

April 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!

"MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - APRIL 20"

From the Pastor...

"Easter is Here Already! (and It Still Continues!)"

We certainly have an early Easter this year. Why does Easter sometimes land in March and often times in April? It all has to do with the moon. That's right, the moon! Easter Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon falling on or after the first day of Spring. So, Easter's date is not fixed like Christmas and it changes each year.

On whichever calendar date we celebrate it, Easter is the great celebration and high feat of the Lord Jesus' resurrection. What joy we have that our Savior conquered sin, the devil, and death through His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection! Easter doesn't last just one day, however!

Easter is a fifty-day -long season of joy extending from Easter Sunday to the Day of Pentecost. During this time, the Church celebrates the end of Christ's struggles and proclaims His victory over death and the reception of the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection as gracious gifts of love and mercy for all those who believe in Him. This is the Church's greatest season of joy! Please join every Sunday and particularly in the weeks ahead as we continue to celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and all that this means for our lives today and for eternity!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.
Alleluia!

Easter Blessings to you!

In Christ, Pastor Dan Welch

Student Scholarships Available

MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Frieda Perschau Educational Trust provides scholarship funds for LHS students, based on financial need.

Pick up application forms from the church or school offices. Forms must be **returned by May 13** in order to be considered for the 2016-17 academic year.

Questions on either of these scholarships should be directed to Debi Ramirez, Business Manager at (320) 864-5522 or at: dramirez@firstglencoe.org **or Michelle Alsleben, FLS Secretary at 320-864-3317 or at:** malsleben@firstglencoe.org.

First Lutheran School also offers tuition aid. Anyone and everyone is eligible for this aid. The amount of the aid is calculated with a formula based on Adjusted Gross Income. Please turn in the first page of your **tax form 1040** into the School office any time before the school year begins. The bottom line on that page has the calculation of your Adjusted Gross Income. Your information is treated with the utmost privacy. Any questions, please contact Principal Dean Scheele, School Secretary Michelle Alsleben, or Business Manager, Debi Ramirez. Thank you.

The Men's Network

On the morning of the third day, there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out

of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. **Exodus 19:16-17**

Who is God? What is God? What are the Ten Commandments? How did Jesus summarize the Ten Commandments?

ALL Men are invited to join us during the month of April at "The Men's Network" as we read and learn from God's Word answers to these questions.

What are the attributes of God? How do we know that God really exists? These are meaningful video topics for men whether you are in your twenties or eighties.

We meet each Tuesday night from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at First Lutheran. We will not meet when there is a snowstorm and school has been canceled for that day.

God's Word provides the light we need.
Psalm 119:105

First Lutheran LWML "Antiques Road Show"

Ladies will enjoy discussing antiques with professional appraiser Sandra from "Pines-N-Tiques" at the regular LWML meeting Monday, April 4 at 7:00PM.

Members are welcomed to bring one or two special antiques for Sandra to examine. She'll tell us approximate values and discuss trends in antiquing. You may bring dishes, clothing, household, farm and garden, or just any antique. (Not your husband! We'll invite him some other time.)

Be prepared to informally share what makes your antique special to you.

Marlys Jungclaus will lead devotions. The fun evening will conclude with refreshments. Executive board will meet at 6:30PM.

First Lutheran Women's Book Club...

...will be reading Christian fiction author Karen Kingsbury's "Cody Gunner" series book two for our April selection.

All women are welcome to join the discussion for ***Just Beyond the Clouds*** on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 pm in church room 111 (the room at the bottom of the stairs off the main entry area).

Just Beyond the Clouds tells the heart-wrenching story of Cody Gunner, a widower fighting for stability, and the woman who wants to help him trust again--even when trust is the most terrifying thing of all.

Still aching over his wife's death, Cody Gunner can't bear the thought of also letting go of his Down's Syndrome brother, Carl Joseph. Cody wants his brother home, where he will be safe and cared for, not out on his own in a world that Cody knows all too well can be heartless and insecure.

So when Carl Joseph's teacher, Elle, begins championing his independence, she finds herself at odds with Cody. But even as these two battle it out, they can't deny the instinctive connection they share, and Cody faces a crisis of the heart.

What if Elle is the one woman who can teach Cody that love is still possible? If Cody can let go of his lingering anger, he might just see that sometimes the brightest hope of all lies just beyond the clouds.

Order Your "Lutheran Witness" Subscription

Try a subscription to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod family magazine, the "Lutheran Witness". You can review the latest issue on an end table in the south main entry.

