

## Q&A *Our Calling?* God's Calling?

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We have managed in this place, in this life, in the last couple of months, to be very busy. I wonder sometimes what God thinks about, feels about, wishes about our busyness?

In the month's newsletter, you will be receiving an invitation to give the church council some feedback on your sense of our community, our ministry, our answering of God's calls in this place and time. And this is good to do. However, the most meaningful answers will not be ones offered anonymously, but those given prayerfully, in candor, in love. My hope is that after you fill out and return the survey, you will take a second copy of it just for yourself, and ask, what is working well in my life?, what is not working well?, what am I willing to do to do something about that?, and then tuck those thoughts in your Bible, or somewhere private, where you can pray over them thoughtfully and regularly.

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"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." \*

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One of my dreams as a pastor has always been to come into a congregation, and learn about the gifts and talents, skills and resources, desires and passions of the people that are there, and to prayerfully think about what that means for how God might want us to grow? If that's a conversation you'd be willing to have with me, one-on-one, or in small groups, let me know, we'll find time for it!

You may remember me saying in an early sermon that one of the most powerful admonitions I heard as a beginning seminarian, (student of ministry), was from the book *God on our Minds*, which said we need to discern, not what is the most urgent need, or the most important job/task, but which are ours. I think we learn what is communally "ours" by knowing well what is individually "ours."

*continued on page 2*



# Q&A *continued from page 1*

Author Frederick Buechner includes these words that have great meaning for me in his book, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

As our council, those of us answering the call to leadership in this ministry, look forward to and read and learn from your responses, I will continue to be listening carefully for your deep gladnesses, and how they might match up with the deep hungers of our world. May we be where God wants us, doing as God calls us, strengthened by God’s resurrection life in us, listening to the Holy Spirit of God teach us. Plenty to attend to.



~ In God’s holy keep, as you are,  
Pastor Mary Kaye

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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First Lutheran has plans to be represented at the Synod Assembly by Pastor Mary Kaye, Don Hansen, and our youth representative, Dalton Langer. The assembly was held at Prince of Peace, Burnsville. The keynote speaker: author Rev Heidi Neumark, Trinity Lutheran of Manhattan’s Upper West Side.

## LUTHER POINT

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Sign up for amazing Bible camp experiences at Luther Point! On-Line registration is the easiest way to register and to pay the deposit. Families can contact Michelle Lynch for additional financial support for the rest of their camp tuition. [www.luther-point.org](http://www.luther-point.org) to sign up; Michelle: (c) 715-220-2782; [felcyouthminister@gmail.com](mailto:felcyouthminister@gmail.com)

## FELC HISTORY presentation...

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At 7pm on **Thursday, May 7**, at the TF Community Center, an informal presentation about FELC for the TF Historical Society will be presented. Dalton Langer and Caleb Moberg are scheduled to present along with Julie Magnuson. Stop by and learn more about the history of First Lutheran.



# Member DIRECTORY

First Lutheran will welcome Life-Touch Studios on **June 11, 12 & 13**. We will be creating a new directory and you will have the opportunity to have a **FREE** sitting and family portrait. Watch upcoming bulletins for sign-up opportunities.

## SAPWRAP2015

The 2015 Sap Season has come to a close. First Lutheran Youth, parents, and volunteers helped pick up over 2000 buckets. The Big Bucket Brigade Clean-Up was scheduled for April 18th. Thanks to all who came to help. Total syrup made this year was 483 gallons, from 16,000 gallons of sap! Thank you for your continued support of this sweet ministry!

## ADULTCHOIR

Rehearsals are planned for 4/21 & 28; 5/5 & 12 with our rhubarb dessert party on Tuesday May 19th. Choir will plan to sing for worship services on May 3rd and 17th at this time.

## SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet, **Tuesday, May 5th, 9:30**. Darlene Mueller will be hosting. All invited!

## 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 Monthly Expenses: \$ 13,030.00

Needed per week: \$3257.50

04/05 Giving: \$4,368.25

04/12 Giving: 2,318.00

04/19 Giving: 1,786.59

04/26 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](mailto:jlandgreen.jl@gmail.com).

## LENT OFFERINGS

Council voted to share Wednesday Lent service giving equally between the *FELC Samaritan Fund* and the *Food-4-Kids Backpack Program*. Thank you!

