



A New Year With The Lord

*A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences
New adventures with the Lord*

*Remember not the former things
The things of this past year
The Lord will do new things in us
Much more than we are aware*

*For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within*

*What God has placed within our hearts
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities
We'll see the door to go through*

*We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace
- M.S.Lowndes*

New Year and a New Gear- David S. Wall, Interim Pastor



Grace and Peace to you for 2012. We begin, as we do every year with January 1 being the naming of Jesus—one week after birth. It is an extra special celebration with it also being a Sunday and we will have Holy Communion with songs of the season and also have it being the first Sunday after Christmas. It is a simple and profound message for the day. The name of Jesus is the message. Wow, that can go in thousands of directions and yet five letters pointing to God becoming human in the Christ.

That same week we celebrate Epiphany, January 6. As we like to say, "Have you had your Epiphany yet this year?" (or month or day or whatever you put in there). As a church, the epiphany is how we see Jesus being recognized as the Son of God. A great personal epiphany is when we have that same or similar recognition of Jesus. We are reminded of how we can grow in faith during the Epiphany Season. We see how individuals in the Bible became aware of Jesus being divine.

A festival Sunday during this season is the Baptism of our Lord (Jan. 8). We hear the voice of God speaking of Christ as God's Son and people believed then and people believe now. Our gospel readings during Epiphany show us how Jesus calls disciples and heals people and begins his public ministry in the Holy Land. The question that comes through the centuries to us from the Bible is, "Have you had an epiphany lately?"

So what is your new gear for the New Year? Are you shifting up or shifting down? Scripture tells us there is a time for everything. I am excited about this New Year for First Lutheran. I am thankful for the mission outpost that you are here in Marshall. Thanks for your prayers for staff, leadership and our Call Committee. There is a great way to gear up for the New Year with a revitalized prayer life. I know I enjoy reading my one year Bible in January as the Old Testament part starts with Creation and goes all the way through Genesis.

Blessings to you for 2012 and the season of Epiphany, Love in Christ, Pastor Dave

THANKS to all who have given us cards, kind words, gifts and holiday greetings! Catherine and I want to wish you and your loved ones the best for 2012.

Church Council Update- December 2011

Pastor's Report: First Lutheran will be hosting the local ministerial association (MAMA) meeting in January and the Prairie Conference meeting in February.

Treasurer's Report: Two SMSU students, working with Professor Will Thomas, found the records for 2010 to be in good order and accurate. There are many people involved in the counting, bill paying, accounting, etc. which contributes to the accuracy.

Nominating Committee Update: Committees were asked / reminded to suggest names for the Nominating Committee to begin the process.

Financial Plan for 2012: The plan for 2012 includes six more months of interim pastor salary and the salary for a new lead pastor (at the 14 years of experience salary level). There may need to be a congregational meeting when the new pastor arrives to adjust the financial plan. This plan will be presented to the congregation at the January 15th Annual Congregational Meeting.

Interim Pastor Extension: Pastor Wall's contract will expire at the end of February. Pastor Wall is okay with going month by month with the contract until the new lead pastor is called / has accepted the call.

Technology Committee: A Technology Committee will be formed in the coming months, and will be an ad hoc committee of the council.

Call Committee Update: The synod staff has met with the committee and indicated there are two candidate names at present at the synod office, but the synod is waiting for a few more before presenting the candidates' names and information to the committee. Everyone is reminded to pray for the committee, the candidates, and our church.

Storm Damage Update: Judging from two estimates that the Property and Management Committee received from different contractors, the July 1st storm damage to the church roof seems to be more than the

estimate received from the insurance adjuster. The committee is checking into putting a higher deductible on the insurance policy to save some money on the premium.

Members of First Lutheran church are invited to attend the ordination of Mark Lund, son of John and Marilyn Lund, on Sun., Jan. 22, at 3pm at Living Word Lutheran Church in Marshall. A reception will follow at First Lutheran Church.



Attention Potential Singers! New Opportunity! Along with the commencement of a New Year, the Chancel Choir of First Lutheran is cordially in inviting men and women of the congregation to consider joining our men's and women's choirs.

Singers are welcome for the Chancel Choir as well (rehearsals Wed. evenings, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary....under the direction of Dr. Stephen Kingsbury.

The odd months will be for the men's group (January, March, and May) and the even months for the women (February, April and possibly early June). During their assigned month each group will rehearse at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings and prepare two selections.

The men's group will sing January 29th at both services. The women will sing February 26th at both services.

We would love to have you join us! Arrive at 7:55, and we'll be sure to have a place for you!

ANNUAL MEETING

First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Foundation
Sunday, January 15, 2012

9:45a.m. – Church Fellowship Hall

ANYONE NEED SOFTENER SALT???

FLY--Senior High is selling Eco-Water **softener salt starting January 18th**. This fundraiser will help cover costs associated with this year's ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA in July 2012. **February 12th will be the delivery date between 1-3pm (All youth/parents help deliver salt) and we will bring it to you!**

Eco-Water Salt-Extra Coarse 50lb. bags will be sold for \$6/bag. Parents and Youth will be asked to help in the delivery of the salt. Pick-ups/Vans are needed for the delivery.

