

September 2016

"First in Focus"

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

OFFICE: 320-864-5522

COMMON CUP: 320-864-5511

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK -



E-MAIL: office@firstglencoe.org

WEBSITE: www.firstglencoe.org

First Ev. Lutheran --- LIKE US!

"OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 19"

From the Pastor...

What an Exciting Time!

It's September and that means it's time for a brand new year of Christian education at First Lutheran! No matter how big or small, old or young you are God wants you to continue to **"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"** (2 Peter 3:18). We have so many opportunities to do just that at our church and school!

We have Sunday School for all ages, Catechism (Confirmation Classes) for grades 5 through 8, Youth Bible Studies, LWML, Men's Club, and more! Please see the church calendar and other parts of this newsletter for more information.

Beginning on Sunday, September 11th at 9:15 AM, we begin a new Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class where we will be studying the most mysterious book of the Bible:

Revelation. **Revelation: A**

Testament of Hope is an 8 week study which will include a 20 minute DVD presentation each Sunday followed by small and large group discussion. Your questions are welcome, too! This promises to be a wonderful, in-depth study of an often mis-understood book of the Bible.

Our topics will include:

Session 1: How to Read and Understand Revelation (Rev. 1)

Session 2: Christ's Letters to the Church and the Inaugural Vision (Rev. 2-5)

Session 3: The Seals - Christ's People Preserved (Rev. 6:1-8:1)

Session 4: The Trumpets - Christ's People Witness (Rev. 8-11)

Session 5: The Book Interlude - Christ's People Victorious Over Evil (Rev. 12-14)

Session 6: The Bowls and the Last Judgments - Cosmic Exodus (Rev. 15-19)

Session 7: The Kingdom of Christ and Satan's Doom (Rev. 20)

Session 8: The New Heaven and Earth (Rev. 21-22)

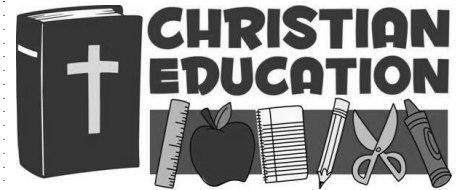
We live in an ever-changing world, and not all of that change is for the better. Thankfully, we have as our Savior, the changeless Christ who is the same yesterday and today and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**) to guide us. So please join with your fellow members at First Lutheran as together through hearing and studying God's Word we continue to **"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"**!

In Christ,
Pastor Dan Welch

TIDBITS from TORI...

What a year it has been, from starting in August last year as your intern, to being installed September 25th, 2016 as the official Director of Christian Education here at First Lutheran. Truly it has been a blessing to work with so many of you, whether it was Sunday School, confirmation, high school youth group, or in passing each of you have pushed me to grow in my role as DCE. I look forward to our continued ministry together in years to come. Blessings to all of you, and thank you for Calling me to work here! Here we grow.

~Tori Kidd, DCE



First Lutheran School Opens August 29

Classes at First Lutheran School begin Monday, August 29. An opening service led by Pastor Welch will be at **8:15 AM** at church.

Parents are encouraged to attend the service at **8:15 AM**. Classes will meet for a full day, with the school day running from **7:55 AM - 3:00 PM** for grades K-8, Wed. and Fri. **7:55 - 11:30 AM** for Pre-3's, and Mon., Tues. and Thur. **7:55 - 11:30 AM** for Pre-4's.

The teaching staff for the 2016-17 school term includes:

- *Preschool 3 & 4 – Mrs. Bargmann
- *Kindergarten – Mrs. Donnay
- *Gr. 1 – Mrs. Erickson/Mrs. Schmidt
- *Grade 2 – Mrs. Schmidt
- *Grade 3 – Mrs. Scheele
- *Gr. 4 – Mrs. Erickson/Mrs. Scheele
- Gr. 5-8 Health, 5 & 6 Art-Mrs. Welch
- Grade 5 - Language Arts, Social Studies, Music - Luke Dahl
- Grade 6 - Science, Language Arts, P.E. - Joe Fountain
- Grade 7/U.S. History, Science, Mr. Scheele
- Grade 8/Math, Literature, Spelling, P.E. - Bill Husberg
- *Teacher's Assistants - Michelle Alsleben, Annette Bernstein, Mrs. Welch and Sue Nord.
- Complete class schedules are available and will be posted on Registration Day.



