

July 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!

"AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - JULY 21"

From the Pastor...

After three years of planning, fund-raising, and eager anticipation on Friday, July 15th twenty-four youth from First Lutheran, myself and five other adult leaders will embark on a great journey that will take us to New Orleans, Louisiana for the 2016 National Youth Gathering! Also making the journey from here to New Orleans will be two Young Adult Volunteers and two additional adults who will serve as Community Life Builders for the Gathering. That makes for a total of thirty-four people from First Lutheran heading to New Orleans. There we will join with 25,000 others for our Synod's Triennial Youth Event.

Before we return on Thursday, July 21st, we will spend several days in worship, spiritual and personal growth, meeting new people, experiencing new things, and celebrating our faith in Jesus Christ. In addition, our group from First Lutheran will participate in an off-site Servant Event on the morning of July 18th. Each of the days that we are at the Gathering, we will be a part of a great crowd of witnesses throughout the streets of New Orleans as we attend studies and activities in the Convention Center and attend the evening mass events with the entire gathering in the Superdome.

The theme of this year's National Youth Gathering is "In Christ Alone," and under this theme, we will grow in our understanding that true joy is found in Christ alone.

We will also consider our identity as both saint and sinner redeemed in the blood of Christ, taking an honest look at who we are and what parts of our identity they will try to keep apart from God.

At the Gathering the youth and adults alike will be reassured of

God's love for them in Jesus' humble suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus embodies true humility, counting others more significant than Himself. In Christ alone, our life echoes Christ's humility.

All of the participants of the National Youth Gathering will experience true community in Christ alone. This community is diverse and inclusive spanning across space and time. In this community, they will receive grace and practice forgiveness.

We will return home as partners in advancing the Gospel. By God's grace, we will be empowered through Christ who gives us strength in all things.

On behalf of the entire group, I want to thank you, the congregation members of First Lutheran, for the financial support that has helped us to attend this faith-building and faith-enriching experience. I also ask that you please keep our entire group in your prayers for safe travels and for our ongoing spiritual growth in Christ through God's Word.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dan Welch

NYG Invites "YOU" To A "FREE" Spaghetti Dinner

Please join the 2016 NYG Youth Group on Sunday, July 24th at 11:45 AM for a Spaghetti Dinner and video presentation of their recent Gathering experience.

The NYG Group wants to thank the congregation for all their support with this free lunch.

CEMETERY NOTICE

Remove all flowers and other memorials (except those in permanent stands) from First Lutheran Cemetery by Tuesday, July 5. Items that are left after July 5 will be disposed of by the First Lutheran Church Cemetery Board.

Attention VBS Campers!

Children finishing 3-year-old preschool thru 4th grade, get ready for a fun filled week at **Barnyard Round up VBS!** Camp begins on **Sun, July 31st – Thurs, Aug. 4th.** The week will be filled with Jesus, barnyard fun, and more! Registration forms will be on the entrance stands, in the church office, or on our church website www.firstglencoe.org. Please return your form to the Church Office.

Be on the lookout for more information in the next month! If you have any questions, or want to help volunteer please call Tori Kidd at the church office!

Usher Captains & Ushers

We are in desperate need of Usher Captains & Ushers. Please contact Dennis Wolter, Arnie Alsleben, Brian Witte, or the Church Office if interested.

Like water from a cool spring, generosity refreshes both the giver and the receiver. "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25

Come to Polka Services on July 17

On Sunday, July 17, at the 8 and 10:30 AM worship services, our music will be led by Chuck Thiel and his Jolly Ramblers band.

Songs will include both familiar hymns and polka tunes with worshipful lyrics. Remember to invite your neighbors and friends to this unique worship service.

The services are being sponsored by Elroy Bargmann, in memory of his wife Marcella, by the First Lutheran Men's Club, and by an anonymous donor.

Come to Polka Worship, Stay for Breakfast

The Men's Club will host a breakfast on July 17, Polka Sun, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

The menu is; scrambled eggs, ham, mixed fruit, breakfast pastries and beverage. Cost is a free will offering.

