



Gather



Grow



Go

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110 • 651-465-5265 • [www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)

## A Little Experiment

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I'm going to help us begin a try, (an experiment), at doing some of what we do in a new way, to see if we can get it to work in a more satisfying and participatory way for all of us. Some of our ministries are struggling a bit, and you are invited to try a new "apple cart-upset" way of serving in various roles as part of FELC.

Here's how it will work: our active membership has been divided up into 8 or 9 serving groups. Each group will serve for one month, but will be responsible for **recruiting and serving** all of the repeating roles needed that month; ushering, counting, lector, (reading Scripture), setup / serve / cleanup communion, bringing treats/serving coffee after worship, 1-2 people being available to drive someone who might need a ride to worship, serving hospitality for funerals or other special occasions.

We will ask that someone in each group take one turn at being coordinator of that group, to be shifted to someone else the next year—unless you decide it's your calling to continue! And if you think that

calling or emailing people and asking them to serve is too hard, I, (Pr. Mary Kaye) welcome you to make an appt. to sit down and recruit together.

Questions I anticipate: **Why are we doing this?** Because what we're doing now has some holes in it, and this is one way many churches have shifted doing things to involve more people making a shorter term commitment.

**What if I really LIKE ushering all during Lent every year?** If you really want to serve at a particular time, and it's not in "your group's month," you can either call the person coordinating that month & tell them you'd like to do that, or we can keep an ongoing list for each month that we hand to coordinators that says "John Smith really wants to read Scripture every Sunday during Lent."

**What if I go out of town for a certain time every year?** Because of the number of groups, your group won't have the same month every year. You might have August this year, and May next year. But you can certainly volunteer to help other groups when you're here.

*continued on page 2*



**What if I really want to serve in a way that's not on the list?** Cool! Talk to PMK or your group coordinator. We'd love to hear that you'd like to provide special music during the summer, or be a sap volunteer captain in March, or acolyte every Sunday all month. My goal is that every person has something to do, that we all contribute, and we all know our involvement and discipleship matter. Teach your 5 year old to usher; it's a good thing! Gather your senior high guys group to serve coffee & bacon : ) We can serve and learn together in new ways. You want to help write the prayers of the church, or something else I haven't even thought of yet? GREAT!

May God bless our living and serving together!

Thank you for your patience and support as we try to sort out how we can best serve God & God's people in our world. Watch for the new service groups to debut in July or August.

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



During the summer months, beginning June 1st the office will be open 3 (three) days each week:

**Monday—Tuesday—Thursday**  
**9:00a-12:00p**

## **FIRST**COMMUNION

On Sunday, April 19, 2015, Karah Cheryl Ann Klein and Ethan Landgreen came to the Lord's Table for the first time as they celebrated their First Communion at First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

## **LUTHER**POINT

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)



## **CONGRATS**2015 GRADUATES!

Congratulations and God's richest blessings to our 2015 high school graduates: Dustin Valez, Riley Linngren, Jesse Loen, Cody Larson, Bailey Hansen, Tommy Foss.



## **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!

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Mueller, Donald	06/01
Johnson, Isaiah	06/05
Robinson, Mike	06/05
Rogers, Lucas	06/06
Schumann, Kevin	06/07
Dexter, Scott	06/08
Kalisch, Lyndsay	06/08
Anderson, Robert	06/10
Carlson, Matthew	06/11
Goranson, Anna	06/13
Robinson, Seth	06/14
Rue, Ann	06/14
Swanson, Helen	06/15
Lagus, Miriam	06/23
Landin, Dorothy	06/23
Rolla, Kelly	06/25
Clasen, Lindsey	06/26
Smith, Leslie	06/27
Anderson, Chad	06/28
Gustafson, Roger	06/29
Gustafson, Laura	06/29
Huntington, Cachael	06/29
Enebak, Cully	06/30
Jorgensen, Debra	06/30

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

## Peace in the Valley

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION**  
a ministry of stonecroft.org

*Mon • June 15<sup>th</sup> • 11:30am*

\$10.00—inclusive • Chisago Lake Lutheran  
1 Summit Ave. Center City, MN 55012

*Mother-Daughter Tea*  
Wear hats & gloves &  
bring a special teacup!



—Special Feature—  
Panola Valley Gardens

—Music—  
Sophie Timm & Hannah Pullis

—Speaker—  
Jan Ostroot  
*Peace in Any Circumstance*

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.

Please call for reservations at least one week prior.

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

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

## CHOIR THANKS

THANK YOU to Adult & Youth Choir Members for giving of your beautiful talents this past year in edifying our worship services. Your generosity of time and talent is tremendously appreciated!

## SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet, **Tuesday, June 2nd, 10:30.** Geri Swenson 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

05/03 Giving:	\$2,632.75
05/10 Giving:	3,328.14
05/17 Giving:	2,962.59
05/24 Giving:	2,466.60
05/31 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.

## SAPPY T-SHIRTS

Pr. Mary Kaye has some green “Sap-pening” tees that she’d like walking around the community, rather than residing in her office. At last count, there was ONE 2XL, and many smalls, mediums or larges. They are going for \$10 each (to the band Lost and Found), but if you buy more than one at a time, I’ll make you a deal. Talk to me : )

# GOD WATCH

*FELC Staff 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 through the eyes of Caroline Greene.

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## **Caroline Greene**

### **Ministry Coordinator @ FELC**

In 2000, I began working for FELC by publishing the newsletter. I was blessed to become your Ministry Coordinator in 2010. It is rather hard to believe that it has been 15 years.

God has enriched my life greatly through First Lutheran giving me a greater sense of community, providing amazing caring Christian mentors and friends, and...this might sound corny, but I love working in an environment where cracking open a Bible in the middle of the work day is often a requirement.

Growing up in the middle of Afton State Park gave me an immense love for the St. Croix River and God's beautiful creation. I was happy to transplant further up the river valley after attending college at Bethany Lutheran in Mankato and Bethel in St. Paul. Verner and I live on his family farm in Franconia with our 5 (yes, five) children. Our oldest Sarah (18) graduates from CLHS this month. Ethan (16) and Thomas (15) also attend CLHS. Alyse (13) and David (10) attend Salem Lutheran's PreK-8 school in Stillwater where we are also members.



We all work together to help Verner run the farm as he also holds a position with the MN-DNR. When I am not working at FELC, you might find me driving carpool, cultivating some of Leland Herberg's fields in preparation for planting, or raking hay for our cattle while soaking up the sun and dreaming of floating in a canoe down the river.

So, where do I see God at First Lutheran? He has saturated this place with His love! Every work day I meet or speak with His people who truly have a heart for Him and each other. I have grown to feel a part of the First Lutheran community as many of you have shared that love with me by sharing parental insights in raising teenagers, praying with me for FELC's members or friends who are facing struggles, and giving support and love to the staff and volunteers who work so hard to make this faith home exactly that.

Here's my favorite part—FELC like any organization is made up of a bunch of sinful, imperfect, selfish, messed-up people (GASP!)...and **I FIT RIGHT IN**. But, the **BEST** part about FELC is that we can love each other despite all of that—in the same way that Jesus loves us so much that he took the rap for our sins and paid that price on the cross. We get to look beyond the faults and see what Jesus sees—the amazing gift that each member of FELC is. It is a great comfort working in and for a group of people who work through the tough times, forgive the imperfections, and give so much to their community in a reflection of God's love.



# 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.

**June 11, 12 and 13.**

Sign up online at: [www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)  
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE



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

## **BLOOD**DRIVE OPPORTUNITY

American Red Cross has asked if FELC would like to host a blood drive on either **July 13 or 17** (Mon or Fri). It would require 2 sets of 2 volunteers (one to check in and one to serve snacks that are provided by the Red Cross). We can set the hours, for example noon-6 or ?. We have one person willing to volunteer. Please contact the church office if you would be available to assist. The work-load for FELC seems small compared to the benefits the gift of blood provides.

Chisago Lakes Area  
Food Shelf  
10586 Liberty Lane  
PO Box 45  
Chisago City, MN 55013  
651-257-1308

Hours:  
Monday 9 AM - 6 PM  
Tuesday 9 AM - 6 PM  
Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM  
Thursday 9 AM - 6 PM

St. Croix Falls Food Shelf  
2000 US Highway 8  
St Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-2920

Hours:  
Monday 9AM - 5 PM  
Tuesday 9AM - 5 PM  
Wednesday 10:30 AM - 6 PM  
Thursday 9 AM - 5 PM  
Friday 9 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday 9 AM—Noon

## **WELCA**INVITE

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City Women of the ELCA invite you and your congregation to our Annual Salad Luncheon on

**Wednesday, June 10th 2015**

**11am – 1pm**

## **COUNCIL**MEETING

The June Council Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 14th at 4:00pm.**

*family*  
**PATHWAYS**  
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
ONE PERSON AT A TIME

## Amazing Things Going on at FELC!

**Financial ministries:** those who give, count, create budgets, reconcile, help others understand, volunteer on the memorial committee, took the time to read and discuss *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*.