Have this magazine delivered to your door each month for only **\$19.26 per year**. To be added to the subscription list, stop by the Church office with your payment **OR** put your **\$19.26** in your offering envelope (**separate check please**) and note "Lutheran Witness" on the outside of the envelope. The deadline is **May 20th**. Your subscription will start with the August issue and continue for 11

issues (June and July are combined).

Contact Debi in the Church office with any questions, 864-5522 or dramirez@firstglencoe.org.

KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast

The "Lutheran Hour" is broadcast each Sunday at 12:30 p.m. on KDUZ AM-1260. The cost is \$94. Sponsors are needed starting in August. Call Charles Jensen at 320-864-3579 for a specific date to sponsor a broadcast. Checks should be made out to "Men's Club LH Broadcast" and sent to Charles at 404 20th St W., Glencoe, MN 55336.

Cancer Benefit for Jeremy Thiel

(Son of Chuck Thiel)

Sunday, April 3, 2016
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
126 Maple St. N
Lester Prairie, MN

Turkey Commercial Dinner with
Bars, Coffee, Milk, Water
Free Will Donation

T-Shirts and Bracelets
Available for sale.

**Do for others as God has
done for you.**

"What does the LORD require
of you? To act justly and to
love mercy and to walk humbly
with your God."

-Michah 6:8

Lutheran Hour Ministries

A donation to this ministry is a great way to honor the memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special

event in your family (birthday, anniversary, wedding). Cards and envelopes for mailing donations are available in the round rack of the south entrance.

ANGEL SEEDS

April - June

"Families Moving Forward"

Families Moving Forward is the emergency shelter program of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. The Program is a successful combination of staff expertise plus volunteer dedication and passion. Volunteers from 65 congregations throughout the Twin Cities metro area create shelter space at their congregation sites. Each congregation welcomes between 4 and 8 families overnight for a week or two at a time, several times during the year. They open their doors to provide nightly shelter and nutritious meals, and offer welcome and hospitality to families during a difficult time in their lives.

But shelter is a temporary solution, and families work hard to find permanent housing with the support of our staff. We offer a spectrum of supportive housing options for eligible families exiting shelter. Each has a different level of support - rent subsidy, mentoring and staff support - to meet families' diverse needs.

Nearly 800 people live in almost 500 apartment homes built or preserved by Beacon, more than half with supportive services that help tenants achieve housing stability. They serve families and individuals who have experienced homelessness, including youth and young adults on their own. With our support, they'll reach their goal of 1,000 affordable, high-quality homes by 2020.

*7 days without prayer
makes one weak.*

"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 is one session remaining and 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.

This session is from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM and will include devotions, activities, and singing.

Our last session is:

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

Lutheran Night at The MN Twins

Tickets are reserved for the **Tuesday, July 26, 7 pm game** against the Atlanta Braves. Seats are in the Skyline Deck at a cost of \$28 each. If we have enough interest, we can also arrange bus transportation from Glencoe, at a cost of about \$12 per person. If you would like to reserve your spot, please contact Cindy at 238-2148 or eggsgluesscindy@gmail.com.

Biblical Tour of Greece & Turkey...

October 4-14, 2016 – "Following the Apostle Paul" – To Corinth, Athens, Philippi, Thessalonica, etc. – Includes a Cruise of the Greek Islands to Patmos & Ephesus – \$3854 from New York – Includes all the flights, cruise, meals, lodging, guides, tips, entrance fees, etc. – Will even make arrangements for the flight to New York from your home! Brochure available – Contact Darold Reiner, retired LCMS Pastor & former International LWML Pastoral Counselor – 406-890-1149 or imhis38@gmail.com

Radio Broadcasts --- Help get our Sunday Services heard!

Do you listen to the Sunday morning radio broadcast aired once a month on KDUZ? Did you ever notice that often times a member will sponsor these broadcasts to honor a special occasion or in memory of someone special?

If you've ever thought of sponsoring a broadcast, now is the time...we still have some unsponsored broadcasts for 2016. The available months are: September, Thanksgiving morning, and November. Can you help?

The cost to sponsor the broadcast for one month right now is \$175 until April 24, 2016, and then the cost per month is \$180. If you are interested in sponsoring, please call or stop in the church office.

This ministry is possible, thanks to the generosity of our sponsoring members as well as the Edwin and Ella Ponath Radio Broadcast Fund.

Library News

Recent Additions:

Fiction:

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 the world cupcakes fail to pay the bills, this newly single mom finds herself desperate for help. Better yet, a miracle. Then a curious stranger lands at Chelsea's door, and with him an even more curious string of events. This book is a New York Times Bestseller.