Summer Bible Study

This Summer, join us in the Fellowship Center in-between Sunday Services for a Ten-Part Video Series that tackles the tough questions that surround us all. The name of our study will be: **"From Confusion to Clarity: Big Questions, Biblical Answers"**, go from Confusion to clarity with the help of God's Word. Using short, memorable acrostics, Brad helps viewers get answers to some of life's biggest questions:

1. *Why study the Bible?* (Jun. 5)
2. *Does science confirm the Bible?* (Jun. 12)
3. *Does human life have value?* (Jun. 19)
4. *Why listen to the Bible about sex & marriage?* (Jul. 10)
5. *What is the purpose of life?* (Jul. 24)
6. *Why believe in a 6-day creation?* (Aug. 7)
7. *Does the age of the earth matter?* (Aug. 14)

8. *Did dinosaurs & humans live together?* (Aug. 21)
9. *What about the missing link?* (Aug. 28)
10. *From where did the different races come?* (Sept. 4)

Each Sunday that we meet this summer, we will watch an approximately 10-minute video and follow that up with some large and (brief) small group discussion questions. We will also have time to answer questions you may have on that morning's topic.

Each week is a stand-alone lesson, so if you miss one or more, you won't be behind. Just come and join us as together we *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). In Christ, Pastor Dan Welch

Common Cup Ministry School Supply Drive

The Common Cup Ministry is collecting school supplies for the 2016-17 school year now thru Monday, August 15th.

There is table in the main south entry of the church with a list of school supplies needed as well as application forms to be filled out by any child(ren) in need.

Basic school supplies needed are: #2 pencils, erasers, 4 oz. bottles of glue, glue sticks, pencil boxes & bags, plastic pocket folders, spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, scissors, rulers, boxes of color markers, boxes of colored pencils, highlighting markers, 3 ring binders (1" clear pocket view), pencil sharpeners with covers, pens (black, blue and red), Prang water colors, 4 pack of dry erase markers, and backpacks.

Distribution of supplies will be Wednesday, August 17th, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, and Thursday, August 18th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, at **Lincoln School, Glencoe. Please note location change.**

If you have any questions, please call Cheryl McDougall at 320.864.4194 or Bev Bonte at 320.234.8344.

Adult Membership Classes Coming Soon

There will be a couple of options for new membership classes coming soon. One class will be scheduled for this fall on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 AM in mid-October and another set of classes for mid-January 2017 in the evening. Start dates have not been decided yet. Both sets of classes will be six sessions and meet with Pastor Welch.

If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Welch or register through the Church Office.

Lutheran Night at the MN Twins

At the time, this goes to print, 10 MN Twins tickets remain for the Tuesday, July 26th 7 pm game against the Atlanta Braves! Seats are in the Skyline Deck at a cost of \$28 each. Bus transportation will cost about \$12 per person & will leave from First Lutheran at about 4:30 pm. If you would like to reserve your spot, please contact Cindy at 238-2148 or eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com.

SUMMER TRAVELERS

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? First Ev. Lutheran Church of Glencoe offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you have plans to travel this summer, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Simply complete & return an electronic giving authorization form to get started. The forms are available at the Church office (between the hours of 8 and 3:30) or sign up can be done on the website at www.firstglencoe.org under the "Giving" tab at the top of the page. For more information, contact Deb Ramirez, 864-5522. Thank you.

LLL Fish Boil Dinner

Sunday, August 21
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Come – bring your friends for a
very tasty treat.
Free Will Offering

Nominating Committee...

... wishes to inform everyone that they will be recruiting new board members for all of our Church Boards. These positions are to serve two years terms starting January 1, 2016.

THE BOARDS INCLUDE:

--**Board of Christian Education:** Confirmation, Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, VBS, etc..

--**Day School Board:** Supervise Day School Christian Education.

--**Board of Deacons:** Supervise public worship services.

--**Board of Evangelism:** Supervise the work of spreading the Gospel (FLC Public Relations).

--**Stewardship Board:** Initiate programs developing good stewardship in the Congregation insuring the financial stability of the Congregation.

--**Board of Trustees:** Supervise the property of the Congregation and to oversee building maintenance and office staff.

--**Youth Board:** Supervise the Christian nurture of youth in the Congregation.

--**Cemetery Board:** Maintain the cemetery property.

Prayerfully consider joining one of these Boards and share your time and talent with our Congregation. If you know, you'd like to join, please contact the office at 864-5522, or any of the Nominating Committee members. Thank you.

The 2016 Nominating Committee: Mark Schmidt, Mary Gronholz, Jenny Dahlke, Dennis Wolter, Rosie Karg, Cindy Eggersgluess, and Quinn Beneke

FLC Prayer Chain

We're always looking for new members to join our Prayer Chains! We have both a Phone Chain (take a phone call request, pray, and phone

it forward to the next name on the chain list) and an E-Mail Chain (simply receive an email message with a prayer request and pray). You can join anytime. All prayer chain members use Christian discretion and you can even make your prayer request anonymously. To join either Prayer Chain or to make a prayer request, please contact the church office or one of the prayer chain phone #'s listed on all weekly bulletins.

