

# January 2016

# "First in Focus"

The Newsletter of  
**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
925 13th St. East, Glencoe, Minnesota  
"Sharing Christ Changing Lives"

OFFICE: 320-864-5522

COMMON CUP: 320-864-5511

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK -



E-MAIL: [office@firstglencoe.org](mailto:office@firstglencoe.org)

WEBSITE: [www.firstglencoe.org](http://www.firstglencoe.org)

First Ev. Lutheran --- LIKE US!

## "FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - JANUARY 21"

From the Pastor...

*A Happy and Blessed*

*New Year to You!*

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:1-2, 12 (ESV)*

A big, brand new year has begun! These verses from Psalm 90 remind us that our Lord has literally been around *forever*, and that is a great comfort as we move into this new year. As we look forward with excitement to all that the Lord has in store for us and our loved ones, we also know that human life is temporary and uncertain. ***We don't know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future!*** God is our refuge, a safe dwelling place, for all generations.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, ESV). This means nothing is unknown to Him. So, whatever this year brings, Jesus has it covered. Whatever may happen to us, we bear the name of Jesus in our Baptism. Whatever we go through in life, Jesus has been there before us. He is with us now. He is especially close to us in His Word and Sacraments which we rejoice to receive together as a family of believers in this place. In the Divine Service He not only gives us the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life that He has earned for us, He also strengthens our faith in Him through His holy Word.

Our Lord is with us! That means we can face the future with joy and holding on to all of His promises, like

this one in Romans 8:28 "And we know that that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose" (ESV) As Psalm 90:12, encourages us, may we remember that the Lord has our days in His hands and may we continue to look to Him for wisdom to guide us in this new year.

God's richest blessings to you throughout this year of our Lord 2016!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Dan Welch

First Ev. Lutheran Church...

...**Lutheran Women's Missionary League** to Help Un-decorate on Mon. Jan. 4, at 1:30 PM. The Christmas decorations in our church were lovely this year! We are so thankful for the skillful and artful volunteers who once again decked our church with decorations in honor of our newborn King Jesus! For a fun activity at the January LWML meeting we will help remove the decorations. It will be interesting to examine the beautiful decorations up close! The meeting will also include devotions by Joyce Schiroo, a Bible Study by Pastor Mathison and refreshments. Executive Board will meet at 1:00 PM.

### Men's Monday Night Bible Study

God's Word is important in our lives. We look forward to meeting together on a regular basis to learn from God's Word. In our December study we learned how Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, trusted God by taking action when he was instructed by God to take Mary as his wife, to leave for Egypt, and to return home when it was safe to do so. It is through God's Word that we receive

our strength and assurance to live each day.

In January, we will be trusting and seeking God's guidance as we make some changes in the Men's Bible Study. Look for information in the Sunday bulletins for the new topics and the day and time when we meet. Men of First Lutheran Church are invited and encouraged to attend. God's Word provides the light we need. Psalm 119:105.

### 2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES...

...have been mailed to member homes. If you have not yet received your 1st quarter envelopes, please contact the church office.

Generic offering envelopes are provided on each of the Welcome Stands for you to use. Please write your name on the outside of these envelopes.

### 2015 OFFERING STATEMENTS...

...will be mailed to all members by the end of January.

### 2016 Angel Seeds for January - March

Angel Seeds for the 3 months of January, February and March have been designated to the "Feed Our Starving Children" ministry.

### Snow Plowing During Storms

Church members need to be aware that parking lots at the church are not plowed during snowstorms, but done after the snow has stopped. The exceptions to this are worship services and special events, such as weddings, funerals, etc. So, be cautious if you need to come to the church during snowfall.

## First Edition Book Club

All women are invited to join this group for reading and discussing books written by Christian authors. 📖 On **Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30 PM**, at the home at Patty Dahlke, 14275 Lace Ave, Glencoe. 320-864-5537. There will be a "Christmas potluck" and then discussion on the book "**The Shoe Box**" by Francine Rivers.

This tender Christmas novella tells the story of Timmy O'Neil, a foster child who arrives at his new home with a very mysterious shoebox. At first glance, it's nothing special just an ordinary box with a red lid and the words *Running Shoes* printed on the side. But Timmy carries it with him wherever he goes, and when people ask him what's inside, he smiles and says, "Just things." As Timmy settles into his new, loving home, he remains unwilling to share the secrets of his shoe box . . . until the beauty of the church Nativity pageant inspires him to open his heart and give the most precious gift of all.

📖 In February (date hasn't been set at this time); there will be a discussion on the book "**Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café**" by Max Lucado.

