

# 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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### FLC Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 12, at 12:15 p.m.. - Parish Hall

At this year's annual meeting you will be invited to help shape our mission plan. Come be a part of envisioning the future. Your input will be very important. The 2017 Mission Support Plan will be presented. A lunch will be served and childcare will be available.

### Promise Preschool

**Promise Preschool is now enrolling for Fall 2017.**

The staff provides a well balanced, play based experience for children 33 months to 5 years old. Three and four day morning Preschool and optional Breakfast and Lunch Bunch also available. Please contact Sarah Ching for more information.



♥ 728-3668 x214  
♥ ppsdirector1@gmail.com

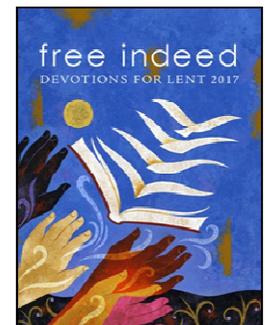
### Welcome to the Lord's Table Wednesday, March 8 & 29



Is your child eager to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion? Or is your child already receiving communion and would benefit from more information on what this sacrament is all about? You are encouraged to participate in a family class on Holy Communion. This interactive class will meet for two sessions, along with a take-home packet to work on as a family during Lent. Registration information will be coming out later this month – keep an eye out! First Communion will be celebrated together at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 23.

### 2017 Lenten Journey

The season of Lent begins on March 1 with Ash Wednesday. In this anniversary year of the Reformation, the Lenten study focus will engage the congregation in reflection and discussion on the significance of that spiritual revolution 500 years ago, as well as in how God is calling us to live and be in community today.



## VISION & MISSION

## FROM PASTOR DIANNE LOUFMAN

### 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

### What is a mission plan, anyway?

God is the author of mission. As the stewardship team has sought to teach with its theme: It All Belongs to God – *mission* belongs to God. God's mission does not depend upon FLC; it will happen whether we are involved or not because God will find people to carry God's purposes out. So, our mission plan is our discernment of where God is in need of God's people. Where is God leading? Who are we called to reach? to feed? to gather in? to serve? Where are the needs? Where are the opportunities to be the presence of Christ to others? God has a mission, I want to be part of it. Don't you?



A mission plan is not created by 10 vision council members sitting around a table; it's created by a myriad of conversations with congregational members (especially those on the edges, those who are new, those who are quiet), and with neighbors along Superior Street, in the park, and up in the neighborhood God has placed us within. We trust that if we listen carefully and openly, God will speak to us through others showing us the way.

Some of these conversations have been going on throughout the year and out of them, some ideas have bubbled up. We want to know if these ideas/dreams capture your imagination as well. On Sunday, February 12 at the annual congregational meeting, we will post these dreams around the parish hall and we will invite you to put post-it notes on those that seem inspired. These will be a beginning to the vision council's mission plan for [faithlovecommunity/FLC](http://faithlovecommunity/FLC).

The more people who attend - the closer we will be to discerning not our own desires but God's. Please come.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dianne".

Pastor Dianne

Note: With the above understanding, the finance team has changed the name of our budget from mission plan to mission support plan. These are the monies received and the plan for how to use them to support mission.



# FROM FLC PRESIDENT

## It's Sunday Morning. Where Should I Park?

Sunday morning parking has been an important topic of discussion within our congregation. A study of available parking was completed about one year ago and reported to the Vision Council.

Our main parking lot, accessed from Superior Street, close to the red door canopy entrance, is the most popular. **This is where a guest, or a person with mobility concerns, would most likely begin looking for a place to park.** That is why it is so important that we who are able to walk a little distance refrain from parking in the rows closest to the entrance. There are spaces for handicap parking and ample room to drop off passengers at the canopy entrance. Additional parking extends east, on the other side of the chiropractic building. There are about 36 spaces available on this side, and we may park right up alongside both sides of the building. Please do not park in the posted areas during business hours.

Our second church lot is on London Road at the older canopy entrance. There are about 20 available spaces, including some designated handicap. London Road and Superior Street offer valuable added parking. Counting both sides of each street, there are 55 parking spaces within reasonable walking distance, with meters not enforced on Sunday mornings.

There is additional parking of which you may not be aware if you are not a longtime member. On the corner of London Road and Superior Street (right at the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue stoplight), there are many available spaces in the public parking lot. There is also COVERED parking available in St. Luke's lower parking ramp. Enter on Superior Street, just east of 10<sup>th</sup> and Superior. Then it's just a quick jaunt across Superior Street to enter our building.

And there is more. On Superior Street, directly across from FLC, is the NEMN Synod Office building. Enter at the side of the building or the alley to their back lot which is available to us on Sunday mornings.

We also have a verbal agreement with Duluth Running Company to use their back door London Road parking lot before noon on Sundays. Enter on London Road; it is right next to our FLC lot. Another established agreement is permission to use the lot at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and London Road. This may be temporary, and we will be advised if we can no longer use this lot.

