

Rejoicing into the Fall by David S. Wall, Interim Pastor

As I am writing this, advertisements abound for the Minnesota State Fair beginning next week. Our college and high school campuses have increased activity and it all points to Fall arriving. Officially it begins in the month of September. As you probably know, our second lessons have been from Romans and in the middle of September as autumn is ready to officially begin, we have several weeks of writings from Philippians. One of the messages from this letter of Paul's is that we are to "rejoice in the Lord always." We are to praise God in all circumstances. It might seem that "rejoice in the Lord always" might deny our daily existence.

At First Lutheran, we have much to rejoice about this fall. I hope you are aware of TLC Wednesday and TLC Sunday. TLC stands for Teaching the Love of Christ education program at First and it is offered on Wednesdays and Sundays (more information in this newsletter). I want to encourage you to pray for this ministry and the expansion that has taken place to Wednesdays. Many opportunities for participation are available such as offering one of the meals during the school year.

Jesus approached the cross and rejoiced in the Lord. We Christians have that same opportunity. I hope you have known individuals, as I have, who have approached death but have kept an attitude where you saw them "rejoice in the Lord always." It seems to be something that is caught on the wind of the Holy Spirit. That often times is a by-product of Christian Education and also a by-product many other aspects of ministry. We thank God for the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and the church wide gathering in August. We are thankful for the Southwestern Minnesota congregations and our office in Redwood Falls as we work together for ministry in this part of God's creation. I am so thankful for First Lutheran as a mission outpost here in Marshall. I now have six months here where I have been able to sense some of the many ways you, "rejoice in the Lord always." I am thankful for your prayers as we formally begin the Call Process. We are thankful for God's love for us especially shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Now, we are thankful and rejoice in the ministry opportunities we have in our town, in our region, in our state, in our country and in our world. Thank you for your ongoing support through prayers, gifts and encouragement in the faith. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." Philippians 4:4 Love in Christ, Pastor Dave



New Member Orientation...

We are believers seeking to invite all into the Caring, Sharing, and Growing ways of Christ!

The New Member orientation sessions will be...

Sunday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m. and

Sunday, September 25th between the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services.

We will meet in the Synagogue room which is by the entrance to the Gethsemane Chapel (the old sanctuary). Childcare will be provided.

New Member Sunday will be October 2nd at both the 8:30a.m. and the 10:45a.m. services. New Member Orientation sessions are still open. Please contact the church office if you or someone you know is interested in joining First Lutheran. 532-2429

TLC (Teaching the Love of Christ) Wednesdays and Sundays

Thank you for the great responses to the TLC Wednesday and Sunday programs! The TLC Wednesdays registration is now closed. We are continuing to take registrations for TLC Sundays. Kick-off for TLC Wednesdays is September 7th! Here is an example of the schedule...



2:30 – 5:00

Faith Filled Fun and Learning (a combination of Sunday School and Good News Bearers) Snack, Study, convo, games and activities and homework time

5:15-5:45

Family Worship

5:45-6:30

Light Supper for all \$2.00 per person

And all of the amazing normal ministries on Wednesdays will follow

Yes, Sunday will continue to be filled with Worship and learning as usual... With new and exciting twists to the ministries....TLC Sundays!! Rally Sunday is September 18.

Registration forms are available in a number of different places...

The Narthex, The Office, Email Kitsi at kmmarks@iw.net, Email Tonya at ttomasek@iw.net

Women's Rejoice Bible Study

Women are invited to meet on Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall (other than the 2nd Wednesday of each month when circles meet) for a Bible Study on Isaiah. For more information call Jan Mann – 532-5617.

Caring Friends

On Friday, September 23, our small group ministry known as Caring Friends will gather at noon in the church library for the first fall session. This group meets once a month and continues with a ministry of caring and connecting the year round. If you have interest in joining this practical and supportive ministry effort join us or call the church office to indicate your interest.