Chelsea Chambers is on her own. After a public split from her NFL superstar husband, Chelsea takes a bold step out of the limelight and behind the counter of the Higher Grounds Café, an old-fashioned coffee shop in dire need of reinvention. But when her courage, expert planning, and out-of-this-world cupcakes fail to pay the bills, this newly single mom finds herself desperate for help. Better yet, a miracle.

## 2016 LCEF Scholarships

➔ Six scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, will be awarded to six graduating high school seniors or current full-time post-secondary students at an accredited institution with at least one year of courses remaining. Candidates must also be members of a congregation belonging to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod located in one of the following LCMS districts: Iowa East,

Iowa West, Minnesota North, Minnesota South, North Dakota, North Wisconsin or South Wisconsin.

➔ The application deadline is February 28, 2016. Applications will not be considered valid unless all material requested is submitted with the application.

➔ The scholarship will be awarded on merit and need, and distributed following successful completion of one semester (or term) at the accredited institution the student is attending.

➔ All scholarships are subject to confirmation that the recipient is in compliance with all Rules, and that all Eligibility and Recipient Requirements have been met as discerned by the scholarship committee.

➔ More info. can be found online at [www.lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships](http://www.lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships) Any questions can be directed to Maria.Hendrickson@lcef.org or call 877-371-5233.

## Greeters Needed

Are you sociable? Volunteers are needed to greet members and visitors as they arrive for church services. Greeters are put on rotating schedules based on their availability. Call the church office to volunteer.

## Neubarth Landscaping Lawn

### Mowing/Snow Removal

THANK YOU!!! The Jayson & Charity Neubarth family continues to provide lawn mowing and snow removal for the church and school properties. They do this at no cost to the church.

What a tremendous savings, to our budget!

We are very grateful! Please share your personal thanks with the Neubarth's when you see them.

## 2016 Officers & Board Members

### Congregational Officers:

**President:** Kermit Terlinden  
**Vice President:** Brian Grochow  
**Treasurer:** Bruce Donnay

**Secretary:** Rosie Karg

### Board Members:

**Board of Deacons:** Arnie Alsleben, Dave Aul, Quinn Beneke, Kevin Dummer, Don Hepner, Scott Litzau, James Mathews, Robert Schuft, Jan (Fritz) Schulz, Jerry Strobel, Lee Terlinden, Todd Trippel, Brian Witte.

**Day School Board:** Susan Brickzen, Tonya Christensen, Kevin Hagen, Cindy Mathews, Kim Rislund, Gina Schuft.

**Christian Education Board:** Jen Goff, Angela Grimm, Donna Kunkel, Tammy Martin, Laurie Schauer, Laurie Uecker.

**Youth Board:** Kathryn Brelje, Dean Dahlke, Sara Dammann, Chris Kruschke, Cindy Litzau, Mark Schmitz.

**Board of Evangelism:** Wendy Becker, Lynn Exsted, Janel Fischer, Jeri Ring, Josh Schmidt, Roger Schultz, Deb Tessmer, Betty Witthus.

**Board of Stewardship:** Sandy Kunkel, Sandy Luehrs, Karen Ober, Sue Schultz, Brad Werth.

**Board of Trustees:** Mark Ahlbrecht, Brett Brelje, Randy Bussler, Kevin Cohrs, Loren Engelmann, Harlan Mathews, Doug Schultz, Dave Wendolek, Dave Witthus, Dave Wolff, Keith Zajicek.

**Cemetery Board:** Edwin Brelje (Supt), Edgar Brelje (Asst. Supt.), Roger Cohrs, Terry Ide, Sylvia Lewin, James Mackenthun, Scott Maynard, Don Wolff.

WELCOME to all newly elected officers and board members. We are thankful you have chosen to serve. Welcome back to all re-elected officers and board members. Your continued willingness to serve is appreciated. Keep up the great work to all those who are in the middle of a term of service. We see all you are doing to bring glory to God through the various ministries of First Lutheran. Our heartfelt thanks to all whose terms of service were completed in 2015. Your faithful service during this time is what continues to make First Lutheran a wonderful place to worship fellowship and serve together --- Sharing Christ, Changing Lives! TO GOD BE ALL GLORY!

## Business Expo Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed at our church/school booth at the Glencoe Expo on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2016. From 10 AM – 5 PM. (The Expo is only one day this year.) Call the church office to volunteer.

## Time with Me Children's Club...

...is a "club for children ages 2 to 4 years old to spend time with their parent(s)/guardian. We will nurture little ones spiritual and academic growth here at First Lutheran.

Our next session is **Wednesday, January 27, from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM** in the Church Fellowship Center.

This year's theme is "God takes care of Me." Our Bible story will be Miriam and the Red Sea. Come play, sing and make a musical instrument. We'll see you in the Fellowship Center.