We also have a strip of parking below our gardens. Enter the drive off London Road and turn left toward the church building. There is room for eight cars.

So if you think of a big circle surrounding our church, you will remember all of the possible places to park. On Sunday mornings, available parking includes:

- Our main Superior Street lot by the red door canopy entrance. **One of the best ways to welcome our guests is to leave these closest spaces open for them, and members for whom walking is difficult.**
- An extension of this lot is on the other side of the chiropractic building. About 36 spaces are available on this side.
- Street parking on both sides of Superior Street and London Road.
- Parking lot at the corner of London Road and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. And next to that, the small attached lot below the garden.
- Our church lot at the older canopy entrance. Enter on London Road.
- Right next to this lot is the backdoor lot of Duluth Running Company, available only until noon and only on Sunday.
- The public parking lot at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and Superior Street/London Road. (There is a brick building right next to it.)
- In St. Luke's parking ramp, right across from Duluth Running Company on Superior Street. (It's covered parking!)
- In the lot behind our Synod building.

Parking is an important requirement of a thriving congregation. A place to park is the first step in welcoming guests. If you are able, try out a parking area or two that you have not tried before.

**See you in church!**



Candy Madich  
Congregational President



# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## High School Students

from Matt Eckman, Church College Coordinator

What's next after high school? It is not too early to think ahead as it comes up fast!

If you are thinking of attending a college out of town, there are some great opportunities among the ELCA church related colleges. First Lutheran Church regularly has students attending and thriving in them. As a help, FLC participates in the college match program, awarding \$500 to \$1,000 per year for our member students. Amounts vary by school. I encourage you to discuss the details with me (722-7217). It is an addition to any usual financial package from the colleges. FLC financial secretary, Janet Freund, has application forms available (call her at 728-3668).

There are over 20 ELCA colleges nationwide. The nearby schools are: Augsburg in Minneapolis; Augustana in Sioux Falls, SD; Augustana in Rock Island, IL; Concordia in Moorhead, MN; Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, MN; Luther in Decorah, IA; and St. Olaf in Northfield, MN. Others can be contacted if interested.

All schools have web sites for browsing, with challenging academics, arts, and music in residential settings, as an excellent preparation for life. Take a look!



*You are invited*

**Baked Potato Bar**



**and Bake Sale**

FEBRUARY 15, 2017 FROM 5:00-6:30 PM  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - PARISH HALL  
\$5 INDIVIDUAL \$20 FAMILY  
INCLUDES FIXINGS + DRINKS  
Hot dogs for the kids!

*All proceeds benefit Promise Preschool*

4th & 5th graders  
and their parents will  
continue to meet  
February 1, 8 and  
15 to focus on  
Communion.



# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## Elementary Rejuve

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a special one night retreat at Camp Vermilion **March 17-18**. It is 23 hours filled with games, worship, learning, meeting new friends and simply being at camp.

**Registration deadline: March 1.** Total cost: \$50. (Non-refundable deposit of \$30 and registration form due by March 1. Remaining balance due prior to trip.) The Cinnamon Roll fundraiser is available to earn money towards the retreat and scholarships are available to offset costs – talk to Deb for more info. Forms will be emailed out. They will also be available on the website and on the kiosk at FLC.

**Parents**, if you are interested in being an adult leader for this retreat, please contact Deb.

## Upcoming Retreats Cardia Deo

The 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader retreat is coming up in March! “We are Called, Gathered, Equipped and Sent to share the Heart of God” (Cardia Deo) in the world. This year we focus on what it means to be Called. Bible studies led by the LYO Board and college interns, service learning, worship, mystery event, camp life, and more all make this event a deeply meaningful, fun and faith-nurturing event. At last year’s Cardia Deo Retreat, one youth commented, “I learned what my faith means to me and why it’s important. I was able to talk to people in my Bible study group about the obstacles we face in our faith.” Another youth shared, “I’m so glad I came! I am so sad I didn’t come sooner.”

### **Save the dates: March 3-6 at Big Sandy Camp in McGregor**

Registration deadline: January 29. Total cost: \$110. (Non-refundable deposit of \$60 and registration form due January 29. Remaining balance due prior to trip.) The Cinnamon Roll fundraiser is available to earn money towards the retreat and scholarships are available to offset costs – talk to Deb for more info. Forms will be emailed out. They will also be available on the website and on the kiosk at FLC.



**Promise Preschool**

**Enroll now for Fall 2017**

## Cinnamon Rolls

The next Cinnamon Roll Days are February 4 to prep and February 5 to sell rolls between worship services. Those that help will raise funds to help pay for summer trips and camp.

### **Saturday, February 4**

9:30 – 10:45am – Prep Rolls. If you’re able to help prep rolls, please let Deb Westerberg know. All ages are invited to help with the prep on Saturday.

