wed., Dec. 25	84
Sun., Dec. 29	106
Sun., Jan. 5	448
Sun., Jan. 12	249 (ice/rain)

Looking Ahead to Lent & Easter

The 2014 Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Palm Sunday is April 13, Good Friday, April 18 and Easter is April 20.

STUDY & PRAYER

Tuesday Afternoon Weekly Prayer

Note time change

Thank you to those upholding First Lutheran Church through prayer in this time of transition. In response to needs of those who have come so far, **the revised Tuesday afternoon schedule will be:**

- ▶ 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Silent prayer in Chapel. Come and go quietly. Prayer resources available. Add your own if you wish.
- ▶ 5:15 - 5:45 p.m. Sharing from silent time and praying together, including praying petitions from members. Use prayer cards in pews or usher stand to request prayer or call prayer requests to Ann Beck at 728-3668.

Also remember the Chapel is always open for private prayer and prayer resources will remain available for anyone's use.

Noon Book Group

The Noon Book Group meets every Tuesday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Upper Commons for discussion of a chapter or two in a theological, philosophical, spiritual or sociological book. On Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 the group will complete discussion of **Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith and Accepting Grace** Deanna Thompson, daughter-in-law of Erna and Glenn Peterson. If you are interested in just trying the group, coming for the end of a book can be a great way to sample the experience. People come and go during the discussion of a book, so it is not disruptive if you can only come some weeks.

Feb. 18 through March 25 the book for discussion will be **Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church** by Kenda Creasy Dean. Catherine Anderson, FLC member and Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the NE MN Synod of the ELCA, recommended this book.

The Bookstore at Fitger's ordered both books for the group (but call them to be sure they still have copies). A copy of each book is also in the FLC library. To receive a discussion schedule and group announcements (like an upcoming future book ballot), contact Ann Niedringhaus at 728-2988, robannrbe@gmail.com.

Healing Prayers

from Mary Ledford

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. - James 5:14-15

When the Lord came to me about 20 years ago regarding a chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician to be created at First Lutheran Church, I had to become a member of that organization because I had been healed in the past and wanted to give back for what I had received. I felt so strongly that God needed people with compassion to continue His mission on earth; as a result, I have been a member of the Order of St. Luke the Physician as a charter member of that organization in our church.

Christian healing is the manifestation of the creative power of God's love as He comes to make us a new creation in Jesus Christ. It is concerned not only with the stewardship of our body of flesh and blood, but with our ultimate relationship with God as our Father, Jesus Christ as our Savior and Healer, and Holy Spirit, as the executive of our Father's will for us as He is revealed in Jesus Christ.

Jesus commanded the disciples to heal every kind of disease, every kind of sickness, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out the unclean spirits. He gave them the authority and power to do this.

How many times do we have to be told before we heed His word? His disciples learned from Jesus even as we do today. Jesus healed wherever He went. Of the 1,257 narrative verses in the four Gospels, 484 related specifically to healing. We learn to heal the sick today by His commission, the empowerment He has made available to us and the model of practice He has shown us.

You are encouraged to come forward to the front of the sanctuary for healing for you or your loved ones on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. The Lord has told us to pray in all things, as stated in Ephesians 6:18: *Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.*

We are encouraged to pray unceasingly for our needs; for sickness, emotional instability, our congregation, whatever it is that we need—God wants us to rely on Him, to turn our will and lives over to our loving and grace giving Lord. The prayers are done in a confidential manner, so as in the communion table invitation it is mentioned that all are welcome, come to the rail—the Lord has invited us all to receive healing.

FLCW NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

FLCW News & Events

FLCW Bible Study Gathering

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

Ruth Gathering

Mon., February 3 - 7:00 p.m., Homes

Breaking Bread Gathering

Tues., February 4 - 6:00 p.m., Homes

Mary & Martha Gathering

Thurs., February 6 - 7:00 p.m., Upper Commons

Leah Gathering

Tues., February 11 - 10:00 a.m., Parish Hall

Dorcas Gathering

Wed., February 19 - 10:00 a.m., Homes

Esther Gathering

Wed., February 19 - 1:00 p.m., Lakeshore

Naomi Gathering

Thurs., February 20 - 12:30 p.m., Upper Commons

Young Mothers' Bible Study

This Gathering of young mothers will be meeting on Monday, February 24, at 9:15 a.m. in Room 307 for Bible Study. The church nursery is available.



FLC Library Features Children's Books

Check out the display of children's books in the library relating to the following events!