### **Our sessions are:**

**Mar. 30:** Bring your tricycle @ FLS  
Gym

**May 17:** Creation @ FLC

## Are You Looking For A Project To Do?

The Board of Trustees is looking for someone who would be interested in a project later in the spring. The communion rail, pulpit, and lectern need refinishing. If anyone is willing to help or to do this project, please contact Debi in the Church office, 864-5522 or [dramirez@firstglencoe.org](mailto:dramirez@firstglencoe.org).

## LWML - Women of Our Congregation on a Mission!

**\$3,500 Mission Gifts!** Do you know that First Ev. Lutheran has an active and faithful mission society that provides thousands of dollars annually for missions near and far away? The name of that organization is **First Lutheran LWML**.

LWML stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Membership is open to any woman of the congregation. If you have a

heart for your Savior and want to proclaim His redeeming love, then consider becoming a member or volunteer.

We also accept donations. Here are the missions we funded in 2015. (These donations are over and above our regular contributions to local, district and national projects.)  
**\$600** - Orphan Grain Train (an LCMS human care ministry)

**\$300** - Mayer Lutheran High School (tuition aid for First Ev. students)

**\$300** - Trinity First Lutheran School (an LCMS mission school near downtown Minneapolis)

**\$300** - Lutheran Heritage Foundation (provides educational material in a variety of languages for LCMS seminary students)

**\$500** - Wolf Ridge outdoor education (request from Principal Scheele for FLS students to attend)

**\$1,000** - LWML "mites" (to help reach the national \$2,000,000 mission goal).

## From The Altar Guild, Thank You To:

★ Dean Engelmann and Tangletown Gardens for the large wreath in the chancel;

★ All the Altar Guild members, their husbands and Deacons who helped to decorate the church for Christmas and will un-decorate it again. Many hands made light work!

## Addie Luehrs MLHS Student Writes Devotion

Addie Luehrs, a graduate of First Ev. Lutheran School, had her devotion "A Light Forever" selected to be printed in the Mayer Lutheran High School 2015 Advent Devotion book.

Part of the devotion Addie wrote reads, "...As Christians, redeemed by the blood of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are able to shine God's light through our words and actions every single day of our life! By shining the light of God, others will know Who we shine for." She finishes with a prayer. Dear Jesus, please help me to be a light in

this dark world. So many times we get so caught up in our own lives that we forget Who we really are living for. Give me the strength and courage to shine Your light wherever I go. In Your name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, Addie, on having your writing selected for printing. God bless you and keep you as you continue to let Jesus, the Light of the world, shine through you.

## "Library News"

### **Please Read and Return Books!**

There is an area in the lower right hand side of the library with paperback books that have been donated by Frances Wilson, and perhaps a few are added by others as well.

These books do not have library cards. It is assumed that anyone who reads these will return them responsibly. Remember to Read, and Return Responsibly

You will find many good books in the library that are written by well-known authors both in fiction and nonfiction. All these books make for good winter reading when weather, lack of sun or perhaps just the mood you are in warrants a good book.

Books have a way of taking one into another world, even if just for a short time. Check them out. Some are educational as well!

## LCEF YOUNG INVESTORS (Y.I.) CLUB

You know it's important to teach children to give thanks for God's many blessings and use those blessings wisely to serve Him. Learning to understand the value of sharing, saving and spending money is a good place to start.

When you help your child save for the future through the LCEF Young Investors (Y.I.) Club, those dollars can also help someone else learn about Jesus. Through the Y.I. Club activities, newsletters and web pages, your child can learn valuable stewardship concepts while empowering ministry through LCEF.

With an investment of just \$25 to open the Y.I. StewardAccount, your young investor becomes a Y.I. Club

member with special fun activities that grow with 3 different age levels.

**Y.I. StewardAccount Features:**

- \* Minimum of \$25 to open account
- \* 3.5% interest rate on balances up to \$1,000
- \* Savings grow with the child, but are accessible
- \* Checks and debit card available to custodian
- \* Interest compounded and paid monthly
- \* Make additional investments with checks or Y.I. Stamps

**Y.I. Club Little Lambs (ages 0-6)**

**also get:**

- \* Little Lambs Newsletter
- \* Online games, puzzles, devotions and more, just for Little Lambs
- \* Special birthday card
- \* Little lamb stuffed animal

**Y.I. Club Mission Builders (ages 7-12) also get:**

- \* Extra credit in investment for good grades (maximum \$25 per calendar year)
- \* Extra credit in the investment for community service hours (min. hours 10; max. \$25 per calendar year)
- \* Mission Builders Newsletter
- \* Online stories and activities
- \* Special birthday card
- \* Puzzle cube

**Y.I. Club World Changers (ages 13-18) also have available:**

- \* Debit card available at age 16
- \* Extra credit in investment for good grades (maximum \$25 per calendar year)
- \* Extra credit in the investment for community service hours (min. hours 10; max. \$25 per calendar year)
- \* World Changers online newsletter
- \* LCEF's Take Heart Scholarship for high school Seniors
- \* Special birthday card
- \* Drawstring backpack

**For more information,** call the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) at 1-800-843-5233.

**LCEF** is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made

solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. LCEF StewardAccount access features provided through UMB Bank n.a. The StewardAccount is not available to investors living in South Carolina.