### **Sunday, February 5**

8:15-9:30 - Help plate rolls on Sunday morning. All ages invited to help.  
9:30-11:00 - 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School students will sell rolls between services



# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## Experience the G.I.F.T. - *all ages* Growing in Faith Together

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month  
9:45 -10:45 in the Parish Hall

Each month we've been gathering in the parish hall to learn about one of the fruits of the Spirit. We've had great conversations and activities as young kids and oldsters together explore how each quality connects them with God in their daily lives.

In January we learned about **PATIENCE** - through laughing (or trying NOT to laugh), learning sign language, engaging in the story of Abraham and Sarah, potting a plant, painting a rock, eating Kiwi fruit and cookies, and lots of great conversation.

This **February 12**, come join in faithful learning and fellowship with people of all ages, talking about the **fruit of Kindness**. Sit with someone new, of a different generation - and find how much we can learn from one another!



### Each G.I.F.T. Sunday features a different Fruit of the Spirit -

- Oct. 9 Love
- Nov. 13 Joy
- Nov. 27 Peace
- Jan. 15 Patience
- Feb. 12 Kindness**
- Mar. 12 Goodness
- Apr. 9 Faithfulness
- May 14 Gentleness & Self Control



The Climis family planted their seeds.

# 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 Steve & Julie Samuelson on the death of Steve's father, Bill Samuelson.

Tammy & Nick Licari on the death of Tammy's father, Tom Sullwold

Family of Voula & Jim Heffernan and sister-in-law on the death of Voula's brother.

Family of Nick & Sarah Shilman on the death of Nick's Grandmother, Marvel Lee.

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## FLUKE

*(First Lutheran Ukulele)*  
**Meeting Feb. 5 & 19**



Have you ever wanted to learn how to play the ukulele? Do you already play but would like to get together with others to play some songs? All are welcome to FLUKE (First Lutheran Ukulele); kids, youth, and adults of all ages and of all uke abilities! Angel Saur will lead the group through the basics of getting started, reviewing basics, and learning chords during the first part of the session (3:30-4:00 p.m.). Then from 4:00-4:45 it will be about putting it all together and playing some songs as a group. Come either at 3:30 or 4:00 depending on where you're at in playing the uke.

**Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.**

# WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

## National Lutheran Choir to sing at First Lutheran Church Saturday, March 18

“Singing a Sacred and Spiritual Story” is the name of the National Lutheran Choir’s 2016-2018 concert series. They will be performing Bach’s *Ein feste Burg ist Unser Gott* and music of early Lutheran masters.

Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Ein feste Burg ist Unser Gott* (“A Mighty Fortress is our God”) is based on one of the most well-known Lutheran hymns, composed by Martin Luther nearly 500 years ago. Bach’s cantata highlights this program of early Lutheran choral music which includes works by Johann Walther, Heinrich Schütz and others.

Under the direction of nationally known conductor, composer and organist Dr. David Cherwien, the 64-member National Lutheran Choir’s artistry is rooted in its mission to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music. And it does so through the highest standards of performance and literature.



## Worship Notes

**Live Radio Broadcast:** KDAL AM 610, 8:30 a.m. Sundays  
**Live Streaming** of 8:30 service, go to [www.flcduluth.org](http://www.flcduluth.org).

### Sun., Feb. 5 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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

### Sun., Feb. 12 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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

### Sun., Feb. 19 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18; Ps. 119:33-40;  
1 Cor. 3:1-11, 16-23; Matt. 5:38-48

### Sun., Feb. 26 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21;  
Matt. 17:1-9

*Readings are from Revised Common Lectionary.*

## Youth Ringers

This handbell choir for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m., in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor music room. New ringers are welcome! Contact Karen for more information at [ksande@flcduluth.org](mailto:ksande@flcduluth.org) or 728-3668.