Global Festival of Faith—February 9

A Faith Like Mine: A Celebration of the World's Religions--Seen Through the Eyes of Children by Laura Buller (Call #: C Bul)

If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World's People by David J. Smith (Call #: B Smi)

Valentine's Day—February 14

Adeline by Bobby Strickland (Call #: B Str)

Adeline's Porcupine by Bobby Strickland (Call #: B Str)

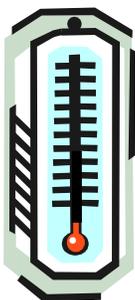
A Book of Hugs by Dave Ross (Call #: A Ros)

I Already Know I Love You by Billy Crystal (Call #: C Cry)

Love is ... by Wendy Anderson Halperin (Call #: B Hal)

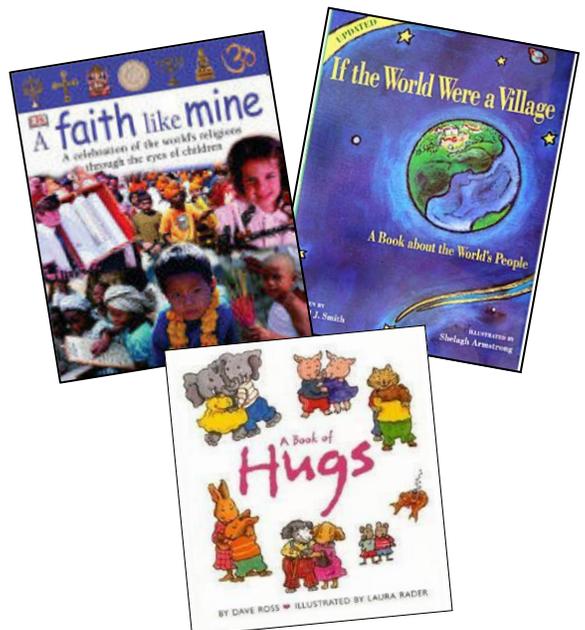
More Hugs! by Dave Ross (Call #: A Ros)

The Story of Valentine's Day by Nancy J. Skarneas (Call #: A Ska)



NO FLCW Luncheon in February

Due to the very cold weather the Duluth area has been experiencing, the FLCW luncheon for February has been cancelled.



S E R V I N G

Advent/ Christmas Environment no small task from the Worship Ministry Board, Jeanette Paulson, chair

Have you wondered who the elves were behind our wonderful Advent and Christmas environment?



Glenn Peterson planned the design for the sanctuary and chancel which involved weekly additions to the decor through Advent and on to Christmas. (Did you notice the number of white doves perched in the birch trees changed each Sunday during Advent?)

Steve Broderius and Glenn harvested both the birch and balsam fir trees at "Ojakangas Acres". Glenn said getting the birch trees was a breeze, because our snow and cold hadn't arrived yet. Harvesting the balsam fir trees was another challenge altogether. By then we'd had our big, wet, heavy snow and Glenn and Steve were wading through it thigh high. On top of that it was so very, very cold, that the trees "shattered" (Glenn's word) when felled. He says that had we looked at the back sides of the trees we would have seen they were flat, the branches having immediately broken off when hitting the ground.

There were many other hands and artistic eyes involved. Banners, wreaths, windowsill candles, trees and poinsettia plants were placed by Miriam Sommerness and Mary Dontje. We express thanks to the many church members who purchased the poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones (a complete listing of those donations was printed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins). And some anonymous person(s) kept the poinsettias watered; no small task in itself.

Outside the sanctuary, Gail Tate supervised the seasonal decor in the upper commons/gathering space with evergreen trees donated by Doug Hoffbauer in honor of his mother, Norma Hoffbauer. Doug also donated the many fresh evergreen wreaths which adorned all of the exterior doors of the church.

When you see these folks at coffee hour or other times, give them a big smile and a huge thank you for making our Advent/Christmas time such a lovely and holy experience.

Help Needed at Damiano Center

Can you help? Two volunteers are needed for bread pickup on Saturday mornings. E-mail malicea.damianocenter.org or call 722-8702- ext. 100.

Stephen Ministers Can Provide Support

The winter weather we've had recently can be symbolic of what may sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits, and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become icy, or we can feel frozen by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like slush, making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt that spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?"



Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a winter in your life. To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help

you or someone you know, contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders (Don Streufert, 724-9084; Ron Carlson, 525-6542; Lynn Gerlach-Collard, 393-3178). Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

Fair Trade Coffee Sale
will be the usual second Sunday:
February 9

8:00 to 11:15 a.m.

Thanks to all our regular customers
who keep this ELCA project going
here at First Lutheran.

Communion Ministry to the Homebound

First Lutheran has an active home communion ministry, with trained visitors who lovingly extend the sharing of the Lord's table from our congregation's worship service to many of our homebound members on a monthly basis. There is an expanding need to bring communion to our members who are no longer able to attend worship. New visitors are being sought to help in this important ministry of our congregation. If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Ann Beck at the church office.

