

## **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

**WEDNESDAYS 5:15 P.M. (DEC. 7 & 14)**  
**SATURDAYS 5:30 P.M. (DEC. 3/10/17)**  
**SUNDAYS 8:30 & 10:45 A.M. (DEC. 4/11/18)**



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**  
**3P.M. & 5 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP/COMMUNION**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**NO SAT. DEC. 31 WORSHIP**  
**WORSHIP/COMMUNION NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**9:30 A.M.**

Advent/Christmas Times and Celebrations at First Lutheran  
David S. Wall, Interim Pastor

Grace and Peace to you all for this wonderful season of Advent. We give thanks for this time to anticipate the coming of the Lord. Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again. We give thanks for the coming of the Christ into our lives each and every day. We give thanks for the coming of the Christ Child again this year as we remember the blessed event at Bethlehem where God comes to humankind in the baby Jesus--thanks be to God for Christmas.

So, I hope you will be able to worship and celebrate these seasons. The children will present the Christmas message again in special ways. The musical ensembles and soloists will give us wonderful music to carry us through Advent Season and on to the Christmas Event.

Part of what the magnificat (Mary's words) said to the world, "My soul magnifies the Lord." That can be a theme that rings out for both the Advent and Christmas Season. Each of us alone and all of us as households and congregations can "magnify the Lord."

Catherine, my spouse and I want to wish you seasons of opportunities to magnify the Lord. We can do that as we gather during the Advent and Christmas Season (and of course on into Epiphany but that begins on Jan. 6) and where we also anticipate the New Year. Together we MAGNIFY the Lord. The Advent and Christmas seasons invite us to be alert to stay awake and as the great Advent anthem challenges us, "keep those lamps, trimmed and burning." We are not very good at waiting. I know I am not. Some of us are old enough to remember the old advertising campaign which made food preparation quick and easy--"Shake and Bake." Much of our world is a shake and bake world, but in our faith life and in our Advent and Christmas Seasons--we keep the lamps trimmed and burning and wait upon the Lord. Even in our modern society (and I have this tendency as well--what about you?) we want immediate gratification. We can teach ourselves and others to MAGNIFY the Lord during these seasons.

Blessings to you for Advent and Christmas as we wait for the Lord, celebrate the coming of Christ into our life and the birth of the Christ Child. Thanks be to God--love in Christ, Pastor Dave

**You're invited  
Sunday, December 11**



*The TLC Students will be presenting their Christmas Programs in between services...*



*"Don't Be Scared!" will be presented by the  
Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade TLC Students*

*&*

*3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade TLC Students will present  
"The Christmas Story" Program*

*TLC Teacher Christmas Gifts*



In lieu of buying individual Christmas Gifts for TLC Teachers, The Education Committee gives families the opportunity to donate money to the **Church Library to honor their TLC Teacher**. When you donate, the student will receive a "Christmas Card" to sign and give to their teacher. Education Committee members will be available to collect your "Christmas Donations" in the Fellowship Hall:

Wednesdays November 30 and December 7

& in the gathering space outside the

New Sanctuary: Sunday December 4



There will be TLC on Wednesday, December 14 and Sunday, December 18...but not on Wednesday, December 21 & 28 nor Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>t</sup> & Jan. 1.

TLC begins again on Wednesday, January 4 and Sunday, January 8, 2012.

### **Church Council Update-** November 2011 Meeting

**Ministry Site Profile:** The Church Council reviewed the final version and moved its approval. Jason Swenson will submit to Synod office. The next step involves the Call Committee meeting with the Synod staff, doing mock interviews, and beginning to receive candidate names.

**Custodians:** Due to the retirement of the Beadells, Randy Bahn has been appointed custodian through the end of February. He is working 20 hours a week and will be meeting with the Property and Management Committee at their monthly meetings. A job description will be created after Randy has been working for a while. In January, the position will be advertised, with interviews taking place in February.