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

PARENT AND STUDENT

Wed, August 31, 7 PM

GRADE 5 & 6 (Midweek Only)

&

ALL Public and FLS

Grades 7, & 8

Church Fellowship Center

Should you be **unable** to attend, you **MUST** contact the Church Office at 864-5522. Orientation for parents & students is necessary before confirmation instruction begins.



Important FLS Dates

First Lutheran School families: Mark the following important dates on your September calendars:

Thursday, Sept. 8
Parent/Teacher Open House
7:00 PM

It's Back To School Time!

For **safety** and **liability** reasons doors will be locked during the school day. The only door open in the north building (**grades 3-8**) will be the **main center** door. In the south building (**PS-2**), the open door will be the **front entrance by the church office** (south side) which is open from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM unless arrangements are made ahead of time to stay open longer.

All parents and visitors need to check in at the office before proceeding to classrooms.

All students arriving before **7:45 AM** will be admitted into the building during bad weather, but will not be able to go to their classrooms until 7:45 bell or until buses arrive.

Christian Education

Sunday, September 11

On Sunday, September 11, the resuming of First Lutheran's many educational programs, will be celebrated. The 10:30 AM service will include an order of dedication of all teachers to their educational ministries.

Come One Come All...

To the Sunday School Carnival

Church Fellowship Center!

Sun, Sept. 11th, 9:15 AM

The 2016-2017 Sunday School is about to begin. On Education Sunday, September 11th, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, the Christian Education Board and Sunday School teachers will welcome children and their parents to a registration carnival in the Fellowship Center. Parents will register their children while the children play games, meet their teachers and have a snack. All children ages 2 through high school are welcome. It's Grandparents Day, too! So grandparents, bring your grandchildren to the carnival to enjoy the fun.

McLeod County

Senior Expo

**"SOS: Safety of Seniors,
Living Well"**

Tuesday, Sept. 27
Hutchinson Event Center
8:00 AM Doors Open

8:45 AM Keynote Speaker:
Lori Pickell-Stangel
"Pioneer Woman"

Get your **Advance Tickets Only** for \$10.00 before Sept. 21, in the Church Office.

For more information, see poster located in the narthex.

Senior Choir

Adult choir practice will begin Wednesday, Sept. 21st at 6:15 PM with rehearsal in the church balcony. Please use the doors on the north entrance of the church.

Help us with your talents to sing ***Praises to God from Whom All Blessings Flow!***

Salad Luncheon

Sponsored by First Lutheran LWML

Friday, Sept 23

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Serving a variety of salads, bread, desserts and beverages in the Fellowship Center.

\$9 Adults

\$5 - Children ages 4-11

Free - Children under age 4

Public cordially invited.

A donation of salads will be welcome. Please call the church office (864-5522, Gloria Hilgers (864-4174), or Yvonne Schuette (864-3237) to let us know what you can bring or how you can help.

Please join us!!

On Sunday, September 25th at the 10:30 AM service we will have the Installation of our Director of Christian Education, Tori Kidd.

Please join us also at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Center for a special reception in her honor before the start of Sunday School & Adult Bible class.

Voters' Assembly

Meeting

Mon., Sept. 26, 7:00 PM

Fellowship Center

Some of the topics on the agenda will be: the distribution of the annual report for fiscal year 2015-2016, the approval of the Salary Review Committee recommendations, as approved by Church Council relating to 2017 benefits for full-time staff, and, the presentation of the slate of appointees (and floor nominations) for the 2017 Board positions & Slate of Candidates for the Officer positions of Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.

Time with Me Children's Club...

...is an "activity group 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 will be 3 sessions in the fellowship center at FLC and will include Jesus' time, activity time, singing, and a snack. There will be 4 sessions in the FLS gym where we will exercise out big muscles. Our theme this year is We Belong to God's Family. Sessions will be from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Questions: Contact Linda Donnay 864-4159.

Our sessions are:

Wed. Sept. 28

Story of Noah @ FLC.