GIVING

ANNUAL GIVING: *A TIME FOR FIRST FRUITS*

December 2013 MISSION PLAN UPDATE

	2013				Annual Mission Plan	2012
	December Mission Plan	December Actual	Year to Date Mission Plan	Year to Date Actual		Year to Date Actual
Ministry & Mission gifts	\$99,372	\$95,947	\$845,150	\$832,952	\$857,150	\$826,842
<i>Plus Other Income</i>	<u>63,831</u>	<u>34,429</u>	<u>143,850</u>	<u>87,192</u>	<u>131,850</u>	<u>112,506</u>
Total Income	163,203	130,376	989,000	920,144	989,000	939,348
<i>Less Expenses</i>	<u>82,417</u>	<u>99,839</u>	<u>989,000</u>	<u>945,950</u>	<u>989,000</u>	<u>941,526</u>
Cash surplus (Deficit)	\$80,786	\$30,537	\$0	(\$25,806)	\$0	(\$2,178)

Special Giving Opportunities

Each month First Lutheran has designated giving opportunities, opportunities to give money to different ministries. Listed below are the ministries and amounts given during December 2013.

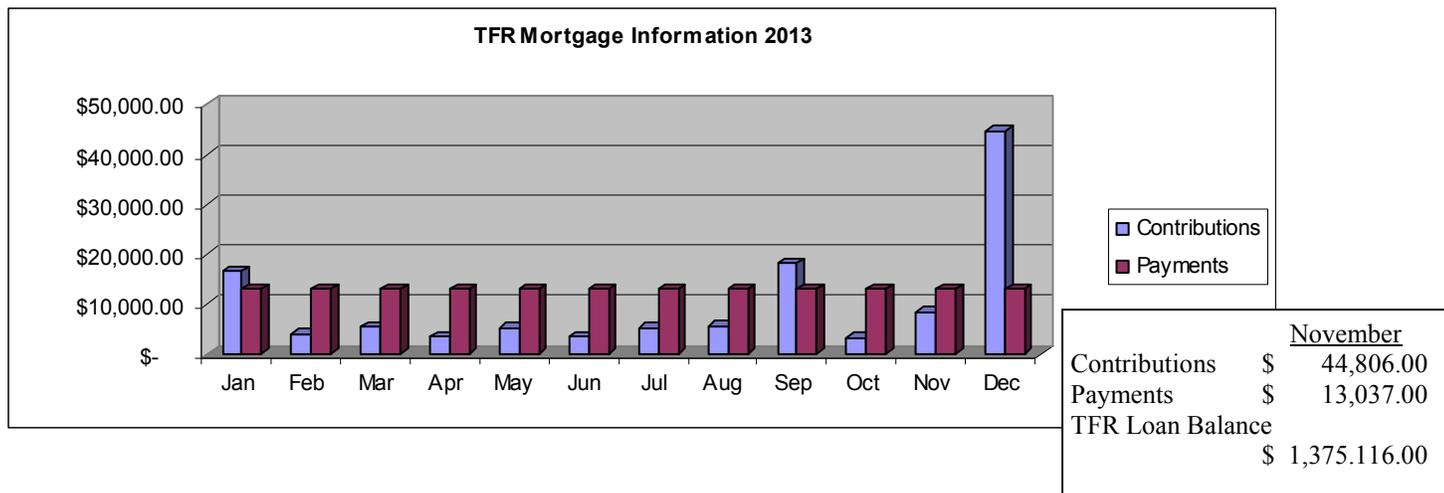
November Hunger Offering \$3,943.96
 Dec. Special Giving for Philippines \$2,370.00

Giving for the Ministries and Missions of First Lutheran Church

Weekly offering through:

Sun., December 15 \$12,314
 Sun., December 22 \$25,625
 Sun., December 29 \$24,012
 Sun., January 5 \$19,246
 Sun., January 12 \$ 8,027

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: *TIME FOR RENEWAL*



GIVING

December 2013 Memorials & Gifts

Gifts to World Hunger in memory of Warren Reich by Jim & Carol Settergren, Gary & Sylvia Cross, Don & Barb Garnett, Susan Johnson, Margaret Lattimer, Gloria Lund, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Mattson, Raymond Muskat & Marianna Beier, Lynn & Math Prom, Tom & Lorraine Brayden, Joan Weiler, Robert & Adele Linzen, John & Joanne Unzen, Craig & Barb Nelson, Jerry & Ann Lehan, Robert & Linda Glibbery, Margaret Erickson, Leonard & Darlene Erickson, Jon & Mary Bakken, Lynnae Berg, Dan & Marjorie McCann, Gifford & Jean Axdahl, Marc & Paula Tsufis, Tom & Mary Boman, Steve & Margaret Broderius, Bruce & Helen Gildseth, Beverly Haugejorde, Elaine Hill, Leo & Diane Ellison, Bob & Jackie Johnson, Muriel Lehman, David & Marcia Lothner, Betty Lou Monson, Dan & Jan McCarthy, Milt & Ivah Sundquist, Claryce Swensen, Coralyn Worth.

