

Dear Friends in Christ:

An effective team can achieve great things!! Now is the time for all of us brothers and sisters at First Lutheran to come together and be a team united in the name of Jesus Christ!!

Job 34: 4 says, “Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.

I am a fairly self-motivated person and can work effectively on my own, but it’s always great when you can work with an effective team. Whether it’s a sporting team or, in my profession, a school board who is all on the same page, an effective team can achieve great things.

In our society, we work so hard to become independent that I think we forget how important it is to work as a team. If you read Job 34: 1-37, you will be surprised by one of Job’s friends who didn’t agree with Job but said to him, “Let us learn together.” Wouldn’t it be great if we ALL had the attitude of Job’s friend? We may not have to agree with everyone, but if ever there were a moment of conflict we would make a huge difference if we addressed the problem by being willing to learn together.

I encourage us all to be a “team” united by the tie that binds us all together, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! We are in a time of interim, a time where we need to find out who we are as a congregation, and to decide what characteristics we are looking for in a shepherd to lead this flock. We must work together in a respectful manner under the love of Jesus Christ. Let us be an effective team during this interim time while holding on to our mission: “We are believers seeking to invite all to the CARING, SHARING, and GROWING ways of Christ!! Once we accomplish this, the blessings will overflow at First Lutheran Church. Read these words from the hymn, “We are Called.”/

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

We are called to act with justice.

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Jason Swenson

First Lutheran Congregation President

Social Ministries News

Everyone is welcome to join us for the evening meal at Esther's Kitchen on February 17th! The food is always great, and we meet others from the community for food and conversation. We serve about 40-50 people at 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday evening every month. You do not have to sign up to enjoy the meal, but you must sign up if you want to help with the meal. Call Linda Konn at 929-3846 or Kathy Bartz at 337-0137 for more information.

The first two weeks in February is Meals on Wheels month. The first week of delivering noon meals is January 31-February 4, and the second week is February 7- 11. As a volunteer, you will pick up the meals provided by the Senior Dining Center at 10:45 a.m., and then deliver the meals according to the route you sign up for. You may sign up for one day or several days. The delivery route takes about an hour. Some people like to have two people on a route, so you may sign up with another person. If you want to deliver the route alone, sign your name twice on that route so that we do not pair you with someone. Meals on Wheels need many volunteers for this, so please find the sign-up sheet in the church entry or call Kathy Bartz, 337-0137.

Our food shelf theme for February is "Valentine Red and Pink" food. Suggested items are red gelatin, red or pink juices, red beans, pink frosting or cake mix. As always, the food shelf, known as The Kitchen Table, accepts any kind of food at anytime. You may place any items in the grocery cart by the back doors. Thank you!



It's Senior Class Pictures Time again!!

If you have gotten your class of 2011 senior pictures taken or are going to be taking them soon....please remember to bring in a wallet size picture for our Class composite. Thanks!

YOUTH SPONSORED SPRING FUNDRAISER

....SILENT AUCTION AND MEAL!

The month of March promises to put the FUN in FUNdraiser! We will have a Silent Auction filled with various items and services for you to bid on. Anyone is welcome to put something on the auction to help out the youth! Bidding will start on Saturday March 5th from 5:30-7pm . We will finish up on Sunday March 20th for brunch and run until 11am to celebrate the close of the bidding and announce whose bids were the top. Auction items will be publicized soon as well as the meal and prices.

As you remember, the youth and family ministries committee is trying a new format for fundraising in the church by only having a fall and spring fundraiser. We are hoping to be able to raise the funds needed with just that AND help you out so that we aren't ALWAYS selling something. Thanks for supporting the youth!! We definitely need you all!

VALENTINE'S DATE NIGHT!!!! FAMILIES AT FIRST LUTHERAN Friday, February 11th from 6-9pm



Do you ever feel like it's too much to go out on a date with your spouse AND then pay for childcare on top of it? First Lutheran's youth are sponsoring a special Valentine's "Date Night" just for you! On February 11th from 6-9pm we will watch your kids at the church while you enjoy an evening together on the town. And **it's FREE!**

Reservations deadline will be Sunday February 6th. We will stand firm on this deadline date so that our ratio of sitters to kids is perfect. A registration form/waiver will be provided via email or at the church and will be needed by the deadline to hold your spots. Please have your kids fed supper before you drop them off. A snack and an evening of faith-filled fun with the older kids will be provided!! Questions? Just ask Tonya!