Wed. Oct. 26

Gym activities ~ FLS gym *Bring a water bottle and a friend!

Wed. Nov. 30

Gym activities ~ FLS gym *Bring a water bottle and a friend!

Wed. Jan. 25

Jesus' Baptism @ FLC

Wed. Feb 22

Gym activities ~ FLS gym *Bring a water bottle and a toy to share!

Tues. Mar. 28

Gym activities ~ FLS gym *Bring a tricycle and a water bottle.

Wed. May 17

Road to Emmaus @ FLC

Adult Membership Classes Coming Soon

There will be a couple of options for new membership classes coming soon. One six week class is scheduled mid-mornings this fall on Tuesdays, Oct. 4 – Nov. 8 with a tentative new member recognition Sunday, Nov. 13 at the 10:30 AM service and the other set of classes will be on Monday evenings, starting Jan. 9, 2017 – Feb. 13 with a tentative new member recognition Sunday, Feb. 19 at the 10:30 AM service. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Welch or register through the Church Office 320.864.5522.

2's Together with Jesus

"Together with Jesus" is a Sunday school class for parents & their 2-year olds. The class was developed to introduce children to Sunday school & to help them know that their church welcomes them. Parents & children meet together for an exciting hour every Sunday to learn many things. We learn about & worship God, our Creator, Provider, & Savior.

We will meet during the Sunday school hour at 9:15 AM in the middle classroom downstairs. Our first class will meet Sun., Sept. 18. Our schedule includes play, crafts, singing, finger plays, Bible stories, snack time & parent time.

Families are encouraged to attend the Sunday school registration and fun carnival on Sunday Sept. 11 between services at 9:15 AM in the fellowship center.

Families with 2-year olds are welcome to join us for a visit or to come on a regular basis. We will have a lot of fun. Hope to see you! If you have questions, please call LuAnn Schmidt 864-6523 or email lschmidt@firstglencoe.org.

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. 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.

FLAMES BOOSTER CLUB needs YOUR HELP

The Flames Booster Club is an organization of parents with the goal to encourage enthusiastic support and interest in First Lutheran School, to contribute to the advancement and needs of all programs at the school, and to lend support to the staff / faculty at the school. We have supported various programs by funding areas that are not able to be fully covered by the school. We provide additional support to all programs at First Lutheran School through volunteerism and financial support. Flames Booster Club is **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS** and has various ways for members of the congregation and parents to get involved. If interested please contact, Becky Edwards at 320-864-3319 or Jen Goff at 320-864-8412 or Alissa Hanson at 320-864-4074.

Warm Coats for McLeod County 2016

It is too warm to think about winter coats but fall is fast approaching.

There will be a collection box on the side of the church office to collect good used and clean winter coats from Sept. 8 thru Oct. 9. Especially needed are children and youth sizes. We want to encourage all families to go through their winter coats with an eye toward donating outgrown or under-needed warm coats for kids and adults.

Distribution will be at the McLeod County Fairgrounds on Thurs. Oct 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

This project is organized by Common Cup Ministries along with McLeod Co. Social Services, Heartland Community Action Agency, Rotary, Salvation Army and numerous community volunteers. Financial support provided by Thrivent Financials for Lutherans.

We are always looking for volunteers to help sort and size coats. Please contact Common Cup at 320-864-5511 with any questions.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

First Lutheran LWML will meet Monday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 PM for devotions and Bible Study. We will hear reports from the recent MN South District LWML convention where a district mission goal of \$265,000 was established for the next two years. The theme of the convention was **THE LIVING WORD**. Bible Study leader was Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz of **THE LUTHERAN HOUR**. In three separate sessions he proclaimed the salvation won for us by Christ. We learned that we are equipped for every good work through His holy Word.

Gifts from the heart were collected & 904 "Bright Smile Dental Kits" were gathered for the Open Door Health Center of Mankato, 2,813 pairs of socks were collected for various agencies throughout southern Minnesota & more than 737 mercy kits were packed for distribution through Orphan Grain Train, 51 of these were from us at First Ev. Lutheran.