**Storm Damage Update:** The Property and Management Committee is getting two estimates on roof repairs needed after storm damage. These estimates will then be compared with the claim settlement offered by an adjuster and a decision for repair will be made.

### **Helping Others.....**

The food shelf theme will be HAPPY HOLIDAYS. Donate any baking item or any item for a holiday dinner. Ideas are flour, sugar, stuffing mix, veggies, gravy, etc. Money is always a welcome gift.

Thank to everyone who came to our quilt sale. It was a HUGE SUCCESS.

The essentials tree is up and will stay up thru New Year's. We collect hats, mittens, socks, underwear, etc. for the schools. The items donated are taken to Parkside and Westside students.

Jennifer Lundberg 530-0236 is in charge of Esther's Kitchen. Give her a call if you can help. We always need 5-6 workers and 5-6 desserts. We will sell ornaments the first three weekends in December. We will have angel ornaments and some new ornament options available. The money donated goes to our missionaries.

# SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES NEWS

## Mark Your Calendar

- \*Lutefisk Supper – Dec. 4th 2011 - 5:30pm
- \*Live Nativity – Dec. 10th & 11th 2011
- \*Winter Fun Day – (3rd & 6th) Dec. 29th 2011
- \*Cross Country Skiing – Jan. 7th 2012
- \*Snowshoe Hike – Jan. 8th 2012
- \*Valentine's supper – Feb.12th 2012
- \*Service in the Cities – Feb. 17-19th 2012 (grades 7-9)
- \*Mother/Daughter Scrapbooking Retreat – Feb. 24-25th 2012
- \*Call Shetek Lutheran Ministries for more information!
- \*507-763-3567 or check out [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)

Help

**“Heaven and Nature Sing”**  
Invites you to experience the true  
Wonders of Christmas  
“Live Nativity”  
December 10th & 11th 2011  
At Shetek Lutheran Ministries  
Chapel  
Open house - 5:00-7:00pm  
{Free will Donation}

Thank you!!

*The staff at Shetek Lutheran Ministries thanks you for your part in making the 2011 camper season another success!! Your time, talents and gifts have made your camp what it is today. You are truly making a difference in the faith building experience to all who come to Shetek Lutheran Ministries. We look forward to a new and exciting year as we plan for our 2012 programs and Special events. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*May God's blessings be with you always*

**First Lutheran Women- Join us on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**At our annual Christmas Luncheon as we celebrate**

**How**



**Angels are -  
Here, There and Everywhere**

I believe there are angels among us.  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.  
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.  
To guide us with the light of love.  
(sung by Alabama)

The fun will include a catered lunch, singing and celebration.  
**Guest Speaker – Sue Morton, Storyteller**

**Date:** Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 12 noon

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Cost:** \$8.00 (tickets available between services or at the church office)

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January events:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Quilting 1-4 with general meeting at 2:30.

**Soup served by the women's board at noon before quilting.**

**Join us for lunch (bring your own sandwich if you would like), even if you cannot stay for quilting, join us for a warm bowl of soup and fellowship over your lunch break.**

11<sup>th</sup> - Circles meet

16<sup>th</sup> – Quilting 1-4

30<sup>th</sup> – Board meets

Looking ahead:

February is **Bold Women’s month** Look for special events

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – Annual Healthy Heart Event**

First Lutheran Church offers **transportation** to and from Worship each Sunday for those who do not have transportation available. Rides are available for the second service on Sunday mornings. If you need a ride or know of someone else in need of a ride, please pass this service on. Call Dan Marks at 537-3558 by 5:00 pm Friday to schedule your pickup.



**FYI!!**

Car Wash tickets for Ampride (by County Fair) are still available for purchase at the church office. Proceeds go toward youth ministry at 1st!! And... they make great gifts



*Save the date*  
***FLY Christmas Cookie Walk***  
***Sunday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>***

FLY will be hosting a Christmas Cookie Walk. Our walk will coincide with the Children’s Christmas program. This year let our youth do the baking and as an added bonus-your kitchen will stay mess free!! Please be watching for further details.