ANGEL SEEDS

July - September

Goes to Common Cup

The mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share Spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one "Common Cup" so that we may minister to those in need. About CCM Common Cup Ministry currently consists of thirty member churches, twenty-six volunteers, an eight member Board of Directors and a Common Cup Representative Council. For more information on how to volunteer or become a member church, email us or please call the Common Cup Ministry office at 320) 587-2213.

WITHOUT THIS RING

If God hates divorce, does He hate me for getting one?

"Without This Ring" is a new book by Christian author Donna Pyle. Donna is a member of Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas. Her newest book, "Without This Ring", is a guide for Christians who are navigating the minefield of divorce. From a firm, Biblical standpoint, Donna gives clear steps on how to deal with the trauma and grief, helping readers understand that though they are wounded, they are not defeated. Donna has been an LWML member since 1997. She is a frequent speaker and Bible Study leader at LWML events and author of popular LWML Bible Studies. Donna says, "No other women's organization has impacted my spiritual journey as deeply as the

Lutheran Women's Missionary League."

You can read more about Donna Pyle at www.lwml.org/bible-studies. You can read a preview of "Without This Ring" at www.cph.org. You can purchase "Without This Ring" \$13.99, at www.cph.org.

School's Out...Let's Eat!

All children can come to these locations and have a nutritious summer meal at no cost!

Adults are welcome to join their child(ren) for a meal. Breakfast price \$2.25, lunch price \$4.00.

Helen Baker Elementary School

405 E. 16th St., Glencoe

June 6-July 14 (Closed July 4th)

Breakfast 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Lunch 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

GSL Lakeside Elementary School

229 Lake Ave., Silver Lake

June 6-July 14 (Closed July 4th)

Lunch 11:15 AM to 11:45 PM

Call the GSL

District Office: 320-864-2491

Find a site near you:

Text 612-516-FOOD

Call: 211 or 1-800-543-7709

This is a great opportunity to feed a lot of children. If you know of anyone who would consider volunteering to help with this program that would be great. We are looking for people to supervise the lunchroom during the meals. Even one time would help. Please call Becky Dahl, GSL Schools at 320-864-2494 to be put on the calendar.

*"Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have
for such sacrifices are
pleasing to God"
Hebrews 13:16*

*When you consider how you
spend your resources, is your
gift to God easily attained or
does it require a sacrifice?*

Fifty-Five Mercy Kits Assembled by First Ev. Lutheran LWML!

Our Lutheran Women's Missionary League members here at First Ev. Lutheran have been assembling Mercy Kits. What a response! *Fifty-five* kits were assembled and tightly packed into boxes. Each kit included a bath towel, washcloth and several toiletry items. (Some of the towels and clothes were absolutely lovely matching sets! Some were "mix-and-match!") They were tightly rolled and tied into easy-to-handle packs. Our kits, their recipients and their donors were all blessed and prayed for on June 7 at the Tuesday morning Bible Study here at church.

Our kits were collected, along with many other kits and disaster response items, at the Lutheran Women's Missionary League District Convention in Mankato on June 24. They were loaded onto a large Orphan Grain Train truck with the large OGT logo and words "Relief For Human Need Worldwide" on the side. They have been trucked to the large warehouse in Norfolk, NE where they are ready for distribution wherever and whenever the need arises. When the time comes for distribution, the kits will be given in the name of Jesus.

From beginning to end, the entire process was done with ALL VOLUNTEER labor. Orphan Grain Train is an RSO, Recognized Service Organization, of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Three cents of every dollar donated is used for administration or advertising. The rest is all for mission purposes. Charity Navigator has recently given Orphan Grain Train a "4 Star Charity" rating, which is their highest rating. Other popular charities often receive a 2 or 3.

Before Jesus died, he used a lot of time teaching his disciples. He assured them He would always be with them. **John 14:18** "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." Our Mercy Kits are given in the name of Jesus.

You can read more about Orphan Grain Train and examine their financial statements at www.ogt.org.

Submit Reports for your Group

The church annual report will be printed soon. Groups & organizations are invited to submit a brief report of their 2015-16 fiscal year activities for this **ANNUAL REPORT**, which will cover the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

This is not mandatory; but if you want your report included, we must receive it from your president, secretary or group leader no later than **Friday, July 29**. It's very helpful to our new members, and it's a good way to show what exciting and fun things you've been up to in your groups.

REMINDER: Treasurers of all committees and organizations are asked to submit an annual financial report, showing receipts and expenditures.

This financial report, requested by the Audit Committee and Church Council, provides accountability, shares information of fund-raising activities, and helps safeguard the church's tax-exempt status.