It's fun and exciting to be a part of Lutheran women on a mission and see our donations honor Christ by serving others. Jesus said, "***If ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me***". (Matthew 25:40).

Please join us as a member or a guest. You, too, can serve your Savior through Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

A Crisis In My Life

Are you experiencing a crisis? Is it big and overwhelming? Is it small and nagging? Whatever the crisis, Jesus knows what is best for you. Your times are in His hands. He is with you as you run the race. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has published a prayer booklet "A Seasoned Woman's Praying Heart". It includes prayer for times of crisis, times of joy, times of transition; also, emotional health, physical health, guidance and direction, and more. The prayers are

simple and easy to understand, written by LWML women for all women and men. They include Bible verses.

We pray this prayer from "A Seasoned Woman's Praying Heart": "***The Lord is gracious and righteous, our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simple-hearted; when I was in great need, He saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you***" (Psalm 116:5-7).

Dear heavenly Father, Lord of all, You are an awesome God. You have brought me through so many trials throughout my life. You are always beside me or carrying me through every challenge and sorrow. I know not what Your reasoning is for yet another sorrow, but I trust in Your plan for me. Help me to rely on Your comfort during the times I am disheartened. I know you will guide me through another crisis. Help me to continue to use the gifts You have given me to help others in need, so that I will not dwell on my own troubles. Thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that I might have mercy and grace in my life. "***I will call on you as long as I live***" (Psalm 116:2). In Your most holy name I pray. Amen.

Go to lwml.org/store to see all of the LWML products and publications. Anyone can use this website or purchase LWML products.

Reimbursed Senior Volunteer Positions

In Glencoe & Hutchinson areas: Lutheran Social Service of MN is looking for volunteers (age 55 & older) to serve in its Senior Companion Program, assisting the staff with activities with their clients. Our volunteers receive a tax-free hourly stipend, as well as mileage reimbursement, and other benefits. If you are interested, contact: Gail Sumerfelt at 507.530.2295 or Gail.Sumerfelt@lssmn.org

FLC PRAYER CHAIN

Sadly, in recent months we have lost a couple of our faithful prayer chain members. Would you consider joining one of our Prayer Chains? We have both a Phone Chain (take a phone call request, pray, & phone it forward to the next name on the chain list) & 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 & you can even make your prayer request anonymously. To join 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.

2017 Radio Broadcasts - Help get our Sunday Services heard!

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

If you have ever thought of sponsoring a broadcast, we still have some unsponsored broadcasts in the coming months. Can you help?

The cost to sponsor the broadcast for one month is \$180.00. We are now also offering 1/2 sponsorship options for \$90.00. If you sponsor a 1/2 broadcast, the sponsorship announcement would include the words "sponsored in part by..." 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.



First Edition Book Club

The next book is Karen Kingsbury's Timeless Love series; book one, "A Time to Dance". A meeting and discussion is planned for Wednesday, 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".

Guided by the Spirit, be strong in the ways of God. "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7

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 \$2,000.00 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"!

What is 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); & 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.

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 arrange 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

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 Schlauderaff, Debi Ramirez, Wayne Ahlbrecht, Brian Grochow, Kermit Terlinden and Roger Gronholz

Bulletins of the Boards, Committees & Council

The Church Council, July 28,

Motions were made, seconded, and carried to renew the General Fund's Line of Credit for 3 years at the amount of \$30,000 and how to divide up the Evelyn Schrupp memorial monies donated to FLS. Discussed the Deacon's work on the inactives list.

The Day School Board, Aug. 2 We are busy making plans for the school year. Moving forward with plans for all day preschool.

The Board of Trustees, Aug. 9, School boiler is repaired and just needs to be pressure tested. Two more windows in the Fellowship Center are clouded and will be replaced. Progress is being made on the phone system. Everything scheduled to be done by Aug 15 or 17. One temporary furnace was sold. Mr. Fountain's classroom has new ceiling lights with the hope of doing some more rooms before school starts. A Motion was made and passed to not have any private rentals of the church facilities before 12 noon on Sundays and no rentals at all on Wednesdays. This will prevent distractions during worship.

The Board of Evangelism & Assimilation: Aug. 2, No report given.