Gift to the Coffee Fund in memory of Warren Reich by Carol E. Anderson.

Gifts to the FLC Foundation in memory of Maude Knutson by Ron & Marie Olson; **in memory of Jackson Huntley** by Richard & Yvonne Anderson; **in memory of Chester Truedson** by Vince & Nancy Magnuson.

Gifts to the Library in memory of Warren Reich by Toivo & Annelie Sober.

Gifts to the Radio Fund in memory of Warren Reich by John & Beryl Bredeson, Kathy Morris, Norma Hoffbauer, Don & Joann Larson; **in memory of Chester Truedson** by Les & Rose Drewes.

Gifts to Time for Renewal in memory of Warren Reich by Arnold & Elizabeth Larson.

Gifts to the Music Fund in memory of Jackson Huntley by Carol Christie.

Gifts to the FLC Memorial Fund in memory of Warren Reich by Rosemary Brever; **in memory of Carol Erickson** by Michael & Eva Rogness.

Gifts to the Youth Mission Trip in memory of Byron Porisch by Pam Porisch.

Gifts to the Angel Tree Project in honor of 4-5 Year Old Sunday School Staff by Carol Anderson.

Gifts to the Radio Fund in honor of Vivian Galeski's birthday by Michael Galeski.

Gifts to TFR in honor of FLC Staff by Dan Badger & Jane Olson.

Gifts to FLCW in honor of Norma Hoffbauer's birthday by family.

Gifts to Damiano Center in honor of the Damiano Action Team by Dan Badger & Jane Olson.

Gifts to FLC Foundation in honor of Duane Sieger's 25 years at FLC; in honor of Marge Bergeland's birthday by Richard & Yvonne Anderson.

February's Special Giving Opportunity

Promise Preschool (PPS) is thrilled to be February's special giving opportunity. We are constantly working hard to maintain and build this fabulous program. Monies collected will go towards curriculum needs, revitalizing the playground area, scholarship needs and a general fund. Please consider giving to either a specific need or in general – any funds are greatly appreciated. We have been blessed with fabulous families and wonderful staff over the years at PPS. It is our wish to be able to continue to offer rich, Christian-based, child-centered curriculum and environment for years to come. It is with the dedication of the families, the staff and the generous support like yourselves that we continue to thrive – we are so thankful for the support from First Lutheran Church!

Peace and blessings to you,
PPS board, staff and families of 2013-14

Please make checks out to First Lutheran Church with "PPS" written on the memo line.

RELATING

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:

The family of Kathy Sharrow on the death of her father Chester Truedson.

The family of Beth Holst on the death of her mother, Virginia Johnson.

The family of former member Clarice Wold.



Baptisms

12/25/2013 Brent Valentine

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.



Love is in the Air at Topnotchers

Friday, Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day - 12:30 p.m.

Topnotchers will be held on Friday, Feb. 14 at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come and hear "Love Stories" from Gudrun & Egil Hoivik, Tom & Mary Boman, and Bob & June Alsop. All those over-50 who haven't yet joined these gatherings are invited to attend. Enjoy a program and a great meal prepared by Char (\$8). Newcomers call Dorothy (525-5550) for reservations by Wed., Feb. 12.

Hands to Work and Hearts to God

from Patti Hallback, Parish Administrator

There is none like you among the gods, O LORD, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O LORD, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Psalm 86:8-13

Thank you God for all that created and participated in the retirement celebration for our pastors. There are such a mixture of words that come to mind as I think of the farewell lunch for Pastor Larson and Pastor Judd including: beautiful, sad, joyous, fun, heart-breaking, delicious, warm and full of deep grief. Thank you God for sending your Spirit to be with us on Sunday, January 5, 2014. Thank you God for all those that graciously gave of themselves to help prepare on Saturday, serve and clean up on Sunday. Thanks to all who attended this special celebration lunch.

Thank you God for all who are praying for our congregation, the elected leaders and the staff during this time of transition.

Books for Myers Wilkins School

The FLC Myers Wilkins Action Team will be volunteering at Myers Wilkins School on Sunday, Feb. 26 for World Read Aloud Day.

The school has asked for donated books, both for children and adults. The action team will be helping at the book giveaway table for families from the school. Book collection boxes will be located at FLC by the elevator on the sanctuary level and in the lower commons across from the Promise Preschool cubbies.

Thank you for your help.