This report does **NOT** get printed, but remains on file.

Coborn's "Labels For Learning"

Did you know that at the bottom of your Coborn's receipts, there is a portion that says "Food Club – Top Care – Full Circle – Paws, Labels for Learning". Every time you buy one of Coborn's generic brands, the register calculates points on your Purchase. Those points, when turned in to Coborn's corporate office, earn our school 1 cent each. We recently sent in over 200,000 points... That means a \$2,000 income for practically doing nothing!

These coupons **DO NOT** expire! Yes, there is an expiration date on them; but Coborn's corporate office has assured us that they **DO NOT** expire. In fact, the programmers at the corporate office are in the process of taking the expiration date off the printed coupon. Coborn's Stores stop issuing them during the summer because it was started as a "school" project.

Again, the Coborn's "Labels For Learning" **DO NOT** expire, so don't

throw them away! They can still earn our school a "penny a point"!

The moral of the story? Shop at Coborn's; buy the generic brands Food Club (grocery), Top Care (over the counter Pharmacy), Full Circle (organic foods), and Paws (pet products); and bring your points to the church and drop them in the drawer marked Coborn's located behind the south entrance Welcome Center. Help earn valuable points for First Lutheran School. If you have any questions, please call Debi at 864-5522.

First Edition Book Club

The next book is Karen Kingsbury's Timeless Love series, book one, "*A Time to Dance*". Meeting and discussion is planned for Weds., Sept. 7th at 7:15 pm at Brenda Birkholz' home (8262 130th St., Glencoe).

In "*A Time to Dance*", John and Abby are ready to call it quits, but is it ever too late to love? They're the perfect couple--envied by their friends, cherished by their children, admired by their peers. John and Abby Reynolds know they're just pretending to be happy. In fact, they're waiting for the right time to tell the kids they're going to divorce. At the family meeting where they plan to tell their children, Nicole shares a surprise of her own: she's getting married. How can they spoil her joy with their announcement? They can pretend a little longer--until after the wedding. Questions begin to haunt them as the date draws nearer. What happened to the love and commitment that held them together for so long? Is it still there somewhere under all the pain and misunderstanding? Is it still possible, alone in the moonlight on an old wooden pier, to once more find...a time to dance?

This is the first novel in Karen Kingsbury's celebrated series about the resiliency of love, the power of commitment, and the amazing faithfulness of God. The other novel in this series is "*A Time to Embrace*".

Charitable Gift Options

You can remember the ministries of First Lutheran Church and School through a wide variety of gifts. Keep in mind; this is only a partial list of the many ways for you to make charitable gifts.

❖ **Will or Trust Bequest.** Create a bequest by including a charitable gift provision in your will or trust document. Your estate could receive a charitable deduction for the value of the bequest.

❖ **Beneficiary Designation Gifts.** Name a charity as the beneficiary of your life insurance, annuity, trust, or IRA. Your estate could receive a charitable deduction for the value of your assets transferred to the charity.

❖ **Life Insurance Gifts.** Purchase and gift a new contract to a charity, or gift an existing contract. The contract's value and premiums might qualify you for an income tax deduction. Upon your death, the insurance proceeds go to the charity.

❖ **Investment Gifts.** Transfer your ownership of an investment (for example, land, a mutual fund, or a stock) to a charity. If you itemize tax deductions, you could receive a deduction for the gift you've made. You may be able to reduce or eliminate capital gains and estate taxation through this type of gift as well.

❖ **Gift Annuity.** Transfer money or property in exchange for a fixed income for your and/or a survivor's lifetime. Generally, you can receive an income tax deduction for the difference between the market value of the gift and the value of the retained annuity.

Upcoming newsletters will continue to explore "Giving Options." Always consult a financial, legal, or tax professional before putting a gifting plan into action.

Submitted by 2016 Endowment

Committee Members: Bruce Donnay, Rosie Karg, Stephanie Schlauderer, Debi Ramirez, Wayne Ahlbrecht, Brian Grochow, Kermit Terlinden and Roger Gronholz

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
jring8655@aol.com

Why is the nighttime so difficult? We should be asleep but we toss and turn, our minds racing with thoughts of our troubles and fears. "My dear loved one is gone and I can't stand the sorrow." "What will tomorrow bring?" "Why do I have to deal with that situation?" "It's not fair!" In the dark, our fears seem overwhelming. In **Psalm 4:8**, the psalmist says....."*I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*" "Well, that's not happening to me." The hours tick away and we continue to stare at the ceiling. We didn't really want to turn out the lights in the first place but exhaustion is setting in. Minutes turn into hours and we are still awake. We can continue to carry the fears with us, but being afraid won't change our circumstances. It is time to surrender! It is time to take hold of the situation by accepting God's promise: "*Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you*" (**1 Peter 5:7**). Jesus care! He wants to give us rest! Through the Holy Spirit at work in us, we can lie down and sleep in peace.