A LESSON IN HOPE by Philip Gulley – Sam Gardner has been pastor of Hope Friends Meeting for just four months when a ninety-eight-year-old member passes away leaving their entire estate –worth nearly one million dollars- to the

meeting. At first, the gift sounds to Sam like a godsend. Yet as word of the unexpected windfall spreads, it stirs up a storm of conflicting opinion among the church members as to how the money would best be used. And the estranged niece of the giver shows up in Hope and threatens a lawsuit over what she believes is rightfully hers. What is the most peaceful way out?

Non-fiction:

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS – Alcoholics

Anonymous Publication.

This book deals with the "Twelve Steps" and the "Twelve Traditions" of Alcoholics Anonymous. It presents an explicit view of the principles by which the AA members recover and by which their Society functions.

The Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in nature.

The Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself.

"Practicing these principles in all their affairs along with understanding are the key to right attitudes, right action is key to good living" along with the rewards of meditation and prayer. A must read book for the alcoholic or anyone wanting to understand their problems.

Become A Host Family:

International high school exchange students will be arriving in the U.S. in time to study in American high schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

These students would like to integrate themselves into a loving and caring family with the goal of experiencing American culture as an American high school student does. In turn, they will provide insight into their own culture.

The host family provides a separate bed, family meals and a loving and caring environment. The students have their own spending money and health insurance.

Please call Local Coordinator, Kari Becker, at 320-234-3475 to learn more about this enriching opportunity. You may also email her at karibeckersts@gmail.com. For additional information the STS Foundation please visit: [STS Foundation](#)

“Maximize Charitable Giving”

You can remember the ministries of First Lutheran Church and School through a wide variety of gifts. Gifts come in many ways and sizes. Some of these planned gifts can even provide significant financial and tax benefits to you.

Giving is important to you. It's good for the soul, and for your financial life, too. People make charitable donations for a number of reasons. Among the most common are to leave a lasting imprint. But, don't be ashamed to list tax breaks among your reasons for giving. Our country's well-being relies on public donations, which is why the U.S. government provides taxpayers with these benefits.

Gifts that Give Back. Give happily. There are many ways to give and not all of them involve writing a check. Some forms of charitable gifts commit cash and other assets to future philanthropic purposes, while assuring the donor continued income. Yes, you can continue to earn interest on monies promised to your favorite cause.

Life Income Gifts. Consider establishing a life income gift such as charitable gift annuities and remainder trusts. These assets are irrevocably transferred to an organization to be managed for a term of years or until the end of a donor's or beneficiary's life. In exchange for this commitment, you secure annual income for yourself or other beneficiaries, as well as substantial tax and charitable advantages. What's more, with good management and favorable market conditions, the original value of your gift can increase over the term, which means you'll actually be giving a larger gift when the time comes.

Charitable Gift Annuities. Charitable gift annuities typically involve transferring cash or property to a charitable organization in exchange for the charity's contractual promise to make fixed annuity payments to the donor (and/or spouse) for life. Payments can begin immediately, or the start date can be delayed to coincide with a particular event, such as

retirement. This is a great way to simultaneously generate income and give charitably.

Life Insurance Legacy. Naming your favorite charity as beneficiary of a life insurance policy may be a low-cost way to give that can go a long way to minimizing the final tax payable upon your passing. There are a few fairly straight-forward ways you can use a life insurance contract as a form of charitable giving. You can, for example, name an organization as a life insurance beneficiary. This may be a good option for donors whose beneficiaries have preceded them in death or whose beneficiaries are covered by other life insurance contracts or assets. Donors may receive an estate tax deduction for the donated proceeds of the contract, but no tax benefit during their lifetimes. You can also donate a life insurance contract that has been paid up. Gifts completed more than three years prior to your death are generally not included in your estate for federal estate purposes. As a result, your estate may be subject to lower taxes

As always, we make ourselves available for your questions.

2016 Endowment Committee Bruce Donnay, Wayne Albrecht, Brian Grochow, Rosie Karg, Stephanie Schlauderaff, Deb Ramirez & Kermit Terlinden

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

Jeri Ring 864-4029

jring86655@aol.com

When GOD solves our problems, we have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve our problems, HE has faith in our abilities. God's accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs.

-those of the canary in 14 days;
-those of the barnyard hen in 21 days;

-eggs of ducks and geese in 28 days;
-those of the mallard in 35 days;
-The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days. (Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

God's wisdom is seen in the making of an elephant. . . .

