

February 2016

"First in Focus"

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

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First Ev. Lutheran --- LIKE US!

"MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 16"

From the Pastor...

"Love is in the air!"

Valentine's Day will soon be here. Have you ever wondered how the tradition of giving Valentines got started? Who was Valentine, anyway?

Valentine was a physician and priest who lived in Rome during the middle of the third century AD. He would also become one of the most well-known martyrs of the third century. The commemoration of his death, which occurred in AD 270, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the Early Church. Tradition suggests that on the day of execution for his Christian faith, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day in many nations.

This month as we share notes of love with family members, friends, spouses, and other people who are special to us, it is worth noting not only how this tradition began but more importantly to remember the One for whom St. Valentine was willing to lay down his life, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus once said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Valentine died in a very admirable way. He died for his faith in his Savior and his Friend, Jesus. How much more should we not only admire, but worship and rejoice in our Lord Jesus, who although "He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the

likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

As we begin the Church season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 10th, "love is in the air" as we especially hear the good news of our Savior and God who lovingly laid down His life for us His friends to take the punishment for our sins and Who rose again so that we too may have eternal life. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11).

--Love in Christ, Pastor Dan Welch

Tori's Corner

So I am now about 6 months into my internship here with you guys and this is my reflection of what I am learning and what I have been up to. My position always poses the question of "what does Tori really do for her job?" If you would have asked me in the beginning I would have said something like, "I plan on building this awesome program for high school aged kids to attend, and have them enjoy coming to church and growing in their faith." But then you realize that no one knows who you are and why would they come to something where they don't know the person. So for the past six months my direction, and continued direction is to build relationships, and build deeper connections with the kids and families in the congregation. Investing into people's lives will always be a huge part of my job, so if you hear your child say, "Tori's taking me to get ice cream", or you get a call from me saying I want to meet your family, that is me saying I care and want to know you guys more. When you look at how Jesus

did His ministry, He invested so much time into the lives of people that He met. He took the time to get to love people where they are at, and then educate them on how to love Him, and others. My prayer is that the ministry that I do here at FLC can best emulate what Christ does for us, being present, loving people, and ultimately living for Him.

Men's Club Pancake Dinner ~ Feb. 7

Men's Club 65th Annual All You Care To Eat Potato Pancake & Sausage Dinner is Sunday, February 7, from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Fellowship Center. Ticket prices \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 4-12, age 3 & under free.

-- **GENTLEMEN OF FLC:** The Men's Club is looking for help with **the set-up** of their pancake dinner on Sunday, February 7th. If you're able to assist with the set-up or take down on Friday, February 5, Saturday February 6, Sunday, February 7, and/or Monday, February 8, please contact:

John Scheidt at 320-864-3356 or **Arnie Alsleben** at 320-309-7687
If you leave a message, please state your name, phone number, and your availability.

Thank You, Men's Club

First Edition Book Club

All women are invited to join this group for reading and discussing Christian themed books written by Christian authors.

On Monday, February 8, at 7:00 PM, in the FLC sitting area), there will be a discussion on the book "**Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café**" by Max Lucado.

8th Annual Valentine White Linen Dinner

The First Lutheran Youth "NYG" group is sponsoring a White Linen Dinner for Valentine's Day. The dinner will be **Saturday, February 13th**, in the First Lutheran Church Fellowship Center.

This dinner is a benefit fundraiser for the NYG trip to New Orleans, LA in 2016.

The menu choices & prices are:

Prime Rib of Beef - \$27

Fillet of Salmon - \$16

**Breast of Chicken with
Raspberry sauce - \$16**

All meals will be served with Salad, Potato, choice of Glazed Carrots or Green Beans, Dinner Roll and choice of Dessert - Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake or Fresh Fruit Cup.

Free daycare will be available.

The event will start with a social hour and hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 PM. Seating for dinner begins at 7 PM. When making your reservation, please indicate your choice of meat, vegetable and dessert. Also indicate if daycare will be needed and whether you want to be seated with other parties. There will be six to eight place settings at each table.