The Board of Deacons, Aug. 11, A Motion was made seconded and passed to approve the July 7th minutes. A Motion was made seconded and passed to remove the next group of inactives. Fellowship serving on August 28th. Polka service booked for both services on July 16th 2017 working on a new inactive list.

The Board of Stewardship, Aug. 2, Sept. 18, is set for Stewardship Sunday – create logo posters for freestanding bulletin boards to post around the church. Give treats (candy) with the logo on them during church. Plan to do more communicating the message about time, talent and treasure in the newsletters.

The Youth Board, Aug. 2, No report given.

Christian Education Board, Aug. 8, THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

The Christian Education Board would like to thank all of the helpers, builders and those who donated supplies and snacks for this year's Vacation Bible School event. It was a great success and we appreciated everyone's help very much! There were 45 volunteers helping the 7 members of our board. We received over 85 registration forms and \$208 in children's chapel offerings which will be sent to our Compassion Child. Additionally, 78 pounds of food was collected for the McLeod County Food Shelf. The children had a really fun time and made many memories during our VBS "Barnyard Roundup, Jesus Gathers Us Together." The daily Bible lessons were from Psalm 23: The Lord as our Shepherd is present with us, provides for us, and protects us now and forever.

Please join us September 11th on Education Sunday for the Sunday School Carnival and Registration. Sunday School classes begin on September 18th. The next Christian Ed Board meeting is September 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Early Childhood Committee, No report given.

Church Council, August 18, meeting after newsletter deadline.

Manage Your Giving Online

First Ev. Lutheran Church is excited that you can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic, recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you can access the internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the Church/School website at www.firstglencoe.org

2. Click on the Tab at the top of the page that says "Giving"

Scroll down on the Home page to about half way down. On the right side of the page, click on the "Online Giving" button.

3. Click on the "Create Profile" button, then

4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Remember! This is an excellent way to pay your First Lutheran School tuition as well or to make a one-time contribution or memorial.

If you need help or have any questions, please call the Church Office at 864-5522 and ask for Debi.

Stewardship Newsletter Article

The devil, though defeated by the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, remains a very capable and clever foe. He is smarter than we are. He's been watching us and taking notes for a very long time. He knows what we want, and he knows how to lure us away. And he does this by telling us what we want to hear. That's what makes it so difficult.

To us who are greedy, he says: "You are not greedy. You are prudent. You are frugal. You are a good steward with your money. God doesn't want you not to have all the things you want. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to have the latest and greatest toys for both young and old." So if you consider yourself to be wise in the way of money and finances, beware of who just might be telling you these things.

Satan is a liar. He tells us what we want to hear. He lures us away from repentance and confession and faith, so that we harden our consciences and place our souls in peril. We must not underestimate the enemy. We have all taken his bait. We have all failed in this. None of us can say that we have fought this temptation to hold back with everything we have and won.

And we must repent. Yes, God wants us to be happy. But this happiness is never at the expense of faithfulness. We have a calling. We are a member of His family, the church. That relationship places a duty upon us: to give a generous proportion of the first fruits of the income He provides.

Only God is true to His Word. Only God is true to His promises. His promises never fail. His Word endures forever. His mercies are new every morning. He is faithful. He provides everything that we need. He provides food and clothes, house and home, everything that we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer.

There are a whole host of things that we have that we do not need. The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether these have come at the expense of our faithful, generous proportion of the first fruits of our income. If they have, then we must repent, turning away from our selfishness to Him who is faithful by giving His Son into death so that we are reconciled to Him and justified in His sight.

The devil will always tell you what you want to hear. But God tells us and gives us what we need to hear. With law and gospel, he cuts us to the heart, so that we will repent and believe His Word and promises. He is faithful. He is good. He will not forsake you, or leave you destitute. So believe and trust in Him. And you will not only be happy, you will be blessed.

Sept 2016 News Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Choice – Last month was a super month; we received \$989 Choice Dollars for FLS and \$1130 for FLC! The FL 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 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM or Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. If you would like assistance, please contact the church office.

Examples of recent Thrivent Action Teams here at FLC.....

