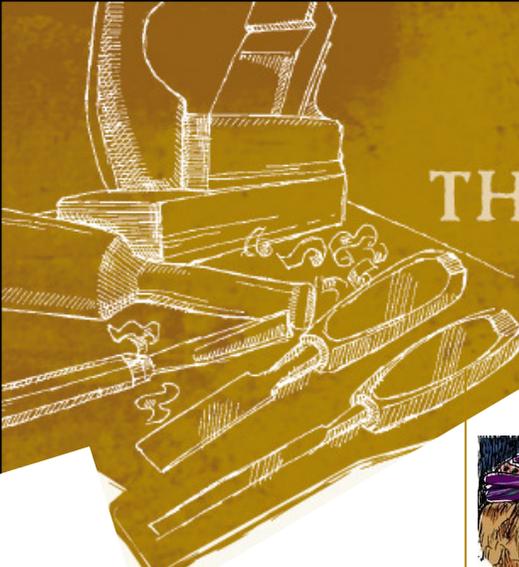


THE BUILDER

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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Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany

Twelfth Night (January 5th) is the last night of the Christmas season. January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany or "little Christmas" as it is called in the East. In the history of Christianity, Epiphany (not Christmas!), Lent, and Easter were the days marked by the Church. *Epiphania* in Greek means manifestation or revelation. We use the word epiphany to describe an "aha" moment: "I just had an epiphany!" Something new occurs to us.

In the birth of Jesus, something new, we proclaim, has happened in the world. Christmas celebrates God born in the baby of Bethlehem - Immanuel. Epiphany celebrates that this baby is also Sovereign, Ruler of the world. The story that ushers in Epiphany is the story of the three kings aka the three magi aka as the three wise men who come bearing gifts and bowing down before the true king. They are Gentiles come from far away revealing that this child is born not only for Jews but for Gentiles - for the whole world. They follow the Star brighter than any other to the Light brighter than any other.

This year, to celebrate the Epiphany, we will look for three kings to process in with the gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh following the Star. We will have baptisms welcoming those who want to follow the Star and we will bless the sanctuary with the legendary names of the three kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar and send each of you home with your own blessing.

During the liturgical season known as the time *after* the Epiphany - 9 Sundays this year before the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday - see if you notice the changes to the sanctuary. Each week a new star will appear like the star in the East appeared and guided the magi to the newborn king.

I hope the stars will remind us that there isn't only one Epiphany, but that our lives are filled with aha moments - moments when the Kingdom of Heaven, as the gospel of Matthew calls it, breaks into our lives. Each Sunday between the Epiphany and Lent we will hear the story of an Epiphany - a revelation - a star that shows us the way. We will learn, for instance, how Jesus' ministry happens where it does so that "the people who [sit] in darkness [see] a great light;" an Epiphany. We will hear how Jesus is transfigured before his disciples - a mountain top experience - an Epiphany. We will hear that in Jesus' teaching and preaching a new way is revealed. We might say that *each* new teaching of Jesus is an Epiphany. And so, each Sunday we will hang a star to remind us of each Epiphany, each revelation.

My hope is that the stars appearing in our sanctuary will serve as reminders that we are surrounded by Light; that Christ is continually being revealed; constantly breaking into our lives - giving us another Epiphany to show us the way. My prayer is that we ourselves, followers of this Light, might serve as stars guiding others like that first star guided the Magi to the One who is the Morning Star, our Guiding Light, our Savior and Sovereign.

Happy Epiphany!

Pastor Dianne
Pastor Dianne

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

MORE FROM PASTOR DIANNE LOUFMAN

Thank You

Thank you to all who provided hospitality for the Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services. It was something extra in a very busy time of year, but appreciated. People stayed and enjoyed conversation and treats.

Thank you to all who gave cookies and candy and Christmas greetings to Erik, Kai, Per and me. We so appreciate the good wishes and the help in keeping young men fed!



Epiphany Baptisms



Anyone interested in being baptized or having their children baptized, Epiphany, the season of light, is a wonderful time for baptisms. It is the season of Light begun with the story of the Magi following the Star.

We will celebrate The Feast of the Epiphany on January 8 and at least one baptism, Cedar Blue, child of Catherine and Chris and sister of Dylan.

February 26 is the Feast of the Transfiguration, the mountaintop experience of transforming light before we descend with Jesus into the valley and our Lenten journey. Another wonderfully symbolic day for baptisms.

If you are interested in knowing more about baptisms or making First Lutheran your home faith community, please speak with Pastor Dianne.

Stories

The Ministry Teams are gathering stories and photos of how God has been revealed in our midst this past year. When you think about it, was there a worship service, a service ministry moment, a stewardship question, a teaching event, a conversation, a meal, a Bible story, an experience this year that moved you, that opened you or someone you know up to Jesus Christ in a new way? Did you have an “aha” moment? A moment of connection? Ministry is not about numbers but about changed, deepened, and broadened lives. Help tell the story of how God has made a difference in your lives and in the world through FLC. Send your stories and/or photos to Nancy (nancy@flcduluth.org), Pastor Dianne (pastordianne@flcduluth.org) or Becky Kilgore (pbkilgore87@gmail.com).



