

## We Can Start Over, We Know Forgiveness.

*"It's like a dance; it's like a wheel,  
Less like math, less like a deal.  
More like a heartbreak beginning to heal,  
We can start over, we know forgiveness."\**

...

It's a new calendar year; we celebrated a new liturgical year the first Sunday of Advent; we will celebrate a new fiscal year sometime this summer, (August 1?) What a privilege to be able to begin again, especially as we begin again with this experience, knowledge and promise of forgiveness, made real for us in the life, death & resurrection of the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Immanuel, God with us.

Whether or not you make resolutions, the opportunity to begin again means that we don't have to stop growing, learning, changing, or fixing what's broken. We don't have to look far in our lives or world to see what isn't working for babies being born in Bethlehem now, or the person in the next room we are really angry with.

But for me, the promise that, because of God's love for us lived out in Jesus, that's never the last word, is perhaps the spiritual treasure I hold most precious. I count on it when I submit a newsletter article

at the last minute, when I say something indelicate or unkind, when I fail to do the good I could do because I'm hanging out on Facebook.



The song quoted on this page is one of my favorites and was written by musician & producer Jonathan Rundman. The power in it for me was brought home about a year ago when a friend I was really unhappy with used those lines to remind me that because of Jesus, the challenges in our relationship did not signal it's end, but we had hope for a new day, a new way. In Christ, we always do. May your new year include that awareness lived out, heard deep, richly blessing.

In God's grasp, as y'all are,  
Pr. Mary Kaye

**ADULT CHOIR...**MEMBERS FLY SOUTH! If you joined us this year for the Christmas Cantata or Christmas Eve Service, we would LOVE to have you continue singing with us this winter! Our numbers in the choir drop dramatically after Christmas due to our "snow birds" and we sure could use your talents! We will continue rehearsing on Tuesday evenings beginning January 6th from 7-8:30pm.

## **YOUTH LEADERSHIP...RECHARGE YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE:**

SATURDAY, JAN. 10TH 9AM-3PM \$40 at Grace Fellowship in Brooklyn Park for all those who work in children, youth, and family ministries. Don Hansen, Michelle Lynch, and Pastor Mary Kaye will be attending. If you would like to attend please see Michelle Lynch as soon as possible.

## **FOOD 4 KIDS** BACKPACK PROGRAM



We continue to pack weekend meals for our elementary school. Please consider supporting Food-4-Kids, which each weekend, provides meals for children in need. Contact Deb Rhoads for more information. Checks can be made to "Family Pathways" with "FELC Food 4 Kids" in the memo.

## Moving Along in Life

### **CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION**

a ministry of [stonecroft.org](http://stonecroft.org)

*Mon • January 19<sup>th</sup> • 11:30am*

\$10.00—inclusive • Alliance Church of the Valley  
1259 State Road 35, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

*—Speaker & Special Feature—*  
Laurie Kimball,

RN with a Masters Degree in Counseling  
*Moving On*

*—Music—*  
Tia Erickson

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.

Please call for reservations at least one week prior.

**651-257-4741 (Carrie)**

**715-554-2330 (Mary)**

## **PRAYER CHAIN**



*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

Luke 11:9 (NIV)

God promises to answer our prayer. You can lift up members of your church family in prayer or request a prayer. Call or e-mail Pastor Mary Kaye or the church office to submit your name, phone number, e-mail address or prayer request. We will contact our prayer chain members as requests for prayers are submitted.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Dear 6th-9th graders and parents,

The invitation remains open to join us for confirmation classes on **Sunday mornings around 10:15**, after our 9am worship services. You don't have to be a member of First Evangelical Lutheran to come to confirmation classes, but if you let us know you're coming, we'll have enough materials each week. Please email me or call me if you have any questions.

My email is [felcpastor.mk@gmail.com](mailto:felcpastor.mk@gmail.com) & my cell is (612) 532-7083.

Thanks, Pr. Mary Kaye



## Sunday Bible Study & Lunch & Winter Friday Book Study

Pastor Mary Kaye has sign-up sheets available for two study opportunities beginning in January.

**The Winter Friday Book Study** will be held: January, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 7-8:00p. We will study the book, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* by Sara Miles

**Sunday Bible Study & Lunch** will be offered monthly from Noon-1:30pm, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, and Apr. 26. Bring your own bag lunch or run home for lunch prior to Bible study. Open for all ages, but especially appropriate for Senior High through adult. The first 3 to sign up will be given choice of which area of Scripture to study.

There are sign-up forms for both events on the church bulletin board or call the church office.

## GIVING THANKS

Dear Sarah Circle,  
We thank you for the gift of fruit. It was delicious. Thanks to Geri & Andy for bringing the gift to us. Have a wonderful New Year.  
Sincerely,  
Paul & Marilyn Olson

## JAN BIRTHDAYS



Paredes, Sydney	01/02
Fredlund, Devon	01/04
Vitalis, Peter	01/04
Krueger, Rhonda	01/06
Olson, Duane	01/09
Langer, Isabella	01/12
Alden, Maia	01/13
Halstrom, Coby	01/14
Dauids, Bill	01/15
Vodenka-Reed, Patricia	01/15
Johnson, Natasha	01/16
Larson, Cody	01/17
Peterson, Brynna	01/18
Magnuson, Dylan	01/19
Nelson, Timothy	01/19
Kelley, Brian	01/21
Klinke, Carlyle	01/22
Dexter, Breanna	01/23
Larson, Terri	01/25
Olson, Marilyn	01/28
Linnngren, Carli	01/31

Please let the office know of any errors or omissions. Thank you!