**Special Invitation  
For You!**

You are invited to meet with Rev. Daniel Eggold, Admissions Officer at Concordia Seminary, to discuss seminary education and the path to becoming a pastor or deaconess.

Below you will find the itinerary for the visits in your area. Please call Rev. Eggold at 314-505-7224 or email him at eggold@csle.edu to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

**Monday, Feb. 29**

8 AM – 5:00 PM  
Concordia University  
1282 Concordia Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-641-8736

**Tuesday, March 1**

8 AM – 12:00 PM  
Concordia University  
1282 Concordia Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-641-8736

**Tuesday, March 1**

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Woodbury Lutheran Church  
7380 Afton Road  
St. Paul, MN 55125  
651-739-5144

**Thursday, March 3**

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Hosanna Lutheran Church  
105 Hosanna Court  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-388-1766

**Friday, March 4**

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
Mayer Lutheran High School  
305 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
Mayer, MN 55360  
952-657-2251

While specific appointments are strongly encouraged by calling Rev. Eggold, he is also very happy to meet with you without prior appointment.

**Mark Your Calendar for  
the Annual FLS Silent  
Auction/Luncheon**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the ANNUAL FLS Silent Auction/Luncheon taking place on Sunday, March 6th from 9am - 1pm. Now is the perfect time to start purchasing/donating items for this year's event!

To VOLUNTEER or MAKE A DONATION - please contact the School Office at 864.3317, A Flame Boosters Member (Becky Edwards, Alissa Hanson, or Jen Goff), or the Church Office.

**BLESS YOU!**

**SINCERE THANKS TO...**

--Amy Welch, for creating special holiday services on the screens.  
--The dedicated volunteers A huge "Thank You!" to the volunteers who decorated the Fellowship Center and South Entry: Joan Wandrei, Charlie Czycalla, Sharon Czycalla, Sandy Kunkel, Arlene Rehmann, Rosie Karg, Becky Ostlie, Gloria Hilgers, Dennis Wolter and Darlene Dammann  
It takes us about 6 hours and one large pizza! We have fun and enjoy every minute of it!  
--Also to Elmer Schuette, Roger Montgomery and Donald Dammann who set up the manager scene, along with the help of FLS boys who helped carry out the figures for the manager scene from the storage area. Thank you!

**Recap from the  
Boards & Council**

**Church Council, Nov. 19,** The E.C. (Early Childhood) Finance Committee has begun meeting. They will meet twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays. The Church Finance Committee has also begun. Their meetings will be once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. Motion was made, seconded, & carried to allow Deb Ramirez to attend the tax webinar for \$129. Motion was made, seconded, & carried to recommend to the Voters that

Stephanie Schlauderhoff from SLS Accounting Services be hired to tie out the 2014-15 Balance Sheet at a cost of \$50/hour not to exceed \$500. Motion was made, seconded, & carried to recommend to Voters the release of \$488 from the Victor Dietel Fund to Mayer Lutheran High School Addie Luehrs' Mexico mission trip in December. Motion was made, seconded, & carried to recommend to Voters the release of \$5,000 to the Missouri Synod, Mission Enhancement Program, Global Missions, on "Giving Tuesday". A phone system update for the Church and School will be researched.

**Day School Board, Dec. 1,** Kelly (our cook) is recovering well from her surgery, will be out thru Christmas break. Parents of the 7/8th grade students are holding a soup and sandwich meal on December 9 before the Choral concert. Mr. Scheele conducted teacher / classroom observations in November. Maggie Schuft won the Lion's Peace Poster contest and it now moves on to the next level of the contest.

**Trustees Board, Dec.3,** Josh Olson from Bradley Security toured the Church with the Board to decide where to put surveillance cameras, what kind of cameras, and how many. The Board will receive a specific bid based on these decisions. There have been anonymous donations that should be sufficient for this project. Bids are being researched for a new boiler for the school. Repairs were made to get through the winter. Neubarth Landscaping has generously agreed to donate the snow removal for the Church again this season. The Board is seeking someone to refinish the communion rail, pulpit, & lectern.