- from LWML Daily Devotions

FLC Library Additions

Fiction

★ "*Song of Erin*" by BJ Hoff – The "*Song of Erin*" is a tale of dark secrets, of sins of the fathers...an epic that spans generations and relives one of the most colorful eras in American history while shedding new light on the "terrible beauty" and ancient glory that is Ireland. This is a brilliant saga that powerfully depicts the struggle and uncompromising faith of an entire people who helped build America.

Non-Fiction

★ "*All the Women of the Bible*" by Edith Deen – This is the first comprehensive book ever written on *all* the women of the Bible. All are here, saints, harlots, faithful mothers and wives, queens, sorceresses, concubines, and business women in rich, inspiring detail.

Here is abundant material for everyone, the ordinary reader who loves story and drama, the teacher and the preacher eager for new subject matter, the writer on the lookout for new characters or new slants on old and, of course, the Bible student who wishes to extend his knowledge.

★ "*All the Women of the Bible*" by Herbert Lockyer – Is another book on all the women of the Bible, which is an invaluable reference and inexhaustible source of little known facts and events the lives of Bible women. An assistance to all called upon to lead discussions in women's groups, Sunday school classes and in conducting Bible Study groups.

July 2016 - News Thrivent Financial

☺ **Thrivent Choice** – Last month, we received \$134 Choice Dollars for FLS! The Early Childhood Center is now also enrolled as a participating organization in Thrivent Choice! This means you have (3) First Lutheran organizations that you can designate your Choice \$ to! Eligible members will continue to receive Choice \$ on a quarterly basis. Be sure to keep checking and making your designations. 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 to 8 pm or Friday from 7 am to 6 pm. If you would like assistance, please contact the church office.

☺Thrivent Action Teams -

Summer is a welcome invitation for Christians to live generously outside in God's creation. **Here's a list of ideas that might inspire you!**

- Clean up a community park, creek or freeway.
- Coordinate a garage sale to benefit someone in need.
- Organize a picnic or barbecue cook-off for your favorite non-profit.
- Help make a house or community place wheelchair accessible.
- Start a gardening program to benefit a food pantry.
- Gather experts to teach a basic home repair workshop.
- Host a car or dog wash.

--Celebrate the season with summer landscaping for your church or the elderly.

--Create and sell recipe books with summertime favorites.

These are just a few ideas to spark action! If you've already led a team, please consider sharing your story. Each Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year.

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).

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 & 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 Actions Teams per year? That would calculate to a total of 920 Action Teams that each received \$250 Seed Money. So....920 Actions Teams x \$250 = \$230,000! What a difference we could make in our church and community!

©2017 Thrivent Calendars – Each year, Thrivent Financial creates a unique wall calendar for churches, schools and other institutions, and a slightly smaller version is offered free for members. For the 2017 calendar, we're inviting members to show us what "Christianity Around the World"

looks like to them. Your photo could be part of this 2017 Calendar. It could be a photo from a mission trip, a church halfway across the world or one that is down the street. Because 2017 is also the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, you could submit a photo you've taken of a key Christian historical place or item. Complete and submit form at Thrivent.com/calendar by July 31st.

Thrivent has several free workshops that we could offer at FL. Some that might be of interest are: Financial Planning Basics, Retirement Basics, Retirement Income, Roth Conversion, Investment Basics, Social Security. Please let Cindy know your interest, and we will get something scheduled!

Cindy & Neil Eggersgluess - 320-238-2148 / cindy@hutchtel.net Linda Becker, Charles Jensen, Verna & Harold Kunkel, Pastor Mathison – Your Congregational Advocates

Stewardship Newsletter Article

Jesus Accepts and Perfects Our Gifts

As sinful people, we are incapable of giving God what He deserves from us. However, we can be confident that our gifts are acceptable to God through Jesus. To illustrate this point, there is a story about a wood-carver who early in his life was a renowned carver. He passed on his craft to his son. Later in his life, the old man's eyes began to dim, and his hands began to tremble. He could no longer carve the perfect figures of his youth. He would mar the figure, and imperfections blighted his work. His fading eyes could no longer see the flaws.

During the night, as the father was sleeping, the son would sneak down and correct his father's flaws in the newly carved wood. When the figures passed through the hands of the son, they were made perfect again.