**Poinsettias** can be ordered through the church again this year! Cost is \$12 per plant. **Drop off or send your payment along with the information** you’d like printed to the church office by November 30th.

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_

***Heart to Heart*** is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year and First Lutheran is proud to say we have supported this program from its beginning. Like it says on their web site, ***Heart to Heart is the Spirit of Christmas past...the TRUE meaning of Christmas that will always last...***

Like in years past, First Lutheran is a drop off place for toys – please bring items and place them under the tree in the narthex by Dec. 11. Momentary gifts are also accepted to purchase food for a Christmas Dinner for community members of all ages.



The **2012 Offering Envelopes** have arrived. Please pick yours up today. If you do not find yours or would like envelopes please call or email the church office (532-2429 email [firstluth@iw.net](mailto:firstluth@iw.net))



**ADVENT CANDLES and FAMILY DEVOTIONS** available at First Lutheran again for the families! This festive **12" tall taper** artfully displays a nativity scene below 24 numbers detailed in red and green to represent each day of advent. Each day your family can light the candle and watch one day melt away. We also have a **family devotional available**. So, light the candle and then take turns reading for each day of the advent season. It’s simple, faith-filled, and easy to have this activity become a tradition in your household. The candles and devotionals are available on the table in the narthex! Questions? Just ask Tonya. Please, one per household.

**Hy-Vee Cards available for Purchase!**

The New Orleans youth will be selling Hy-Vee gift cards throughout the year as a part of their fundraisers. We have \$50 cards and \$100 cards. The youth will receive 5% of the money. Everyone needs groceries....and its money you would spend anyway, if not all at one time, eventually. By using the gift cards, part of the money will go to the youth! Thanks!

FYI: **Burger Bucks** will also be available for Burger King through the New Orleans youth and the church office! ☺ These bucks are \$1 each. I know of many people who eat at Burger King! And the BK senior high group meets there every Friday morning!



**Festival of Christmas Music**  
Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 & 10:45 Worship  
Strings/Bells/Choirs/Organ & Piano

Note: The Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Service will be traditional worship  
with Holy Communion – 5:30 p.m.

The Chancel Choir will host the Christmas Tea between services...Lefse will be available to purchase.



**String Players** are invited to rehearse on Sat., Dec . 17 at 9:30 a.m.  
For playing the prelude at the Festival of Christmas Music services on the 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Wes Myers will direct the group.



**SHARE YOUR GIFTS....**

It's not too late to return your Time and Ability Response Sheets and 2012 Commitment cards...bring them to worship or mail them to the church office. Copies can be picked up from the narthex table at church.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-5*

**Youth and Family Ministries to be delivering food boxes for Heart to Heart on December 16<sup>th</sup> again....**

Once again our 7-12 graders will be helping Heart to Heart with the food delivery portion of their project. Each year, over 100 boxes get delivered to people around our area. It's a huge help to Heart to Heart. We all know that many hands make for light work. But we also know that our youth's schedules are many times over extended and they are not able to help like they would like. But since we are youth **and family** ministries, we are also extending the invitation to any family that would like to help out with a route on that Friday afterschool. Questions? Just call Tonya. Please sign up with Tonya to participate so we know how many routes to make up. It doesn't take a long time on Friday. It's an amazing part of our ministry and outreach and a meaningful way to participate the Advent spirit of the season.

**TLC, Worship, and Suppers going great!**

December Meals are:

Dec 7	Pizza Night
Dec 14	Walking Taco Night
Dec 21	No TLC, Worship or Supper
Dec 28	No TLC Worship or Supper



DO YOU HAVE THE QR READER APP? GRAB YOUR SMART PHONE!! USE THE APP, TAKE A PICTURE, IT WILL TAKE YOU TO FIRST LUTHERAN'S WEBSITE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC!!!