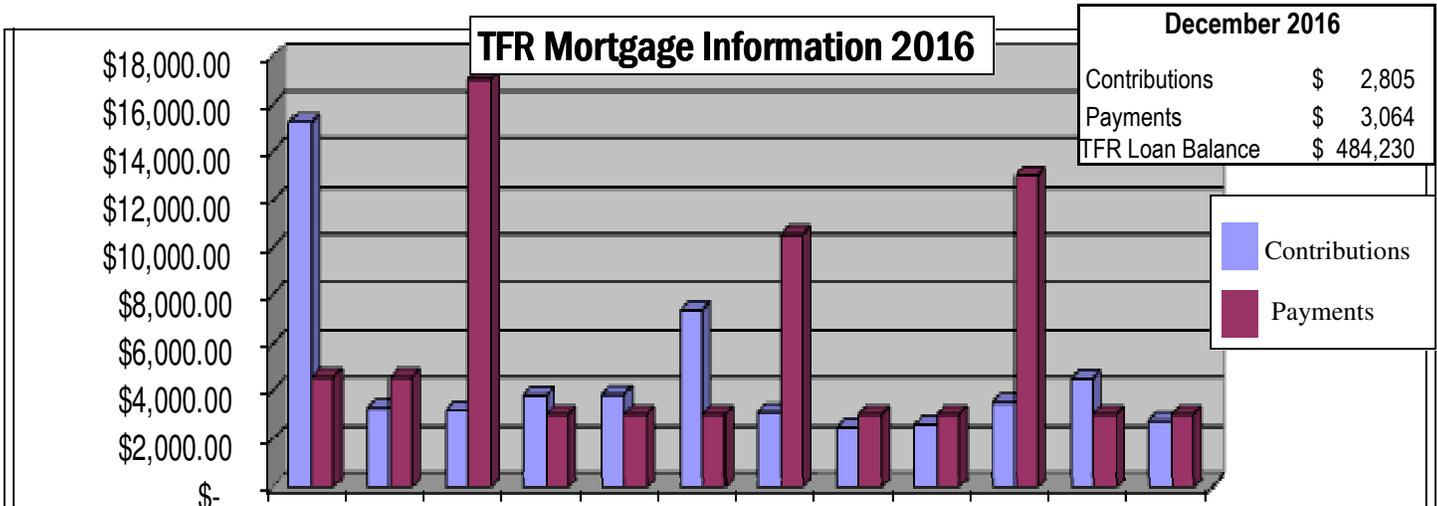
## Apostle Choir

Apostle Choir meets for 3 more weeks in February on Wednesdays the 1st, 8th and 15th in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor 4-5 year old Sunday School room. They will focus on songs and music skills for the K-3rd grade (as the older kids have confirmation classes at this time). **New singers are welcome!** Contact Karen for more information at [ksande@flcduluth.org](mailto:ksande@flcduluth.org) or 728-3668.

## FLC Instrumental Ensemble to Play on February 26

Youth and adult instrumentalists (string, woodwind, brass and percussion players) are invited to participate in an ensemble for Transfiguration Sunday, February 26. We will play for the 8:30 a.m. service and the beginning of the 11:00 a.m. service. Contact Karen Sande at [ksande@flcduluth.org](mailto:ksande@flcduluth.org) if you are available, and we will get rehearsal times set up.

# GIVING



Please remember TFR (Time for Renewal) in your giving. This project has created a new Gathering Space, beautified the sanctuary and provided the church with a magnificent Jaeckel organ.



## Unaccounted-for pledges!

The stewardship team sent out thank you notes to all those who made a pledge to the ministry of First Lutheran for 2017. If you made a pledge but did not receive a thank-you, please call the church office. You might be one of the unsigned pledges! We'd love to be able to include these pledge amounts in our mission support plan. Thank you.

### Worship Attendance

Dec. 18	383
Dec. 24	927
Dec. 25	65
Jan. 1	166
Jan. 8	365
Jan. 15	357

### Giving for the Ministries & Missions of FLC

Weekly offering through:	
Sun., Dec. 18	\$22,501
Sun., Dec. 25	\$ 6,849
Sun., Jan. 1	\$41,202
Sun., Jan. 8	\$ 9,411
Sun., Jan. 15	\$12,592

### Hunger Offering

Amount donated to the Hunger Offering in December: \$862.08

## GIVING

### December 2016 Memorials & Gifts

**Gifts to Library in memory of Ruth Perkins** by Lois & Kae Dahlman; **in memory of Linda Anderson** by Claryce Swensen, Norma Hoffbauer.

**Gifts to Radio Broadcast in memory of Ruth Perkins** by Leah Gathering; **in memory of Linda Anderson** from Eleanor & Keith McGraw, Waunita & Clark Averill, John & Beryl Bredeson, Carol E. Anderson, Betty Monson, WinnaFae Nisswandt, Nancy St. Marie, Clifford & Mickey Wiklund.

**Gifts to Time for Renewal in memory of Linda Anderson** by Tim & Beth Holst.

**Gifts to Organ Maintenance in memory of Phil Mickelson** by Paul Mickelson.

**Gifts to FLC Memorials in memory of Ruth Perkins** by Kathy Morris; **in memory of Gene Huffman** by Kathy Morris; **in memory of Betty Nelson** by Patricia Luder, Kenneth Clark.