In the same way, we may bring our imperfect gifts with the confidence that, as they pass through the hands of Jesus, they will all be placed before the Father in absolute perfection.

In the beginning, we, as the centerpiece of God's creation, were created in God's image so we were without sin. Just as the early wood-carvings were flawlessly created, so were we. Because of sin, everything changed. Since the act of rebellion in the Garden, mankind has lived in darkness and separated from God. To reconcile us to Himself and to bring us out of darkness into His wonderful light, God sent His Son to live among us and to take our sin with Him to the Cross. Through His death and resurrection, we are forgiven, and He has adopted us as His children.

Because of our relationship with God through Jesus, God is pleased with our works and gifts that are offered in faith. Prompted by faith and love, we give with changed hearts that seek to do God's will. Our gifts express our gratitude to Him and are used to worship Him. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we give generously and cheerfully. God receives our gifts and uses them to provide for His churches, to help the needy, to provide for our Christian schools, to support missionaries, and a host of Christian organizations and causes. Jesus accepts our gifts, perfects them, and magnifies them so God's purposes are accomplished. Praise God for His wonderful grace that He would choose to work through us.

CHRISTIAN TOUR OF SCANDINAVIA

Join LC-MS pastor, Rev. Clifford and Lois Winter of Wichita, KS on a 12-day **BEST OF SCANDINAVIA TOUR** through Denmark, Sweden, and Norway Sept. 14-25, 2016. Copenhagen, Stockholm, Uppsala, Bergen, Oslo, plus mighty fjords, cathedrals, castles, villages, and most meals! \$3,989 from Chicago (air/land tour price is \$3,369 plus \$620 government taxes/airline surcharges). This includes round-trip airfare from Chicago, guide, hotels, deluxe motor coach, portorage, and all admissions, airline surcharges, and taxes. Daily devotions by Pastor Winter. Call 316-942-5811 or email loiswinter@yahoo.com for brochure.

Biblical Tour of Greece & Turkey...

October 4-14, 2016 – “Following the Apostle Paul” to Corinth, Athens, Philippi, Thessalonica, etc. The trip includes a Cruise of the Greek Islands to Patmos & Ephesus for \$3,854 from New York. This includes all the flights, cruise, meals, lodging, guides, tips, entrance fees, etc. We will even make arrangements for the flight to New York from your home! Brochures are available. Contact Darold Reiner, retired LCMS Pastor & former International LWML Pastoral Counselor 406-890-1149 or imhis38@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO:

JAYSON NEUBARTH: The Board of Trustees would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** and a round of applause to Jason Neubarth. Jason (and his employees) donates literally hundreds of hours to First Lutheran Church every year in the form of snow plowing and lawn care. We've been so blessed with his work and quick snow removal response when there are funerals or the early hours it takes to clear a way for us to get to Worship on Sundays. If you see him, extend your appreciation. He has done an exceptional job for us.

Bulletins of the Boards

Church Council, May 19, 2016:

New communicant Members since 2-29-16 were approved. Motions were made, seconded, and carried to release \$3,000 from the Lavonne Schleeter Bequest Fund to use for tuition assistance; to repair the existing boiler; to use Memorial Monies for the boiler repair if the School Heating Fund isn't enough; to repair the church's chimney at a cost of 9,248 using the Leona & Anne Stoeckmann Memorial Fund; to contract with Nu-telecom for 5 years to install a new phone system in the church and school including free fiber optics to connect the two buildings... the School fundraisers will contribute money to the cost of this new monthly phone fee; to use \$2,315 from the Memorial Fund as a one-time fee to NuTelecom for this phone system; to deposit the \$5,000 estate donation to the Annuity investment and use the income from that money for repairs to the church & school buildings; to approve changes to the Policy and Benefits Handbook; to approve a salary increase based on MN South District raises for the next 4 years to return the 10% pay cut from 2010 to the employees; and to adopt the new 2016-17 Budget.

Voters' Assembly, May 23, 2016:

Pastor Welch's, Pastor Mathison's, Principal Scheele's, and DCE Intern Tori Kidd's reports were distributed and reviewed. Financial Statements were also reviewed. Motions were made, seconded, and carried to approve the reception and release of members since 2-29-16; to release \$3,000 from the Lavonne Schleeter Bequest Fund to use for tuition assistance; to repair the existing boiler; to use Memorial Monies for the boiler repair if the School Heating Fund isn't enough; to repair the church's chimney at a cost of 9,248 using the Leona & Anne Stoeckmann Memorial Fund; to contract with Nu-telecom for 5 years to install a new phone system in the church and school including free fiber optics to connect the two buildings... the School fundraisers will contribute money to the cost of this new monthly phone fee; to use \$2,315 from the Memorial Fund as a one-time fee to NuTelecom for this phone system; to deposit the \$5,000 estate donation to the Annuity investment and use the income from that money for repairs to the church & school buildings; to approve changes to the Policy and Benefits Handbook; and to approve a salary increase of 4% based on MN South District raises for the next 4 years to return the 10% pay cut from 2010 to the employees. The 2016-17 Budget was reviewed & discussed then tabled to a Special Meeting on June 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm to allow time for as many congregation members as possible to be able to see the proposed budget.