RELATING

First Lutheran Transitional Apartment from Char Juntunen

The First Lutheran Transitional Apartment building continues to work with CHUM to provide housing for folks in transition. We have recently had - and are having - transition in the tenants in our two 2-bedroom units.

A young mother, with us for almost 2 years, is currently moving to more permanent rental housing with her 15 month old daughter. She has been putting money away to buy a house and working with a first time homeowners program. Her apartment will be vacant soon and CHUM's social worker, Veronica, will be interviewing for a new tenant for that apartment.

Just before Christmas we moved a tenant out and brought in a new tenant to the other 1-bedroom unit.

Other tenants have experienced awesome success. I recently attended a gathering celebrating one former tenant's starting his "dream job". After moving from our building, he acquired permanent low income housing, continued education, and finally his dream job. He and his son are doing well.

Over the years (since 1998) we have had many successes, partial successes, as well as failures - we have dealt with drugs, hoarding, mental illness, alcoholism and more. We have learned a lot. Our success includes folks that have gone on to successful jobs, sobriety, full custody of their children, escape from violent situations, and into permanent housing.

We have folks that still stay in contact with us after years - some because they need more help and others because they want to report on their success. Others we see in public - often at CHUM gatherings (Rhubarb fest, CHUM national night out, CHUM meetings). It is always good to connect. I recently heard from a former tenant who left Duluth for Chicago and who now needed a recommendation for housing when he was moving back to Minneapolis. It was wonderful talking to him after 10 years to hear of his success and reuniting with his extended family.

FLC should be proud to support CHUM in their effort to reduce homelessness. Our thanks to Veronica Gaidelis, CHUM social worker, for her devotion to this program.

Present FLC Action Team Members include: Char Juntunen, Beth Holst, Kathy Bergum, Ann Neidringhaus, and Pete Langr. Anyone interested in joining this team email charjuntunen@hotmail.com.

Welcome Carl Guldner

Carl Guldner joined the FLC staff as a full time custodian on December 1, 2013. Carl comes to us with a great background in custodial and maintenance work. He started working for FLC as a temporary worker. We realized quickly that Carl had a strong work ethic and skills that were very compatible for this position. Duane was one of the early advocates for bringing Carl on full-time.

He is a lifelong Duluthian. He and Duane lived in the same neighborhood growing up and knew each other in grade school. Carl and his wife Leah have been married 23.5 years. They have two sons, Joshua (age 20) and Jacob (age 19). Carl's favorite past times are nature photography - especially critters, music (rock), hunting and fishing (and being outdoors).

Carl's schedule was created to ensure we have coverage when our building is being used. It overlaps Duane's schedule (M - F 7:45 - 3:30) for tasks where they both are needed.

Sunday	6:30 am to 1:00 pm
Monday	1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Tuesday	1:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Wednesday	10:30 - 8:00
Thursday	1:00 - 8:30
Friday and Saturday	Off

Carl is already attuned to our coffee consumption on Sunday mornings and is doing a great job of keeping the pot brewing. Please extend a warm welcome to Carl.

SAVE THE DATE: March 9



CROP Walk: Walk, ski, snowshoe on **Sunday, March 9** at UMD's Bagley Field. Watch for further details.

REACHING OUT

CHUM Church from Char Juntunen

First Lutheran has been asked to participate in CHUM Church activities and provide a meal with members of two other churches (called a CHUM Cluster). This cluster will rotate roles during the 3 scheduled weeks.

Dates: February 9 (note new date) April 13 & July 13

Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Where: Peace United Church of Christ

Please join me in working with the CHUM Church staff to carry out these services and activities for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Think of CHUM Church as an extension of FLC. Youth, Sunday School, music groups, choir and individuals can help build community with the individuals that attend CHUM Church.

FLC's congregational meeting is on Feb. 9 at the same time as CHUM Church. If anyone is available to participate at CHUM church, please call Char Juntunen for instructions. If interested in being a part of a CHUM Church Action team, please email charjuntunen@hotmail.com or call 728-3828. You don't have to participate all dates to be a part of this ministry.

Joint Religious Coalition Day on the Hill Thursday, Mar. 13

Interested in social justice issues in Minnesota? Want to learn what our state legislators and the interfaith community is doing about these issues? If you said, "Yes!" then JRLC Day on the Hill is the event for you!

Join hundreds of other friendly folks and faith leaders from across Minnesota on Thursday, Mar. 13 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for the Joint Religious Coalition or JRLC Day on the Hill event in St. Paul. First Lutheran has been a long time supporter and member congregation of JRLC.

More information on JRLC Day on the Hill and registration can be found at www.jrlc.org.