**Worship ministries:** choir, worship committee, Kids on Board, sound tech folks, those who offer ideas for worship, set up, serve and clean up after communion, give feedback on their experience in worship, usher, are hospitable to those around them, helped do skits for Lent, pay attention to the details of lights, offering, font, communion, flowers, candles, banners, garland, crosses, etc, all who faithfully participate in worship, those who invite others to join them in worship, are open to learning new ways of doing things, Sarah Circle for donating Bibles for our children being baptized, the generous & anonymous person who bought children's Bibles for many of our pews.

**Property ministries:** *those who* fix, clean, replace, re-decorate, pick up after others, mow, move snow, attend to insurance needs, teach others to maintain things.

**Prayer ministries:** *those who* are on the prayer chain, hold others up in prayer during worship, pray for the ministries of First Evangelical, pray for others they know, and others they don't, take home the bulletin, and pray for the people & needs listed, pray with their families at home and when they're in trouble, and when they're happy, so their families learn to talk with and listen to God.

**Education ministries:** *those who* come together to learn, prepare to and teach Sunday School, help teach confirmation, prepare & help learning happen in youth group & Life-Group, all the parents who faithfully get their children and youth there, those who participate in Men's Bible Study, the adults who came for Bible study on Sundays, the adults who came to study *Eat This Bread*, those who plan for adult Bible studies in the fall, have committed themselves to a range of faith formation activities, participate in Bible study with Sarah Circle.

**Youth ministries:** *those who* have served as adult leaders in Youth Group, people who came and participated in fun & learning on retreats, parents & other adults who drive, all the people who commit their time on mission trips, people who collect sap, assist in selling syrup, purchase syrup, or share it's availability with friends, family and neighbors, pray for our youth, care about what's happening in their lives, and greet them by name, invite others to youth group, those who send their youth to Luther Point.

**Outreach ministries:** *those who* give to Food for Kids, pack & transport Food for Kids, give to local food shelves, work at local food shelves, drove to Burnsville to serve with the Feed My Starving Children Mega-Pack, and packed food.

**Children's ministries:** *those who* volunteer with Together with Friends, and donate to Together With Friends.

**Leadership ministries:** *those who* serve as our voting members at conference and synod assemblies, pursue new knowledge on behalf of First Evangelical so as to benefit our congregation, serve as church council member, and all the responsibilities that leadership entails.

**Hospitality ministries:** *those who* prepare food, leave the kitchen clean for the next servers, bring snacks and/or serve coffee on Sunday mornings, bring meals when families need them, find a way to help serve lunch at funerals in the middle of busy weeks, donated & served food for Lenten lunches and dinners, can always be counted on to "pitch in".





## *First Evangelical Lutheran Church* **OUR HISTORY**

The fall issue of the Taylors Falls Historical Society's *Life & Times in Taylors Falls* will include FELC history. We will be submitting a timeline, photos of our churches, the self-guided tour booklet for our current church, and a map showing:

- 1) The location of the residence where FELC was organized on 4/10/1860
- 2) The location of our first church
- 3) The current location of the bell from our first church
- 4) The location of the brickyard where the church bricks were made
- 5) The location of the farm where the first church was re-located/re-purposed

If you have church photos or know of other locations to include on the map, please contact Julie Magnuson (651-465-5205, mag3@frontiernet.net).

Facts about our current church building, from our 125th anniversary book:

Plans prepared by A.L. Garlough, St. Paul

Basement work by A.F. Lindquist, member

Cornerstone donated by N.J. Westlund, Center City

Church construction by C.A. Bergren, Lindstrom

Work began immediately after congregation meeting held February 10, 1903

Foundation completed by middle of June, 1903, cornerstone laid June 26, 1903

Steeple raised by September 9, 1903, cross set atop steeple September 29, 1903

First service held the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 20, 1903

Benches, pulpit, and altar in place by Good Friday, April 1, 1904

Dedication held June 22, 1904

Church is built in pure Gothic style. Its dimensions are 90x38x16'h on its sides; from the floor to the middle vault's highest level is 25'.

The sanctuary is 60x35'. The chancel is 16x12'. The steeple is 13x13' and 106' high from the ground.