Twins Game – About 50 Twins fans (from FLS, Christ Lutheran, St. John's Helen Township and St. John's Plato) enjoyed Lutheran Night at the Twins this past July 26. Thank you to the Thrivent Action Team program for supplementing \$250 toward our bus transportation costs. Also, thanks to Jeff Rotz, our local Thrivent Financial Rep, for helping with another \$100 as well as popcorn and bottled water for our bus ride!

Fish Boil – Thanks John & Cheryl for registering for an Action Team – please tell everyone how easy it was! So happy that Thrivent could help your event with \$250!

More - There are so many other service activities and fundraisers going on here at First – let's take advantage! Visit Thrivent.com/actionteam for more info or to complete an online application. Each Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year! You can \$250 to kickstart your event, as well as T-shirts and marketing ideas!

Minneapolis Institute of Art – Thrivent members are invited to be among the first to see the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation brought to life in a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition featuring astonishing artworks and historical objects, traveling outside Germany for the first time ever. The exhibit runs at the "MIA" from Oct. 30, 2016 to Jan. 15, 2017. Thrivent members may receive free or discounted admissions (tickets@artsmia.org or call 612-870-3000) for eligibility rules. When making reservations, go to <http://new.artsmia.org/Luther-tour> and use the code THRIVENTMIA.

Cindy & Neil Eggersgluess
320-238-2148

eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com
Linda Becker, Charles Jensen, Verna & Harold Kunkel,
Pastor Mathison, Amy Welch – Your Congregational
Advocates

Stories of Faith

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

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

Cindy Eggersgluess 238-2148
eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com

Jeri Ring 864-4029
iring8655@aol.com

Lynn Exsted 864-6452
lexsted14@gmail.com

The following has been condensed from a June Lutheran Hour Daily Devotion by Pastor Ken Klaus:

"When He (Jesus) opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before You will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been".

(Rev 6:9-11)

NewsBusters is an internet site which has dedicated itself to pointing out how our news is biased, unfair, inaccurate and, occasionally, idiotic. Recently, one of the NewsBusters' investigations had implications for the Christian community. The story began with Harambe, the gorilla who was shot when he started mauling a little boy who had climbed into the animal's enclosure. Well, NewsBusters did a survey of the story as it had been carried by the major networks. The total time dedicated to the telling of the gorilla's story came to one-hour, 28 minutes, and 17 seconds. Remember that number. Next, NewsBusters added up the news time which had been dedicated to the ISIS shooting of some 21

Egyptian Coptic Christians. The ISIS film footage showed how these Christians were forced to kneel and then they were murdered. Before they died most of these martyrs called out their confidence and faith in Jesus Christ. So there we have two news stories. One gorilla who was shot and 21 unarmed Christians, who were executed, mob style, by members of another faith. Compared to almost an hour and a half for the gorilla story, the

Christians got 14 minutes and 30 seconds.

We hope this information will touch and move you to remember that we have brothers and sisters around the world who are being persecuted for holding fast to the Christ. Please remember these sufferers in your prayers and ask the Lord to give them strength and confidence in the Savior who warned, ***“If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you”***.

2016-17 Financials: July (First Month of Fiscal Year)

GENERAL FUND INCOME (July)		<u>Last Year</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$49,842.40	\$54,882.73
Thrivent “Choice” <i>Member Elections</i>	63.00	7,241.00
CHP – <i>Be Well Rewards</i>	00.00	00.00
School “Keep It Happening” Fund	1,480.00	1,265.00
School Tuition	<u>1,775.89</u>	<u>7,555.00</u>
	\$53,161.29	\$70,943.73

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (July)		<u>Last Year</u>
Staff	\$73,653.29	\$65,845.43
CHP – <i>Be Well Rewards</i>	322.00	295.00
Buildings	4,918.91	4,543.19
Operations	4,851.96	3,790.90
Interest on Line of Credit	<u>00.00</u>	<u>00.00</u>
	\$83,746.16	\$74,474.52

2016-17 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:		
	\$1,659.55	\$1,872.00

July 31, 2016 GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS:	(\$217,727.44)
<i>Last Year July 31, 2015 Indebtedness:</i>	(\$135,298.78)

