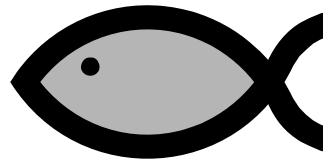


HEY THERE!

- Are you on Facebook? I'd love to be your friend. Find "Tonya Hohwieler Tomasek"
- Do you tweet? Follow me! ttomasek
- How about email?
- Don't forget to check out the new church website..... coming soon!

Have a memory? Have some words of wisdom for your other classmates? Maybe you just want to let us know how you are and what you've been experiencing on your faith journey since you have been away. Maybe you've done a mission trip with your college? Email Tonya and we'll find a way to include YOU in the next issues coming your way. It's fun to hear how your faith journeys are continuing to grow in your young adult lives.....



".....Most of all it is about doing simple things consistently and carefully....Pray. Study. Care."

Letting you know that we are here for you always and praying for you.....
~Your Friends at First Lutheran

Blast from the Past...
Remember the National Youth Gathering in Washington DC?!?

"Be
Love
Serve
Repeat"

It still applies in our lives....is it?



Pastor Dahl accepts new call in Litchfield

Pastor Dahl will have his last Sunday at First Lutheran on Sunday, January 9th. After 12+ years at First Lutheran, he has decided to change focus and transition into interim ministry. Interim ministry are calls to congregations that are in transition from

one pastor leaving and waiting to call another one to come. (like we are in now. :)) He will be at First Lutheran Church in Litchfield MN. We are excited for he and Lois on this new venture. Thanks for you ministry at First Lutheran in Marshall, Pastor

Dahl....and Lois too!

(As you may remember, Pastor Kelly Wasberg came home from his deployment last spring. This summer, he left the ELCA denomination and is also no longer at First Lutheran.)



Change.....



**“For I know
the plans I
have for you,”
declares the
Lord, “plans
to prosper
you and not
to harm you,
plans to give
you hope and
a future.”
Jeremiah
29:11**

CHANGE..... many don't like it but it happens. It happens everyday and in every part of our lives. Some changes we choose and many we do not. Some are easier than others. Some gently remind us to turn back to what's important in the big picture.

Life seems to be in a constant state of change. Yet, there are some constants that don't change. Jesus “is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13: 8) God promises in Hebrews chapter 13 verse 5 that “(He) will never fail you. (He) will never abandon you.” God will never let us down, or never walk off and leave us. God has been there. God is here. God will always be there.

2010 has brought more changes than I had ever imagined or wanted truthfully. But we didn't have a say in a lot of it. It happened.

This year, in many parts of my life, the poem, “Footprints in the Sand” has pulled me through....reminding me of God's promises.

Footprints in the Sand

**One night a man had a dream.
He dreamed
he was walking along the
beach with the LORD.
Across the sky flashed scenes
from his life.**

**For each scene he noticed two sets
of footprints in the sand:
one belonging
to him, and the other to
the LORD.**

**When the last scene of his life
flashed before him,**

**he looked back at the footprints
in the sand.**

**He noticed that many times
along the path of
his life there was only one
set of footprints.**

**He also noticed that it happened
at the very**

lowest and saddest times in his life.

**This really bothered him and he
questioned the LORD about it:**

**"LORD, you said that once
I decided to follow**

you, you'd walk with me all the way.

**But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.**

**I don't understand why when
I needed you most you would
leave me."**

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child,

I love you and I would never leave you.

**During your times of trial
and suffering,**

**when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you.**

CHANGE..... many don't like it but it happens. It happens everyday and in every part of our lives. Some changes we choose and many we do not. Some are easier than others. Some gently remind us to turn back to what's important in the big picture. In all of the changes, there is an Everlasting Constant in the Lord.

So as we look to 2011 with a new strength and hope, let us remember that “We are BELIEVERS seeking to invite all into the CARING, SHARING, and GROWING ways of Christ.” And in this excitement let us also remember that this is *our* mission statement at First Lutheran.....this too has remained *constant....it has not changed*. Your church family is still here... still welcoming you home.....