



Gather



Grow

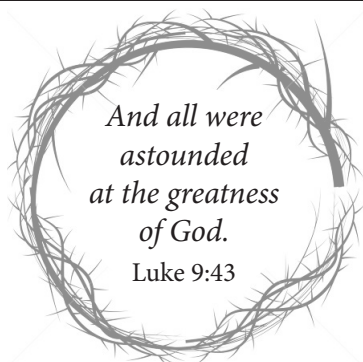


Go

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

651-465-5265 • www.tflutheran.org

Astounded by God's Greatness



*And all were
astounded
at the greatness
of God.*

Luke 9:43

This is the last verse of our Gospel lesson on Transfiguration Sunday, February 7. It follows the recounting of Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, the reaction of the disciples, and Jesus' healing of a boy from an unclean spirit. (You might even be reading this newsletter before that Sunday if I work diligently here to get it done!)

I don't know about you, but for me, the turn in our liturgical year from Epiphany to Lent, as Ash Wednesday approaches, is a very reflective time of year. Mostly I guess, because it's almost always in February, a month when a lot has happened in my life over the years, much of which leaves me very grateful for the greatness of God. Maybe you do thoughtful reflecting in December or January around the time of the new calendar year; I do it in February, the month my godmother & grandfather were born, both important people in my life. The month my first child was

baptized. The month my father died when that baby was 14 months old. It's also the month that there is an enormous Feed My Starving Children mega pack in the south suburbs, this year in Apple Valley, and I take vacation from FELC to work 7 shifts packing food, 2/1-2/6. (Want to join me? check facebook for 'South Metro Packing Event' or call me for help signing you up for one I'll be at (Tues 5p, Wed, 9:30a & 12:15p, Thurs 7:30p, Fri 12:30p and 8p, Sat 5:30p).

Anyway, some of my reflections this year are about how I want to be instrumental in helping people see & experience the greatness of God, or as the title of my ordination bulletin said, "that all may know God's love." This is what I want this year to be about. And as I reflect on the coming year, I hope that I will over and over, do things that help people see, not me, but the love of Christ lived out thru me.

continued on page 2

Theme:
LENT **SABBATH**
The gifts within the commandment.

Wed 2/10 7p Ash Wednesday Worship

Wed 2/17 Lent Supper/Worship

5:30p Soup Supper;

6:15-7pm Lent Worship

7-8pm Youth Group

Astounded by God's Greatness—continued from page 1

Lest this sound like a “bucket list”, it’s not – just this year’s list. I have the belief that it’s easier to achieve goals if we have some, and reflectively set some every year. This year’s watch words for me are “begin again.” No matter what we’ve done or not done, eaten too much ice cream, not taken time to check in with our spouse, not listened to the dreams & hopes of our children, not put ourselves out for another child of God who looks very different from us — what will the next day, week, month, year hold for you? What will you need to notice, do, read, or hear in order to be inspired to be the best you can be? You are a beloved child of God, and have things to bless the world with that no one else can just the way that you can. God is holding your life. We begin again every day in the freedom of forgiveness, and the blessings around us, attentive, I hope, to those who know neither.

God bless your ruminating!

Job Opportunity

Temporary **CUSTODIAN** POSITION

Temporary Custodian Position
Position Description / Application
FELC is seeking applicants for a temporary custodian. The position would be no more than 15 hours per week and would include all aspects of cleaning and maintaining the church facilities. Compensation commensurate with experience. Contact the church office for more information at 651-465-5265.

Please submit resume and application by February 15th, 2016 to:
First Ev. Lutheran Church
561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

SARAHCIRCLE

Sarah Circle will not meet during the month of January. The next tentatively scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, February 2nd at 9:30am** at the Chisago House.



Sunday, February 7th, 10:30am

First Lutheran invites members and friends to a potluck meal following worship next Sunday. This celebration begins a 10 week period of Jubilee.

F ebruary **COUNCIL** MEETING

Council will meet again, **Sunday, February 14th, at 4:00pm.**

2016 **LENT**GIVING

Lenten offerings for this season will be split between the Samaritan Fund and another benevolence yet to be determined.