"Sharing God's Goodness" First Lutheran Church offers **transportation** to and from Worship each Sunday for those who do not have transportation available. Rides are available for the first service only 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 9:00 pm Saturday evening to schedule your pickup.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Anyone is welcome, for those who do not knit or crochet but would like to learn, you are welcome to join us. You will be able to learn and join this

special ministry. **Join us on Thursday, September 8, 7 p.m. in the Church - Fireside Room.**

If you don't knit or crochet, you can still be part of this ministry by: Donating money to purchase yarn offering to help deliver shawls



RALLY DAY

*Mark your calendars for Rally Day at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 18th at 9:30am. There will be only **one worship service** for the weekend! No **Saturday evening service!!** In the service we will be celebrating the ministry we do in the living name of Jesus. It is time for us to stand together in the name of Jesus and know His blessing as we are rallied under his name and living presence. As part of this service, we will be celebrating the ministry of Corlys Knudson, who retired earlier this year after serving First Lutheran for 29 years as an Associate in Ministry!! We will also install our Call Committee members as we begin the process of calling a new minister to First Lutheran Church. The crew will be grilling up some good grub again this year with many other fine refreshments! Come for Rally Sunday that we might renew and refresh our stand together as a family here at First Lutheran Church!*

Helping Others

September will be a busy month for social ministries. We will once again be serving at **The Banquet** on Wednesday September 7th. We need 6-8 volunteers to prepare the meal at 2:00pm and then we need 38-40 volunteers to serve the meal at 5:15. There are sign up sheets at church or call Linda at 929-3842 with any questions.

We are doing **Meals on Wheels** September 12th through September 23rd. There are sign up sheets in church for this or call Kathy at 337-0137 to volunteer.

The theme for the **Food Shelf** will be Back to School foods. Ideas are soups, crackers, hamburger helper for supper, graham crackers, fruit, pudding for after school snacks and granola bars for breakfast. Any food donation is appreciated and money is always welcome.

Esther's Kitchen (Community Meal served at Christ Presbyterian Church.) Lori Lerohl will be in charge of getting the volunteers for September 15th and October 20th. We need 5 desserts and about 5-6 people to prepare the meal. If you can help call Lori at 401-3288.



MUSIC MINISTRY at FIRST LUTHERAN

Consider joining in this important ministry at First Lutheran...all are welcome!

Children's Choir time for age 4 year through 6th Graders will be incorporated into TLC Wednesdays and Sundays – announcements will come to you when the children will sing at worship

Spirit Bells - Adult Handbell Group rehearses Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m.

If interested please contact Director - Steve Meyer 532-2734

Sprite Bells – A Youth Handbell Group will begin rehearsals September 7, 7 p.m.

Director Steve Meyer 532-2734

Chancel Choir (Men & Women) rehearses Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary beginning Sept. 7.

Director, John Voit 428-3407

Genesis Praise (High School) will be going back to block scheduling.

First rehearsal Oct. 5, 7 p.m.

Director, Wes Meyers, 651-238-6101

Liturgical Dance (G3) for Grades 4-6 will begin Sept. 7 from 6-7 p.m.

Directors –Bailey Tomasek and Shelbie Thomsen



3 for Heaven's Sake

3 Year Olds and Their Parents are invited the 3rd Sunday of each month beginning October 16, from 9:45 – 10:30a.m. Please come to Rooms 4,6, & 8 where we will begin with refreshments and activities together. Then there will be Bible Stories, crafts and games for the children, while the parents gather in Room 2 (Fireside Room) around for Heaven's Sake, a book about parenting preschoolers faithfully.

Beginning Experience of Southwest Minnesota...

...a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people is offering a Weekend Retreat “A path to Healing” – a weekend providing an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope and purpose. The retreat will be held at Shetek Lutheran Ministries Sept. 9-11. Contact 507-532-0922 email: kmpokey@hotmail.com; Shirley at 507-829-3106 email: bbm@mvtvwireless.com, Gene at 507-215-1362 or Kathy at 507-215-2361.

AN UPDATE ON FIRST LUTHERAN'S FUNERAL MINISTRY

In the past, the members of First Lutheran were divided into 5 funeral serving groups. Each group took their turn serving at a funeral on a rotating schedule. Some of the groups had a large number of members (130+) and some had a much smaller number of members (60+). To make each group similar in size, the members have been redistributed into 7 groups of about 75 members per group. The groupings are now: A – CH, CI – GI, GJ – KAU, KE – MEN, MER – PAU, PE – SM, and SO – Z. We will try these groups and see how it works.