**Evangelism Board, Dec. 1,** We say very warm and special "thank you" to Dawn Wolff and Kathy Strobel who finished their terms on our Board. We look forward to working with the new, oncoming members. We will be working on the Greeters' Schedule in January. Please consider being a greeter this year. One of our annual events is coming up soon—the Business Expo which will be a one-day event again this year on Feb. 21.

**Board of Deacons, Dec. 3,** Currently has 3 usher captain spots to be filled in. Dennis Wolter will fill for January. Looking for best way to track inactives. Will start communion registry cards on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED to approve to start using communion registry cards on Ash Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>. December 19th wedding needs to be cover by Deacons. Due to health reasons, there is a need to cover the rest of schedule for one of the Deacons. Several names discussed will act on in January. New member classes starting in January. A Motion passed that our reorganizational meeting no longer be held between services.

**Stewardship Board, Dec. 1,** Discussion was held about researching some different boards conducting home visits, phone calls or surveys to gather people's thoughts regarding their feelings towards the church. This board is to come back to the next meeting with thoughts and ideas if this is something we want to work on. Ketch-Up campaign has currently collected is \$8,200.

**Youth Board, Dec. 2,** no overview was submitted.

**Christian Education Board, Dec. 3,** no overview was submitted.

**The Church Council** did not meet in December. **Next Church Council Meeting date / time to be set at the Jan. 3 Council and Board Re-organizational Meeting.**

## Jan 2016 News....Thrivent Financial

➤ Thrivent Choice – Remember that as Choice \$ are continually disbursed throughout the year....you must keep checking and directing. It's fast and easy to do. You can visit ([www.Thrivent.com/choice](http://www.Thrivent.com/choice)) or phone 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars." Have your Thrivent ID# handy. You can phone Mon – Thurs from 7 am – 8 pm or Friday from 7 am to 6 pm. If you would like assistance, please contact the church office.

### Thrivent Action Teams

➤ Thank you to all our members who have already led a Thrivent

Action Team – please share your stories with others! A Thrivent Action Team is a simple, flexible way for you to bring people together to make a positive difference.....you might hold a fundraiser, conduct a service activity, or hold an educational event. It all starts with an idea. Is there an unmet need that you want to impact?

➤ When you're project is approved, Thrivent will provide resources to help you plan the event, promotional items (including Thrivent T-shirts to increase your visibility), and seed money to cover promotional and material expenses (\$250 Community Impact Card).

➤ Each Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year. Involve others – it's all about your friends, family and community coming together to make a positive impact! If you need inspiration, check out the "101 Thrivent Action Team Ideas" on the Resources page of the web site or on the Literature stands here at church.

➤ You must make your request a minimum of 3 weeks (but less than 90 days) before your event. All Thrivent members are eligible to lead Action Teams.

➤ Visit [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam) for more information or to complete the online application. You'll sign on using your current user name and password. When applying, you'll be asked the proposed project date and details. Once you submit your application, you'll get an email within a week letting you know if it's approved. If approved, watch your mail for your Action Team Kit.

➤ We urge you to try this out for yourselves and then spread the word about this fantastic program. It's so simple and easy and helps get your project off and running! We've got so many service activities and fundraisers going on here at First – let's take advantage! If you have questions or need help, just ask Cindy Eggersgluess.

Happy New Year!

Cindy & Neil Eggersgluess - 320-238-2148 / [eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com](mailto:eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com)

Linda Becker, Charles Jensen, Verna & Harold Kunkel, Pastor Mathison, Paul Sievert  
– Your Congregational Advocates

## STORIES OF FAITH

The Public Relations (PR) Team has invited members to share their stories related to situations or events in which they personally experienced God's presence.

If you are willing to share a "story of faith", contact the church office or a PR Team member. If you have a story, but would like help putting it on paper, please contact us, as we'll be happy to assist!

Cindy Eggersgluess 238-2148  
[eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com](mailto:eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com)  
Jeri Ring 864-4029  
[jring8655@aol.com](mailto:jring8655@aol.com)

When it comes to witnessing to your non-Christian friends, God loves to work through your "with-nessing." This is important time you spend *with* your friends. In the school halls, during a car ride, shopping, at a group activity – gives them a chance to spend time with someone who's excited about living for God. Does this mean you have to act perfect? No. Does this mean you never make mistakes or have "down days?" Not at all. With-nessing means...

--*Being real*. You're not trying to act like a good Christian in front of your non-believing friends. They can tell a fake just as easily as you can. After all, Jesus is all about the truth (John 14:6). Do don't try to be Mr. or Miss Perfect. Just be the real you.