Day School Board, June 7. We planned Mrs. Husberg's retirement celebration to be June 26 (also her birthday) after the 10:30 service. Reviewed enrollment numbers. Discussed the success of the Crawfish Boil! Creating a student council of 5th - 8th graders (one per classroom) to meet once a month. Linda Donny joined us before the meeting to let us know what her thoughts and needs were.

Board of Trustees, June 6 Church chimney repair is scheduled to be done this fall by Karr Tuckpointing. The bell tower will also be repaired at the same time by them. Church parking lot will get new striping this summer. Security system is being installed with some cameras already working. We had a storm water run-off violation from the city because of gravel washing into the street gutter from the school playground. Some changes have been made to stop this. School had the annual inspection by the board. Only minor issues surfaced.

Board of Evangelism & Assimilation: June 7. No summary submitted.

Board of Deacons, June 2. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, passed to book the polka service for

2017. More usher groups are needing to be filled. **A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, passed** to mail a letter to our next 31 inactives.

Stewardship Board, June 7. We received a thank you for the Angel Seed donation to Feed My Starving Children. Thank you for all who donate to Angel Seed, your generosity is greatly appreciated. We received a thank you from First Lutheran School for the donations to the silent auction & luncheon. We approved Marilyn Vorbeck as new member to this board. We approved our new emphasis theme logo - which is three crosses with the words time, talent and treasure. We discussed ideas on how to recognize church members who donate their time and talent.

Youth Board, June 7. We learned that Tori (DCE) is planning a youth event for June 12th and potentially another event in July. Regarding the Youth Room, Mark purchased a wifi extender device and Joe will try it out for functionality.

New Business:

-- The board started discussions on how to handle the NYG checkbook for the next group. The issue is that currently there are two board members involved and there is a need to integrate the responsibility of the checkbook with Deb in the church office. This will be discussed further in future meetings.
-- A member of the Deacon's visited the meeting to discuss promotion of youth involvement in church services such as Ushering, running the screens and sound systems etc. Various ideas were discussed and it was decided to think about the issue and develop a plan to move forward at future meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Christian Education, June 6. This month's Board of Christian Education meeting included Jennifer Goff, Julie Uecker, Tammy Martin, Tori Kidd, Donna Kunkel, Laurie Schauer and Angela Grimm. We continue to work on finalizing plans for our Barnyard Roundup theme for Vacation Bible School. The registration forms are now available on the church website, at the office and on the entrance stands. Please mark your calendars for this fun-filled event on July 31st - August 4th. There will be a "tree" set up soon for requested VBS supplies needed. Please assist if you are able to, donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for bringing your children to First Lutheran and to all the fun activities offered at our church where they can grow their love for Jesus. The next Christian Ed Board meeting is July 7th at 7:00 p.m.

2015-2016 Financials: July-May (YTD)

GENERAL FUND INCOME (July-May)		<u>Last Year</u>
Offering Envelopes	691,258.05	649,793.75
Thrivent "Choice" Member Elections	17,077.00	7,049.00
CHP – Be Well Rewards	1,135.00	33,045.95
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	15,279.85	18,417.75
School Tuition	<u>123,423.51</u>	<u>149,720.47</u>
	\$ 848,173.41	\$ 858,026.92

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (July-May)		<u>Last Year</u>
Staff	804,898.14	796,224.61
CHP – Be Well Rewards	-720.16	11,338.50
Buildings	75,955.39	82,042.13
Operations	38,030.26	42,233.30
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	13,521.00	
Interest on Line of Credit	<u>250.00</u>	<u>266.70</u>
	\$ 931,934.63	\$ 932,105.24

2014-15 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:		
	\$ 19,648.44	\$ 23,402.50