If you'd like to attend, contact Sheila at 320-864-4699 or look for a sign-up table in the Fellowship Center after services on Sunday. **The deadline for reservations is Sunday, Feb. 7th.** Sorry, we will not be able to offer refunds for this event.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League...

JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35. Bread has always been considered a basic dietary item in most cultures in all times. Jesus

compared Himself to basic, necessary bread. The LWML will explore this statement of Jesus and watch some bread making at the **Monday, February 1** meeting. We'll begin with a light **supper at 6:30p.m.** The bread making demonstration and short business meeting will follow. **Members, guests, and volunteers** - as always, all are welcomed!

2016 FLS Popcorn Fund Raiser

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S

popcorn sales are here. Please help by participating in the 2016 Popcorn Fundraiser. This is an excellent way to support our school, and every year it has been a great success.

Kick off will be Wednesday, February 3, and runs through Wednesday, February 17.

Popcorn orders can be placed with a FLS student or in the church office. Checks can be made to First Lutheran School. **Thank you for your support!**

LENT – 2016

Places of the Passion

The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord's Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.

For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus, however, will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of

our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our Lenten services this year. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.

Special services each Wednesday beginning on ASH WEDNESDAY, February 10, with Holy Communion at 2 and 7 PM.

✠**DESSERT** - Please come and enjoy Christian fellowship and dessert following the 2:00p.m. Ash Wednesday Lenten worship service. The desserts for this first Wednesday in Lent will be provided served by First Ev. Lutheran LWML. At that time the participants will be asked to help in sharing refreshments and serving duties for the following Wednesday afternoons in Lent. Bring your calendar and sign up for the time that's convenient for you. It's fun to help! LWML will continue to coordinate the serving.

*The certainty of our faith
lies in the dependability
of God. "But I trust in
you, Lord; I say, you are
my God."*

-Psalm 31:14

School Wish Tree

A big thank you to First Ev. Lutheran's LWML for setting up the FLS Christmas Wish Tree again this year and to all those who donated items!

This year, **\$2,770** was received. Funds will go toward the purchase of classroom books, games, computer software, physical education equipment, and other classroom supply items.

The Men's Network

The *Men's Bible Study* group name has been changed to *The Men's Network*. We want to and need to look at God's Word to read and hear what God says to us Men in today's world. Men from St. John's Lutheran in Plato and St. Peter's Lutheran in Lester Prairie have become part of this group, this Network. Pastor Tyson Mastin from St. John's and Pastor Travis Loeslie from St. Peter's lead the group topics and discussion. *The Men's Network* meets on Tuesday evenings between 7-8 pm at First Lutheran for the video topics and discussion.

In February, we begin a series of topics developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries entitled God Connects. **God Connects** is a video-based course in Christianity developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). It has been doctrinally reviewed by the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) and covers what we believe in 12 topics. Each topic begins with a short video and provides a guide for discussion. The video topics are hosted by Rev. Gregory Selz, Lutheran Hour speaker.

Men, you are invited to attend any one or all sessions. These are meaningful topics for men whether you are in your twenties or eighties. We will not meet when there is a snow storm and school has been canceled for that day. **God's Word provides the light we need.**
Psalm 119:105

Come and Welcome Our Newest Members...

...our adult confirmands and members, who have transferred in, will be received during the 10:30 AM Worship Service on Sunday, February 14.

There will be recognition of these members at 10:00 AM during Fellowship Time. Refreshments will be served until 10:20 AM.

Thank You...

To those of you who participated in the Christmas Brunch, Bake & Country Store Sale on Dec. 5. The

Quilting Ladies, who were in charge of the craft sales, have designated their share of the proceeds (\$1,183.20 - \$183.20 to the Flames of Faith & \$1,000 to FLS).