Cost to build church was \$11,362 plus \$860 donated foundation work

Bell weighs 1,225 lbs

## 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

*June  
Schedule*



YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

### DONATIONS BEING TAKEN FOR THE CASS LAKE COMMUNITY

There is a display in the hallway with several lists of items Youthworks has identified as needs for the Cass Lake Community and mission trip summer program. There is a huge variety of items that are needed. If you have been wondering how you can support this youth mission work and would like to make a donation, please check out the poster with all the various lists and leave your donation in the large gray plastic bin by Sunday June 14th. Contact Michelle Lynch, Youth Minister, if you have any questions. 715-220-2782

THANK YOU to Sally Lundholm, Jake Schaar, and Pastor Mary Kayefor your endless hours of ministry to our youth! And to many numerous parents and other congregational members that give to the youth ministry tirelessly throughout the year. Your love and compassion for these kids is so important to their faith journey and their lives. Thank you!

FINAL MISSION TRIP MEETING FOR ALL TEAM MEMBERS, CHAPERONES, AND PARENTS: **WEDNESDAY JUNE 10th @7pm**. Please meet downstairs in the fellowship hall. MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

Mission Trip Team SEND OFF BLESSING at **9am Worship Sunday June 14th**  
Team members please wear your team t-shirt. Lunch will be served downstairs before we pack up vehicles. The team departs at noon! Please be praying for our team: Riley Linngren, Dustin Valez, Caleb Moberg, Ryan Rogers, Luke Rogers, Chase Lundholm, Dusty Vodenka-Reed, Honey Vodenka-Reed, Kayla Donahue, Don Hansen, Jason Linngren, Rose Anderson, & Michelle Lynch.

Together With Friends Junior Staff Orientation: **TUESDAY JUNE 9TH @ 9AM** held at the Baptist Church in Taylors Falls. Junior Staff Applications Due by June 7th. If you are grades 6-12 you are eligible to be on the Junior Staff. Please see Michelle Lynch or Pastor Kevin Schumann if interested. Together With Friends Bible Day Camp begins Tuesday June 23rd 9am-12pm, Campers will be here at First Lutheran June 30th, July 2nd, 7th and 9th. We will need volunteers to help with setting up, serving, and cleaning up snack time.



First Lutheran Youth  
**2015 YEAR END PICNIC**





# Greetings from Luther Point

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June 2015

**There's Still Time to Register for Summer Camp.** Although the waiting lists for some camp offerings are growing, there is still a good selection of choices for you and your family. Please visit our website and register now for best availability.

**Summer Staff Are All Hired!** We now have a full summer staff and will begin training on May 31. Over half our staff are returning counselors. They bring valuable experience and familiar faces. We also have a great lineup of new counselors. Six of our new counselors were previously a part of B.U.D.D.I.E.S., our high school program for improving leadership skills. I know that each one of them will be great leaders and role models for every camper that comes to camp this summer!

**Luther Point Brings Camp to Churches with Day Camp Program.** Throughout the summer, we have the opportunity to send a group of counselors out to different churches to lead their Vacation Bible School. This is a chance to bring all the fun and enriching experiences of camp straight to kids in their home environment. We are working with twelve churches using this program throughout the summer.

**A Mighty Thank You to Volunteers!** We simply couldn't prepare camp for the arrival of campers without these work weekends - God's Work, Our Hands! Many hands make quick work. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church from Pine City brought a work team of 16 (perhaps a record?) to tackle work tasks and tend the Pentecost Camper Cabin which they clean every year. Many others also joined together to make significant progress on defined work projects such as cleaning cabins, clearing trails, splitting wood, etc... If you or your congregation missed out on these scheduled dates we welcome you to contact our office to find another time to help complete the many projects that still remain.

On the Horizon Sunday, June 14th - First day of Summer Camp (Sign up now for best selection!)

**Sunday, August 9th - End of Summer Celebration Quilt and Craft Auction** This is a day of fun, food, music and fellowship for families of all kinds. Funds raised will support the ongoing ministry of the camp. Please keep this event in your thoughts and prayers and consider contributing quilts, handcrafted items, pottery, woodwork crafts, artwork, theme baskets, maple syrup, baked items (especially pies) and other items you might imagine or make. Visit our website for more details.

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, June 14 @ 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;

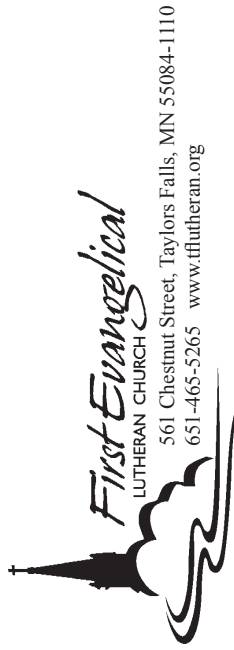
**Go**—as the Holy Spirit sends us to care, serve, and witness;  
For the sake of the world & for the glory of God!

(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.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NOT FOR PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

US

POSTAGE

PAID

TAYLORS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT NO.5