The Youth going to the New Orleans Gathering be having a

Spring Rummage Sale

keep them in mind as you are sorting through items you no longer want to keep!



Clean your closets, bring your shoes!

Youth As Resources is working with the Marshall Lions Club to collect shoes to send to the needy in the U.S. and 3rd world countries. Shoes can be dropped off at Patzer's Hardware, Wal-Mart, K Mart and Shopko. Please bag, tie or rubber band shoes together.



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

January events:



2nd – 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.

Quilting 1-4 with general meeting at 2:30.

11th - Circles meet

16th - Quilting 1-4

30th - Board meets

Looking ahead:

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

March 31st – Annual Healthy Heart Event



Thank you to all who so generously donated to the New Horizons Nursery (\$280.00) and brought gifts and donations of Money (\$476.00) for Heart to Heart!

Offering Envelopes for 2012

Please pick up your envelopes from the table in the church narthex. Envelopes will not be mailed out. If you find there is not an envelope box assigned to you and want to have them please call the church office 532-2429.



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.



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!!!



**Join us for Worship January 1, 2012
9:30 a.m.**

**(Jan. 11 -29)
Wednesday Evenings at 5:15 p.m.
Saturday Evening – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.**



First Lutheran women & friends have been invited to join Our Saviors in Canby for a Women of Faith Weekend, October 10-20, 2012 at the Excel Center in St. Paul. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. An Itinerary will be handed out in September.

Bus & Travel: A charter bus from Southwest Coach has been reserved.

Hotel: Rooms have been booked at Comfort Inn & Suites. Rooms are available for single and double occupancy rooms. Hotel serves continental breakfast starting at 7:00 A.M.

Conference: CELEBRATE!! We spend so much of our lives just waiting to be happy...What about enjoying life right now? Discover what is possible at Women of Faith

Cost: Includes transportation, ticket, hotel, and box lunch on Saturday. Single occupancy is \$206.00 and Double occupancy room is \$166.00 each.

Payment: \$91.00 non-refundable deposit to hold ticket. Payment in full is due August 1st 2012. Payment plans are available.

There are 25 tickets left so if you want to go, it's better to sign up sooner than later!!

Contact the church office for a registration form or questions. 532-2429 or email kmarks@iw.net



3 For Heaven's Sake on January 22nd!!

The 3 For Heaven's Sake Class will be held on January 22nd, 2012. The First Lutheran Congregational Annual Meeting is going to be held in between services on Sunday, January 15th (our normal Sunday to meet) so we have moved your class time to Sunday, January 22nd at 9:45 A.M. Hope to see you then!!

2012 Radio Broadcast Sponsorships In 2011, many of you generously sponsored a broadcast. Thank you to those who supported this ministry with your treasures. 2012 is rapidly approaching and there are 52 Sundays in need of sponsors. This ministry is extremely important to those who are homebound / ill / unable to get to church. The cost for a Sunday sponsorship is \$93. **If you would be willing to sponsor a Sunday broadcast in 2012, you may sign up in the narthex before / between / after the worship services or by calling Marlene Nordby at: 929 – 1647.** *Thank you for keeping our worship services going into homes all over southwest Minnesota.*





Find us on

Facebook

Hey everyone! First Lutheran is excited to not only have our "First Lutheran Church" page, but we now have "First Lutheran Youth, Marshall MN" and First Lutheran Education" pages. Search for us on Facebook and "like" us... The Links available from www.1stlutheran.org.

Check out the First Lutheran Web Site www.1stlutheran.org

You can also find links to the SW Mn Synod, the ELCA, Daily Bible Readings, Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Women of the ELCA The Weekly Church Bulletin....monthly newsletter and more!!



Lost and found...There is a lost and found shelf by the church office/coat rack near the library....missing something? Check there. Items will be given to Goodwill after Feb. 1.



Mark Your Calendar

- *Cross Country Skiing - Jan. 7, 2012
- *Snowshoe Hike - Jan. 8, 2012
- *Valentines Supper - Feb. 12, 2012
- *Service in the Cities - Feb. 17-19, 2012 (grades 7-9)
- *Mother/Daughter Scrapbooking Retreat - Feb. 24-25, 2012
- *Pre-Marriage Workshop - March 17, 2012
- *Confirmation Retreat - March 23-24, 2012
- *Confirmation Retreat - April 20-21, 2012
- *Pre-Marriage Workshop - May 5, 2012

Any questions call (507) 763-3567 or check out our website at www.shetek.org

Help send kids to camp... Become a Pelican/Timber member

Call for a Brochure Today (507)763-3567

Help send kids to camp... Become a Pelican/Timber member

Call for a Brochure Today (507)763-3567

**Mother – Daughter
SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT
February 24th & 25th, 2012
Relax, Recharge & SCRAP**

Come enjoy a weekend away. To enjoy scrapping, great company, delicious food & to rest in God's presence.