Unscheduled Meetings

PLEASE REMEMBER: that if your Board, Committee, and/or Group is going to use the Church or Fellowship Center for anything other than your scheduled meetings, please contact the Church Office at 864-5522 or email office@firstglencoe.org to see if there are any other events scheduled. It is very important that the church office is aware of building occupancy at all times; not only for safety and liability reasons, we also don't want something "double booked" for your sake and for ours. Thank you and God's blessings. Debi Ramirez.

See You at the Glencoe Expo

Please visit our First Lutheran Church/School booth at the Glencoe Expo on Sunday, February 21, from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Panther Fieldhouse.

VOTERS' MEETING Monday, Feb. 29, 7 PM

In the Church Fellowship Center
If you are a communicant member of First Lutheran, age 18 or older, please attend.

FLS 9TH Annual Silent Auction & Luncheon

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Planning & preparation is well under way for the 9th Annual SILENT AUCTION & LUNCHEON on Sunday, March 6th. We are asking the congregation to help us by making a donation/sponsorship. Keep in mind ALL DONATIONS must be NEW and can be dropped off at the church office. The Silent Auction is the largest fundraiser we have at FLS. It is a great way to show your support for our mission, get to know other families, socialize, have

fun, and be a part of something that is meaningful. Everyone's participation is extremely important! Thank you for considering ways you can help. If you have any questions about this year's event, email

flsflamesboosters@gmail.com, or visit www.firstglencoe.org for more information. Below is a list of ideas or basket donations that have been received in the past:

GIFT CERTIFICATES: Various \$5 OR \$10 Gift certificates such as: Walmart, Target, Shopko, Coborns, Subway, Dairy Queen, Burger King, Unhinged Pizza, ITUNES, Other Restaurants & Gas Stations.

GOLF BASKET: 9/18 Holes of Golf, Golf Tees, Golf Balls.

BABY BASKET: Clothes, Blanket, Bibs, Wipes, Diapers, Burp Cloths, Rattles, Toys, Nuks, Socks, Onesies.

HEALTH & FITNESS

BASKET: Water bottle, Protein Bars, Yoga Mat, Weights, DVD's, Towels, Pedometer.

SPRING CLEANING BASKET: Swiffers (floor & duster), Pledge, Mr. Clean, Scrub Brush, Toilet Cleaner, Toilet Brush, Candle.

BBQ/TAILGATING BASKET: Small Charcoal Grill, Charcoal, Sauces, Marinades, Rubs, Seasonings, Utensils, Grill Brush, Grill Mitt, Lighter, Corncob Skewers, Pickles.

FREEZER COOKING

BASKET: Reynolds Baking Pan, Ziploc Bags, Sharpie Markers, Freezer Tape, Cookbook (Freezer Ideas).

BAKING BASKET: Cake Pan, Pam Cooking Spray, Sprinkles, Spatula, Frosting, Cake Mix, Decorating Kit, Cookie Cutters, Wisk, Hot Pad, Cookbook (Cupcake/Cake/Cookies), Measuring Cups, Measuring Spoons, Hand Towel.

SLOW COOKER BASKET:

Crockpot, Recipe Book (slow cooker), Measuring Spoons, Measuring Cups, Hand Towel, Washcloths, Slow Cooker Liners, Utensils.

ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Pastry Puffins & Puffcrust Pizza:

The NYG Youth of our church will be selling puffins and pizza from Sunday, February 21 thru Sunday, March 6 with a delivery date of Monday, March 21. Cost of the puffins are \$12.00. Flavors include: Cinnamon, Strawberry Cream, Blueberry Cream, Apple, Cherry and Caramel. This year they will be also selling Puffcrust Pizza. Cost of the pizza is \$13. Flavors include: Pepperoni and Sausage. If you have any questions, or to place an order call Teresa at 864-3286 or email farm.princess@hotmail.com.

"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.

There are 2 sessions remaining with one in the First Lutheran School gym where we will exercise our big muscles and the other will be in the Fellowship Center at First Lutheran Church.

Our theme this year is "God takes Care of Me". Come play, try some activities and exercise.

Both sessions will include devotions, activities, and singing. Both sessions will be on from 6:30 - 7:30 PM.