**Gifts to World Hunger in memory of Naomi Meints** by Gudrun Hoivik.

**Gifts to Youth Ministry in memory of Helene "Terry" Berg** from William Berg.

## 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., Feb. 6 - 7:00 p.m. - Homes

#### Mary & Martha Gathering

Thurs., Feb. 9 - 7:00 p.m., Upper Commons

#### Leah Gathering

Tues., Feb. 14 - 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall

#### Dorcas Gathering

Wed., Feb. 15 - 10:00 a.m. - Upper Commons

#### Esther Gathering

Wed., Feb. 15 - 1:00 p.m. - Lakeshore

#### Naomi Gathering

Thurs., Feb. 16 - 12:30 p.m. - Upper Commons



### Scandinavian Food & Craft Festival News

First Lutheran Church Women would like to share good news. Thanks to generous shopping and eating and participating in this event, the FLCW will be donating to the following worthy ministries:

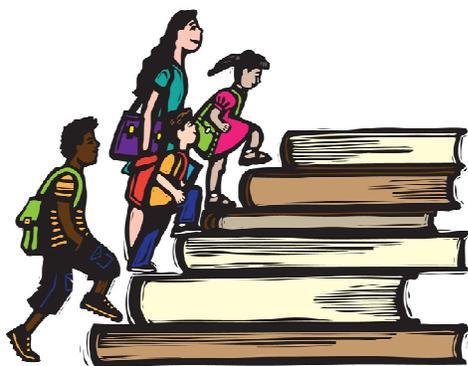
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry	\$1,000
Bethany Crisis Shelter	\$ 300
CHUM	\$ 300
Kids' Closet	\$ 300
Union Gospel Mission	\$ 300
Safe Haven	\$ 200
Salvation Army Food Drive	\$ 200
Damiano	\$ 300
FLC Mission Support	\$2,000
FLC Camperships	\$1,000
Phebe Solar Project	\$1,000

Please plan to attend the festival again in 2017. Any ideas for making this event even better can be shared with Margaret Broderius (mbroderi@d.umn.edu).

### Getting Ready for the next festival!

Cleaning out a few things after Christmas. Making room for new gifts? If you have any gently used jewelry taking up space, consider donating it for the 2017 fall festival's Jewel Booth. Donations are accepted all year long. Drop them off at the church office.

## LIBRARY NEWS



*Step into the Church Library on a Sunday morning and pick out a book or two for some great winter reading! There are books for all ages. Videos are also available.*

# STUDY & PRAYER

## Sunday Morning Adult Education

No matter what our age, we are all growing as disciples. 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 for us, and to living a life of faith. Except for GIFT Sundays, all programs begin at 10:00 a.m.

## My Neighbor is Muslim Study at FLC

FLC recently held several adult forums on "Crucial Conversations", learning how to have safe and constructive conversations on important issues. As people of faith, it is vital that we be able to talk about things that matter in our world – to learn with an open heart, to listen in love, and to engage in respectful dialogue when stakes may feel high.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOURSELF.  
MATTHEW 22:39

This winter the Micah 6:8 Action Team will be leading us into the first of our crucial conversations, through a series of adult forums exploring the Muslim faith. The forums will be based on the study *My Neighbor is Muslim* which was produced by Lutheran

Social Services, and written by theologians from Luther Seminary and Luther College. As followers of Jesus called to love one another, this study provides an opportunity to grow in understanding of those we perceive to be "the other", as well as insight into how we relate as Christians to our Muslim neighbors.

On January 8, guest speaker Ibrahim Al-Qudah, President of the Islamic Center of the Twin Ports shared some of his story and provided a general introduction to the Muslim faith. The remaining three sessions in February will be more discussion based and facilitated by FLC members. The study guide can be downloaded at [www.lssmn.org/refugeeservices/study](http://www.lssmn.org/refugeeservices/study). There are several copies in the library, and may also be available through the office. While it is helpful to read the material ahead of time, participants are welcome to come without reading. Topics to be discussed are identified in the schedule below.

## Schedule for February

### FEBRUARY 5

**My Neighbor is Muslim - Parish Hall**  
Discussion on Islam and Jesus (p. 13-19 of study guide) and Islam and Jews/Christians (p. 20-26)

### Dwelling in the Word - Adult Ed Room

For all seekers, come explore some of the familiar, and not so familiar, stories of the Bible. Each week will include a brief presentation to provide biblical context, followed by small group discussions to wrestle with questions together on what the story means in our own lives. This informal Bible study will meet each week in the Adult Ed Room. No preparation needed - all are welcome!

### FEBRUARY 12

**Growing in Faith Together: KINDNESS - Parish Hall**  
All ages are encouraged to come learn and grow together in faith and fellowship while exploring the fruits of the Spirit.

### Dwelling in the Word - Adult Ed Room

All welcome to this informal weekly Bible study and discussion (see above)

### FEBRUARY 19

**My Neighbor is Muslim - Parish Hall**  
Discussion on Islam and Violence (p. 35-40 of study guide) and Islamic State (p. 47-52)

### Dwelling in the Word - Adult Ed Room

All welcome to this informal weekly Bible study and discussion (see above)

### FEBRUARY 26

**My Neighbor is Muslim - Parish Hall**  
Discussion will be based on questions that arise from the previous 3 sessions.

### Dwelling in the Word - Adult Ed Room

All welcome to this informal weekly Bible study and discussion (see above)



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
will be gathering  
Thursday, Feb. 9 at  
1:00 p.m. in 3rd Floor Conference Room.