-The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction.

- No other quadruped is so made.

- God planned that this animal would have a huge body too large to live on two legs.

- For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

-The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first.

- A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation!

-Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind.

-Each orange has an even number of segments.

-Each ear of corn has an even number of rows.

- Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains.

-Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Amazing!

-The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

-All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if we will only entrust Him with our life. If we try to regulate our own life, it will only be a mess and a failure.

Only God, who made our brain and heart, can successfully guide them to a profitable end.

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

-submitted

FLC Prayer Chain

We're always looking for new members to join our Prayer Chain! We have both a Phone Chain and an E-Mail Chain. You can join anytime. Participation as a prayer chain member is simple, but so very powerful! The Bible says in Phil 4:6, "But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God." If anyone would like to join the Prayer Chain or make a prayer request, please contact the church office or one of the prayer chain phone #'s listed on all weekly bulletins. All prayer chain members use Christian discretion and you can even make your prayer request anonymously.

Thrivent News

★**Virtual Member Meeting** – April 12 – Want to get the scoop from Thrivent's CEO and CFO? Tune into the Thrivent webcast on April 12 at 7:30 pm. This online meeting is an opportunity to hear what's new from Thrivent's top leaders – and ask questions. Register to watch on your home computer, tablet or smartphone at thrivent.com/membermeeting.

Thrivent Choice – Last month, we received \$1531 Choice Dollars for FLC and \$2450 for FLS! In addition to our church and school, you can now also direct Choice Dollars to the Early Childhood Center. 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 Fri. from 7 am to 6 pm. If you would like assistance, please contact the church office. THANK YOU Thrivent members - you are a real blessing to FL!

★**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.

★WHAT IF each of our 460 Thrivent members led two Action Teams per year? That would calculate to 920 Action Teams that each receives \$250 Seed Money. So...920 Action Teams x \$250 = \$230,000!!!! What a difference we could make in our church and community!!!

★**Help Wanted!** We are in need of a Thrivent Member to fill our Open Congregational Advocate

position. The only requirement is a willingness to spread the word to others in our congregation about Thrivent programs and opportunities. It is also helpful to be connected with the internet. If interested, please talk with Cindy.

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

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

BULLETINS from the BOARDS, COUNCIL and COMMITTEES

◆ **Church Council, Jan 21**, Motions were made, seconded, and carried to move forward with a feasibility study for the new Early Childhood Center at a cost not to exceed \$15,000; to accept Wayne Mackenthun for a 1-year term as a Deacon, and Dave Uecker for a 2-year term as a Deacon; and to move \$100,000 from the Security Bank "DCE Fund" to the LCEF Early Childhood Program Fund.

◆ **Church Council, Feb. 18**, Motions were made, seconded, and carried to approve the revised form of financial reports for the Bulletin Notes; to approve new communicant members since November 2015; to establish a separate "Heating Fund" for the donations and expenses of a new heating system at the school; to release \$150 from the Memorial Fund Missions Monies for Addisyn Stuewe's Mission Trip; to approve offering AFLAC Insurance to employees of the Church and School (at no cost to the Church or School); to recommend to the Voters to create a position for the Director of Christian Education; to recommend to the Voters to extend a call to Ms. Tori Kidd to serve as their Director of Christian Education; to approve the appointments of the Salary Review Committee; and to approve to move \$100,000 from the Security Bank "DCE Fund" to the LCEF Early Childhood Program Fund.

◆ **Church Finance Committee**, since the inception of this committee, focus has been on making the office more efficient by possibly updating software, hardware, and other processes. Rather than purchasing a server, some shared files were set up by a technician for \$120, saving approximately \$1,000. We will hire Stephanie Schlauderaff, SLS Tax

Accounting in Glencoe, to help set up a new Chart of Accounts as a tool for better report writing. When this is in place, other software will be discussed. Thoughts are that we'll be able to use our current software much more efficiently and save money and time in the long run. Other ideas about educating the general membership regarding how our finances work have been shared and discussed. Changing the report in the Bulletin Notes is the first step; and, after the new Chart of Accounts is in place, we will be able to change and simplify financial statements that are now being submitted at the Voters' Assemblies and Council meetings. Outsourcing Payroll is being recommended and a new phone system is being priced.