Our sessions are:

Wednesday, March 30: Gym activities @ FLS gym *Bring a tricycle and water bottle

Wednesday, May 17: God Helps Me Grow. Come play, sing, do some planting and make a cool butterfly.

BLESS YOU!

SINCERE THANKS TO...

Harriett Bergs --for coming to the Church Office early Monday mornings (no matter what the weather) to pick up and organize after Sunday services, and again on Fridays to set out the new bulletins and handouts, hang

posters/flyers and help Sue and Deb with other things. Thank you Harriett!

Joanne Samuelson --for keeping the greeting cards stocked up so that we have a wonderful variety to choose from. We have the best selection in town and at an awesome price too.

--for helping to organize the group of volunteers who come in to collate the newsletter each month. I truly appreciate her help and time spent making those phone calls to find enough volunteers to come in. Thank you Joanne and Andrew!

Janet Mackenthun (and Andrew) --for creating the new audio visual sound schedule and updating it each quarter. I am blessed to have someone to volunteer to do this schedule with as much time that it takes to create it each quarter.

Thank you Janet!

You and all of the other volunteers that make things a little easier are very much appreciated!

If you have a suggestion for someone to be thanked, drop a note in the suggestion box or call the office.

Simply Giving (Vanco Payment Solutions)

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

First Lutheran offers Electronic Giving as a way to automate your offerings, tuition, or any type of giving you might be considering. The electronic process is convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for the church and school. Offerings received in the offering plates can fluctuate significantly from week to week but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis. It is by the grace of God and through the contributions of our generous members that we are able to carry on our work here at First Ev. Lutheran Church and School.

Authorization forms are available in the church office. Contact Debi at 864-5522 between 8 AM - 3:30 PM or email dramirez@firstglencoe.org.

Elderly Food Outreach

Do you know someone over the age of 60 who may not be getting enough to eat? The Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) is a supplemental commodity food program available to age and income eligible MN seniors. The McLeod Emergency Food Shelf, Glencoe is one of several distribution sites in McLeod County. Participants are encouraged to pick up their pack as well as some additional groceries through the local food shelf distribution program. To apply or for more information call Second Harvest Heartland at 651.484.8241 or toll free at 1.800.365.0270. Leave a message and they will return your phone call.

KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast

The "**Lutheran Hour**" is a broadcast each Sunday at 12:30 pm on KDUZ AM-1260. The cost is \$94.

Sponsors are needed for February, and continuing through 2016. Call Charles Jensen at 320-864-3579 for a specific date to sponsor a broadcast. Checks should be made out to "**Men's Club L.H. Broadcast**" and sent to Charles Jensen at 404 20th St W., Glencoe, MN 55336.

Thank you for your support in helping us "**Bring Christ to the Nations-and the Nations to the Church**".

Monthly Radio

Broadcasts are Available

Do you listen to the Sunday morning radio broadcast aired once a month on KDUZ? Did you notice that these broadcasts are sponsored by someone in honor or memory of someone special?

We have broadcasts available for 2016 for sponsoring at \$175 each, ½ sponsorships are available at \$87.50. Months still available are May, June, July, August, September, Live Radio for Thanksgiving and November.

To sponsor, call the church office.

Bulletins From the Boards, Council, and Committees

Voters' Assembly, next meeting Monday, February 29, 7 PM.

All Boards – Annual

Reorganization, Jan. 3, selected their officers and Church Council representatives at the “reorganizational” meeting held between worship services.

Church Council, January meeting met after the newsletter deadline.

Christian Education

Jan. 3: Selected Jennifer Goff – Chair, Julie Uecker – Vice-Chair, Tammy Martin - Secretary. Will meet the first Thurs. of each month at 7 PM.