## GOODSAMARITAN - CHAPEL DEDICATION

Please join us on January 8, 2015 as we celebrate the completion of our Chapel. The dedication will begin at 1:00pm and will be followed by refreshments, laughter, and conversation. Please RSVP by January 5, 2015 to Erin Johnston at 715-483-2710 or [ejohnst1@good-sam.com](mailto:ejohnst1@good-sam.com)

## MEMBER UPDATE

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all. We had a good trip to Mesa and are enjoying our time here. Hello to everyone at FELC from Leo & Carol Nelson.

## GIVING THANKS

Dear Members of Sarah Circle,  
Thank you very much for the fruit plate. I love fruit, and that lasted me a couple of days! It is very nice of you to remember us young folks. Happy New Year to you all!  
Sincerely, Jeanne Nelson

COUNCILCORNER

Welcome to 2015! We begin the new year with hope, optimism and faith in the knowledge that our mission in the community will continue to thrive. The Council retreat was held in early December and Goals for 2015 were developed. These goals include the development of a Stewardship Plan and Committee in January/February and we will be seeking volunteers to serve on this committee; new member classes are scheduled quarterly or as needed; new Council member orientation to be implemented, following the August Congregational meeting; and scheduling a company to develop a new church directory.

The Council will also make final updates to the church’s constitution in January and will be presenting those changes to the congregation in late February/early March. The Memorial Committee, led by Chairman Duane Olson, has reviewed the memorial committee By-Laws and will be preparing a “wish list” to provide guidance for future donors. Duane Olson and Bruce Carlsted are reviewing the Church’s Archive files and documents, how they are stored, and what documents need to be protected and archived.

The youth program needs adult leaders to teach and mentor our youth and we invite you to consider giving your time to this important mission area. Pastor Mary Kaye, Michelle Lynch, and I will be attending the one-day annual youth leadership training in January in Brooklyn Park. Thank you for your continued love and support in the New Year.

Blessings,  
Don

6-MONTHGIVING REPORT

(FY 2014-2015):

December giving:	\$17,304
6 Month Budgeted:	\$78,180
6 Month Giving:	76,469
Deficit	<u>\$ 1,711</u>

Save the Dates for Synod Events!

Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders  
Saturday, February 21, 2015  
St. Mark’s, North Saint Paul

Conference Assemblies  
Saturday, February 28, 2015  
Christ the King, New Brighton

Synod Assembly  
Fri., April 24—Sat., April 25, 2015  
Prince of Peace, Burnsville

MONTHLYGIVING REPORT

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 Cor. 9:7 (NIV)

Budgeted Monthly Expenses: \$ 13,030.00  
Needed per week: \$3257.50

12/7 Giving:	\$3,015.75
12/14 Giving:	3,332.84
12/21 Giving:	2,679.75
12/24 Christmas Giving	4,104.00
12/28 Giving:	2,084.84

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please contact FELC Treasurer, Joe Landgreen with any questions or concerns at: 715-417-1429 or jlandgreen.jl@gmail.com.

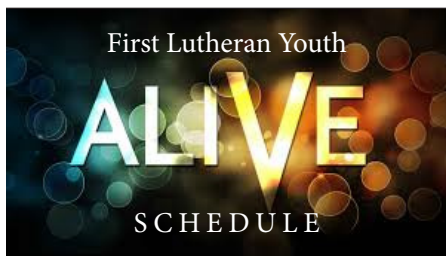
## SAMARITAN FUND - UPDATE

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The Samaritan Fund is alive and well at this writing. We didn't have a Giving Tree this year because of the press of other business, but heard from the elementary school principal that there were several needy families that lacked resources to provide Christmas for their members. So we purchased \$500 in gas cards and gift certificates for five families. Last month we joined with the local ministerium and other churches to provide aid for a family emergency involving household pests.

We believe we are doing the Lord's work, and now have ten members. We are talking of more involvement in the local community, and of an increasing voice of advocacy to address the issues lying behind poverty and destitution. Please pray for us and support the Fund as you are able.

Jim and Mary Jordal



YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

### CONNECT

*to a Christian Community;*

### INVITE

*into the life and love of God;*

### EQUIP

*to make God-honoring choices in their lives and to put their faith into practice.*

### Youth January Schedule

Wednesdays, January 7th, 14th, 21st 6:30-8pm;

Wednesday, January 28th: NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES; Adult Leader Meeting 7pm

\*\*Wednesday, Jan. 7th Youth Annual Winter Retreat to Luther Point Bible Camp information will be sent home and also made available on the church website.