--*Showing your heart*. If you're a genuine Christ follower, you have a lot going for you. After all, you're a whole new person with a whole new set of values (2 Corinthians 5:17). And while you're human and still have your problems, you no doubt desire to follow Jesus and live for Him. If that weren't true, you probably wouldn't be reading this. The kind of person you want to be is one of the huge differences between you and your non-Christian friends. Check out how Paul laid this out for some Christians who lived in a town called Philippi. In his letter to these believers, he wrote that it's God who improves on both their desire and their actions (Philippians 2:13). Paul then pointed out that his own actions weren't perfect, but his desire to follow Jesus was still worth copying (Philippians 3:8-14 and 4:9). Let your heart and life shine around your

friends, even if it seems like just a flicker sometimes. Remember: A spark can ignite a very big bonfire.

--*Growing in your faith*. If you're genuine about growing in your faith, your friends can't help but see it.

Think about it this way. If you love cars, you're probably going to have a car calendar hanging in your locker, car posters plastered on your bedroom walls and a car magazine in your backpack. You want to know all about cars and can't help sharing the latest car news. Similarly, if you love Jesus, you're going to do things to make your relationship with Him better, and you can't help but talk about what He's teaching you.

Here are some signs that you're a growing Christian:

- You ask God for help, confident that he *will* help when you're having a bad day.
- You thank God for the good things that come your way.
- You thank God for teaching you hard lessons through tough times.
- You expect God to give you direction for your decisions.
- You ask for forgiveness and you forgive others.

This list could go on and on, and will continue to grow as you study God's Word and apply it to your life. Again, and let me be clear, this is not about being perfect or looking good. And maybe not all the items on the list are true for you right now. But if you're a growing Christian, some of them are. And those that are a part of your life can't help but be seen by your friends. So don't ever forget the power of *with-nessing*. While not looking for perfection, your non-Christian friends are watching to see if Christianity really works. They are watching to see if you're the kind of friend they can trust and who loves them with no strings attached. And when they do see these traits in you, there's a good chance they'll one day ask: "Will you tell me why your life is so different?"

--from "Ignite Your Faith" website

### Stewardship Message Giving from the Heart

According to the legend, a desert wanderer happened upon a spring of cool, crystal-clear water. The water

was so delightful, he decided to bring the king a sample of it. Barely quenching his own thirst, he filled his leather canteen and began his lengthy journey in the hot desert sun to the palace.

When he finally reached his destination, the water had become stale because of the old leather container in which it had been stored. The king graciously accepted the gift of his faithful subject. He tasted it with an expression of gratitude and delight, and the wanderer went his way with a joyful heart.

After he had gone, others in the king's court tasted the putrid water and asked why the king had pretended to enjoy it. "Ah," responded the king, "it was not the water I tasted, but the spirit in which it was given."

During this Christmas season, in what spirit are we going to be receiving and giving our gifts? Are we going to be like the wise men who came in search of the newborn King, bringing their gifts and bowing before Him in adoration? Matthew 2:11 records, "And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him." And they offered to the Christ Child the gifts they had brought for Him, "gold and frankincense and myrrh." They gave with love and adoration from their hearts.

The shepherds adored Him, too. They heard about Jesus from the angels as they sat outdoors watching their sheep and ran to Bethlehem to see the Christ Child. They didn't have gifts to bring as the Magi did, but they, too, responded in adoration. Luke writes, "And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning the Child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them" (Luke 2:17-18).

God gives gifts to each of us and uses us to tell the Good News of the birth of His Son Who came to bring us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Some of us, like the Wise Men, are blessed with monetary gifts to be used to support mission and ministry. Others of us are more like the shepherds, able to "make known... [what has] been told [us] concerning the Child." By God's grace, all of us can respond by giving our time, talent, and treasures from hearts filled with God's love. In these ways, we adore our Savior.

## 2015-16 Financials: NOVEMBER (YTD)

GENERAL FUND INCOME (November):		<u>Last Year</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$ 284,776.93	\$ 248,724.88
Thrivent "Choice" Member Elections	9,926.00	2,352.00
CHP – Be Well Rewards	800.00	19,513.16
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	6,895.00	8,735.00
School Tuition	<u>68,541.62</u>	<u>78,826.90</u>
	\$ 370,939.55	\$ 358,151.94

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (November):		<u>Last Year</u>
Staff	\$ 355,083.40	\$ 360,382.57
CHP – Be Well Rewards	1,725.00	7,790.00
Buildings	30,503.44	33,896.12
Operations	12,470.11	20,670.82
Interest on Line of Credit	<u>250.00</u>	<u>266.70</u>
	\$ 400,031.95	\$ 423,006.21

2015-16 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:	
	\$ 8,089.25                      \$10,179.25

November 30th GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS: (\$ 135,570.93)  
*Last Year's November 30th General Indebtedness:* (\$ 150,122.89)