Deacons, Jan. 3: Selected Lee Terlinden – Chair, Arnie Alsleben – Vice-Chair, Scott Litzau – Secretary & Council Rep. Will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Day School – January 3: Selected Tonya Christensen – Chair, Kim Rislund – Vice-Chair, Cindy Mathews – Secretary, Kevin Hagen – Council Rep. Will meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. January 5: Met with Jeff Jensen - Tech Director of GSL to have him advise us in how to potentially make the transition from FLS to GSL high school easier on our students. We have already started to use Google Classroom and iPads - so off to a wonderful start. We approved the purchase of more iPads for the students. Christmas bags for the children after the Christmas program were a huge success, planning to do again.

Evangelism, Jan. 3: Selected Deb Tessmer – Chair, Wendy Becker – Vice-Chair, Lynn Exsted – Secretary, Betty Witthus – Council Rep. Will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Stewardship, Jan.3: Selected Brad Werth – Chair, Karen Ober – Vice-Chair, Sue Schulz – Secretary, Sandy Kunkel – Council Rep. Will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

Trustees, Jan. 3: Selected Randy Bussler – Chair & Council Rep, Mark Ahlbrecht – Vice-Chair, Harlan Mathews – Secretary. Will

meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Youth Board, Jan. 3: Selected Dean Dahlke – Chair, Chris Kruschke – Vice-Chair, Mark Schmitz – Secretary, Cindy Litzau – Council Rep. Will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

LCEF Advocate News

Something for Everyone: When it comes to your financial needs, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers investments for everyone from babies to grandparents.

You can invest with LCEF knowing that **your dollars are empowering ministry** in Kingdom work.

Invest today! For rates and details, visit lcef.org or call 1.800.843.5233

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
eggsgluesscindy@gmail.com
Jeri Ring 864-4029
ring8655@aol.com

A recent magazine article focused on people blessed with 100+ years of longevity and asked them to share words of wisdom. According to a longevity research project called Blue Zones, the world's longest living people don't pump iron or run marathons. Instead they stay active without thinking about it; and, attending faith-based services four times a month adds up to 14 years of life expectancy. Here are six responses to the question – What is Life's Greatest Lesson?

1. Don't let the sun set on your anger.
2. Hard times pass by. Hang in there. Things will get better.

3. Help others who are less fortunate. Be kind to those who don't have enough to eat.
4. Be kind, generous and have a positive attitude.
5. Perseverance, doing the daily work.

Your attitude is everything. Your attitude is you. I try to be happy every day.

News Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Choice – Last month, we received \$757 Choice Dollars for FLC and \$1537 for FLS! 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) 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 your 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 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.

Thrivent Builds – Thrivent Builds Worldwide is looking for Thrivent members to lead or participate in trips to build homes alongside families around the globe. Trips for 2016: In the US: Flathead Valley, MT; Kauai, HI; Kona, HI; Asheville, NC; Taos, NM International: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Canada, Africa, Asia and European destinations.

To be a Thrivent Builds Worldwide trip leader, you must be a Thrivent member and have been part of a Worldwide trip in the past. No experience is necessary to be a trip participant. To learn more, including complete team-leader requirement, visit Thriventbuilds.com. There are also opportunities to make a difference in our local community – just ask!

Instagram – Making a difference in our community is great – and sharing what you've done with others make it even better. You can now share your moments of generosity by tagging Thrivent in pictures you post to Instagram. Just include @Thrivent in your photo captions or tag the photos with #LiveGenerously. Photos can be from Thrivent Action Team events, other Thrivent volunteer activity – or any community event you take part in. So grab your smartphone or tablet and help us tell the generosity stories that words can't always capture!

Cindy & Neil Eggersgluess - 320-238-2148
eggsgluesscindy@gmail.com

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

Stewardship Message

We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is never alone. That is because faith is a living, busy, and active thing. It inhales all of God's riches in Christ and exhales this in love and service to the neighbor.

But who is my neighbor? God in His mercy has placed us into three distinct communities: society, family, and the church. That means we have a duty to those around us in each of these communities. We pray for the people in these three communities daily. We rejoice with them in times of joy and suffer with them in times of sadness. And we give to them from the income that God provides as we are able and as they have need.