◆ **Voters' Assembly, Feb. 29,** The Voters' approved (by motion) the reception of 8 new members, the transfer out of 5 members, and the release of 3 by member request and about 40 including children (Per Board of Deacon's Request) non-active members. Voters' decided (by motion) to change the Bulletin Note Financials to compare receipts and disbursements rather than receipts to budget needs. Voters approved (by motion) moving forward with a feasibility study for the Early Childhood Day Care Center at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Voters approved (by motion) the permanent position of a Director of Christian Education (DCE), and to call Ms. Tori Kidd to serve as that DCE upon her acceptance of designation. Voters approved a new Fund to keep track of donations and expenses for the new heating system in the School building. Our revised Constitution and By-Laws has been approved by the District. Next meeting will be May 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

◆ **Youth Board, Mar. 1,** Discussed developing Youth programs and furnishing the Youth Room (West End Classroom) with maybe some table games, etc. Approved by Motion to cover 1/2 of the NYG YAV's (Young Adult Volunteer) transportation and registration expenses.

◆ **Day School Board, Mar. 1,** Mrs. Bargmann came to the meeting and expressed the need for cabinet repair from the flooding that occurred

is now showing. They need large, metal "Tonka" trucks for the kids to play with. Wolf Ridge trip overall went well - kids seemed to enjoy it. Expo and FLS Open House went well. Running some ads on the local radio for the FLS Silent Auction/Meal. Bethany & Kyle Hagen went to Mankato's Science Fair - Bethany received a blue ribbon and Kyle a purple ribbon. Kyle advanced to the next level. Approved a 2016/17 school calendar. Approved the 2016/17 school tuition.

◆ **Board of Trustees March 3,** The Board met at the School to view the temporary furnaces and to discuss other heating options. Back at the meeting room in the Church, motions were made, seconded, and carried to hire Neubarth's Landscaping to replenish the woodchips in the school playground area, and to hire Bradley Security to install the surveillance system in the Church building. A second bid for carpeting in the Church office area will be pursued. Church parking lot striping will be addressed after an inspection of last year's crack repairs for possible warranty issues. The outsourcing of payroll was discussed. Made adjustments to the 2016-17 operating budget.

◆ **Board of Evangelism, Mar. 8,** Our church-school booth at the Expo was another success! We want to give a huge THANK YOU to Tonya Christensen and Kim Rislund from the Day School Board for both helping in the development/construction of the booth and working at the booth—along with Principal Dean Scheele. The Greeter Schedules were finished and either emailed or mailed to the volunteers. THANK YOU to our volunteer greeters!

◆ **Board of Deacons, Mar. 3,** The Deacons reviewed the inactive list again will mail Easter postcards this month approved next year's budget finished our committee sign ups.

◆ **Board of Stewardship, Mar. 1,** No summary submitted.

◆ **Christian Education Board, March 3,** This month's meeting included Jennifer Goff, Julie Uecker, Tammy Martin, Tori Kidd, Donna Kunkel, Laurie Schauer, Angela Grimm. Plans for confirmation gowns, photos, flowers, etc. have all

been made. Confirmation Sunday is April 24th. We are in the process of planning for this summer's Vacation Bible School and the date has been finalized for the week of July 31-August 4. Our theme is "Barnyard Roundup - Jesus Gathers Us Together." Please watch for upcoming communication for this fun event. We hope to grow the attendance this year and soon we'll be looking for volunteers to help. The Sunday School children have been working hard practicing their songs and there are several upcoming dates they sing in church. Parents of Sunday School children, please continue to watch for notes that come home. The Christian Ed Board meets the first Thursday each month at 7:00 PM. We welcome your suggestions and we thank you for sending your children to Sunday School. The next meeting is April 7. Have a Happy Easter everyone!

◆ **Early Childhood Finance Committee, (2016 to date),** The committee has had presentations from 3 Fundraising Groups, 3 bids for a feasibility study quoted from \$3,000 to \$24,000. They are recommending a middle-of-the-road quote with a cap of \$15,000. Also met with Kurt Fuhr, Vice-President of Finance, LCEF. There will also be a presentation from Michael Fuchs, the person who completed our capital campaign for the 2000 addition.

◆ **Endowment Committee, Jan 25,** Reviewed financial statements and Thrivent 2015 year end investment statements. The Frieda Perschau Education Trust scholarship applications will be due by May 15th and the Edwin & Ella Ponath Education Fund scholarship applications will be due June 15th. The Merlin & Marlys Tessmer Endowment interest will be transferred to the school's tuition aid account. Lavonne Schleeter Endowment funds may be used this year to subsidize the Ponath scholarships. There isn't very much interest income this year. Exact amounts will be discussed at the May meeting. The volatile market was discussed. We'll schedule a conference call with our investor in February and in March. Another member is required for the Committee.