Special Gifts Received

Dave & Joyce Aul (in honor of their 40 th wedding anniversary May 22)	\$40 Debt Reduction
Larry & Donna Stepien (in honor of their 69 th wedding anniversary June 22)	690 Debt Reduction
Virgil & LynnNaye Schauer (in memory of Irene Beinke)	10 Senior Choir
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Vivian Ortloff)	30 FLS Heating Fund
Del & Ida Rutske (in memory of Ruth Goodridge)	20 Early Childhood Center
Lucille Kraemer (in memory of Gladys Petersen)	100 FLS Heating Fund
Dale & Linda Duenow (in memory of Ruth Goodridge)	10 Early Childhood Center
Bernice Knick (in memory of Marlys Barfknecht)	10 Debt Reduction
Norman & Arlyce Grack (in memory of Marlys Barfknecht)	10 FLS Heating Fund
Harvey & Elaine Becker (in memory of Marlys Barfknecht)	30 Debt Reduction
Dean & Cindy Dahlke (in memory of Marlys Barfknecht)	10 FLS Heating Fund
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of John Peterson)	10 Debt Reduction
In Loving Memory of Marlys Barfknecht	45 Debt Reduction
Ken & Joyce Schiroo (in memory of Marlys Barfknecht)	15 FLS Heating Fund
David & Darlene Polzin (in honor of their 33 rd wedding anniversary June 12)	333 Debt Reduction
LeRoy & Sylvia Lewin (in memory of Loved Ones)	100 FLS Heating Fund
In Loving Memory of Mabel Ehrenberg	415 Radio Broadcast Equipment Upgrade

First Lutheran School

Flame Flash ~ July Newsletter

Please Pray for:

- All parents seeking a quality Christian education, that they may choose FLS.

Thank You to:

- Mrs. Husberg for her 42 years of service to our Heavenly Father through Christian Education.
- Mrs. Bargmann for taking on the School Garden Project as well as all the volunteers who are helping.
- All the great folks who purchased tickets for the crawfish boil as well as the teachers who helped prepare and serve the meal.
- Everyone who is traveling this summer that they may arrive at their destinations safely.
- Appropriate weather that the crops and gardens might flourish.
- All parents seeking a quality Christian education, that they may choose FLS.

Calendar Notes:

July 4	Independence Day
August 25	Registration, supply drop off-Tentative
August 28	"Blessing of the Backpacks"
August 29	First day of school

School Updates

The iPads are here and the students and the teachers have been using them extensively. The teachers will continue attending workshops this summer to develop the most effective ways to use iPads as well as considering the development of a 1:1 Chromebook initiative in the upper grades. The 27 iPad minis have apps installed that will enhance the learning process at all grade levels but primarily PS3 through 4th. A fresh load of wood chips is in the plans for the playground and the teachers are planning on spending hours sorting and discarding items that were cluttering up storage areas and closets.

Next year we will also be establishing a student council. The fifth through eighth grade classes will elect one person from their class to sit on the council. The principal will meet with these students on a monthly basis to discuss issues at school that they feel need attention. The meetings will be held during lunch period.

School Garden Updates

We need grass clippings to put between rows and keep our weeding down. Save them for us and bring them over to the garden anytime.

Crawfish Boil Roundup

Another crawfish Boil is in the books and it was a big success. The teachers tallied over 88 man- hours of work as they prepared for and served about 150 people. The event raised over \$3,500 which will be used to benefit our great FLS students!

\$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!

Fishing with the Principal

Congratulation to Cameron Johnson for being selected to go "fishing with the Principal". Cameron and some friends enjoyed a trip with food and drinks provided and even caught some sunnies. Cameron was selected from a group of Kindergarten through 6th graders who put their name in a hat. As an extra incentive, students with exceptional and perfect church attendance could put their name in more times.

Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students who attained the honor roll for the third trimester at FLS...
"B" Honor Roll: Lily Becker, Meara Busse, Ben Grimm, Alyssa Gruber, Faith Wertz, Alyssa Radke, Lena Toualiat, Lauren Bernstein, Beau Christensen, Abby Gruber, Jordan Mickolichek, Cassidy Rislund, Maggie Schuft, Rebekah Welch, Kobe Boozikee, Grace Litzau, Melody Nikkel, Ashley Radke, Ethan Bernstein, and Cole Ehrke.
"A" Honor Roll: Jackie Lemke, Alaina Voss, Elise Betcher, Kyle Hagan, Madigan Primmer, Bethany Hagen, and Adam Schauer. Praise God for the gifts he has given these students!

Ongoing Fundraisers

We are collecting: Box Tops, Coborn's receipts, Campbell Soup labels, Kwik Trip milk tops, and Country Hearth labels. Our last check was for over **\$320** from the Box Tops program and we are expecting a check for over **\$1800** from our Coborn's receipts. Keep up the good work!