If you would like to travel to the event with others from the Duluth area, CHUM is providing a free bus. Call CHUM at 720-6521 to sign-up. If you'd like to hear more about Day on the Hill from a past participant feel free to contact member of the Global and Local Ministry Team, Sheryl Sanford Van Scoy at 591-6966.

The Gift of Law and Gospel

Where do I live? In Law or in Gospel?

Law shows me:

I cannot do enough... I cannot be enough...

I cannot love enough... I am too rich and privileged...

Gospel tells me:

I am loved with an everlasting love...

I am loved unconditionally, just as I am...

I am beloved, forever...

Where do I live? In Law or in Gospel? Where do you live?

I know where I want to live--Gospel, of course,

But, saint and sinner, I live in both.

In law I am filled with shame for what I do that is hurtful...

My attitude is flawed—wanting security, praise, or control...

My motives are mixed—tainted by my own needs and desires.

Nothing I do can take me beyond myself.

But wait! The trumpet sounds! Jesus is risen!

Jesus takes all my pain,

my mixed motives, my guilt and shame,

my loss and tears, my brokenness and my sin,

into Himself on that tree.

Jesus is lifted up so that I can be free:

free of my sin, free of my self, free of my loss.

And, in his tenderness, Jesus puts his arms around you and me.

"I love you," he says.

"I know you by name. You are precious in my eyes."

Each failure of the law, self-criticism, or loss I've suffered calls me to the gospel of the cross, to this One who loves me dearly.

In brokenness, I can see the immensity of God's gift.

In brokenness, I have faced the fact that I cannot do it myself.

The loss of my son, Michael, leads me to Jesus.

Loneliness at losing Don, my husband, draws me to the cross.

Insecurities and regrets show my need for God.

All point to the greatest gift—Jesus.

Jesus is always present,

always loving, always wrapping us in His arms.

Jesus, the center, around which all life pivots, makes all things new.

You, Jesus, are here, more present than life itself.

You, the Alpha and the Omega, are also close, personal, intimate.

In the law, we find our need for you.

In the gospel, we find ourselves loved by you.

You, the risen one, having beaten death and evil,

reach out to bring us home, home to your heart.

In you, we live and move and have our being.

We lift you up in awe and wonder,

For you are the one who loves us,

You are the one who went to the cross for us,

And you are the one who calls us your beloved.

May we have your eyes to see your love that surrounds us.

* * * * *

This poem was written as my personal response to the discussion about law and gospel at a Friday morning Bible study. I wanted to write out how this gift of God to us personally affects me. Tragedy has brought me to the cross for many years. The gift that this poem celebrates is that the law and my own desire to do things well can also bring me to the cross. I have been asked to share this in *The Builder*. Kathy Morris, Nov 6, 2013

WELCOME PASTOR BECKY WAGNER

VISION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings from Pastor Becky Wagner

As an interim pastor, I frequently hear the question, “where are you from?” So here’s a little background on myself. I was born in New Ulm and grew up in Kansas. I met my husband Mike while attending Bethany College, one of our ELCA colleges. We have two grown children: our son Seth and his wife live in Aspen and our daughter Lizz, her husband and our two darling grandsons live in Burnsville.

Our life’s journey has offered us the opportunity to live in various places: Colby, KS; Colorado Springs, CO; Fairfax, VA; Cupertino, CA; Chicago, IL and finally back full circle to Minnesota. Our landing in Mahtowa (Park Lake to be specific) is due to vacation time with extended family at our lake cabins; a place that marked ‘home’ for our children as we moved about.

While in California, I attended and graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. My first call was to a three level care facility, serving as a chaplain during the week and pastor to the attached congregation on weekends. In Chicago I served as a solo pastor to a city congregation, and later as interim pastor for another congregation. Since moving to Minnesota, I have continued my calling to interim ministry serving Grace Lutheran in McGregor, Family of God in Duluth, Kenwood, Duluth, Our Savior’s, Cloquet.

Needless to say, I’ve lived in some exciting and diverse places. But the one constant in all our moves is the experience of God present in the lives and communities of faith; God present moving and stirring, leading and guiding, challenging and comforting, feeding and nourishing.

In this time of transition, I look forward to our time together and pray God’s blessings on the mission and ministry of the people of God here at First Lutheran. May we live out our baptismal calling to be God’s hands at work in our world.

In Christ,
Pr. Becky Wagner

Vision Council Highlights - December CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATION

- Letters to the congregation relaying information about the resignation and retirement of our pastors.
- Builder article on transition process with the Synod.
- Builder article on Mission Planning for 2014.
- Congregation –wide invitation to retirement celebration.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

- Finance Committee Review of end of fiscal year of 2013 Mission Plan

MISSION PLANNING

- Start of mission planning for 2014 with ministry board and ministry teams

PASTORAL COVERAGE

- Arranging pulpit supply (preaching) for transition period
- Arranging part-time contracts for pastoral support - Pr Greg Garmer and Pr Becky Wagner

CONGREGATIONAL EVENT PLANNING

- Planning and coordination for the retirement celebration for Pastor April Larson and Pastor Judd Larson on January 5, 2014. Thank you to all who attended and worked so hard to make this event wonderful!