2015-16 Financials: FEBRUARY (YTD)

GENERAL FUND INCOME (February):		<u>Last Year</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$ 485,805.37	\$ 458,853.02
Thrivent "Choice" <i>Member Election</i>	14,699.00	3,855.00
CHP – <i>Be Well Rewards</i>	1,135.00	20,108.16
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	13,586.00	14,737.00
School Tuition	<u>100,251.25</u>	<u>113,720.94</u>
	\$ 615,476.62	\$ 611,274.12

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (February):		<u>Last Year</u>
Staff	\$ 581,619.17	\$ 575,212.09
CHP – <i>Be Well Rewards</i>	-1,686.16	10,217.78
Buildings	53,321.43	66,264.37
Operations	29,092.37	26,745.61
Interest on Line of Credit	<u>250.00</u>	<u>266.70</u>
	\$ 662,594.81	\$ 678,806.55

2015-16 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:		
	\$ 13,493.35	\$ 16,888.25

February 28th GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS:	(\$ 155,631.28)
<i>Last Year's February 28th General Indebtedness:</i>	(\$ 126,365.43)

Special Gifts Received

Edwin Brelje & Dorothy Voigt (in memory of Marlene Winseman)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Donald & Doris Jungclaus (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$20	FLS
Darlene Matuska (in memory of Marlene Winseman)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Bruce & Linda Donnay (in memory of Marlene Winseman)	\$25	FLS Heating Fund
Anonymous	\$250	FLS Heating Fund
Elmer & Yvonne Schuette (in memory of Marlene Winseman)	\$10	FLS Keep It Happening
Charles & Renae Jensen (in memory of Arnold Schauer)	\$10	Angel Seeds
Bill & Sue Brickzen (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$10	FLS
Bill & Sue Brickzen (in memory of Marlene Warnke)	\$10	FLS
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Arnold Schauer)	\$10	Early Childhood
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$520	Worship Hymnals
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$100	Early Childhood
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$100	FLS Keep It Happening
In Loving Memory of Brenda Warnke	\$50	Early Childhood
Sylvia Luehrs (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$10	FLS Keep It Happening
Neil & Cindy Eggersgluess (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$50	FLS Keep It Happening
In Loving Memory of Brenda Warnke	\$25	FLS Keep It Happening
Alice Karg (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$20	FLS Keep It Happening
Elmer & Yvonne Schuette (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$20	FLS Keep It Happening
Donald & Darlene Dammann (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$20	FLS Keep It Happening
Marion Eggersgluess (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$20	FLS Keep It Happening
Roger & Anita Montgomery (in memory of Brenda Warnke)	\$10	FLS Keep It Happening
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Helma Hoernemann)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of James Brelje)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Marlene Winseman)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Arnold Schauer)	\$100	FLS Heating Fund
In Loving Memory of Marlene Winseman	\$25	FLS Heating Fund
Craig & Roz Kohls (in honor of FLS Staff & Students)	\$300	FLS Heating Fund
Dale & Jeanne Schauer (in memory of Arnold Schauer)	\$25	FLS Technology
Richard Cohrs (in memory of father Vernon Cohrs who passed away April 19, 1985)	\$25	Debt Reduction
Marcella Cohrs (in memory of husband Vernon Cohrs who passed away April 19, 1985)	\$25	Debt Reduction
Norman & Arlyce Grack (in memory of George Lhotka)	\$10	FLS Heating Fund
In Loving Memory of Jim Brelje	\$15	General Fund
Mike & Michelle Lindemann (in memory of Jim Brelje)	\$10	FLS
Sylvia Luehrs (in memory of Jim Brelje)	\$10	FLS
Elmer & Yvonne Schuette (in memory of Arnold Schauer)	\$10	Early Childhood
Dale & Barb Tessmer (in memory of Arnold Schauer)	\$25	Early Childhood

Ronny & Glenda Schuft (in memory of Arnold Schauer)
 In Loving Memory of Arnold Schauer
 In Loving Memory of Arnold Schauer
 In Loving Memory of Arnold Schauer
 Tim & Dawn Schauer (in memory of Arnold Schauer)
 Leroy & Adele Suttles (in memory of Brenda Warnke)
 In Loving Memory of Brenda Warnke
 Mopsy Karg (in memory of Arnold Schauer)
 Helen Lhotka (in memory of George Lhotka)
 Larry & Edna Lindemann (in memory of George Lhotka)
 Quilting Ladies
 Quilting Ladies
 Quilting Ladies
 Don and Elaine Haus (in memory of Delores Haus)
 In Loving Memory of Delores Haus