Special Gifts Received

In Loving Memory of Audrey Beckmann	\$155 Keep It Happening
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Jane Ohnsorg)	10 Debt Reduction
Del & Ida Rutske (in memory of Curt Rutske)	500 Early Childhood
Del & Ida Rutske (in memory of Wally Sylwester)	500 Early Childhood
LeRoy & Sylvia Lewin (in memory of Leslie Winter)	25 FLS Heating Fund
LeRoy & Adele Suttles (in memory of Henry Becker)	10 Radio Broadcast
Dennis & Joan Wandrei (in memory of John Schmidt)	10 FLS
Dennis & Joan Wandrei (in memory of Renae Jensen)	20 FLS
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Brother-in-law Harvey Peterson)	25 FLS Heating Fund
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Sister-in-law Virginia Duenow)	25 FLS Heating Fund
Ralph & Marjorie Duenow (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 FLS Heating Fund
Verda Wittenberg (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 General Fund
Melvin & Ruth Dose (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 Debt Reduction
Melvin & Ruth Dose (in memory of John Schmidt)	10 Debt Reduction
Willis & Lois Herrmann (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 Debt Reduction
Willis & Lois Herrmann (in memory of John Schmidt)	10 Debt Reduction
Dave & Betty Witthus (in memory of Delores Jochum – Mother of Betty)	60 Debt Reduction
Dave & Betty Witthus (in honor of Dave & Betty's 40 th Wedding Anniversary)	40 Debt Reduction
Marilyn Vorbeck (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 FLS
Sylvia Luehrs (in memory of Carol Herrmann)	20 Keep It Happening
Norman & Carol Dose (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 Debt Reduction
Dale & Sharel Hoops (in memory of John Schmidt)	10 Debt Reduction
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 Debt Reduction
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Delores Kramer)	10 Debt Reduction
Vern & Marlys Lindeman (in memory of Henry Becker Jr.)	10 Debt Reduction
Neil & Cindy Eggersgluess (in memory of Renae Jensen)	25 LWML
Donald & Darlene Dammann (in memory of Renae Jensen)	25 LWML
In Loving Memory of Renae Jensen	20 FLS
In Loving Memory of Renae Jensen	50 LWML
Earl & Dellas Von Berge (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 Debt Reduction
Lilah Mackenthun (in memory of Renae Jensen)	15 Building Fund
Anonymous Gift in Loving Memory of Renae Jensen	10 FLS Heating Fund
Mark & Cheryl Schmidt (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 LWML
Elmer & Yvonne Schuette (in memory of Renae Jensen)	20 Debt Reduction
John & Cheryl Scheidt (in memory of Renae Jensen)	10 Senior Choir
Dorothy Dahlke (in memory of Renae Jensen)	15 FLS
Grace Brinkmann (in memory of Sophia Dwyer)	25 Debt Reduction
Dave & Michele Mackenthun (in honor of 40 th wedding anniversary on August 21 st)	400 Debt Reduction

2016-17 First Lutheran School September Flame Flash

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- All teachers, students, and families as a new school year begins that they may share God's love now and throughout the year.
- Appropriate weather that the crops and gardens might flourish and the harvest might be plentiful.

THANK YOU TO:

- All the great folks, trustees, etc. that worked on the school to make it look presentable for this upcoming school year.
- The staff at church who make the entire First Lutheran operation run smoothly.
- Mrs. Bargmann for her hard work in the school garden this summer.
- Marlene Eickschen for her awesome work in helping Mrs. Bargmann with our school garden.

CALENDAR NOTES

August 29	First day of school
September 2	No School
September 5	No School, Labor Day
September 8	Open House 7:00 PM
September 11	Education Sunday, 10:30 AM service
September 14	Picture Day
October 7	School Marathon

SCHOOL YEAR THEME

At a recent faculty meeting the teachers chose as the theme for the 2016-17 school year "Upon This Rock". This theme was taken from the Bible verse - ***"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." (Isaiah 26:4)***. It reminds us that our faith, our church, and our school are built on the Rock-Jesus. He gives us the firm foundation we need to live God pleasing lives. We are excited to get the year going with this theme. Rock On!!!!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The plan for all day preschool is facing a delay. We are in the process of receiving licensing for our afternoon portion of the day & have been informed that the process could take 2-3 months, but maybe less. Mrs. Bargmann is working on the requirements so that the process can move along as quickly as possible. Thank you to everyone for your patience as we work to expand our Christian preschool program. Until that time, our morning preschool 3/4 year old classes will be going on as planned & as they have been run in the past by our fine teacher, Mrs. Bargmann & her excellent aid, Mrs. Nord.