Vision Council minutes are available in the church library and in the office.

LEADERSHIP

GET BETTER CONNECTED ON OUR WEBSITE

- ◆ Go to www.flcduluth.org
- ◆ Sign up for *FirstNews* weekly e-mail updates by sending an e-mail to flchurch@flcduluth.org
- ◆ Sign up to receive a full color, digital issue of *The Builder* via email (go green)
- ◆ Download new and previous editions of *The Builder*
- ◆ An audio "widget" has been added on the sidebar of the web page/home page. This widget connects to the worship audio files stored online. Click on the one you want to download and it will take you to download link. These are large files that will take a few minutes to download (you can minimize) and then you just play on windows media player or other players.

Get connected...



If you have not already shared your email address with the office at First Lutheran, please consider doing it soon. An interest survey is being planned and we would love to offer it on-line in a quick and convenient format. We can promise that it will not be shared outside of church. Please send your email address to flchurch@flcduluth.org. Thank you.

Migrating Snowbirds

The weather has turned cold and the snow has arrived (LOTS of snow). Many members of First Lutheran will be "flying" to warmer climates this winter - "snowbirds". If you are a snowbird, please let the office know of your winter address so mail can be sent to you at your warmer location. Call 728-3668 or e-mail nancy@flcduluth.org.

Snowbirds can also sign up to receive *The Builder* and/or *FirstNews* on line to get up-to-date FLC news.



VISION COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	paulat@chartermi.net H# 728-5213
Past President	ldrewes@d.umn.edu H# 724-2981
Vice President	DBadger724@charter.net H# 724-2368
Treasurer	sirtylalot@aol.com C# 348-0465
Secretary	pbkilgore@gmail.com H# 724-6288
Councilor-at-Large	nvandeel@gmail.com H# 729-8191
Councilor-at-Large	kzim63@charter.net H# 525-4349
Senior Pastor	

MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

Senior Pastor	
Associate Pastor	
Ministerial Associate	annbeck@flcduluth.org 728-3668
Director of Music Ministries	jason@flcduluth.org 728-3668
Director of Youth and Family	chad@flcduluth.org 728-3668
Parish Administrator	phallback@flcduluth.org 728-3668
FLCW Chair	sara.ojard@krechojard.com H# 715-864-2744
Councilor-at-Large	CHGrau@aol.com C# 724-8776
Councilor-at-Large	tskrause@gmail.com H# 727-6772
Councilor-at-Large	Anne.Rogotzke@essentiahealth.org H# 525-5474
Councilor-at-Large	tomwhittaker@msn.com H# 729-5025

STANDING MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Stewardship	mmmargaret@msn.com C# 591-6331
Worship Ministry	jfp77@juno.com C# 464-1160
Local & Global Mission	Robannrbe@aol.com H# 728-2988
Evangelism & Welcome	cmadich@aol.com H# 206-0196
Lifelong Learning	chad@flcduluth.org H# 728-3668