So we pay taxes to our governments so that they may do the work that is needed for our neighbors in society. We give to our families so that they have food and clothing, house and home, even educations. And we give to our church—our local

congregations—so that the gospel may be preached and the sacraments administered for us and others.

The beauty of this is that God smiles upon all that giving. When you pay your taxes, God is pleased that you have served your neighbor who needs what the government provides. When you provide for your family, God is pleased. That you have helped your neighbor with the necessities of life by sharing with them what He has given to you, God is pleased. And when you give to your local congregation to support the ongoing preaching of the gospel, God is pleased. To all this giving, He says to you, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Looking at giving in this light makes it a joy to give. The joy is multiplied. There is joy in you because you have served your neighbor in his need. There is joy in your neighbor for God has answered their prayers through you. And God rejoices and is pleased with it all. It might just make the humdrum of grocery shopping and mortgage payments a bit more joyous. It might even make April 15 tolerable (St. Paul had to have this pep talk with the Romans, also, "This is why you pay taxes...." Rom. 13:6). And it surely will make the envelope placed into the offering plate a joyful thing.

Indeed God is pleased with you. You are saved by faith alone because of Jesus Christ. And that saving faith is never alone. It is busy and active. It serves the neighbor in society, family, and church with free and cheerful giving.

2015-16 Financials: DECEMBER (YTD)

| GENERAL FUND INCOME (December): | | <u>Last Year</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Offering Envelopes | \$ 418,765.90 | \$ 353,491.79 |
| Thrivent "Choice" Member Elections | 10,227.00 | 2,976.00 |
| CHP – Be Well Reward | 800.00 | 19,513.16 |
| School "Keep It Happening" Fund | 10,014.00 | 11,264.00 |
| School Tuition | <u>83,650.76</u> | <u>95,003.89</u> |
| | \$ 523,457.66 | \$ 482,248.84 |

| GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (December): | | <u>Last Year</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Staff | \$ 436,625.42 | \$ 434,619.97 |
| CHP – Be Well Rewards | -2,972.41 | 7,929.28 |
| Buildings | 35,509.17 | 40,426.55 |
| Operations | 13,785.42 | 24,027.30 |
| Interest on Line of Credit | <u>250.00</u> | <u>266.70</u> |
| | \$ 483,197.62 | \$ 507,269.80 |

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| 2015-16 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS: | | |
| | \$10,589.25 | \$13,430.25 |

December 31st GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS: (\$ 102,768.06)
 Last Year's December 31st General Indebtedness: (\$ 89,785.22)