\$40 Early Childhood
 \$400 Lutheran Hour
 \$200 LWML
 \$450 FLS Heating Fund
 \$10 FLS Keep It Happening
 \$10 FLS Keep It Happening
 \$10 FLS Keep It Happening
 \$15 FLS Heating Fund
 \$100 FLS Heating Fund
 \$10 General Fund
 \$80 Flames of Faith
 \$167 FLS Keep It Happening
 \$160 General Fund
 \$135 Early Childhood
 \$20 FLS 2nd & 6th gr. classrooms

First Ev. Lutheran School
Flame Flash ~ April 2016 Newsletter

Please Pray For:

- Our chapel project, the Rooted, Celebrating, Growing campaign to build a new Family Retreat Center at Camp Omega.
- All our families, that they may share the joy of knowing that our risen Savior has defeated death.
- All local parents seeking a quality Christian education that they may choose FLS.

Thank You To:

- Becky Edwards, Alissa Hansen, Jen Goff, Dawn Hagen, Linda Donnay, and Sheila Scheele and their families as well as any other committee members for all of their hard work with this year's Silent Auction. Your teamwork and dedication are inspiring.
- All the great people who volunteered to help at the Silent Auction, those who bid, and those who donated; we couldn't have done it without you!

Chapel Offerings

- PTL! Praise the Lord. The students have given so generously for the second trimester. Our offering went to Heifer International, a charity that follows God's principal of help and service to others. The students gave \$817.81, which will be used to purchase goats and some flocks of chicks. These will then be used to bless six families with a goat and four families with flocks of chicks, geese and ducks. We then give money towards a share of a goat and the remaining monies will be used where needed. Thank you students and families.
- Our third trimester chapel offering will go to the Rooted, Celebrating, Growing campaign at Camp Omega. Camp Omega has a long history of serving adult and family retreat groups. In order to continue to meet the demand of adult and family guests, Camp Omega is launching a capital campaign to build a new Adult & Family Retreat Center. This new facility will offer higher comfort with 25 hotel-style rooms, personal bathrooms, large group gathering space and a beautiful view of God's creation. As an extra incentive for every \$1 donated by our school during this trimester, a generous donor will give \$2 thereby tripling our offerings!
- Finally, we have just been extended a challenge from Mr. Dahl. The pastor at St. James Howard Lake challenged his students. If they raised \$1,800 for the quarter, he will shave his head. They did and he did. Not to be outdone, if our students raise \$1,900 in chapel offerings this trimester, Mr. Dahl will shave his head. Wow, let's meet that challenge! We have 8 chapels left for the year!

Calendar Notes:

- April 14-15 K-2 garage fun sale
- April 18-22 ITBS testing for grades 3-8
- May 6 Track meet at MLHS 5-8

\$100 for Free

First Lutheran is offering \$100 to any school family who recommends a family to First Lutheran and that family registers a child, or children, for the current or upcoming 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 us!

Silent Auction Success

The ninth annual Silent Auction and Luncheon is in the books and by most accounts, we can consider it a huge success. As of this article, we have earned over \$12,000 with more yet to come. We would like to thank all of the people who helped with the auction, whether you were a person who donated, bid, or just showed up for the meal. We would also like to thank the parents who sent in items with their children for their classroom baskets. They were awesome! The majority of proceeds from this auction will be used to improve the IT program for our school. We will also use some of the monies for tuition assistance. Please remember to patronize all the businesses that donated to our auction and let them know how much we appreciate their support. It can really make a difference.

Authentic Cajun Crawfish Boil

Again, this year, supporters can continue to help FLS raise funds and have a great time doing it. The teaching staff and Flame Boosters are hosting a crawfish boil on Friday, June 3 starting around 6:00pm. It will be held at Doug and Mary Stuedemann's party barn, 1314 110th St, Plato. This is an all you can eat affair which includes: hot boiled crawfish (flown in live from Louisiana), red potatoes, smoked sausage, corn on the cob, hot dogs, carrots, mushrooms all spiced up just right Cajun style. We will also have tasty Louisiana desserts and live music provided by the Country Fried Grubbers! All of this for only \$30 a person! So come on, indulge in this cultural culinary experience, and take part in an entertaining social event that will benefit our great students. 100% of your donation will go toward the purchase of needed supplies for the school. To purchase tickets and secure a spot, just contact Mr. Scheele at 320-864-3317. "Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler" let the good times roll.