First Lutheran's Families Invited to a day of TUBING AT MT KATO!! Sunday March 6th.

Join us on Sunday March 6th for a little winter fun and fellowship with your First Lutheran families!!! \$15 per person for 3 fun filled hours of tubing (...and the rope to help you back up the hill! No climbing on your own! Ha ha!). We will leave from the church at 11am (eat lunch before you arrive) and be home by 7-7:30pm. Fast food supper stop on the way home. The youth committee will provide the transportation. (Please note that this event is intended for families. Individual youth are encouraged to talk their parents into a little day of family fun! Ha ha!!) Questions? Just ask Tonya.



First Lutheran Women
Our Mission Statement asks us

“To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ”.

Women are very important to the ministry of First Lutheran. We all Act Boldly in whatever we do. The important thing to remember is that we ‘mobilize’ ourselves in fellowship or activities to share the good news of God’s word and to show His love for ourselves and others.

Can you "Find your BOLD"?

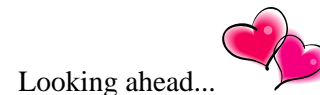
Join us on the week-end of February 12/13th as we celebrate **BOLD WOMEN'S MONTH**.

The week-end will begin with coming together to clean and inventory the kitchen on Saturday morning at 9. All women use the kitchen at one time or another with different activities (Sunday morning coffee, funerals, meetings, lent suppers, etc) and if we have lots of hands that morning the work can hopefully all get done in one morning. I'm sure sometime during the morning we can take a break to enjoy some 'Lutheran' coffee.

During the services, different women within the congregation will help lead the service and will help us all find our **BOLD**.

And how can you have a women's event and not have coffee? Between services on Sunday morning we will be having a coffee taste testing. We will have different LWR coffee's brewed for you to sample and order. (There are also teas and hot chocolate for sale.) Instead of donut holes, we will be serving different types of bars. If anyone would be interested in bringing some bars please let Dawn or the church office know.

Our hope is that you will join us that weekend to "Find Your **BOLD**"



On Saturday March 26th from 9-12 we will be having another "**Healthy Heart**" event. We all have physical hearts, but did you know that we also have 12 different hearts within us? We will find out about these different hearts. We have an Active, Bold, Healthy, Peaceful, Prayer-filled, Kind and 6 other hearts. There will be 4 speakers along with displays of all 12 hearts. Mid morning there will be a break and a 'Healthy' snack. Watch for more information on this and other activities that will help us come together to fulfill our mission statement of:

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Adult Forum on Identity Theft

Tim Tomasek will speak on Identity Theft at an Adult Forum, Sunday, February 6 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Have a cup of coffee beginning at 9:30 a.m., visit with Your church friends and stay for the forum.

Welcome Pastor Dave

The weekend of February 26-27 will mark the arrival of our new interim pastor, David S. Wall. Pastor Dave comes to us straight from another interim position in the St James area. He has been doing interim ministry for 16 years....and has completed 16 interim positions. He will bring much enthusiasm and experience to First Lutheran! We look forward to his arrival

Housing for Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave is looking for housing in Marshall to begin in March. He does not need much room—so a one-bedroom apartment would be sufficient. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Shelly Maes at 532-4435 or by email at shellymaes@charter.net. THANK YOU!

Seven Steps in the Call Process for Congregations

1. The Current Pastor Resigns

- Pastor’s resignation is announced.
- A farewell celebration is planned and the ministry is celebrated.
- Pastor and congregation each follow a new path.

2. Beginning the Interim

- Synod staff helps congregation arrange for interim ministry.
- Church council helps keep congregation focused on its mission.
- Congregation continues its ministry.

3. Completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)

- Synod staff leads an open forum to explain the call process to members of the congregation.
- Information is gathered from the entire congregation as a “snapshot” of ministry.
- MSP is prepared as an aid for call committee, pastoral candidates, congregation, and synod staff.
- How is God at work in and through this congregation – past, present, and future?

4. Forming the Call Committee

- A congregational call committee is formed and installed.
- Officers are elected for the call committee.