2016-17 LUNCH/MILK/SECONDS INFORMATION

Lunch prices

K – Grade 3 lunches are \$2.25 each or 20 for \$45
Grade 4 – Grade 8 lunches are \$2.35 each or 20 for \$47
Milk prices are \$0.40 each or 20 for \$8
Seconds are \$1.25 each or 20 for \$25

WHAT'S NEW

First Lutheran is excited to announce two new additions for this school year. We are working on implementing a 1:1 Chromebook program for our 7th & 8th graders. Students in these grades will have their own Chromebook to use in conjunction with our Google apps for education program. They will be able to create, collaborate, explore, learn and expand their learning base with these new powerful assets. This program will also enable them to be even more prepared for high school & beyond. The other addition is an archery program for our 3rd through 8th grade P.E. classes. In cooperation with 3 other local Lutheran schools, a generous donor, and the Minnesota DNR we are receiving a \$3600 archery set. This set includes: 12 Genesis bows, 5 36" FITA targets, 10 doz. full length aluminum arrows, bow hangers, Kevlar backstop net, and a repair kit. All instructors will be required to pass a National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) class before leading a P.E. class.

UPDATING YOUR FAST DIRECT INFORMATION

Many parents, students, and teachers have been using our Fast Direct communication system extensively and have become very familiar with it. Parents can view grades, calendars, lunch accounts, and many other valuable items on our system. The calendar on the "principal" bulletin board has a little more info than the Master calendar. The office and most of the teachers send out information via FD. If you are unable to access a computer to view FD, please contact the office ASAP to insure that all families are receiving vital information.

To update your Fast Direct information or to change your notification settings go to your homepage and click "change my screen name or password" then click "Display Parent Data". Once there you will be able to update all of your information so that in an emergency the teachers or the Principal will be able to reference important contact numbers etc.

\$100 FOR FREE

First Lutheran is offering \$100 to any church or 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!

2016-17 STAFF

*Preschool classes – Mrs. Bargmann
*Kindergarten – Mrs. Donnay
*Grade one – Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Schmidt
*Grade two – Mrs. Schmidt
*Grade three – Mrs. Scheele
*Grade four – Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Scheele
Grade 5-8 Health, 5&6 Art-Mrs. Welch
Grade five-Language Arts, Social Studies, Music - Luke Dahl
Grade six-Science, Language Arts, P.E. - Joe Fountain
Grade seven/U.S. History, Science, Mr. Scheele
Grade eight/Math, Literature, Spelling, P.E. - Bill Husberg
*Teacher's Assistants - Michelle Alsleben, Annette Bernstein, Mrs. Welch and Sue Nord.
--Complete class schedules are available and will be posted on Registration Day.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MARATHON

The nonpublic school marathon is Fri, Oct.7. The purpose of the Marathon is to enable those who support and advocate Nonpublic Education to make a public demonstration of their belief and involvement. Nonpublic Schools and church education programs make a real contribution to the total community. Participants also raise funds in a fun activity for the Nonpublic Educational Organizations project of their choice. This year the majority of the money will be used for more technology updates and improvements, classroom uses, and textbooks. Last year we raised over \$7200 (thanks in part to a single private donation of \$2000). As the major incentive this year, if students raise over \$5,500, the school will host a pizza and pool party for all students and their families! Let's see who can garner the most pledges since there are prizes for the top individual students too!!! Everyone from FLC, FLS, and the greater Glencoe community is invited to join us as we raise funds and walk from the school to Oak Leaf Park for an afternoon of fun, snacks, and games!

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

We are collecting: Box Tops, Coborn 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 \$2000 from our Coborn's receipts And Kwik Trip tops \$166.35. Keep up the good work!