02/18 \$327.66

02/25 235.00

03/04 275.00

03/11 278.00

03/18 150.84

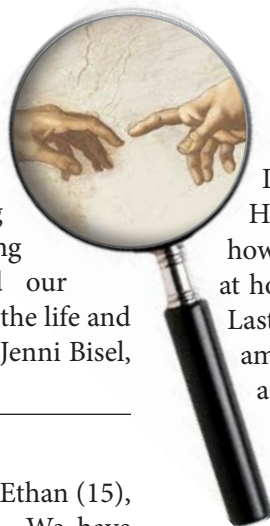
03/25 236.00

-3- 04/01 (Good Fri/Maundy Thu) 617.00

# GOD WATCH

*FELC Member Magnifier*

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This monthly column has the goal of continuing our Lent theme of watching for God among us and our community. We see God in the life and love of members, Nate and Jenni Bisel, Ethan, Ryan and Gavin.

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## **The Bisel Family**

Nate and I have three boys, Ethan (15), Ryan (11), and Gavin (7). We have been married for almost two years and just last spring moved to Center City. Both Nate and I graduated from Chisago Lakes High School and have lived in the area for the last 20 years.



I currently work at Fairview Health Services in Wyoming, however my job allows me to work at home at least three days a week. Last fall I enrolled in college and am slowly working on getting an associate's degree. Nate has been working as a commercial truck driver for the last three years.

The three boys keep us busy. Ethan plays the guitar is into airsoft, Ryan is in soccer and also loves playing the drums, and Gavin plays hockey and loves anything to do with tractors. When they aren't doing that we all enjoy 4 wheeling (I wish we had more time for this). Nate and I stay busy doing projects with updating our home and working around the yard, if we get a chance, we enjoy taking the motorcycle out for a ride. ■

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If you would like to share a bio or story of yourself or another, where you have been on watch and found God in our midst, please contact the church office or Duane Olson.



# You are invited to Capture Memories for a lifetime

Please be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

## Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you!



Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating



Exclusive products turn your portraits into cherished memories

Products may vary

First Lutheran will have sign-ups available for you and your family to be photographed on

**June 11, 12 and 13.**

Please mark your calendars and be watching for more information in upcoming bulletins. Help us update our directory!

## **Don's Sugar Shack**

The featured producer in this issue of the newsletter is Mr. Don Hansen who operates Don's Sugar Shack in Taylors Falls (MN). Don's operation is located in a residential area close to an elementary school. This means that tours are a normal part of his syrup season. Don has been making syrup for 16 years. He originally became interested in syruping after reading a story in the second grade about making maple candy by throwing hot maple syrup in the white snow. He kept that image in his head for 45 years and always wanted to try it. He tapped his first tree in 1999, but still has never tossed the syrup in the snow! His operation features 2000 taps, all on buckets. The trees he taps come from eight different sites in the area including Taylors Falls, Center City, and St. Croix Falls (WI). In about 2 hours, a crew of 50 kids and adults, collect the sap. The sap is transported by truck and trailer in 300 gallon tanks to the sugar shack, and dumped into large stock tanks, then pumped to the feeder tank to the evaporator.

He cooks the syrup with a CDL 3X10 wood-fired Intens-o-fire Evaporator, with a pre-heater unit. His sugar house is a 14x40 foot. The building was originally designed so that the evaporator was in one half and their wood was stored in the other. However, since their license doesn't permit wood storage, this part of the building is now used to store syrup and supplies.

He keeps all the wood off-site because it is not feasible to store of 20 cords of wood in town. They buy 20 cords of oak logs; then he and volunteers from his Church split it in two weekends. They have 5 wood splitters, one bobcat with hydraulic grappling attachment, two tractors, and five chainsaws. We complete the splitting and stacking in two six-hour Saturdays.

Don makes about 400 to 500 gallons of syrup per year. He tests his syrup with a hydrometer, check it with a benchtop, lab-grade refractometer, and then calibrates the temperature controller, which controls a Belimo modulating actuator, connected to a 2-inch gate valve on the evaporator.