“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
—2 Corinthians 9:8

FINANCIAL UPDATE —Feb. 2016

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 6 month budgeted..... | 82,686 |
| 6 month actual giving..... | 78,681 |
| 6 month net income..... | -3,995 |
| 6 month actual expenses..... | *77,311 |

*Note that actual expenses reflect lower than average heating expenses this winter and the lack of custodial salary expense.

MONTHLY GIVING 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 Weekly Expenses: \$3114.

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 01/03 Giving: | 2,431.90 |
| 01/10 Giving: | 3,294.07 |
| 01/17 Giving: | 1,671.63 |
| 01/24 Giving: | 2,737.45 |

01/31 Giving: n/a

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.



CHOR
Rehearsal
Tuesdays, 7-8pm

Help to keep the choir alive during the winter months. Share your voice while the snow birds head south.

Registration Open for Summer Bible Camp at LUTHER POINT

Register for 2016 at www.lutherpoint.org. If you have any questions regarding the registration process or summer programming, call the LPBC office at 715-689-2347. Contact Michelle Lynch for FELC camp scholarship information.

FEB BIRTHDAYS



| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Berthiaume, Dustin | 02/01 |
| Fick, Gordy | 02/01 |
| Johnson, Carol | 02/01 |
| Flysjo, Miriam | 02/03 |
| Gustafson, Gail | 02/03 |
| Bonkoski, Dena | 02/05 |
| Lamb, Michelle | 02/06 |
| Curry, Edna | 02/07 |
| Erdman, Joshua | 02/07 |
| Parks, Wendy | 02/07 |
| Christensen, Dixie | 02/09 |
| Anderson, Ian | 02/12 |
| Curry, Orval | 02/12 |
| Hansen, Scott | 02/12 |
| Thorson, Tonia | 02/16 |
| Vitalis, Jessica | 02/16 |
| Olson, Shirley | 02/20 |
| Fors, Fred | 02/21 |
| Moberg, Cheryl | 02/21 |
| Valez, Shawn | 02/21 |
| Vodenka-Reed, Jacob | 02/21 |
| Robinson, Joyce | 02/22 |
| Donahue, Kayla | 02/23 |
| Ashley, Mary Kaye | 02/24 |
| Nelson, Leo | 02/24 |
| Tangen, Marilyn | 02/24 |
| Casterton, Noah | 02/26 |
| Lynch, Michelle | 02/26 |
| Johnson, Jaime | 02/27 |
| Stolp, Irvin | 02/27 |
| Valez, Randy | 02/28 |

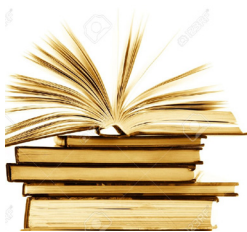
Please contact the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you.

TOOLKIT for Congregational Leaders

The 10th annual “Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders” is back on February 6, this year at Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview! Join other congregational leaders for a day of workshops meant to inspire your ministry. This year, workshops include “Bible Study for Dummies”, “Stewards of the Earth: Going green as part of our faith”, “Disabilities Seen & Unseen: The vulnerable in our midst”, & “Holding Respectful Conversations on Difficult Topics”. Contact the church office to find out how to sign up.

ALL MEMBERS

Dear Members,
Please be on the lookout for a Discipleship Team Leader to be contacting you to assist with different worship related opportunities for one month out of the year. We will be trying this new system to give each member new opportunities to serve. Please welcome their call!



LIBRARY TREASURES

Come visit the FELC Library. We have many books for young and old in many areas of interest.

Thank you to Julie Valez for maintaining the library so beautifully!