5. Considering Candidates (Competency, Chemistry, Commitment)

- Synod staff presents candidates to the call committee for consideration.
- Names are surfaced through the synod office, interested pastors who self-nominate, and the congregation itself.

- The goal of the call committee is to represent the congregation as it searches for a pastor who can lead them into the future God has in mind.
- What do the congregation and new pastor expect of each other?
- It's not shopping at the store; it's searching for a partner in ministry.
- *Confidentiality is crucial for the call committee in terms of detailed information concerning pastoral candidates.*
- Who does God have in mind for this congregation? Be prepared to be surprised!
- The Holy Spirit is involved in this process – really.

6. Extending the Call

- The call committee recommends a candidate to the council who will bring the name to the congregation for a vote.
- A congregational meeting is scheduled for voting on the candidate.
- Bid farewell to the interim pastor.

7. Welcoming Your New Pastor

- Once the call has been accepted, an installation date is set with synod office.
- Welcome your new pastor with open arms!
- Throw a party! Call your friends! Praise the Lord!

Throughout the call process, the entire congregation is involved in three activities:

· Prayer · Patience · Communication

2011 Offering Envelopes can be picked up in the church narthex.

If no envelopes are assigned to you and you wish to have some, please contact the church office – 532-2429. Envelopes will not be mailed.

Interested in Automatic Withdrawal – information can be picked up
From the tables in regard to the Simply Giving program.

Church Council Update - January 11, 2011

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pam Russell reported that December donations were up and that we are very thankful for them. Thanks to all who give so generously to the ministry of First Lutheran.

Nominating Committee Update: There are still a few open spots on the council/ committee ballot for 2011. Thank you to the nominating committee for their hard work in finding new council members for 2011.

Interim Pastor Update: The Personnel and the Executive Committees met with Pastor Dave Wall on Thursday, January 13th. Staff also had the chance to meet and visit with him. Pastor Wall is currently finishing up an interim position in the St. James area. He would need to give a 30-day notice before he could begin at First Lutheran. As for remuneration, an interim pastor is paid for years of ministry, housing, insurance, etc. similar to a permanent pastor and are to cost no more than the prior pastor's compensation.

New Church Website: The church website has been updated and has a new look. It is still a work in progress, but all agreed it is much easier to find information and is very inviting. Take a look www.1stlutheran.org

Congregational Meeting Update - January 16, 2011

Approval of 2011 Financial Plan: Treasurer Pam Russell noted the 2011 Financial Plan has no salary increases for the staff and includes only one pastor serving the congregation. Pastor Dahl's salary was included at the present level because the salary of an interim pastor is unknown at this time. (An interim pastor will be paid no more than the pastor who has left.) After a few questions, the 2011 financial plan was approved.

Review of the Call Process: The time needed to find a new pastor is often equal to 1 month for every year the departing pastor served the church, which for First Lutheran would be approximately 13 months. One of the first steps is to conduct a Ministry Site Profile. With all the changes that have taken place in the last year here at First Lutheran, we as a congregation need to find out who we are, what our goals are, what changes need to be made, and what kind of shepherd is needed for the First Lutheran Family. After this survey is completed, a call committee will be formed and the call process continued. Members who wish to volunteer for the call committee are encouraged to do so.

Kevin Leman Video Series for Parents! Continues Sundays (9:45 a.m.) through February 27
“Running the Rapids—Guiding Teenagers Through the Turbulent Waters of Adolescence.”

These videos are for parents of adolescents (what is going on?!), parents of kids who are not yet adolescence (be prepared!!) and for grandparents...(been there, done that, but my grandkids are there now! ☺) Adolescence is often the most critical time to understand and relate to your child. Learn to relate to your teen (pre-teen) with this seminar by Kevin Leman. (1st video is: “Know the River”) Hope to see you all in the youth room between worship services starting at 9:45am! Questions? Just ask Tonya. Don't forget your coffee!

3 Year Olds and Their Parents Third Sunday

Mark your calendars for our next gathering, February 20th, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m.
Meet with other families in the Fireside/Movie Rooms (just down the hall from the Fellowship Hall).



BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February 5/6 – Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

February 12/13 – Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19/20 – Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 26/27 – Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34