Special Gifts Received

| | | |
|--|------|-------------------------------|
| Roger & LuAnn Schmidt (In Memory of Ivan Donnay) | 50 | FLS |
| Larry & Edna Lindemann (In Memory of Ethel Hardel) | 10 | General Fund |
| Donald & Doris Jungclaus (In Memory of Berdina Luehring) | 20 | Radio Broadcast Fund |
| Quilting Ladies | 117 | General Fund |
| Quilting Ladies | 170 | Keep It Happening |
| In Loving Memory of Roy Lueck, Anna Lueck and Douglas Lueck | 100 | General Fund |
| Maynard & Geraldine Grenke (In Memory of Berdina Luehring) | 10 | General Fund |
| Lucille Kraemer (In Memory of Berdina Luehring) | 10 | General Fund |
| In Loving Memory of Ivan Donnay | 30 | FLS |
| Luella Dahlke (In Memory of Ivan Donnay) | 10 | General Fund |
| Josh & Amanda Schmidt (In Memory of Ivan Donnay) | 50 | FLS |
| In Loving Memory of Ivan Donnay from Alice Donnay & Family | 410 | FLS |
| Donald & Doris Jungclaus (In Memory of Berdina Luehring) | 20 | Radio Broadcast Fund |
| Virgil & Lynn Mathews | 1200 | Early Childhood |
| Dennis Wolter (In Memory of Joann & Gale Hamblin) | 20 | FLS Tuition Aid |
| Larry & Edna Lindemann (In Memory of Lavonne Draeger) | 10 | Choir |
| Richard & Karen Jannusch (In Memory of Viola Rannow) | 50 | Altar Guild |
| Dean & Cindy Dahlke (In Memory of Edwin (Eddie) Becker) | 15 | General Fund |
| In Loving Memory of Berdina Luehring | 100 | General Fund |
| Dale & Jeanne Schauer (In Memory of Viola Rannow) | 15 | FLS Technology |
| Jeff & Teresa Brelje (In Memory of Marytemple Behrens) | 10 | Keep It Happening |
| Vern & Marlys Lindeman (In Memory of Ralph Schmidt) | 10 | Debt Reduction |
| In Loving Memory of Berdina Luehring from her family | 400 | General Fund |
| In Loving Memory of Berdina Luehring from her family | 100 | Debt Reduction |
| In Loving Memory of Berdina Luehring from her family | 50 | Altar Guild |
| Maynard & Geraldine Grenke (In Memory of Christopher Ziemann) | 10 | General Fund |
| In Loving Memory of Vangie Neuhaus | 50 | Keep It Happening Tuition Aid |
| Ron & Glenda Schuft (In Memory of Marytemple Behrens) | 20 | Debt Reduction |
| Norman & Carol Dose (In Memory of Carl Selchow) | 10 | Debt Reduction |
| Dennis & Joan Wandrei (in memory of Eddie Winterfeldt) | 50 | FLS |
| In Loving Memory of Mother Viola Rannow from Ralph & Judy Bulau | 100 | Altar Guild |
| In Loving Memory of Mother Viola Rannow from Ralph & Judy Bulau | 400 | Early Childhood Building |
| In Loving Memory of Mother Viola Rannow from Grant & Bonnie Schuette | 100 | FLS |
| Maynard & Geraldine Grenke (in memory of Viola Rannow) | 10 | General Fund |
| In Loving Memory of Viola Rannow | 600 | Ketchup |
| In Loving Memory of Viola Rannow | 500 | FLS |

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First Lutheran School Flame Flash ~ February 2016

Please Pray for:

- The Heifer International group, our chapel offering recipients, as they work to help ease poverty through their animal donation project.
- The Silent Auction Committee and all involved as they prepare for the big event.

Thank You to:

- First Minnesota Bank for supplying prizes for our Geography Bee.
- The great supporters of FLS who have contributed to the Wish Tree. Your contributions have enabled us to purchase items that we normally wouldn't be able to afford. This year's donations totaled over \$2,805!
- Everyone who has donated to our "Keep It Happening" drive. It's inspiring to see the support there is for our school. So far, we have received almost \$4,800!

Calendar Notes:

- February 10-12 7th and 8th grade Wolf Ridge Trip
- February 10 Ash Wednesday, worship at 2 & 7 PM
- February 15 No School President's Day
- February 23 Preschool/Kindergarten
Open House 6:30-7:30PM
- March 6 Silent Auction

Our Biggest "FUN" draiser

The ninth annual First Lutheran School Silent Auction and Luncheon will take place on March 6th. This is the largest fundraiser we have. For an auction to be successful, you need people who donate items and people to bid on them. Please consider being one, or better yet, both of these people. Auctions are a great way to have an enjoyable time as people get together to contribute to a worthwhile event. It will be great to see the entire church and school community pulling together for fellowship and socializing all in the support of a common cause. The silent auction runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm followed by a live auction and the luncheon (hot pulled pork sandwiches, whiskey baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, dessert and drinks) runs from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The Silent Auction Committee is still seeking donors, helpers, and bidders for this great event. A list of donated items can be seen at our website www.firstglencoe.org. Don't be left out. Be a part of something meaningful. Invite friends and members of the community to show what First Lutheran is doing. A portion of the proceeds will be used for technology development including possible Chromebook and iPad purchases. Consider now, ways in which you can contribute!