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all those who gave of their time and abilities in decorating and undecorating the church inside and out this past Christmas season.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Tuesday—Thursday
9:30a-12:30p

C haritable **GIVING CHANGES**

President Obama signed the 2016 budget this week. Bill H.R. 637 was part of that budget which states that the Permanent IRA Charitable Contribution Act allows individuals age 70½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 to charity directly from their IRAs without incurring tax on the withdrawal. More info at: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/49935wardship>

Thrivent **GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

Are you a member of Thrivent? Members of Thrivent have access to some funds thru Thrivent to benefit others in our community by joining together for projects. But Pr. Mary Kaye has only a tiny idea who is a member, (no they don't share that info with FELC.) If you're willing for me to know who you are, would you drop me an email, or text or call me?

-4- Thanks! PMK

FEEDthe**NEED** In Our Community

During the month of February, Hiram Lodge #287 is offering again this year to **match funds going to Family Pathways**. All personal **checks must be made out to Hiram Lodge #287** and in the memo it can say 1 for 1 match. What a great opportunity to double your donations and continue to feed the hungry in our community! Please send your donations to:

Hiram Lodge #287
PO Box 681
Lindstrom, MN 55045

E ducators **APPRECIATION**LUNCHEON

We are excited to be able to work together as community chures to host the Educational Staff Appreciation Luncheon for TF Elementary staff, **Friday, February 5th**. First Lutheran has been asked to provide "Festive Rice Pilaf" (recipe on bulletin board) and relish trays (carrots, celery, broccoli, cauliflower) for 55 people. Two (2) adult volunteers are also requested to be on hand from 9:30 through clean-up (est. 1:30pm or earlier). Sign up and information is available on the bulletin board near the office.

C ommunity **POTLUCK**SUPPER

Saturday, February 6th, 6:00pm

First Baptist Church in Taylors Falls
All Taylors Falls area residents are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a bounty of good eats!

Sponsored by the Taylors Falls Crime Watch Group

Winter Magic **FATHER-DAUGHTER**BALL

A Winter Magic themed Father Daughter Ball will take place at Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake on Saturday, **February 6th**. Doors open at **5:15**, followed by a catered meal. Music provided for the dance by DJ. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available from Faith Lutheran Church office at 651-464-8509. For dads and daughters age 8 and over, tickets are \$12 each. Tickets for daughters age 7 and younger are \$8.00 each.

Who H as Y our H eart?

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

a ministry of stonecroft.org

Mon • February 15th • 11:30am

\$10.00—inclusive • Alliance Church
1259 State Rd 35, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

— *Speaker* —

Michelle Oie

Have you found your passion in life?

This young woman shares how discovering her passion changed the quality and direction of her life.

— *Music* —

Linda Iwazko

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.

Please call for reservations at least one week prior.

651-592-7416 (Betty)

715-554-2330 (Mary)

First Lutheran Youth

YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

FLYs chedule

Wed 2/3 6:30-8p Youth Event

Wed 2/10 7p Ash Wednesday Worship

All Youth and Families Invited to join us tonight!

Winter Retreat Sign Up DEADLINE

Wed 2/17 Lent Supper/Worship

5:30p Soup Supper;

6:15-7pm Lent Worship

7-8pm Youth Group

Sun 2/21 11:30 Mission Trip Meeting
(parents welcome)

Wed 2/17 Lent Supper/Worship

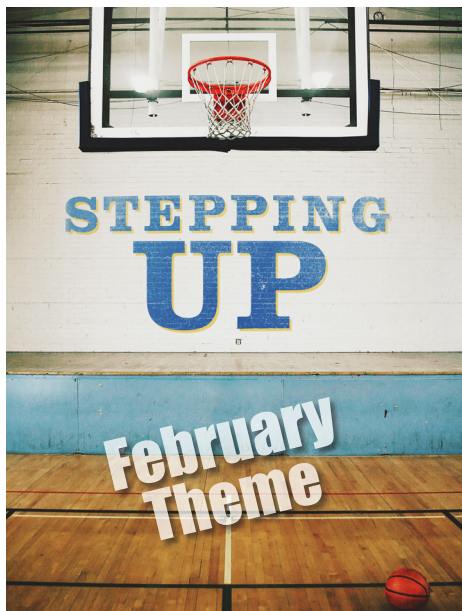
Fri-Sun 2/26-28: WINTER RETREAT

Luther Point Bible Camp

with 100 White Flags!