## Special Gifts Received

Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Velma Lindemann)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Myra Martin (in memory of Gerald "Jerry" Martin)	500	General Fund
Frances Downer (in memory of Gordon Wroge)	50	FLS
Del & Ida Rutske (in memory of Eldora Pulkrabek)	10	Early Childhood Center
In Loving Memory of Alice Stuedemann from her family	140	Debt Reduction
Loren & Diane Lange (in memory of Alice Stuedemann)	10	Debt Reduction
Marilyn Vorbeck (in memory of Deana Schuette Locken)	20	FLS
Ken & Shirley Krienke (in memory of Keith's Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> Birthday & Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> passing)	1200	Keep It Happening
Ken & Shirley Krienke (in memory of Keith's Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> Birthday & Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> passing)	500	Early Childhood Center
In Loving Memory of Alice Stuedemann from her family	70	Debt Reduction
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Eldora Pulkrabek)	10	Debt Reduction
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Willmar Harbarth)	10	Debt Reduction
Maynard & Geraldine Grenke (in memory of Eldora Pulkrabek)	10	General Fund
Larry & Edna Lindemann (in memory of Velma Lindemann)	20	General Fund
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Eldora Pulkrabek)	10	Debt Reduction
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Ivan Donnay)	10	Debt Reduction
Dean & Sheila Scheele (in memory of Ivan Donnay)	20	FLS
In Loving Memory of Alice Stuedemann from her family	50	Debt Reduction
In Loving Memory of Willmar G. Harbarth from his family	170	General Fund
In Loving Memory of Ivan Donnay	1000	Debt Reduction
LWML (in honor of the staff)	150	Keep It Happening
Donna Trippel (in loving memory of Lucille Ruehling who passed away Nov. 10, 2015)	100	Debt Reduction
Elmer & Yvonne Schuette (in memory of Lillian Dammann)	20	Keep It Happening
Ruth Templin (in memory of Lillian Dammann)	5	FLS
Roger Cohrs (in memory of Lillian Dammann)	10	FLS
In loving memory of Lillian Dammann from her family and friends	115	FLS
Rhodella Engelmann (in memory of Lillian Dammann)	10	Debt Reduction
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Lillian Dammann)	10	Debt Reduction
Darlene Matuska (in memory of Lillian Dammann)	5	Debt Reduction
In loving memory of Lillian Dammann, given by her family and friends	125	Debt Reduction
In loving memory of Lillian Dammann, given by her family and friends	150	General Fund
In loving memory of Lillian Dammann, given by her family and friends	150	LWML
Lester and LaNaye Schauer (in memory of George Fox, who passed away in Jan. 2008)	70	FLS Technology
Lucille Kraemer (in memory of Phylliss Hager)	15	General Fund
Dennis & Joan Wandrei (in memory of Ken Gruenhagen)	10	FLS

**Special Gifts Con't**

Del & Ida Rutske (in memory of Berdina Luehring)	10	Early Childhood Center
Del & Ida Rutske (in memory of Ken Gruenhagen)	10	Early Childhood Center
Dale & Linda Duenow (in memory of Berdina Luehring)	20	Keep It Happening
Melvin & Ruth Dose (in memory of Ken Gruenhagen)	25	Debt Reduction
Lyle & Elaine Winterfeldt (in memory of Edwin & Ella Ponath)	200	Debt Reduction
Willis & Lois Herrmann (in memory of Berdina Luehring)	10	Debt Reduction
Sid & Joanne Samuelson (in memory of Berdina Luehring)	20	Debt Reduction
Frances Downer (in memory of Evelyn Schrupp)	10	FLS
Jake & Karen Shiveley (given in memory of parents, Chester & Sergona Graupmann)	\$\$	General Fund

First Lutheran School  
Flame Flash ~ January 2016

**Please Pray for:**

- The Heifer International group, our chapel offering recipients, as they work to help ease poverty through their animal donation project
- Thankful hearts, that we may never take what we have been given by our Heavenly Father for granted.
- Kelly Finnerty, our cook, as she recovers from surgery.

**Thank You to:**

- The School Board for providing goodie bags to all the children after their Christmas Service.
- The eighth graders for always helping out with the chapel duties and the Young Investors Program.
- Lynn Exsted for heading up the Young Investors program and running it every week.
- Everyone who helped make the Children's Christmas Service a big success, including the Deacons, Yvonne Schuette, Pastor Welch, Bob Schuft, Nathan Welch, all the students, and teachers.