## Book Study: *The End of Night*

If anyone is interested in joining a book study on The End of Night by Paul Bogard, please sign up at the Welcome Desk. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the use of light in our own lives and in Duluth. If a group of 6-10 people sign up, which would be a great size to discuss the book, a date and time will be set up.

# RELATING

## Topnotchers

**Fri., February 10 at 12:30 p.m.**

Topnotchers will be gathering on Friday, February 10 at 12:30 p.m. Ask a friend to come, too. If you aren't on the regular caller list, call Dorothy at 525-5550 or Elaine at 724-1068 by Tuesday, February 7 for a reservation. Cost is \$8.



## FAITH, SEXISM, JUSTICE: Conversations toward a Social Statement

First Lutheran Church Duluth is convening a focus group with the goal of providing feedback to the ELCA to help with the creation of a new social statement on Women and Justice: One in Christ. We will be using the synod's guide book, *Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement*.

The study will be introduced at an adult forum in April, followed by a five week focus group meeting on Thursday evenings. The focus group is open to all who are interested.

Other groups interested in the study are encouraged to access the guide on-line at [elca.org](http://elca.org). FLC will have 2 guide books available.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Mary Streufert at [marystreufert@gmail.com](mailto:marystreufert@gmail.com) or 218-724-9084, or Mary Zastrow at [mgz56@yahoo.com](mailto:mgz56@yahoo.com) or 218-390-9170.

## Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill, February 23

Every year, **CHUM** takes a bus full of people of faith from Northeast Minnesota to the State Capitol to advocate for a more just and compassionate world for those experiencing poverty in our community. This year, the main focus will be increasing the Minnesota Family Investment Program funding by \$100 per household for the first time in 31 years. This program provides essential basic needs support funds to families in poverty in Minnesota. Register at [Jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill-registration](http://Jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill-registration) and get details of trip. Then contact [Cochran@chumduluth.org](mailto:Cochran@chumduluth.org) or 740-2497 to save your seat on the bus.

## Lutefisk, Salmon & Meatball Wrap-up

The lutefisk, salmon, and meatball dinner continues to attract about 1,070 folks (last year about 1,050) and have a faithful group of over 110 volunteers. What a great day and a great turnout of both. Thanks to everyone that organized, worked, cooked, baked, cleaned, scooped, poured, peeled, rolled, kneaded, scrubbed, and greeted our guest with smiles and friendly greetings. At the time of this writing, the final figures (income and expenses) show we will be able to use approximately \$14,330 thanks to the increased price and good turnout, for benevolence and church needs. **Come to the annual meeting to help decide how we should share these first fruits!**

## FLC Crafters Group

The FLC Crafters will gathering on Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Is one of your New Year's resolutions to get that craft project that has been sitting around forever finally done? Bring it to the craft night and work on completing it. Get inspired and encouraged while working with others.



## Short Sleeve Sunday!

**Blood pressure screenings** will be provided the third Sunday of each month, except for holidays. Get your blood pressure checked between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. in the cry room near the adult education room. The first screening will be **Sunday, February 19**.



Please take your usual medication and wear short sleeves under your sweater or jacket. Bring your card if you have one.

## “Re-Imagining Faith Formation”

### Discovery Team Update

from Ann Beck, Ministerial Associate

Last spring the Lifelong Learning Ministry Team began an initiative for re-imagining faith formation at FLC. With financial support from First Lutheran Foundation, InterServe Ministries was contracted to work with a committed group of people in a “discovery process” – to help identify the current culture and identity of First Lutheran, and learn about the needs, desires, challenges and barriers regarding faith development. There were numerous people involved at various times during the process, but the core Discovery Team members are Mary Dontje, Dan McCourtney, Dana Varland, Carl Freund, Suzanne Rauvola, Carol Anderson, Deb Westerberg, Ann Beck, and Pastor Dianne.

The discovery process began with a congregational listening and learning event last May. This was followed by comprehensive written and online surveys for both adults and youth, with over 240 people participating. Numerous informal conversations further helped flesh out a better understanding of people’s perspectives and current realities. Under the leadership of InterServe staff Sue Megrund and Kari Osmek, the Discovery Team met over the course of several months to review and discuss what was being learned through all the compiled data. The final meeting was just held on January 15 and a complete report will be written and submitted by InterServe Ministries.

A summary perspective of the information, however, gives a hopeful vision for the future, in that people of *all* ages expressed a high desire to learn more about God and their faith. There is also a yearning for meaning and relationships within their church community, both between individuals and in corporate worship. There is recognition of the separation of generations, and a wish to bridge that gap. And, there is a fairly consistent understanding of the need to look outward as part of our faith and ministry.