FROM PASTOR GREGORY GARMER

Dear friends in Christ!

Congregational president Candy Madich has asked me to choose a ministry project(s) that can be supported by those who wish to make a thanksgiving gift in my honor, as I complete my time of service as an interim associate pastor of First Lutheran Church.



As I have been the staff member on the Local/Global ministry team these years, two worthy projects come to mind: one Global and one Local.

On Sunday, October 9, Beth Holst welcomed Mary Jo Mettler from Grasston, MN to present the adult forum on a project supported by the Women of the NE MN Synod titled: "PV for Phebe." 450,000 Liberians rely on Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing, a rural hospital in Liberia cofounded in 1921 by the Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopalian Churches.

My personal interest in the Phebe Hospital goes back to the years 1993 to 2000, when I served a congregation in the Willmar area. A parishioner, Carrie VanEpps, retired from a career in nursing at Rice Memorial Hospital and almost immediately volunteered to go to the Phebe Hospital as an ELCA medical missionary to teach nursing. Consequently, the congregation I served, gave much support to Phebe Hospital over many years as Carrie made repeated trips there to teach for many months at a time.

Currently, the Women of the NE MN Synod are trying to raise the remaining \$200,000+ dollars necessary to provide a photovoltaics (solar) electric grid to provide a reliable and economical power source for the hospital and nursing school. The women of First Lutheran Church have made a contribution to this project, but I would also offer this as a most worthy cause for support by the congregation towards a "Global" project in my honor. Currently, the Phebe hospital relies on diesel generators that burn up to 90,000 gallons of trucked in fuel annually, at a cost of over \$300,000.

From a "Local" perspective, my other choice for a designated gift would be a congregational donation from First Lutheran Church towards the rebuilding (refurnishing - new organ?) of Gloria Dei. Many congregations in Duluth, including the Synagogue - and many congregations in our NEMN Synod, have made gifts to help Gloria Dei in rebuilding. (I am aware that the congregation I served from 2000 to 2013 at French River has given gifts to both the church in Finland, MN and Gloria Dei after their fires.) It seems to me that any

gift we might give from First Lutheran is a symbol of our partnership in the ministry of Christ's gospel and a sign of our friendship as sister congregations in the ELCA.

As I complete my formal service in your midst as a pastor, I thank all of you for the great blessing you have given me. It has been a privilege for which I will always be grateful.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Gregory Garmer".

Pastor Gregory Garmer

Solar for Phebe Update from Mary Jo Mettler, Coordinator

(received Dec. 2016)

*We bring you glad tidings of great joy,
during this Advent season,
throughout the darkness of shortened days,
as we prepare for the Light of the World,
through the birth of Jesus,
we also prepare to bring the power of solar energy
to the people of Liberia through Phebe Hospital.*

On Jan. 15, 2017 a shipping container of solar panels and related materials will leave Global Health Ministries in Fridley bound for Phebe Hospital, Bong County, Liberia! During February and March, Phebe Hospital's masons and laborers will be conducting site preparation work to prepare for the actual installation. A team of RREAL engineers and technicians plan to spend several weeks from March through mid-April working with Liberians to set up and install the solar system.

Although the PV for Phebe team is excited and grateful to finally be able to bring solar energy to the hospital, this effort still needs your support. First, energy efficiency upgrades are still needed, and a back-up power supply needs to be added in case of emergency.

So during this Christmas season as you share your bountiful gifts, please consider making a difference and a financial donation (<https://my.rreal.org/phebe100>) for an exciting gift of light and life to the people of Liberia.

FROM FLC PRESIDENT

A Time for Renewal

If you began attending First Lutheran after 2008, close your eyes and imagine a time when: You arrive at church on Sunday morning and park in the Superior Street lot, then enter through the big wooden front doors, because there is no canopy and no red-door entrance. There is no Gathering Space or Welcome Desk, so you won't greet friends and guests there before worship.



The sanctuary has pews that do not move, all facing straight forward. A balcony stretches across the entire width of the back of the sanctuary. Worship space is darker than you know it now, because the east transept houses the organ and choir, with a solid brick wall at their back. The west transept houses the bell choir. Adding to the darkness are the aging, dirty brick walls, having been in place since 1950, and the black tile/burgundy carpet flooring. When the old Moller organ (installed in 1951) plays, keys/pipes often stick, and the organist scrambles to make adjustments. You might even hear its occasional odd squealing noises.

You can open your eyes now! This was First Lutheran before **Time for Renewal**, the two-phase project that renewed and redesigned FLC's sanctuary, created a new covered entry area and Gathering Space, created new space in the lower level now occupied by 4-and-5-year-old Sunday School children and Promise Preschool, and replaced and relocated an ailing pipe organ. Both transepts became congregational seating, with windows installed at viewing level on the east side, as well as high above each transept, for natural light to stream in. Interior brick walls were cleaned and brightened, light-color floor tiles were installed, and a chancel platform with movable sections was constructed using former church pew ends.