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 10:00 AA - PH
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p>Rolls on Sale by Youth CAMP SUNDAY 8:30/11:00 Worship - S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Rngrs-MR 10:00 Discipleship Challenge-PH 10:00/12:00 Mission Plan Review 2:00 Gustavus Choir Concert - S</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">3</p> <p>5:15 AA - PH 6:30 Sojourners II-CH 7:00 Ruth Gather-H 7:00 Comp I - Homes 7:00 Sojourners III-CF</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p>11:45 Noon Book Group-UC 4:30 Stephen Min-307 4:45 Prayer-CH 6:00 Breaking Bread-H 6:30 Ministry Bd-AER</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">5</p> <p>10:30 FLC Staff-CH/CF 5:15 Confirmation 4-5g 5:15 Apostle Singers 5yr-2nd Gr-PH 5:30 Jub Ringers-MR 6:30 Apostle Sgrs-PH 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">6</p> <p>7:00 Men's Grp-UC 9:00 MOPS -PH,SS 9:30 Interim Pstrs-AER 5:15 FLCW Board-CF 5:30 Vision Council 6:00 Maintenance 7:00 Mary/Martha-UC 7:00 Companions-CH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">7</p> <p>7:30 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-PH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">8</p> <p>10:00 AA - PH 4:00 Global Festival Choir Rehearsal-S Followed by Potluck</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">9</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>GLOBAL FESTIVAL Fair Trade Sales 8:30/11:00 Worship - S 9:30 Healing Pryrs-S 9:45 Altar Guild-CF 9:45 Global Fest Event 9:45 Youth Rngrs-MR 4:30 Annual Congr Meeting-PH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">10</p> <p>5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Capital Core Team-307 6:30 Sojourners II-CH 7:00 Comp I - Homes 7:00 Sojourners III-CF</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">11</p> <p>9:30 Leah-PH 11:45 Noon Book Group-UC 1:00 Library-L 4:45 Prayer-CH 5:30 Evang/Wel-PH 5:30 Stewardship-PH 6:00 Lfelong Lmg-PH 7:15 Local/Global-PH 7:15 Worship-PH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">12</p> <p>10:30 FLC Staff-CH/CF 5:00-6:30 PPS Potato Bar Supper-PH 5:15 Confirmation 5-5g 5:15 Apostle Singers 5yr-2nd Gr-S 5:30 Jub Ringers-MR 6:30 Apostle Sgrs-S 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">13</p> <p>7:00 Men's Grp-UC 9:00 MOPS Steer.-UC 1:00 Prayer Shawl-CF 6:00 Maintenance 7:00 OS-L 7:00 Companions-CH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">14</p> <p>7:30 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-PH 12:30 Topnotchers-PH</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">15</p> <p>10:00 AA - PH</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">16</p> <p>8:30/11:00 Worship - S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Rngrs-MR 10:00 NOOMA-AER 10:00 Forum: Anti- Racism-PH 12:00 Eat.Paint.Love. Art Event-PH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">17</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>8:00 Giants Ridge Skit Trip - 6-12 gr. 5:15 AA - PH 6:30 Sojourners II-CH 7:00 Comp I-Homes 7:00 Sojourners III-CF</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">18</p> <p>11:45 Noon Book Group-UC 4:30 Stephen Min-307 4:45 Prayer-CH 6:30 Foundation-308</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">19</p> <p>10:00 Dorcas-Homes 10:30 FLC Staff-CH/CF 1:00 Esther-Lakeshore 5:30 Jub Ringers-MR 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">20</p> <p>7:00 Men's Grp-UC 9:00 MOPS-PH,SS 12:30 Naomi-UC 6:00 Maintenance 7:00 Companions-CH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">21</p> <p>7:30 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-PH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">22</p> <p>10:00 AA - PH</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">23</p> <p>TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS Event 8:30/11:00 Worship - S 9:30 Healing Pryrs-S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Rngrs-MR</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">24</p> <p>9:15 Young Mothers Bible Study-307 5:15 AA - PH 6:30 Sojourners II-CH 7:00 Companions I-H 7:00 Sojourners III-CF</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">25</p> <p>11:45 Noon Book Group-UC 1:00 Library-L 4:45 Prayer-CH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">26</p> <p>10:30 FLC Staff-CH/CF 5:30 Jub Ringers-MR 5:00-7:00 Eat.Paint. Love. artists receipt-UC 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">27</p> <p>7:00 Men's Grp-UC 9:00 Quilters-PH 5:00 Finance-CF 6:00 Maintenance 7:00 Companions-CH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">28</p> <p>7:30 Sojourners I-CH 9:30 Bible Study-PH</p>	



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

First Lutheran Church
1100 E. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802
218-728-3668
flchurch@flcduluth.org



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STAFF

First Lutheran Church

Office: (218)728-3668

www.flcduluth.org

Fax: (218) 728-6227

flchurch@flcduluth.org

Pastors: (Ext. #)

Pastor April Ulring Larson (207) PastorLarson@flcduluth.org

E-mail

Senior Pastor

Pastor Judd Larson (202)

juddlarson@flcduluth.org

Associate Pastor

Program Staff:

Jason Branham (212)

jason@flcduluth.org

Director of Music Ministry

Karen Sande (213)

ksande@flcduluth.org

Asst. Director of Music Ministry

Chad Christianson (215)

chad@flcduluth.org

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Ann Beck (210)

AnnBeck@flcduluth.org

Ministerial Associate

Rebecca Sundquist

Foundation/Stewardship Advisor

Office Staff:

Patti Hallback (205)

phallback@flcduluth.org

Parish Administrator

Janet Freund (203)

janet@flcduluth.org

Nancy Hamre (204)

nancy@flcduluth.org

The Builder Editor

Builder@flcduluth.org

Custodial Staff:

Duane Sieger (232)

Other extension numbers:

Archives (231)

Youth Room (225)

WELCOMING STATEMENT

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes you into our 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. If you have felt excluded here or elsewhere, to you we extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

The Builder Schedule

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

Deadline dates:

- **March 2014 issue: Tues., February 18, 2014**
- **April 2014 issue: Tues., March 18, 2014**

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

www.flcduluth.org



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