MLHS Summer Camps

"Summer is right around the corner! Did you receive your Knights Summer Camps 2016 information card? You can also go online at "www.mayerlutheran.org" and click on Knights to receive all the information and register your child for their favorite Knights Summer Camps! There are sports and activities camps offered and your child will learn and grow while making new friends! Participate in basketball, volleyball, football, archery, robotics, ceramics, multi-media art, baseball, jazz band, or our new Opening Knights drama camp! Register online and reserve your spot! If you have any questions please call Barb Christopherson, Knights Coordinator at 763.257.7447. See you this summer!"

Food Committee Thank You

A big thank you to all the kitchen/meal helpers for the Silent Auction, Deb Bargmann, LuAnn & Roger Schmidt, Bill Husberg, Chris Pratley, Sue Brickzen, Dawn Hagen, Sara Dammann, Kim Rislund, Mary Lemke, Jodi Michaelis, Nick Edwards, Cindy Mathews, Amy Welch, and Dean Scheele. A special thank you to Sheila Schmidt for donating the delicious brownies and to Tim and Kathy Weidendorf for donating and preparing the beans. Also a thank you to Glencoe Co-op for donating milk. A successful meal could not have happened without all of your wonderful efforts. There may be someone I forgot to mention, but please know that your help was greatly appreciated. Mrs. Scheele

Some Important Dates for Next Year

The school board has approved next year's calendar. The following are some important dates; August 29 - first day of school, September 2-5 no school, October 19 student drive day GSL does not have school, October 20-21 MEA no school, November 23-27 Thanksgiving break, December 22-January 2 Christmas break, January 16 no school, February 20 no school, March 3 no school, April 13-17 Easter break, May 23 last day of school. A complete calendar will be made available at a later date.

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 great 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 \$21,000 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. Recent checks received are \$530.90 from Box Tops and \$96.65 from Country Hearth.

Second Grade News

The Second Grade classroom is always a busy, active learning environment. Spring brings lots of activities inside and outside of the classroom. In Science, the students studied about weather and enjoyed making their own anemometers and testing them outdoors. In gym class, we started "Spring Training" and have enjoyed taking batting practice outside when the weather is warm. We look forward to playing softball when the snow and mud on the ball field are gone. Second graders are learning keyboarding and will be writing and processing their own stories using the computer. The students enjoy using iPads and computer games to improve their math and reading skills. Art is a favorite activity and students have enjoyed learning how to draw Abe Lincoln, George Washington, and the Cat in the Hat. We are reading the book Flat Stanley and will create our own "flat" person to mail to a friend or relative. We will share the journeys and adventures of our "flat students" when they are returned. Currently, second graders are diligently practicing for our operetta THE EASTER MIRACLE.

Sharing Some Good News

This past fall FLS sent a survey out to freshman who had graduated from our school in May of 2015. We requested information on how well those students thought FLS prepared them for high school as well as their faith development. 61% of those students returned the surveys. We received valuable information from this survey but a real bright spot was the responses to this question; How would you characterize your feelings about your experience at First Lutheran School? They could then circle one or more of the following and these were the totals; happy 9, indifferent 0, thankful 10, overjoyed 5, let down 0, sad 0, disappointed 0, regretful 0, appreciative 11, undecided 0. Those are response figures that any fortune 500 company would love to have. Thank you students for your responses and God's blessings as you continue your faith walk.

Perfect Church Attendance

Congratulations to the following students who had perfect church attendance for the second trimester; Kole Christensen, Grace Litzau, and Rebekah Welch. The 3rd grade class had the best average class attendance for the 2nd trimester and as a result, they will receive a root beer float party! Praise God for healthy bodies and dedicated parents.

Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students who attained the honor roll for the second trimester at First Lutheran School.

" B " Honor Roll: Meara Busse, Alyssa Gruber, Cameron Johnson, Faith Wertz, Alyssa Radke, Ben Grimm, Lauren Bernstein, Beau Christensen, Abby Gruber, Jordan Mickolichek, Cassidy Rislund, Maggie Schuft, Kobe Boozikee, Lincoln Dummer, Grace Litzau, Blake Mickolichek, Melody Nikkel, Ashley Radke, Ethan Bernstein, Max Edwards, and Cole Ehrke.

" A " Honor Roll: Jackie Lemke, Alaina Voss, Lena Toualiat, Elise Betcher, Kyle Hagan, Madigan Primmer, Bethany Hagen, and Adam Schauer. Praise God for the gifts he has given these students!