DATES: Feb. 6-8th, 2015 COST \$46; (youth syrup funds will pay \$26 of this; families will be responsible for \$20) SIGN UP AND PAYMENT ARE DUE: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21st. If there is further financial assistance, there are youth scholarships available through the New Creation Award. SEE MICHELLE ASAP to get one of those forms to start working on the requirements to receive that money. Invite as many friends as you would like! Let's fill the Retreat Center to 60 Capacity this year! 100 White Flags worship band will be back with us! : )

**\*\*Mission Trip First Count Deadline Coming Up: JANUARY 15th** Dates of the mission trip to Cass Lake MN Indian Reservation are June 14-19th, 2015. We currently have 8 spots available. Which can be first filled with interested youth who are currently in grades 8-12; then we would like at least 1 more male and 1 more female chaperone. I may drop all unused spots by January 15th without any financial penalty. This is extremely important. So if you are interested, or at least entertaining the thought of going, it would be very wise and helpful to make that decision by January 15th and notify Michelle Lynch so she doesn't let those spots go!

**FIRST MISSION TRIP TEAM MEETING: SUNDAY JANUARY 25th 6:30-7:30pm: ALL PARENTS, YOUTH, AND CHAPERONES MUST ATTEND THE FIRST MEETING.**



# Greetings from Luther Point

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January 2015

## **Camp has been overflowing with retreat guests these past few weekends.**

Things start to quiet down over the Christmas holiday before we host our annual reunion of 2014 summer camp counselors and “Buddies” just in time to welcome the new year. As always, we anticipate many of our fine counselors will again return in 2015 as positive Christian role models and mentors for your children at Luther Point.

### **Some would joke, “But with boots that large, you don’t need skis.”**

I am excited that my “almost” impossible dream to find size 17 cross-country ski boots ended with their arrival in the store this week. My old boots which were custom made in Norway had finally worn out after years of hard use. I knew it wouldn’t be easy, but never imagined it would take a virtual “quest” over several years to locate a pair. Now I feel really ready to get out and enjoy winter and explore trails near camp.

**New Offering – Family Winter Weekend of Fun – February 13 – 15** (President’s Day/ Valentines Day). Does winter and the post-holiday season got you feeling a bit stir crazy as you approach the long weekend (no school for many districts on Monday)? I want to personally extend an invitation for families of all shapes and sizes to join me and my family at Luther Point Bible Camp for this fun-filled weekend retreat. Past staff will be on hand to provide hospitality and lead structured activities. There will also be free time options that include tubing, broom ball, camp games, and an ice-fishing demonstration. A magician will also be on hand to provide entertainment with a theological twist. For the first time we will also be offering an optional sleigh ride (for an additional fee to cover our costs). I plan to break-in my new ski boots and explore our outpost trail across the road through woods and prairie.

**Prepare to be pampered.** Child-care will be available during free time. Accommodations include our comfortable Retreat Center and toasty warm cabins by the lakeshore. Each family will have their own space, including their own bathroom and shower. All inclusive delicious meals will be served in our dining hall. Please visit [www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org) for a schedule, pricing and additional details. Plan on booking an additional overnight to take advantage of the extended weekend if your kids are off from school and explore the sights and sounds of the great North woods. Please contact our office and request confidential financial assistance if you need it!

## **OTHER NEWS:**

March 13-14 – Elementary (3-5 grade) Weekend Camp

Spring 2015 — Calling all Quilters and Scrapbookers!

Luther Point is excited to start-up new retreat opportunities for quilting and scrapbooking. Look for more information and logistics soon. Suggestions welcome.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Mark Peters, Executive Director



**Church Office**  
**651-465-5265**  
[www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)



**Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley**  
c: 612-532-7083  
[felcpastor.mk@gmail.com](mailto:felcpastor.mk@gmail.com)

**Michelle Lynch,**  
*Youth Minister/Choir Director*  
c: 715-220-2782  
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**Caroline Greene**  
*Ministry Coordinator,*  
[parishc@tflutheran.org](mailto:parishc@tflutheran.org)

## **2014-2015 Council/Officers:**

**Don Hansen**—President  
**Sharna Braucks**—Vice President  
**Joe Landgreen**—Treasurer  
**Gayle Langer** —Secretary  
**Julie Valez**  
**Duane Olson**  
**Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley**

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Financial Secretary  
**Jerry Rhoads**

Please hold the ministers and officers in your prayers that God would give them the wisdom, strength, courage, patience and perseverance to serve this community of faith as they lead us in our mission for the sake of the world and the glory of God.

Next council meeting is **Sunday, January 11th @ 4pm** in the Library.

## *Mission Statement*

### **Gather. Grow. Go.**

**Gather**—all people into the saving faith through Jesus Christ  
and to worship together;

**Grow**—through the Word of God in faith, understanding, and love with God and  
one another;

**Go**—as the Holy Spirit sends us to care, serve, and witness;  
For the sake of the world & for the glory of God!

(Mission Statement approved 2009)

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*"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations." Psalm 90:1*

Please send submissions to: [parishc@tflutheran.org](mailto:parishc@tflutheran.org)  
Articles Due the 15th of each month.



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