**Calendar Notes:**

January 4 School Resumes  
 January 6 Epiphany  
 January 18 No School, Martin Luther King Jr. holiday  
 January 24-30 National Lutheran School's Week  
 January 24 K-8 students sing in church 10:30 AM service

**Church Attendance**

Congratulations to the following people who had perfect attendance for the first Trimester; Kole Christensen, Grace Brickzen, Alyssa Gruber, Beau Christensen, Abby Gruber, Rebekah Welch, Grace Litzau, Melody Nikkel, and Cole Ehrke. Also, congratulations to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class for having the best church attendance for the first trimester. As a result, they will have a root beer float party. Praise God for dedicated parents and healthy bodies.

**Fifth Grade News**

December is always an activity filled month in any Lutheran school classroom. The fifth grade classroom at First Lutheran is no exception. Preparation for the annual Christmas service has included memorization of parts and practice of music. Christmas decorations were hung in the classroom and arts and crafts projects covered any free space in the classroom. The daily devotions and Religion have included Advent observation as well as the study of the Life of Christ, and his all-important role in our daily faith walk. And, academic subjects continue to be a part of each daily schedule.

Science in fifth grade included a unit focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The students have built a catapult for launching marshmallows. Technology class has included formatting

exercises. Additionally, to coincide with the national "Hour of Code" week from December 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, the students spent time in the computer lab completing their hours of coding exploration and practice. Social Studies reviewed the early American exploration and colonial life. Division practice has taken up time during math. In Literature, the students have been reading the chapter book Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. This classic children's literature book explores the life of a black family in the 1930's rural Mississippi. Verb study has been a part of English class. Health class has discussed emotions and Physical Education has included some great games of Pin Guard.

**Soup and Sandwich Supper**

The seventh and eighth grade parents and students at First Lutheran would like to thank all of the great folks who took advantage of the Soup and Sandwich meal on December 9. We had a great turnout and raised close to \$700! The students are working to raise money for their Wolf Ridge trip coming up in February. We would also like to thank Thrivent for their support, as this was a "Thrivent Action Team" event.

## **Honor Roll**

Congratulations to the following students who attained the honor roll for the first trimester at FLS.

**“B” Honor Roll:** Lily Becker, Meara Busse, Alyssa Gruber, Cameron Johnson, Lena Toualiat, Faith Wertz, Alyssa Radke, Beau Christensen, Jordan Mickolichuk, Cassidy Rislund, Maggie Schuft, Kobe Boozikee, Lincoln Dummer, Blake Mickolichuk, Melody Nikkel, Ashley Radke, Lauren Terlinden, Ethan Bernstein, Rachel Meyer, Katie Ober, Max Edwards, Addie Stuewe, Dani Tessmer, and Cole Ehrke.

**“A” Honor Roll:** Jackie Lemke, Alaina Voss, Ben Grimm, Lauren Bernstein, Elise Betcher, Abby Gruber, Kyle Hagen, Bethany Hagen, Grace Litzau, and Adam Schauer. Praise God for the gifts he has given these students.

## **Second Trimester Chapel Offering**

Our second trimester chapel offering will be going to Heifer International. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38.

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Families who receive this gift become donors as they pass on the gift to other families in their communities. For our 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester, First Lutheran students will be sending Chapel offerings to Heifer International.

Heifer International’s mission to help the hungry become self-reliant first began in 1944 when a church leader and Midwestern farmer name Dan West rallied the support of his congregation for families in need.

## **School Cancellations or Early Out Information**

School closings and late starts are carried on KDUZ, KARP, and WCCO radio stations and on television stations WCCO (4), and KARE (11). First Lutheran follows the Glencoe-Silver Lake Schools for all weather closings. Parents should use their judgment (especially when the public school is not in session) on travel safety when the public school has not been closed. During inclement weather, parents may take their child(ren) home at any time during the day by reporting to the school office by phone or Fast Direct. Parents will also be notified via Fast Direct and School Reach.

The dismissal time announced on radio and TV stations is the time the first building dismisses. If the announced time is 12:00, *First Lutheran dismisses at 11:50*. On mornings with late starts scheduled classes (band, chapel, etc.) that meet before 10:10 are  *canceled* for the day. You may dial 864-2499 (1) for cancellation or postponement of the Glencoe-Silver Lake School District. Parents should have a plan devised in advance with their children on what to do when school is dismissed early due to weather.

## **Ongoing Fundraisers**

Target is discontinuing their Take Charge of Education program next year. They will still run the program this year and to help schools out, they will have an additional payout in May 2016. So please use your Target Card and give FLS the credit at least through June 2016. Target donates an amount equal to 1% of REDcard (Target Visa and Target Card) purchases made at Target and Target.com, and ½% of Target Visa purchases elsewhere. Just register at a Target and at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).

First Lutheran School’s ID# is 9340. FLS has received over \$20,000 over the years through this program.

We are also collecting: Box Tops, Coborns receipts, Campbell Soup labels, Kwik Trip milk tops, and Country Hearth labels.