Each group has 3 callers, so the number of calls is more manageable. A number of ladies have graciously volunteered to make calls to the members in their group when it is their group's turn to serve, but we are still in need of a caller for the CI – GI Group and the MER – PAU Group. Callers call the members and ask if the member is willing to donate a cake, help serve the lunch, or donate \$5.00 to help with kitchen expenses. If you would be willing to serve as a caller, once or

twice a year, depending on the number of funerals, please call Marlene Nordby: 929 – 1647. All members of First Lutheran will be called when it is their unit's turn to serve a funeral.

The CI – GI, GJ – KAU, and the PE – SM Groups are each in need of a volunteer to serve as the chair on the day of the funeral. The chair simply assigns duties and sees that all tasks get done before, during, and after the funeral fellowship time. These tasks are all written down on a list that everyone can follow. Again, please call Marlene Nordby if you would be willing to serve once or twice a year as the chair for the listed groups.

Sometimes people are gone or busy and we are unable to get enough cakes or workers. If you would be willing to donate a cake when we cannot get enough cakes from an alphabetical group, and / or if you would be willing to help serve when we cannot get enough help from an alphabetical group, please call the church office or Marlene Nordby.

Thank you all, so very much, for your willingness to help the families of First Lutheran during a very difficult time in their lives.

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

All women are members of First Lutheran Women and we are all called to
“Mobilize Women in Our Faith”

Mobilizing women in their faith is something we can all do.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER....

Monday, September 12th – Quilting 1-4 with coffee/fellowship time and installation of officers at 2:30.

Wednesday, September 14th – Circle Bible Study

Friday & Saturday, September 16 & 17th – Shetek Women's Retreat

SHETEK WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday & Saturday- September 16 & 17, 2011

At our Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp

A retreat for women of all ages --- women with busy lives who find there is not enough “me” time. Bring your bible, a friend and enjoy fellowship with other women as we laugh, relax, and enjoy great food.

“Anchors Away” *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure”*

Hebrews 6:19

There will be good food, pontoon rides, campfires, singing, and S'mores on Friday evening. Saturday begins with morning devotions lakeside, music and further bible study. The day continues with speakers, a chance to learn some yoga, new fall & makeup ideas, or how walking is so important in improving your appearance & first impressions.

If coming Friday night does not fit into your schedule, plan to attend the day on Saturday. Brochures can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex or check with the church office.

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**As we look ahead to the fall, it is time to plan for our Circle Bible study opportunities.**

How is a circle Bible study different from other Bible studies? Not much. A circle of women come together for bible study and fellowship. The circle meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The times this year will continue to be at 6 am, 9:30 am, 1:30 pm and then an evening circle with time TBA. The meeting place and activities are decided by that particular circle. Some meet at the church, some in each other's homes, while some have even met in a local restaurant (such as Perkins or Mikes).

Other differences are that we collect a small free will offering that is used in various ways to support the women's ministry at First Lutheran. Each circle is also assigned members of our congregation who for one reason or another are unable to actively participate in activities offered at First Lutheran. This allows them and us to stay connected by remembering them with visits, on their birthdays and holidays.

Some of the circles will study the lessons from the **Gather** magazine (formally the **Lutheran Woman Today** magazine). This magazine contains wonderful stories of faith in today's world along with the monthly lessons. This is a subscription magazine that we encourage all women to subscribe to, not just circle members. You can get information on this resource from the church office or the Women of the ELCA website.

Other circles will be studying lessons from the LifeGuide Bible Study series. The focus will be on “**Couples of the Old Testament**”. You can see the content and example of the study on the website [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com). The cost of the book is \$6.00, with scholarships also available.

It's never too late to join a circle bible study, if you would be interested in joining us for a circle Bible study this fall, please call Dawn or the church office for more information.