Spelling Results

On Wed, Jan. 13, four spellers representing First Lutheran School took part in the local Scripps spelling bee. Participants who won our school competitions and advanced were Elise Betcher, Kobe Boozikee, Meara Busse, and Rachael Meyer. All students represented their school well and Elise placed in the top five.

Preschool / Kindergarten Open House

On February 23, FLS will be hosting an Open House for all perspective 3 and 4 year old preschoolers as well as perspective kindergarteners. All interested families are encouraged to attend to see firsthand how God's love will be shared with students as they also learn about His wonderful world. Please spread the word that FLS is the place where students are "nurtured in spiritual and academic growth".

Second Trimester Chapel Offering

Our second trimester chapel offerings 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 2nd 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 named Dan West rallied the support of his congregation for families in need.

\$100 for Free

As a continuing incentive, First Lutheran is offering \$100 to any school or church family who recommends a family to First Lutheran and that family registers a child, or children, for this school year. If you get two families to register, you get \$200! Spread the good news that First Lutheran School is a great place to learn about God's love and the awesome world he has given to us!

Youth Investors Program

The Youth Investors Program (formerly K.I.D.S. Stamps) has resumed. Students can bring their deposits on Thursdays and carry out transactions after chapel services in the church. YIP is a way for kids to save money and help our Church Extension Fund as well.

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 store or online at 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, Coborn receipts, Campbell Soup labels, Kwik Trip milk tops, and Country Hearth labels.

National Geographic Bee Results

On Thursday, January 14, FLS held its annual geography bee. Eight contestants competed for the school championship. Students involved were: Elise Betcher, Jordan Mickolichek, Jackie Lemke, Alaina Voss, Shania Thommvongsa, Audrey Petersen, Lincoln Dummer, Grace Litzau, Adam Schauer, and Cole Ehrke. After many rounds, Grace came out on top followed by Elise in second and Alaina taking third. Grace will now take a test to see if she qualifies for the state bee held in March. Great job students!

School Cancelations 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.

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.

Fourth Grade News

"A Flurry of Activity in Fourth Grade!" Fourth grade has been a flurry of activity! With two teachers, many different learning opportunities have been swirling about the room. Mrs. Welch teaches Memory, Religion, Math, English, Science, and Explorations in the morning while Mrs. Bargmann teaches Reading, Spelling, Keyboarding, Art, Social Studies, and Writing in the afternoon. This arrangement has especially been helpful in assisting fourth grade students to prepare for fifth grade next year when students will have several different teachers.

In addition to the usual book assignments, students have been challenged with various projects. For example, the fourth grade class had the privilege of being in charge of the Chapel service on January 14. For the service, the fourth graders learned how to put together an Apple Keynote program, which is equivalent to PowerPoint for P.C. The students did the designing and typing of this screen service. Mrs. Welch just organized the program and put the screens in the right order. In addition, the students were in charge of the Chapel service itself. They did all of the speaking, presenting of the message, and choosing of the hymns.

In the past months, the students have designed and mapped out their own malls, did on-line research of a vertebrate and presented their findings to the class. For a different teaching / learning moderm, the students spent three days instructing one another and learning from each other in Religion, Math, and English. There was teacher oversight of these small, student-led learning groups. Now the students are working on practicing basic math skills with the iPads about once a week and learning about Laura Ingalls Wilder through a book study of Little House in the Big Woods. The students present skills to the class which would have been used in that time period. Mrs. Bargmann did the first presentation by making butter with the class. Other examples of class experiences include learning to write in cursive handwriting and learning to appreciate art through fun projects such as making designer paper with chalk scrapings and water, making junk collages, making cave paintings, and working with clay. Also, students are excited about being "Teacher's Pet" for the week. Students get to sit in the teacher's desk and have a special time of sharing at the end of the week.

For the rest of the year we look forward to more swirling activity such as an upcoming field trip, 100 acts of kindness, Lego science, and learning about the human body. We look forward to these and many other experiences to come! As Mrs. Bargmann teaches the students to end their day, "God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!"