The 19 member TFR task force endured the unfortunate circumstances of a 2008 recession, right in the midst of crucial fund raising. The recession did, however, have its upside, as financing was readily available at favorable rates, and work crews were available during these slow construction times. The project consisted of two phases: Phase 1 renewed the sanctuary and organ, Phase 2 established a new nursery, added restrooms, created the Gathering Space and canopied red-door entrance, and excavated under the Gathering Space, an area quickly

developed with the Time To Grow campaign, creating the 4-and-5-year-old Sunday School area. Whew!

Dedication of the renewed sanctuary took place on November 24, 2010; dedication of the new pipe organ, Opus 52, followed on May 15, 2011. Thank you to task force and committee members who worked long hours to make important decisions on behalf of the congregation. **Thanks be to God** for our magnificent worship space, and for this beloved church building that we call home!

(Since I did not arrive at FLC until 2010, I wish to thank Brenda Sproat, Tom Whittaker and Suzanne Rauvola for helping me with TFR history, and also "Time for Renewal: Moving Forward, Honoring Tradition," the 2011 article by Ted Johnson, Taskforce Chair.)

To see how we are doing in paying off our TFR loan, see p. 8.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candy Madich".

Candy Madich
Congregational President

Farewell to Pr. Greg Garmer Celebration of Thanks on Sunday, Jan. 29

On January 29, 2017, a celebration of thanks will be held after the services in honor of Pr. Greg. If you wish to contribute to an honorarium for Pr. Greg in thanksgiving for his ministry with us at First Lutheran Church, please write checks to First Lutheran Church with "Garmer honorarium" on the memo line. Pr. Greg will be contributing these gifts to two worthy projects: one Global and one Local. (See Pastor Greg's article on p. 3.)

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

There will be a light lunch, childcare and children's activities. The 2017 Mission Plan will be presented.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Cinnamon Rolls

There will be no Cinnamon Roll Sunday in January since it falls over New Years, but keep on your radar the February dates: February 4 to prep and February 5 to sell. 6th-8th grade Sunday School students (and others who would like to earn money for camp, summer trips, etc.) will help sell rolls between services.

Confirmation Ministry

The next set of classes starts Jan. 11 at 5:15 p.m.

3rd graders and their parents will meet again January 11, 18, and 25 to focus on Worship.

4th & 5th graders and their parents will meet January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 15 to focus on the Apostle's Creed and Communion.

If you haven't already pre-registered your child, please visit www.flcduluthyouth.weebly.com



Summer Trip Planning Meeting

Current 8th-12th Graders – would you be interested in taking a summer trip with your friends from FLC? There will be a meeting for youth and their parents on Sunday, January 15 at 12:15 in the Adult Ed Room to talk about what options are out there. Maybe a BWCA canoe trip? Or maybe a youth gathering/service trip to California? Or possibly a service trip somewhere else? We'll talk options and costs, and together we'll figure out the what and where for a summer adventure!

Elementary Rejuve

The 3rd-6th 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.

High School Youth Group

Youth group on Wednesday nights for 9th-12th Grade starting January 11. There will be pizza available from 6:15-6:30 p.m. Then from 6:30-7:30 meet in Youth Room. See you then!

Upcoming Retreats

Cardia Deo

The 9th-12th 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.



Mary Dontje prepping kids for a puppet show on Abraham & Sarah.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

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

2nd Sunday of each month (Jan. date is adjusted)

9:45 -10:45 in the Parish Hall

Children and parents, couples, singles, elders, people of all ages are invited to come together once a month to experience a new yet ancient practice of community faith formation.

Each month we've been gathering in the parish hall to learn about one of the fruits of the Spirit. There have been great conversations and activities as young kids and oldsters together explored how each quality connects them with God in their daily lives. Love, Joy, and Peace have been the fruits this fall, and in January the focus will be on Patience! Come join in faithful learning and fellowship with people of all ages. Sit with someone new, of a different generation - and find how much we can learn from one another!



Each GIFT 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

Sunday School classes resume January 8

After a busy December preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth, and a few weeks off for the Christmas break, Sunday School classes for 2 year olds – 8th grade will resume on January 8. Children are welcome to join at anytime – if you are new to FLC or would like to have your kids involved, please contact the church office at 728-3668 or talk to Ann Beck.



NEWS OF THE FIRST FAMILY



A Loss in the Family

Family of Betty Anderson on the death of her daughter Linda Anderson.

Family of Kari Ulland-Carlson and Christopher Carlson on the death of Christopher's father.

Family of Rick & Carol Hanson on the death of Carol's mother Naomi Meints.

Family of Doug and Ann Melander on the death of Doug's father Donald Melander.

Inquirers/New Members

Anyone interested in exploring belonging in a deeper way to the faith community of First Lutheran, please call the church office, 728-3668. Join the group for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Sundays, Jan. 8, 22 and Feb. 19 in the Parish Hall. New Members will be received on Sunday, Feb. 26.

FLUKE

(First Lutheran Ukulele)

Sessions begin again Jan. 15



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 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.