### **A Christmas Prayer**

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth  
of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and  
open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and  
good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings, and teach us to  
be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy  
to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening  
bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

***This is an invitation to participate in First Lutheran's many ministries and to grow in faith by using the gifts you have been blessed with. It is our joy to serve God and His people. We hope you will find several opportunities that interest you and allow you to share your gifts with others in our faith community.***

Please mark any of the areas in which you have an interest and where you would welcome an invitation to participate. If you would like more information about a particular area of service before making a decision, please indicate this on the form and someone will be in contact with you.

Each family is asked to fill out a form as per instructions (see 2.)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your volunteering is vital to the ministry of First Lutheran Church!

***Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.***  
1 Corinthians 12:4-6

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVING 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

***We encourage you to watch for small group Bible study opportunities as listed in our schedule and come!***

**Other specific needs and opportunities are listed.**

**Please indicate your interests in this way:**

1. Please check the opportunities and activities that interest you.
2. If more than one person is completing, put first name(s) or initials next to the activity.

### **CHOIRS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bell Choir
- \_\_\_\_\_ Middle School \_\_\_\_\_ Adult
- \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Brass
- \_\_\_\_\_ G3 Liturgical Dance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis Choir (Grades 9-12)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chancel Choir (Mixed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Men's Choir
- \_\_\_\_\_ Women's Choir

### **ELEMENTARY YOUTH MINISTRY**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Day Camp (Furnish Food)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help with Little League

### **JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone Monthly Event
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone Summer Trips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Driver (Age 21 and Up)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jr. Hi ALIVE Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide Camp Scholarships

### **MAINTENANCE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintenance Projects
- \_\_\_\_\_ Snow Blowing

### **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Office Help

### **SERVING**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Caring Friends (Visit elderly/Home bound)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Esther's Kitchen/Marshall
- \_\_\_\_\_ Funeral Usher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Delivered Meals
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nursery/Child Care
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Chain (Circle one Phone or Email)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quilting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Serve at the Banquet/S. Falls

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor New Members
- \_\_\_\_\_ Van Driver
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work at Funerals (Beyond Regular Serving Group)

**TLC/CONFIRMATION**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation Team Captain
- \_\_\_\_\_ Library Attendant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music Accompanist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ Substitute Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team Teacher

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Craft Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish Food for VBS Staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Room Teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ Kitchen Help
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nursery/Child Care
- \_\_\_\_\_ Song/Worship Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ Theme Room Teacher

**WORSHIP**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Altar Guild
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pianist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Praise Team
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special Music
- \_\_\_\_\_ Video/Audio Operator

**GREETERS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5:30 Saturday (Also Usher)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early Sunday
- \_\_\_\_\_ Late Sunday

**USHERS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5:30 Saturday (Also Greeter)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early Sunday
- \_\_\_\_\_ Late Sunday

**LECTOR/READER**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5:30 Saturday
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early Sunday
- \_\_\_\_\_ Late Sunday

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5:30 Saturday
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early Sunday
- \_\_\_\_\_ Late Sunday

- \_\_\_\_\_ **COFFEE SERVERS** (Sunday Morning)

I can serve First Lutheran by volunteering in the following additional ways:

Dear First Lutheran Family;

We from the Stewardship Committee would like to thank you for your pledging of your time, talent, and treasure during our fall attitude of gratitude Stewardship Drive. The First Lutheran congregation has always been a family that comes together in time of need. You have certainly shown your support for our church at this time.

If you did not get a chance to fill out a pledge card or time and talent sheet please do so. You can turn it into the church office or place in the collection plate during service. Thank you so much for your Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Sincerely,

First Lutheran Stewardship Committee

Linda Bloom Scott, Chris Ulrich, Karl Porisch, Sheldon Kimpling, Bruce Lamprecht, and Glen Olson

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# First Lutheran Giving Plan 2012

## Attitude of Gratitude

I pray God's blessing that I may grow my giving to an amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month; or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually

**For the work and mission of First Lutheran Church 2012**

\_\_\_\_ I am enrolled in Simply Giving (Electronic transfer of offering)

\_\_\_\_ I would like information about Simply Giving

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_