Don sells his syrup, which was licensed in 2014 by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, in two coffee shops and by word of mouth. All the syrup made and sold by Don's Sugar Shack is donated to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Youth Group for their camps, mission trips and day-to-day expenses. Don and his wife provide for all the capital equipment and space necessary for the production of the syrup. Expenses such bottles, filters, etc. are taken out of sales proceeds. A portion of the proceeds are donated to the Hazelden Center for Youth and Families in Plymouth, MN. In return, Hazelden allows us to tap the maples at their Center City (MN) campus. The Church also donates a portion of the sales to the summer youth program "Together With Friends."

Don's suggests to start small, talk to as many syrup producers, large and small, and be prepared for a lot of work, and self-satisfaction. He says that "if the syrup bug bites hard enough – hang on – it's quite a ride."

He likes to make syrup to get outside in the spring after a long winter. And, syruping connects him to all ages of people from 5 to 90 years old. He also likes the aroma of boiling sap, the bustling of the sugar house and the serenity of the woods in the late spring. This year Don began a sub-dealership business affiliated with Roth Sugar Bush (Cadott, WI). He can provide maple syrup supplies and equipment to producers in the St. Croix Valley and vicinity.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



Clasen, Lisa	05/01
Goetz, John	05/02
Lundsted, Ethan	05/02
Johnson, Kevin	05/03
Vodenka-Reed, Sunshine	05/03
Vodenka-Reed, Daytona	05/03
Hansen, Donald	05/04
Anderson, LaRae	05/05
Collins, Eleanore	05/06
Grover, Donald	05/06
Johnson, Steven	05/06
Magnuson, Julie	05/06
Vetter, Morgan	05/06
Rogers, Chieko	05/07
Anderson, Barbara	05/09
Halstrom, Callie	05/09
Langer, Spencer	05/10
Vitalis, LeeAnn	05/11
Bjork, Jacqueline	05/15
Dahlquist, Jeremy	05/15
Hasselquist, Daniel	05/15
Miller, Chase	05/15
Jordal, Mary	05/17
Schumann, Jana	05/17
Thorson, Steven	05/18
Jordal, Jim	05/19
Lundholm, Sally	05/20
Carlson, Michael	05/22
Lindgren, Hjalmer	05/22
Donahue, Timothy	05/24
Nelson, Jeremy	05/24
Johnson, Rita	05/25
Enebak, Tom	05/26
Johnson, Zachary	05/26
Loen, Jacob	05/27
Vodenka-Reed, Poppy	05/27
Vogt, Anthony	05/30
Alden, Ava	05/31

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

## A Night of Music and Story Telling

Local musician and story teller, Nancy Conger, will perform at Spring Lake Lutheran Church on **Thursday, May 7th at 7:00pm**. Light refreshments will be served following the program. There is no cost to attend and all are invited.

In addition to being a talented musician, Ms. Conger is a certified life coach and writes and performs one-woman shows.

Spring Lake Lutheran is located 4 miles west of North Branch or 9 miles east of Cambridge on Highway 95, then one block north on Erickson Road. For information, call the church office at 651-674-4606, email [sll.church@gmail.com](mailto:sll.church@gmail.com) or visit our website - [www.sllchurch.org](http://www.sllchurch.org)

## Life Changing Moments

### CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

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

*Mon • May 18<sup>th</sup> • 11:30am*

\$10.00—inclusive • Lakes Free Church  
29620 Olinda Trail, Lindstrom, MN 55045

### Special Feature

Karen Krupa  
of Interfaith Caregivers

### Music

Beryl Garloff

### —Speaker—

Heidi Studer  
"Defining Moments:  
History in the Making"

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.

Please call for reservations at least one week prior.

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

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

**East Central MN- Habitat for Humanity- A Brush With Kindness** is currently taking applications from homeowners in need of upkeep or repair to their house. Projects are being scheduled for 2015. We need lead time to assign project leaders, obtain materials, and organize sufficient volunteers. Copies of the poster and application for assistance and also for volunteers are available on the FELC bulletin board.