Sessions resume Jan. 15 and meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Organ Concert by Dr. Robert Horton Friday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.



First Lutheran is pleased to host Dr. Robert Horton, guest organist, who will be performing a concert of works by Bach, Schumann, Debussy, and more. Robert Horton is Organist & Choirmaster at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA. Prior to his appointment at Trinity, he served as Interim Chapel

Organist at Duke University. From 2005 to 2008, he served as Director of Keyboard Studies at Dordt College where he taught organ, history, solfege and directed the college jazz band. Dr. Horton holds degrees from Cornell, Northwestern and the University of Kansas. As a Fulbright scholar, he studied at the CNR in Toulouse. Dr. Horton's playing has garnered numerous accolades, including highest honors at the 2007 Tariverdiev Competition in Kaliningrad.

Tickets: \$10 (12 and under free).



We give thanks

for our seminarians bringing the Word to us this month: Michaelo Abasori on January 1, New Year's Day, and Gina Sterk on January 22.

Ski Blessing

Bring your skis to worship on Sunday, January 29 to have them blessed for the season, and especially for the Birkebeiner.



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., Jan. 1 10:00 a.m. (note time - one service)

Readings: Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19;
Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 31:1-12

Sun., Jan. 8 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10; James 5:7-10;
Matt. 11:2-11

Sun., Jan. 15 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Isa 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;
Rom. 11:1-7; Matt 1:18-25

Sun., Jan. 22 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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

Sun., Jan. 29 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Readings: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7;
Luke 2:8-20

Readings are from Revised Common Lectionary.

Youth Music Rehearsals Resume the 2nd Week of January

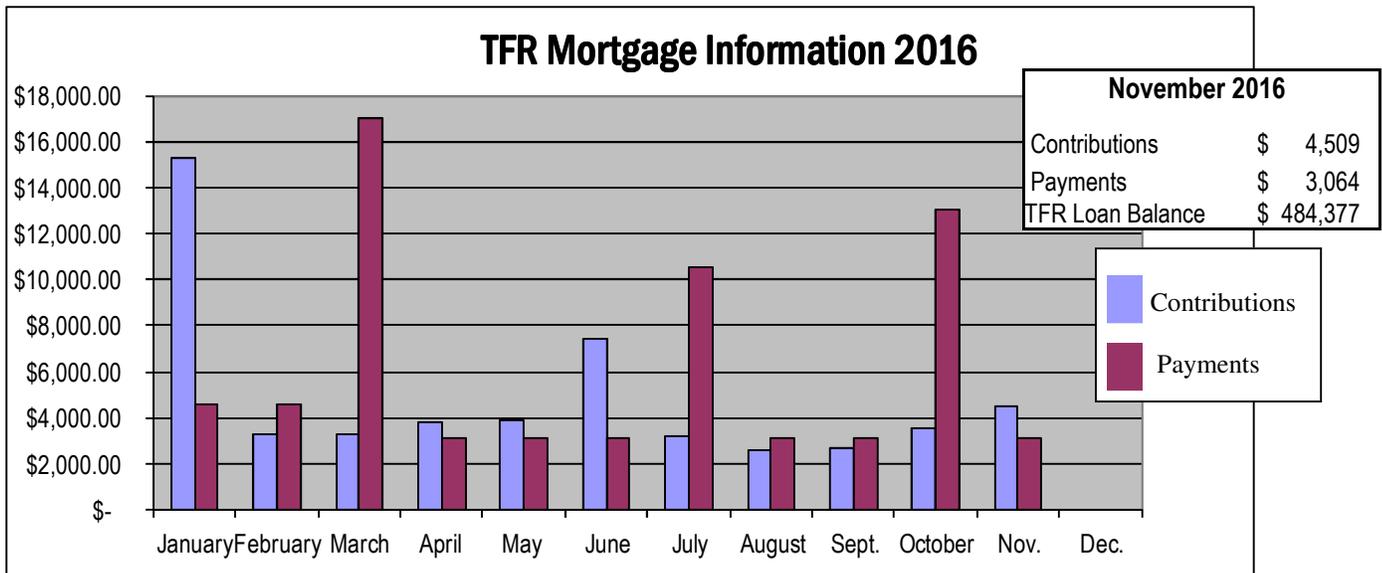
Apostle Choir

Apostle Choir is for youth in kindergarten through 5th grader. They will meet for 6 weeks on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 p.m. beginning January 11, in the 1st floor 4-5 year old Sunday School room. They will focus on songs and music skills for the K-2nd grade (as the older kids have confirmation classes at this time). The choir will sing for church 1 or 2 times, and plan another trip to lead worship at Aftenro Home. **New singers are welcome!** Contact Karen for more information at ksande@flcduluth.org or 728-3668.

Youth Ringers

This handbell choir for 6th through 12th graders rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m., beginning January 8 in the 1st floor music room. New ringers are welcome! Contact Karen for more information at ksande@flcduluth.org or 728-3668.

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.

2016 Mission Plan Update

	November				Annual Mission Plan	2015
	Mission Plan	Actual	Year to Date Mission Plan	Year to Date Actual		Year to Date Actual
Ministry & Mission gifts	\$63,620	\$59,842	\$656,879	\$651,441	\$768,249	\$652,983
<i>Plus Other Income</i>	<u>5,269</u>	<u>1,678</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>43,428</u>	<u>43,091</u>	<u>44,236</u>
Total Income	68,889	61,520	719,879	694,869	811,340	697,219
<i>Less Expenses</i>	<u>68,382</u>	<u>58,894</u>	<u>753,223</u>	<u>725,943</u>	<u>821,605</u>	<u>743,488</u>
Cash surplus (Deficit)	\$507	\$2,626	-\$33,344	-\$31,074	-\$10,265	-\$46,269

Worship Attendance

Nov. 20	348
Nov. 27	308
Nov. 30	67
Dec. 4	348
Dec. 7	65
Dec. 11	332

Giving for the Ministries & Missions of FLC

Weekly offering through:

Sun., Nov. 20	\$16,730
Sun., Nov. 27	\$12,072
Sun., Dec. 4	\$16,175
Sun., Dec. 11	\$10,970

Hunger Offering

Amount donated to the Hunger Offering in November: \$780.83

GIVING

November 2016 Memorials & Gifts

Gifts to Time for Renewal in memory of Zakayo Magomolla from Vince & Nancy Magnuson; **in memory of Ted Johnson** by Mike & Lori Huska; **in memory of Bill Keller** by Tom & Mary Boman; **in memory of Ray Leland** by Matt & Kay Eckman.

Gifts to Radio Broadcast in memory of Jean Haavik by Dave Haavik.

Gift to Memorial Fund in memory of Bill Keller by Mabel Schauland, Stephanie & Matt Bauer, June Alsop, Lois Reich, Brenda Stone family, Jean Beauduy, Marsha Erickson; **in memory of Zakayo Magomolla** by Betty Monson; **in memory of Mickey & Soup Stromme** by Betty Monson.

Gift to Promise Preschool in memory of Zakayo Magomolla by Coralyn Worth.

Gift to World Hunger in memory of Linda Anderson by Gudrun Hoivik.

Gift to First Lutheran Church in celebration of Norma Hoffbauer's recovery by Sue Hellmers & Kaitlin DeMarcus.

Greetings of joy for the New Year!

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior and we wrap up our Christmas and New Year celebrations with family and friends, the Stewardship Team is also joy-filled!

We are thankful for your response to this fall's stewardship campaign! Thanks to all of you who made commitments and/or year-end gifts. Your generosity with the gifts God has bestowed on you to steward in your lifetime is a blessing to all of us at First Lutheran.

Being a good steward is part of our faith tradition. Inviting our neighbors into our spiritual community is also part of that tradition. Through the sharing of your prayer, volunteerism, and financial commitments we can continue to expand on these traditions.

May God bless you abundantly.

First Lutheran Stewardship Team

FLCW NEWS

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., Jan. 2 - 7:00 p.m. - Schandel home

Mary & Martha Gathering

Thurs., Jan. 12 - 7:00 p.m., Upper Commons

Leah Gathering

Tues., Jan. 10 - 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall

Naomi Gathering

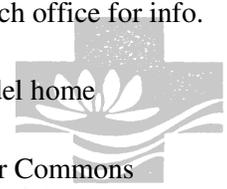
Thurs., Jan. 19 - 11:30 p.m. - Upper Commons

Dorcas Gathering

Wed., Jan. 18 - 10:00 a.m. - Homes

Esther Gathering

Wed., Jan. 18 - 1:00 p.m. - Parish Hall



LIBRARY NEWS



Stop by 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.

Schedule for January

January 8

My Neighbor is Muslim (Parish Hall)

To open a series of inquiry and discussion sessions exploring the Muslim faith, Ibrahim Al-Qudah, President of the Islamic Center of the Twin Ports, will provide a general introduction to Islam (see article on page 11).

Dwelling in the Word (Upper Commons)

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 Education Room. No preparation needed. All are welcome.

January 15

G.I.F.T. Sunday: Growing in Faith Together – Patience (Parish Hall) - 9:45 a.m.

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 (Upper Commons)

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

January 22

Vision Council (Parish Hall)

The Worship Team will lead the adult forum on the topic of a third worship service. When would we offer such a service? What kind of service would it be? Whom are we trying to reach? This is the first of many conversations sponsored by the Vision Council as we seek to discern where God is calling us and work towards proposing a mission plan.

Dwelling in the Word (Upper Commons)

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

January 29

"Tell Americans We Love Them" (Parish Hall)

You are invited to join Diane Skomars on a tour of Iran. She visited the country in September with six other Americans. As she shares her favorite photographs, she reveals her own surprising insights into the nature of this incredible Islamic nation. From Shiraz in the south to Tabriz in the north, they traveled by van through the heart of the nation, meeting the Iranian people and viewing the antiquities of this ancient civilization. Diane will share her "aha moments" as she witnessed God's profound presence in the land.

Dwelling in the Word (Upper Commons)

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

Friday Morning Bible Study

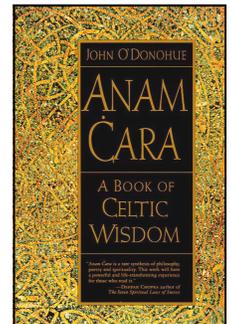
Come feast on the Word! This pastor led Bible study meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Adult Ed Room.

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

Tuesday Mid-Day Book Group

The Tuesday Mid-Day Book Group will resume on January 10, meeting Tuesdays from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Upper Commons. The next book is Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom, by John O'Donohue. *Anam cara* is Gaelic for "soul friend." Julie Eckman will be facilitating our discussions.

Please contact Brenda Sproat at bsproat6@gmail.com or Karen Sande sande@flduluth.com for more information or to be added to the email list.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

will be gathering
Thursday, Jan. 12 at

1:00 p.m. in 3rd Floor Conference Room.

RELATING



Yogadevotions

Mondays, Jan. 9 - Feb 27
5:30-6:30 p.m.

The next session of Yogadevotion classes begins Monday, Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church. Yogadevotion is a practice of breath, prayer and movement led by a trained yoga instructor. Yoga-devotion helps to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence. Whether you are just beginning to explore the benefits of yoga or an experienced yogi, you are welcomed to this community.

Cost for this 8 week session (ending Feb. 27) will be \$64. Contact Stacie Curnow, volunteer Yogadevotion Coordinator, at sak903@gmail.com to register for classes or with questions. As with everything, personal invitation is the best promotion. Please invite your friends!

Class Description:

Yogadevotion LLC classes begin in the breath, centering ourselves in the Presence of God...setting aside all that distracts us from the relationship God intends for us. Our devotional time is at the beginning of the class, opening with scripture that speaks to a practice of faith, during the breath work. Reflections on the scripture are written by Pastor Cindy Senarighi, an ELCA ordained pastor. The body of the class is a combination of standing poses, balance poses and floor poses. Music is used in the classes as well as silence to intentionally listen for God's voice. The classes close with restorative yoga, a practice of calm alertness that allows a time of reflection and thanksgiving for God's presence in our lives. The faith based language you will hear in class is familiar, the benediction, invocation and prayer that closes the class. This class is for all levels as Yogadevotion LLC teaches that the primary teacher is your own body and that voice is the important one. Modifications are offered for all poses.

"Fanilow" 2017

The Worship Ensemble of FLC is branching out! The group will be performing a set of Barry Manilow's greatest hits at Sir Ben's Tavern on Tuesday, January 17, between 6 and 8 p.m. Calling all Fanilows!

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.

This winter the Micah 6:8 Action Team will be leading FLC into the first crucial conversation 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.

The first session will be on January 8, with guest Ibrahim Al-Qudah, President of the Islamic Center of the Twin Ports. He will provide a general introduction to the Muslim faith, including the Five Pillars of Islam. The remaining three sessions on February 5, 19, and 26 will be more discussion based and facilitated by FLC members. The study guide will be available to read beforehand, but participants are welcome to attend even if they have not read the materials. Topics to be discussed include Islam and Jesus, Islam and Jews/Christians, Islam and Violence, and The Islamic State.

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.

Topnotchers
will not be meeting in January.

FLC Crafters Group

The FLC Crafters will gathering on Thursday, January 26 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.



Prayer in Color Retreat

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.
FLC Parish Hall

Adults have been re-enchanted by a favorite activity of their youth: coloring books. Those who have tried adult coloring find that it awakens creativity, calms chattering minds, and reduces the stress experienced in everyday life. Many consider it a contemplative practice, and author Sybil MacBeth developed the [Praying in Color](#) series to promote this practice.

Participants at an upcoming retreat at FLC have the opportunity to experience this active, playful, serious, visual and contemplative practice. Beth Pellin Kaiser, Coordinator of Liturgy/Music at the College of St. Scholastica especially invites people who have a short attention-span, who struggle with word-weary prayer, or who simply want to find a way to talk to God without words to attend. Space is limited to 30, so get your reservation in now!

-  Saturday, January 21, 2017
-  9:00-Noon in the Parish Hall
-  Led by Beth Pellin Kaiser, College of St. Scholastica
-  Free will donation (suggested \$10 but all gifts welcome)
-  *Retreat participants are asked to bring their own markers or colored pencils.*

To register for the retreat, call Siiri Branstrom at 218-409-5227 or send email to siiri.branstrom@gmail.com.

Space is limited. Preregistration is required.

CHUM Church, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017

CHUM Church will gather Sunday, Jan. at Peace UCC, 1111 11th Avenue East. CHUM Church is an inclusive community, welcoming all to worship God. CHUM Church celebrates and acknowledges the goodness of God and all of creation and intentionally includes people of all abilities. Join them for a pre-worship gathering at 4:00 p.m. and worship at 4:30 p.m. with a light supper following. Host congregations for January are Hillside United Methodist, Lester Park United Methodist, and Hope United Methodist. For more information contact Sue Anderson, CHUM Church Coordinator, 740-2498 or sanderson@chumduluth.org.