We are always looking for new ideas that we can offer to the Women of First Lutheran. If you have an idea or perhaps you have heard of an activity that someone you know offers at their congregation, please feel free to share them with us. Contact Dawn Planting at (507)-423-1465, (507)-828-8157, or you can email her at [loving\\_mom\\_3@hotmail.com](mailto:loving_mom_3@hotmail.com)

As with all these activities and ideas, please call the church office for further information or contact information.

### **Church Council Update**

**Pastor's Report:** Kitsi Marks was welcomed as the new interim Christian Education Outreach Director. The transition has gone well and the staff is working hard and well together. A request was made for committees of the council or individuals to sign up to prepare and serve a meal to the Wednesday evening TLC participants.

**Transition Team Update / Final Report:** The report encourages all to celebrate First Lutheran. It lists some qualities in a new pastor and explores some possibilities for the future / next 5 – 7 years. It dealt with the church-wide assembly's actions and made some suggestions as to how First Lutheran can be attractive to a new pastor. It is hoped that the Call Committee can be made up of a good cross section of the congregational members.

**Rally Sunday:** The date has been moved to September 18<sup>th</sup> due to the community events in commemoration of 9 / 11. Corlys will be honored with a litany and the presentation of a gift during the worship service. Communion will be celebrated on the first and second Sundays of September instead of the first and third Sundays. The committees have each been given assignments as their part in the celebration and should report their progress to Jason Swenson.

**Bisbee Donation:** The annual gift from the Bisbee Foundation is \$1000+, and a portion will be used to help cover costs associated with Rally Day.

**Establishing A Call Committee:** The Call Committee will be comprised of 10 – 12 members, 2 of which would be youth (with 1 vote). A Call Committee Questionnaire should be completed by all

who are interested in serving on the Call Committee--due at noon on Sunday, September 11. The Executive Committee will screen these applications and make recommendations at the September 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Church Council will approve the final slate of Call Committee members. Call Committee applicants must remember that this process may take 6 months or longer, and a strong commitment must be made by the committee's members. Pastor Wall reminded the Council to offer continual prayers for the church, the Council, the Call Committee, and the candidate for pastor.

**Unclaimed Offering Envelopes:** A discussion was held on what to do about ordering envelopes when so many have been unclaimed. It was suggested that if a family has not picked up their envelopes for this year, envelopes not be ordered for next year. If a family does not want a box of offering envelopes for 2012, they should notify the church office.



The Outreach Committee is updating the church directory and the manner in which our members receive information. We're asking all members to fill out the green card that is available at church. Please “Check off” your preference of how you prefer to receive information...either mail or email. Our goal is to not only have an efficient way of connecting with our members but also “go green” to save paper and postage. You can also email your preference to Diane Halgerson [drhalgerson@charter.net](mailto:drhalgerson@charter.net) and a card will be filled out for you.

## ***September Kicks Off Many Youth and Family Events!!***

Check out the Rock (youth newsletter) for details! Watch for emails, or “like” First Lutheran Youth, Marshall MN on Facebook! Stay in the loop! WOO HOO!!

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| Sept 7  | Huge <b>Kick-Off Event for Confirmation and Junior High Alive</b><br>(grades 7-8)                                                                                  |
| Sept 7  | <b>TLC Wednesdays, Worship, Suppers, G3 and SHA all start!</b>                                                                                                     |
| TBA     | <b>Genesis</b> high school choir (block scheduling)                                                                                                                |
| Sept 14 | Informational Meeting for Parents and Senior High Youth for the<br><b>National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 2012!!</b> (Deadline<br>to register is Sept 21) |
| Sept 14 | Registrations for the <b>Junior High Synod Youth Gathering</b> in<br>Willmar are due (grades 6-8)                                                                  |
| Sept 16 | Family Outdoor <b>Movie Night</b> on the lawn!                                                                                                                     |
| Sept 18 | <b>RALLY DAY</b> at First Lutheran                                                                                                                                 |
| Sept 18 | <b>Senior High Annual Video Scavenger Hunt</b> 3pm                                                                                                                 |
| Sept 30 | <b>Kick-Off Crazy Night for Little League</b> (grades 3-6)                                                                                                         |
| TBA     | Sunday morning <b>Parenting Video Series</b> between services                                                                                                      |