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 Winter Retreat

to Luther Point Bible Camp

Friday - Sunday, February 26-28, 2016

with the worship band 100 WHITE FLAGS!

COST: \$70 for weekend lodging and meals. \$50 of this can be covered by filling out the New Creation Scholarship Form and turned in to Michelle by Wednesday Feb. 24th; If you choose not to earn the scholarship Maple Syrup Funds will cover \$40 of the cost; Youth to pay \$30 by Wednesday February 24th. Sign up must be by February 10th so we get our numbers to Luther Point for meal planning. But payment for the weekend will be due the week we go. Detailed information and schedule for the weekend will be emailed, published on website, and made available to youth by Wed. Feb. 3rd. The wonderful worship band 100 White Flags will be back with us again this year! And if there are any 5th graders who would like to attend and parents - you are welcome! Please contact Michelle Lynch! 715-220-2782 The Youth Ministry Team is always in need of help with transportation for this special weekend. The camp is located 30 miles north of St. Croix Falls near Grantsburg, WI. Also, if you would like to contribute in any way for our Friday evening meal, snacks, crafts, etc...please let Michelle know.



FLY February Theme: Stepping Up

Have you ever had a moment where you knew you needed to step up? Maybe you always sat on the bench during the basketball game, and your coach finally called you in to play. Or maybe you got selected to take a really advanced course in school. Or took a really important and high paying summer job. No matter the situation, you knew that you had two choices: either step up to the opportunity or step back and miss it altogether. And while these challenges aren't just limited to high school, we do have the chance to start becoming a step up kind of person right now. This was exactly where a man named Joshua found himself in the Old Testament. Joshua was just a normal guy facing some really challenging circumstances. Through his story, we can learn to step up and reach the potential God has for us the process.

Wed February 3rd - Session One: Minority Report

Bottom Line: Stepping up = seeing God in your situation.

What makes you nervous? Is it speaking in front of people? Starting on the basketball team? Asking someone on a date? Whatever it is, there's a pretty good chance that it has to do with one thing: failure. We're all afraid we'll mess up, fail, and look foolish. In fact, that fear is the very reason that most of us step back from challenges in moments where we could step up. That was certainly the case for a group of guys in the Bible that were sent to check out the Promised Land. For most of them, the report was simple: don't do it. Don't go there. Step Back. Almost all of them agreed that the new land was too scary, too dangerous, and that failure was too much of a possibility. Along with his friend, one of the men had something different in his report. And as we follow along with how Joshua learned to step up and out of fear, we'll see how God can help us do the same.

Restful Reflections

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

(Hebrews 4:9)

Kids look forward to school breaks, especially summer. Adults look forward to vacation time, especially if it can be spent without doing a whole lot of chores. People who work hard all week look forward to the weekend, or depending on their schedules, whatever days off they might have. Sometimes, we long for and crave blessed sleep—to drop into bed and close our eyes to the cares of this world. We long for rest.

There is another rest we wish we had. It is the rest from our struggle with sin. Ever since sin entered the world, the curse of sin has promised toil and labor would be our lot. It's not enough that we have to work and scrape out a living. We struggle and battle against our Old Adam who's trying to get us off track and run after the devil and the world.

But there IS a rest for you. There is a ceasing from your labors. That rest is Jesus. He came into this world to bring you rest. To bring you and end to the struggle against sin, death, devil, and hell. He came to do that by offering Himself up on Calvary and after His death, to take a Sabbath rest in the tomb, and then, to rise again the third day, having defeated sin and death.

Now, baptized into Jesus, you have rest. Oh, you still struggle, you still chafe. But the battle is won. Jesus won the victory you never could. And He bestows His victory upon you in His gifts so that you can be confident that day of rest will come.

When Jesus returns on the Last Day, He will raise you from the dead. Sin and tears will be gone. You will rest from these struggles that plague us in this life once and for all. Jesus is your rest from all your labors. He has done all things to secure this rest for you, to gift it to you. You rest in Him, for He is the rest that remains for God's people. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

*That light our hope sustaining, We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining, Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to Thee our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises To Thee, blest Three in One.
(O Day of Rest and Gladness, LSB 906:4)*

Scripture Readings: Hebrews 4:9-13; Job 2:1-3:10; John 1:19-34

twenty 20 / sixteen
16

IF:GATHERING

a global gathering

"The world feels shaky and uncertain, but when we look to Jesus, we have a sure and steadfast hope. At IF:Gathering 2016, we are spending time in the life of Jesus and looking at what it looks like to live the way He did. "

Alliance Church of the Valley
invites you to join us for
IF:Local!

**Friday, February 5th, 7pm to 10:30 pm
and Saturday, February 6th, 9 am to 5 pm**

*Snacks will be served on Friday
Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday*

For more information or to register:

<https://ifgathering.com/localgatherings/ifst-croix-falls-alliance/>

Doors open at 7:00 pm
Session 2 on Friday 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Session 3 on Saturday, 9:00 - 12:00 pm
Scheduled lunch break from 12:00 - 2:00 pm
Session 4 on Saturday, 2:00 - 5:00 pm



Greetings from Luther Point

February 2016

This Summer, Campers will be Learning About “The Jesus Way”

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.”

--Ephesians 5:1-2

We are called to follow Jesus and live like him - which is not always easy. We must be active disciples, watching Jesus, listening, learning, and of course, doing. Jesus tells us that we must take up our cross and be followers of him through love and service. In 2016, campers will learn to trust in God's promise as we feed, forgive, love, serve, and pray.

We are Looking for Qualified Summer Staff Members

Applications are now online for summer positions. If you know anyone that has a passion for God and might enjoy the opportunity to help hundreds of youth grow in their faith journey, encourage them to look into working at Luther Point. We are seeking college-aged counselors to be faith role models for the youth from your church and every camper that comes here. More information can be found under the “About Luther Point” tab at lutherpoint.org.

B.U.D.D.I.E.S is Another way to Help Serve God at Luther Point

This is a program where high-schoolers can come to camp, free of charge, for two weeks helping out with different jobs around camp while still getting to take part in games, worship, and Bible studies. B.U.D.D.I.E.S. will learn first-hand what it means to serve others as Christ did and will be learning leadership skills along the way. Applications must be filled out for consideration and can be found on our website.

Don't Forget...

- Early Bird Discount applies to any registration before April 1
- Contact our office if you would like Luther Point staff to come out and run your summer VBS program
- We still have available dates for you to schedule a retreat in our lakeside cabins or retreat center
- Elementary and Junior High Weekend Camp will be April 1-2. Visit our website for more information.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Mark T. Peters,
Executive Director

Church Office
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org



Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley
c: 612-532-7083
felcpastor.mk@gmail.com

Michelle Lynch,
Youth Minister/Choir Director
c: 715-220-2782
felcyouthminister@gmail.com

Caroline Greene
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2015-2016 Council/Officers:

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

Financial Secretary
Jerry Rhoads

Please hold the ministers and council members 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, February 14, 4:00pm in the Library.

Mission Statement

Gather. Grow. Go.

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

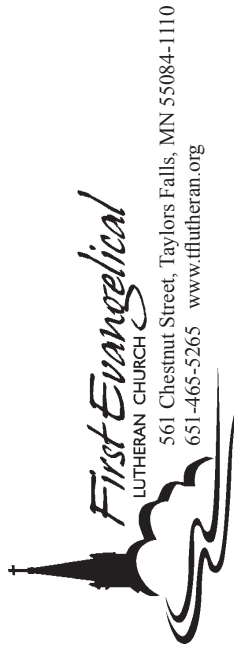
Grow—through the Word of God in faith, understanding, and love with God and
one another;

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)

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

Please send submissions to: parishc@tflutheran.org
Articles Due the 15th of each month.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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ORGANIZATION

US

POSTAGE

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