Caring Connections and 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. Also, if you are aware of someone in need of caring support or visits, please let the church office know.

Communion Servers: Sign Up On Line!

First Lutheran Church is implementing an on-line process for members to sign up as communion assistants for both services every Sunday. Members indicate what dates/times they are available on a quarterly basis. This method should streamline the process and make it easier to plan for worship services every Sunday.

Sign-up sheets have openings for 3 communion assistants for each service. However, be aware that the third assistant may not be needed on the day of the service, e.g., use of an assistant minister, etc. Here are the steps for signing up for a particular date/time:

1. Go to <https://www.volunteersignup.org/XTCRD>.
2. A list of dates and service times will appear with the number of openings available for that date/time.
3. Once you have found a date/time that fits your schedule, click “sign up” on the right of the screen.
4. You will be taken to a form to fill out your information, i.e., name, email, phone number. Click the “Agree and sign up” button on the bottom of the screen after identifying the item in the picture.
5. A screen will appear indicating you are signed up. You will be sent a confirmation email. Reminders will be sent out during the week prior to the Sunday you are serving, so entering your email address in the form is important.
6. If you need to change or send any info regarding your date/time, there is a button at the bottom of the signup sheet labeled “contact the signup sheet manager” to click/send your message. You can also email Roberta Maughan at ram96ie@yahoo.com.

Thank your help in this important ministry at First Lutheran Church.

VISION COUNCIL

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

Vision Council Meeting Highlight

Thursday, December 1, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Devotions: The council participated in a devotion from Chapter Five of Called by God to Serve: the Heart of Faith and discussed how the council can keep the proclamation of the Gospel a priority

Ministry Board Report: The December Ministry Board has not had their December meeting yet. The report will be shared in January.

Treasurer's Report: The October Income and Expense report and a Time for Renewal report were given.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Dianne provided written report to the council in order for there to be time for the council to discuss mission and vision.

President's Report: The finalized Vision Council photo was shared and will be displayed in the gathering space on the Superior Street level.

Old Business: Interim Pastor Greg provided the Vision Council his letter of resignation. The council moved to accept the resignation. On January 29, 2017, a celebration will be planned after the services in honor of Pastor Greg.

New Business: The Vision Council discussed creating a new position - Communications/Parish Coordinator. The council decided this position is needed in order for the church to provide information to the community about First Lutheran. Possible responsibilities include but are not limited to updating the website, creating/managing a social media presence, graphic design, communications to the community, etc. The council voted to have the Personnel Committee draw up a job description and the Finance Committee allocate funds.

The Fair Labor Standards Act and its impact on the church's employees were discussed. The staff handbook will be reviewed for compliance with state and federal regulations.

Mission Planning Conversation:

The Vision Council brainstormed what it means to have a vision for the church and the difference between mission and vision. The council also discussed "why" we do what we do at First Lutheran Church, why the church exists, and the primary purpose of the church. The following are a few ideas that came from the brainstorm:

- Open and welcoming, because God is welcoming
- Because God is a loving God and we want others to experience God
- This is community (Sunday school for kids, programs for adults, feeling of being welcome), God is here in our church
- Find peace with God
- A place that allows struggle, growth, and asking questions
- Discipleship – reaching out or reaching in
- To experience the love of God and be in relationship with Him
- In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God
- We are not about giving the answers (the law) but more about telling the message (the Gospel)
- Open door, meeting basic needs, offering friendly faces, offering hospitality, we are Christ personified
- Providing the presence of Christ
- To hear people stories
- To reveal Christ's love in different ways, through hearing people's different stories without judgment, through being present with others, and affirming them with Christ's Love; thus, inspiring others to do this in return for others
- We are not trying to "get" people nor are we asking them for something
- A place to come and be known

The council plans to lead a discussion at the February congregational meeting and possibly once a month at the adult forum starting on January 22.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Pastor Dianne.



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 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.

Migrating Snowbirds

There's no question now that the cold and snow have arrived that Winter is in full force. 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.



LEADERSHIP

Please feel free to contact us.

VISION COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	cmadich@aol.com
Candy Madich	206-0196
Vice President	ctzupancich@gmail.com
Teresa Zupancich	340-3223
Past President	suzanne@hbrstudios.com
Suzanne Rauvola	740-7310
Treasurer	ronduluth@hotmail.com
Ron Carlson	525-6542
Secretary	stfanning03@yahoo.com
Tammy Fanning	218-391-8398
Ministry Board Chair	teamream@aol.com
Diana Ream	727-4704
Councilor-at-Large	b.bich@lsc.edu
Vince Magnuson	vmagnuso@d.umn.edu
Councilor-at-Large	aaron.wedge1@gmail.com
Aaron Wedge	290-3872
Councilor-at-Large	sarah.climis@gmail.com
Sarah Climis	701-893-5271
Senior Pastor	pastordianne@flcduluth.org
Pastor Dianne Loufman	728-3668