## 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.

# First Lutheran Youth

*May  
Schedule*

YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

## MAY YOUTH SCHEDULE

**Wednesday May 6th** 6:30-8pm | Large Group

**Wednesdaysay May 13th** 6:30-8pm | Large Group

**Saturday May 16th** | Sugar Shack Tours \*\*Youth asked to be present

**SUNDAY MAY 17TH** | MISSION TRIP TEAM MEETING 2-3PM

**Wednesday May 20th** | "End of the Year PICNIC"! 6:00PM

**Wednesday May 27th** | Youth Leaders Wrap Up Meeting

**Sunday May 31st** | WORSHIP SERVICE led by "Kids on Board" 9am

with SENIOR BACCALAUREATE/recognition of High School graduates

**Tuesday June 9th @ 9am** | Together With Friends JR. COUNSELOR ORIENTATION  
at the Baptist Church

**Sunday June 14th** | 9am Worship with Send off Blessing for Mission Trip Team  
Please be praying for our 2015 Cass Lake Mission Trip Team!

This year's theme and Scripture:

**"UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM"**

*Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ~ Matthew 6:10*

TEAM MEMBERS:

Honey Vodenka-Reed, Dustin Valez, Riley Linnngren, Caleb Moberg, Chase Lundholm, Dusty Vodenka-Reed, Ryan Rogers, Luke Rogers, Alex Pinto, Don Hansen, Jason Linnngren, Michelle Lynch, Kayla Donahue.



## T-W-F DATES!

Mark your calendars! The first day of TWF is 6/23 at the Baptist Church. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 30th. TWF DATES at First Lutheran Church: June 30, July 2nd, July 7th and 9th. Watch for more info in June's newsletter!

## SUMMERCAMP DISCOUNTS!

Summer camp registration is open at Luther Point Bible Camp. Many discounts available: Early bird—bring a friend—First Time Camper—New Creation Award—Syrup Ministry tuition assistance.

Register at: [www.lutherpoint.org](http://www.lutherpoint.org)  
Contact Michelle Lynch with questions.

First Lutheran Youth

# BUCKET BRIGADE 2015





# Greetings from Luther Point

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May 2015

**Summer is right around the corner!** The warm weather means camp is just around the corner; only one month away! We will be getting our first week of campers starting June 14. Our summer staff will be here for two weeks before getting prepared for the fun and excitement of camp! We're excited to share our theme of "A Love that Never Ends" with everyone that comes to Luther Point. We are glad to see registration numbers are already ahead of last year and people have been pleased with the simple process of our new online system.

## **Annual Pancake Breakfast and Break-in-the-Lake on Saturday, May 9!**

Come for tasty pancakes from 8:00 to 10:00 am and then join many other brave souls who will be among the first to jump into Big Wood Lake at 10:00 am. A free will offering will support Camperships for those who can't afford camp. Please visit our website for more details. Free t-shirts for all who jump in the lake and give a minimum donation of \$5.00 to the Campership Fund. Many people use this as an extra or alternative Work Weekend.

**Luther Point Volunteer Work Weekends** - an opportunity to demonstrate your "Point Pride" - Sat. May 9 and Sat. May 16.

Please contact us in advance to plan specific projects and plan for necessary materials to prepare and clean buildings and grounds for summer campers. We are currently updating our website to soon provide a fresh link with potential work projects for groups of any shape and size. Don't forget, we have family cabins available for rent if you would like to turn the weekend into a lakeside getaway! Cabins can be reserved on a first-come basis according to group size and availability.

We invite you to join us at Luther Point to get the camp ready. Please visit our website for a new and ongoing section (starting May 1) which will update potential work projects for these two weekends. Don't forget to contact our office to if you would like to participate for either weekend!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Mark T. 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  
[felcyouthminister@gmail.com](mailto:felcyouthminister@gmail.com)

**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, May 3rd @ 4pm in the Library.**  
**(Constitution Meeting @ 2pm)**

## *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;

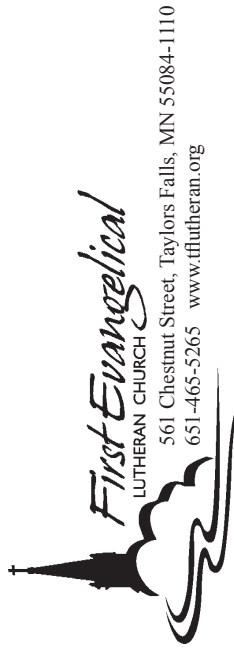
**Go**—as the Holy Spirit sends us to care, serve, and witness;  
For the sake of the world & for the glory of God!

(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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ORGANIZATION  
US  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
TAYLORS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT NO.5

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED