



Gather



Grow



Go

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

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Change: Is it good? Is it God?

By Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley

Revelation of Jesus Christ 21:3-5a

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Our world is changing, and some of the changes are God’s will. Even though many are really frightened by change, one of God’s deepest promises is that the world we see around us is not God’s final answer. As we look around at which of the changes might be of God, and which we may discern God’s gifts in, we do not need to be afraid.

Some of what we see is improvement for good. Where do we see that? Are we looking? Are there places where community is being built that will benefit many? Are there ways we can learn to listen that will serve our neighbors better, or maybe even the people we share homes with? Can we see God’s movement for good in some of the changes around us? Where might God be wanting to change us?

On Tuesday evening of the week I am writing, a new pastor was ordained in the Minneapolis Area Synod. Pr. Emmy Kegler will be a gift to her new congregation, and a friend of hers, Kathie Olson, writes these words about how Pr. Emmy sees the world:

“She knows that faith is not easy, that being church is not easy, that we come to God as messy humans, flunking religion and dogma, failing at good works. Her ministry is not that of sweet baby Jesus, God-the Great Concierge in the Sky, and a commercially packaged Holy Spirit that moves in understandable ways if you only will squint just right and apply saintly discernment. Her ministry says, “Dang it Bible, you are hard to read. Dang it friends, we can be better towards each other, for each other. Dang it God, this life really stinking hurts sometimes and I DON’T LIKE THAT.”

And also...Her ministry says, “I believe. I hope. I trust. I will love God and all you messy people, and I will not give up that belief, even though it’s hard.”...

Pastor Emmy’s ministry is challenging in a world that doesn’t always want to work very hard at being really different. When she preaches that God’s people must live into the Word, she is speaking first to us who claim ourselves as

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Christian to stop ignoring or defending injustice, poverty, and the pain of our fellow humans. Not for idealism's sake, but for God's sake." And I would say, for our sake, and our neighbor's sake, for the sake of what God wants for us.

We are going to try some alternative worship services this coming year, (not instead of our Sunday morning services, but in addition to, at other times); one for healing, one for transitions, perhaps also leading worship somewhere else in our community. And we might post a sign on our front lawn, and you might find your pastor praying at the picnic table for anyone who comes by and wants prayer every once in a while, maybe even some other places in the community.

Maybe we'll do some re-arranging of how we do confirmation, and we will be adding a few more opportunities during the year for adults to learn & study together. Our goal will be to keep the

good in what we do, and adjust and be open to new things God might offer us to do, and be, and think about, and grow into.

Let's keep talking. Not all of us will agree on everything we do, and yes, we should keep talking & praying about that. But with love & respect, we can continue to work together, and see who God grows us into. This congregation is very generous, and many of you are very engaged in what's happening here. Thank you! The ministry God gives us to be about could be great fun, eye-opening, stretching, —or might be as surprising to us as Pentecost was to the early church. It should be interesting to see!

Thanks for being on the journey together,
Pr. Mary Kaye



LAYETTE NEEDS

WELCA/Sarah Circle members are asking for your support in donating new or gently used:

Receiving Blankets

Sleepers &

Quilts or larger blankets.

Donations can be left at the church office. Thank you!



PENTECOST VOICES

For Pentecost, we'd like the Acts/Pentecost story read in a multiplicity of the same languages at the same time. Anyone out there speak another language, and willing to read on May 15 for worship? German, Spanish, French, Swahili, Hmong, Mandarin? (And yes, if you want to translate into Pig Latin or Klingon, you may do the translation, but I'll want to see those 'specialty' translations May 8 or before.) Let Pr. Mary Kaye know by phone, email, text, carrier pigeon, Caroline. Thanks!

QUILTERS

Quilting meets again **Wed. May 11th at 9:30am** and will meet each 2nd and 4th Wednesday going forward. No experience needed to join this enjoyable group!

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, May 3rd at 9:30am** and will be hosted by Marcielle Rogers. All are welcome!

OFFICE HOURS @ FELC

Monday—Tuesday—Thursday
9:30a-12:30p

Adult CHOIRS SCHEDULE

Tuesday Rehearsals:
3rd, 10th 17th @ 7-8:30pm
Worship Sundays: May 1st, 8th (Mother's Day), 15th (Pentecost), 22nd
**We will be learning pieces from a new communion liturgy found in the ELW following the Psalms (1-150). Starting on Pentecost Sunday, we will be introducing just one selection each Communion Sunday.

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.

04/03 Giving: 2,817.95
04/10 Giving: 4,350.72
04/17 Giving: 2,542.00
04/24 Giving: 2,320.55
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. -3-

May COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet again, **Sunday, May 15th, at 4:00pm.**

Men's BIBLE STUDY

Our Saturday morning Men's Bible at the **Chisago House** each **Saturday morning at 8:00am.** Contact Jerry Rhoads with any questions.



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, Eleanor	05/06
Grover, Donald	05/06
Johnson, Steven	05/06
Johnson, Gail	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 contact the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you.



THE SHARING SHOP

Clothing Event

Friday, May 20, 9am-12pm & 5-7pm

Saturday, May 21, 9am-12pm

Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom

29620 Olinda Trail

651-257-2677

We have gathered gently used spring and summer clothing for men, women and children.

10 cent charge for each clothing item & 25 cents for coats and shoes.

All money is used to purchase new undergarments and socks. All are invited to come and shop and recycle their clothing.

HABITAT Seeking Disabled Veteran

Habitat for Humanity is looking for a disabled veteran in area counties who is in need of housing. Those interested in applying and volunteers who wish to help are invited to contact Habitat's toll free number at 1-866-600-0288 or by e-mailing Habitat at chabitat@ecenet.com or for more info contact:

Wayne Eller

Office: 763-689-0288

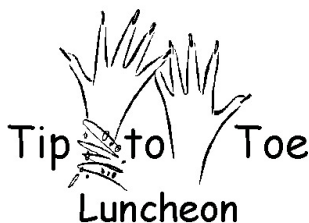
Cell: 651-485-4960

FIRST THANKS

During the month of February Hiram Lodge raised \$6910 which will be matched by Masonic Charities totaling \$13,820 for Family Pathways. Thank you to all those who supported this drive.

Christian Women's Connection

invites women to



11:30 AM

Monday, May 16

Lakes Free Church, Lindstrom

29620 Olinda Trail

\$10 inclusive for the program with luncheon

Special Feature: Sarah Sahnaw on
Signature Style Nails

Speaker: Phyllis Heitke "Beauty with a Purpose"

Music: Pam Theline

Reservations and cancellations are needed. Please contact Mary at 715-554-2330 or Betty at 651-592-7416 by the Tuesday before the luncheon.

Specific questions or considerations?

Contact Dena prior to the luncheon at 715-755-2463

Christian Women's Connection: A Ministry of Stonecroft www.stonecroft.org

First Lutheran Youth

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.*

FLYs chedule

Sunday, May 1: Mission Trip Mtg.

11:30-12:30 for all youth and leaders

Wed, May 4 & 11

Youth Event, 6:30-8:30p

Sunday, June 5, 9am Baccalaureate
Honoring our 4 graduates: Marinda
Carlson, James Goranson, Dalton
Langer, and Ryan Rogers. Each graduate
will receive a handmade quilt from the
church.



20th Anniversary of Together With Friends will kick off in June!

20 years ago this wonderful, summer community ministry was launched and is still going strong! We will be celebrating 20 years of teaching the good news of Jesus as a united body of Christ here in Taylors Falls. If you are 6th-12th grade and wish to be on the Junior Staff -- your orientation day will be Tuesday June 14th 9am-12pm at the Baptist Church.

The first day of camp will be a BIG CELEBRATION WITH A BOUNCY HOUSE AND OTHER INFLATABLE FUN ITEMS! Thursday June 16th @Baptist Church; Adult staff reports at 8:15am; Junior Staff 8:30am; Campers 9-12.

TWF Bible Camp will be at First Lutheran July 12th, 14th, 19th and 21st: We would like to be working ahead to assure that we have enough volunteers to supply & serve a morning snack; and also anyone interested in teaching the bible lessons on those days. There will be a sign up on the bulletin board; or you may speak with Michelle Lynch or Pastor Kevin Schuman (Director of TWF) 651-465-6792

"End of the Year Picnic"!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH

from 6-8:30pm at Kent and Sally
Lundholm's home: 23845 Pomroy Ave.
N. Scandia, MN 55073. **ALL YOUTH
GRADES 5-12 are welcome!** We
especially welcome 5th graders who
will be coming in next year to youth
group as 6th graders. We would love
to have you and your parents join us
so we can get to know you! Michelle
will supply the meat/buns, condiments,
paper supplies, and beverages. It would
be great if some youth families could
bring a fruit plate, veggie tray, chips,
cookies/bars. Please let Michelle know
if you can help with this! We will have
our Annual Mighty Mighty Scoop
Noodle Challenge Game again!

TREMENDOUS THANKS

To ALL who came together this spring to help with Sap Season 2016! It truly was a blessed season with approximately 570+ gallons of pure maple syrup made! This church community is amazing in how we come together intergenerationally to continue to support our youth ministry, church, and community programs through this syrup program. All of your hard work is cherished and greatly appreciated! Thank you so very, very much ~ Michelle Lynch, Youth Minister



PALM SUNDAY & EASTER SUNDAY @ FELC



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, May 15th, 4:00pm in the Library.
FELC Annual Meeting: Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 10:00am

Mission Statement

Gather. Grow. Go.

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

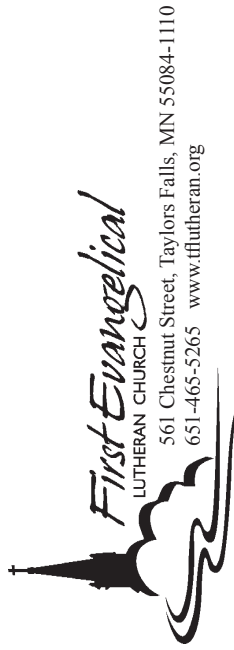
Grow—through the Word of God in faith, understanding, and love with God and
one another;

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.



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US

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