The challenges are also evident, most clearly with the conflict of time and schedules, an active and mobile population, and a struggle to reconcile competing priorities. There are also divergent views on how these obstacles might be addressed. However, with Pastor Dianne’s encouraging leadership, FLC Ministry Teams have already been exploring options and experimenting with new ideas. For example, monthly G.I.F.T. (*Growing in Faith Together*) Sundays, intentional youth leadership in worship, exploring a 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service option, Sunday morning Bible study, a young adult fellowship gathering, are all happening. Relationship-building activities connected to our faith community are being encouraged.

As the InterServe summary report and recommendations are put together, we can look ahead to continued conversations and moving forward in new ways that keep God at the center and that engage our children, youth and *all* ages in a living, active, always-growing faith.

## It All Belongs to God

On the wall at home is a plaque that reads, “I’m sorry for the things I said when it was Winter.” Indeed, this last season before Spring tests us and seems to go on forever. North winds still blow, unexpected ice storms change well laid plans, and good humor wavers.

St. Valentine’s Day arrives just in time to change hearts and minds. This day can renew us through acts of love and kindness, and memories of the same. Before printed cards were available, friends and loved-ones exchanged small tokens of affection or hand-written notes.

St. Valentine’s Day can be viewed as the very essence of our Christian faith. Aren’t we expected to love, forgive, thank, and lend a hand? Is not stewardship, heart work? Gifts from the Lord pass through our hands to help others. It all belongs to God – in the beginning and at the end and the in-between.



Celebrate St. Valentine’s Day with us by expressing love for one another. Create hand written notes of affection and admiration; help out a neighbor who suffers from winter hibernation or incapacities. It takes so little to lend a hand. From Proverbs 21 we read, “All deeds are right in the sight of the doer, but the Lord weighs the heart.”

Your Stewardship Team is committed to

1. Care of the earth.
2. Care of ourselves.
3. Care of personal finances.
4. Care of Church finances.
5. Care of relationships.

May the last one, (Care of relationships) become first on the Day of the Heart and the month of caring for others.

Diane Fay Skomars,  
on behalf of the Stewardship Team

# VISION COUNCIL

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

## Vision Council Meeting Highlights

Thursday, January 5, 2017

from Tammy Fanning, Vision Council Secretary

**Devotion:** The devotion shared with the Vision Council was from Chapter Six of the book, Called by God to Serve: Apathy in Church. The group discussed questions such as: How can the council keep the proclamation of the Gospel a priority? How are we living out the gospel and taking an interest in the community/inviting them in?

**Ministry Board Report:** In December, budgets were submitted and reviewed by the board. A list of all action teams was created as well. At the January Board meeting, the annual report was discussed and Action Teams were asked to submit stories.

**Treasurer's Report:** 190 pledges were returned last year (2016) totaling \$625,000; and, as of January 5, 2017, 186 pledges were received and totaled \$616,798 for this year (2017). The Lutefisk Dinner netted approximately \$10,000 last month. [See updated dinner report on p. 11.]

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Christmas postcards were mailed to the area neighborhood inviting them to Christmas services. Three people who came to the Christmas service reported that they attended due to the postcard invite they received. Many young couples have joined the church; currently there are plans to form a young professionals group to bring these couples together. There may need to be a planned activities for the college-age students who were invited to First in the fall and are continuing to attend. How can we serve couples who have had babies? As the Council moves forward with mission planning, these areas will be kept in mind.

A Caring Ministry meeting recently was held and the team discussed ways to bring communion to members and visiting those who are homebound.

Pastor was nominated for a professional development opportunity over the next few years. The professional development funds provided may not cover the entire cost and additional funding assistance may be needed in the following year.

Two seminarians have been assisting with services, one individual preached in church over the weekend of January 8; the other preaching on January 22.

### President's Report:

#### Old Business

On January 29, 2017, a celebration is planned for Pastor Greg after the services. The nursery will be available. Pr. Greg would like any contributions given in his honor to go to two worthy projects: "PV for Phebe" and rebuilding Gloria Dei.

Individuals have been nominated for Synod Assembly who are interested in leadership positions within the church. It was suggested to nominate a confirmed youth who might be interested in attending. The nominations will be finalized for the congregational meeting.

#### New Business

Stewardship Ministry Team presented a resolution which recommended partnering with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Duluth to provide financial services to members of the congregation and the greater community. This agreement includes a space for these services to be provided. This resolution was approved unanimously by the Council.

On January 22 at 10:00 a.m. the Adult Forum will be led by the Worship Team. The team will ask questions such as: Is there a need for a third worship service at First Lutheran? If so, why? Who should we be trying to reach by adding an additional service? What day and time? What format and style (i.e. healing service, evening prayer, jazz service, etc.)? Who will plan and lead this service? Other considerations?

Plans were made for the February 12 Annual Congregational meeting. The Council will provide the opportunity for the congregation to brainstorm ways the church can accomplish its mission. The annual report will also be shared with the congregation prior to the meeting through email and physical copies.