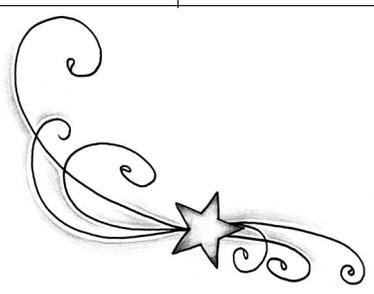
MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

Senior Pastor	Pastor Dianne Loufman
Ministerial Associate	Ann Beck
Director of Music Ministries	Dr. Jason Branham
Director of Youth and Family	Deb Westerberg
FLCW Co-Chairs	mbroderi@d.umn.edu
Margaret Broderius	728-6101
Carol Prohaska - carolprohaska@gmail.com	-H#724-2204
Ministry Board Chair	dream@workwell.com
Diana Ream	727-4704
Councilor-at-Large	eos608@aol.com
Dawn Boman	310-4887
Councilor-at-Large	samuels11@msn.com
Steve Samuelson	722-1788
Councilor-at-Large	tboom61043@gmail.com
Sharon Turnboom	218-428-2175
Councilor-at-Large	mmmargaret@msn.com
Mary Schmitz	591-6331

STANDING MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Stewardship	davidwesterberg@msn.com
David Westerberg	260-3116
Worship Ministry	kirbich@hotmail.com
Kirsten Bich	H# 727-3682
Local & Global Mission	panderso@d.umn.edu
Paul Anderson	H# 728-5853
Brenda S-Johnson bsjohnsonslp@gmail.com	340-8284
Evangelism & Welcome	margyenstad@gmail.com
Margy Bell	C# 310-6930
Lifelong Learning	georen625@gmail.com
George Rennan	C# 390-3526

JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship-PH	2 5:15 AA - PH 7:00 Ruth Gathering-H	3 1:00 Micah Team-307 4:45 Extreme Parenting-LC/PH 6:30 Ministry Bd-AER	4 10:30 Staff-AER 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	5 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS-PH, etc 5:30 Vision Council	6 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER	7 10:00 AA-PH
8 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 12:15 Inquirers-PH	9 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF	10 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 Lmg-PH 7:15 Local/Global-UC 7:15 Worship-PH	11 10:30 Staff-AER 5:15 Confirmation, 3rd, 4th & 5th grades 5:15 Apostle Choir 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 6:30 Sr. High Youth Group-YR 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	12 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS Steering 1:00 Prayer Shawl-CF 2:00 OSL-CH 7:00 Mary & Martha-UC	13 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER No Topnotchers	14 10:00 AA-PH
15 8:30 Worship-S 9:45 GIFT Sunday-PH 9:45 Youth Ringers-MR 10:00 Bible Study-AER 11:00 Worship-S 12:15 8th-12th Grade Trip Planning-AER 3:30 FLUKE-PH 5:00 InterServe	16 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Comp I - Homes	17 11:45 Book Griyp-UC 4:45 Extreme Parenting-LC/PH	18 10:00 Dorcas-Homes 10:30 Staff-AER 1:00 Esther-PH 5:15 Confirmation, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade 5:15 Apostle Choir 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 6:30 Sr. High Youth Group 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	19 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 MOPS-PH, etc. 12:30 Naomi-UC	20 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER	21 9:00-12:00 Praying in Color - PH 10:00 AA-YR
22 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 12:15 Inquirers-PH	23 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Comp I - Homes	24 11:45 Book Group-UC 6:30 FLC Foundation - CF	25 10:30 Staff-AER 5:15 Confirmation, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade 5:15 Apostle Choir 5:30 Jubilation Rngrs 6:30 Sr. High Youth Group 7:15 Soli Deo Gloria-S	26 7:00 Men's Disc-UC 9:00 Quilters-PH 6:30 FLC Crafters	27 7:00 Sojourners I -CH 9:30 Bible Study - AER 7:00 Organ Recital-S	28 8:00-12:00 AGO Mid-winter Workshop-S 10:00 AA-PH
29 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	30 5:15 AA - PH 5:30 Yogadevotions-GS 6:30 Soj. II - CH 7:00 Soj. III - CF 7:00 Comp I - Homes	31 11:45 Book Group-UC				



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 www.flcduluth.org
Office: (218)728-3668 flchurch@flcduluth.org

Pastors: (Ext. #) **E-mail**
Pastor Dianne Loufman (207) pastordianne@flcduluth.org

Program Staff:
Dr. Jason Branham (212) jason@flcduluth.org
Director of Music Ministry
Karen Sande (213) ksande@flcduluth.org
Asst. Director of Music Ministry
Ann Beck (210) AnnBeck@flcduluth.org
Ministerial Associate
Deb Westerberg (215) debflcduluth@gmail.com
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Office Staff:
Janet Freund (203) janet@flcduluth.org
Nancy Hamre (204) nancy@flcduluth.org
The Builder Editor nancy@flcduluth.org

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

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:

February 2017 issue: Sun., January 15, 2017

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

www.flcduluth.org



PLEASE RECYCLE