The Vision Council meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Candy.

## GET BETTER CONNECTED ON OUR WEBSITE

- Go to [www.flcduluth.org](http://www.flcduluth.org)
- Sign up for *FirstNews* weekly e-mail updates by sending an e-mail to [nancy@flcduluth.org](mailto:nancy@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.

## 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.

## Caring Connections & Homebound Ministry

As a faith community we are called to care for each other, to walk with those experiencing difficult times, and to reach out to members who are no longer able to attend worship. If you would like to learn more about serving in this caring ministry, as a homebound visitor, a supportive connection, or a home communion minister, please contact Ann Beck at 728-3668 or [annbeck@flcduluth.org](mailto:annbeck@flcduluth.org). Also, if you are aware of someone in need of caring support or visits, please let the church office know.

# LEADERSHIP

*Please feel free to contact us.*

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## MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

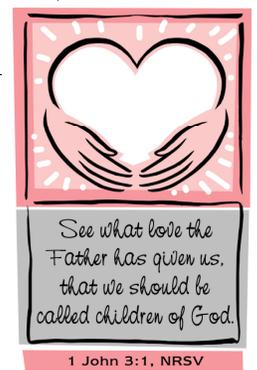
<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Pastor Dianne Loufman
<b>Ministerial Associate</b>	Ann Beck
<b>Director of Music Ministries</b>	Dr. Jason Branham
<b>Director of Youth and Family</b>	Deb Westerberg
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George Rennan	C# 390-3526

# FEBRUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 9:30 CHOICE-K, PH 10:30 Staff-AER 5:15 Confirmation, 3rd, 4th & 5th grades 5:15 Apostle Choir 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	<i>2</i> 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS-PH, etc 6:30 Comp II-CH	<i>3</i> 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER	<i>4</i> 10:00 AA-PH
<i>5</i> 8:30 Worship-S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Ringers-MR 10:00 Adult Forum-PH 10:00 Bible Study-AER 11:00 Worship-S 3:30 FLUKE-GS	<i>6</i> 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 5:30 Vision Council 6:30 Comp I - Homes 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Ruth Gathering-H	<i>7</i> 11:45 Book Group-UC 4:45 Extreme Parenting-LC/PH 6:30 Ministry Bd-AER	<i>8</i> 10:30 Staff-AER 5:15 Confirmation, 3rd, 4th & 5th grades 5:15 Apostle Choir 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	<i>9</i> 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS Steering 1:00 Prayer Shawl-CF 2:00 OS�-CH 7:00 Mary & Martha-UC	<i>10</i> 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER 12:30 Topnotchers-PH	<i>11</i> 10:00 AA-PH
<i>12</i> 8:30 Worship-S 9:30 Healing Prayers-S 9:45 GIFT/Kindness 9:45 Youth Ringers-MR 9:45 Altar Guild-CF 10:00 Adult Forum-PH 10:00 Bible Study-AER 11:00 Worship-S 12:15 Annual Meeting 6:30 AGO	<i>13</i> 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Comp I - Homes	<i>14</i> 9:30 Leah-CF 11:30 Finance-307 11:45 Book Group-UC 5:30 Evang/Wel-PH 5:30 Stewardship-PH 6:00 Lifelong Lrng-PH 7:15 Local/Global-UC 7:15 Worship-PH	<i>15</i> 10:00 Dorcas-Homes 10:30 Staff-AER 1:00 Esther-Lakeshore 5:00 PPS Potato Bar! 5:15 Confirmation, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade 5:15 Apostle Choir 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	<i>16</i> 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS-PH, etc. 12:30 Naomi-UC 6:30 Comp II-CH	<i>17</i> 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER	<i>18</i> 10:00 AA-PH
<i>19</i> 8:30 Worship-S 9:30 Blood Pressure 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Ringers-MR 10:00 Bible Study-AER 11:00 Worship-S 12:15 Inquirers-PH 3:30 FLUKE-PH 5:00 InterServe	<i>20</i> 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Comp I - Homes	<i>21</i> 11:45 Book Grp-UC 4:45 Extreme Parenting-LC/PH	<i>22</i> 10:30 Staff-AER 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	<i>23</i> 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 Quilters-PH 9:00 MOPS Bible Study-CF 6:30 FLC Crafters	<i>24</i> 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER	<i>25</i> 10:00 AA-PH
<i>26</i> NEW MEMBERS 8:30 Worship-S 9:30 Healing Prayers-S 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Youth Ringers-MR 10:00 Adult Forum-PH 10:00 Bible Study-AER 11:00 Worship-S	<i>27</i> 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Comp I - Homes	<i>28</i> 11:45 Book Group-UC 6:30 FLC Foundation - CF				





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**First Lutheran Church**  
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## 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:**

**March 2017 issue: Wed., February 15, 2016**

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

**www.flcduluth.org**



PLEASE RECYCLE