



Growing Disciples

Making FELC a community that affirms baptism: growing disciples of many ages.

Want to hear my least favorite joke of all time? Here goes: how do you get rid of mice in the church?

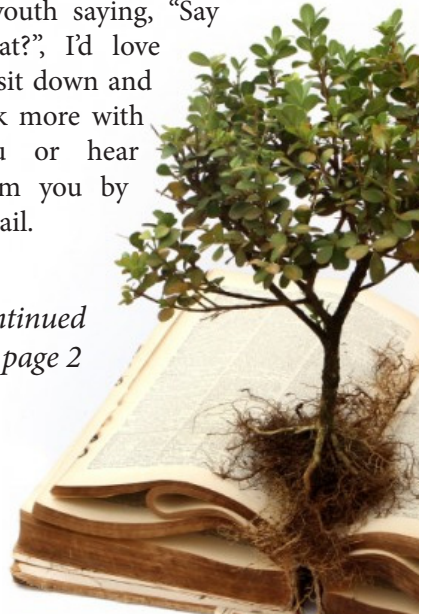
The unfunny answer is “confirm them”! See, it’s a play on the experience of many congregations, where youth who have been confirmed no longer participate in worship, or faith life. It doesn’t happen quite that way at FELC, (thanks to a whole variety of reasons), but we’re going to be doing some things with our confirmation education ministry beginning this fall, in trust that we can move even more strongly against that drift.

We have a number of things happening in our church that have occasioned this move, (new pastor who’s served places that did this well; a great start in what you’re already doing in ministry with youth; many adults who care & have invested in time & service shoulder to shoulder with children and youth; and, interestingly enough, some adults beginning to worship with us, and joining us, whose experiences do not include Lutheran confirmation.)

Because confirmation is not a sacrament in the Lutheran church, but an educational process, it’s our true and earnest intent that people learn something, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in that process.*

So we’re changing some things around, to that end. We’ve gathered together the Bible, Luther’s Small Catechism, some big questions of life and faith, and the faith practices of the ELCA, and will be offering, and hoping to engage YOU, (Yes, even if you’re “already confirmed,”) in discipleship growth that will create opportunities for a lot of different ways to learn, some short term classes, some projects, some independent study, involvement of Sunday mornings, and other times during some weeks as well. If you’re an adult who’d like to learn more, or a youth saying, “Say what?”, I’d love to sit down and talk more with you or hear from you by email.

*continued
on page 2*



Growing Disciples —continued from page 1



Beginning in September, watch for details to come about when specific opportunities will be happening – and if you're an adult or youth who wants to be part of it, and we haven't already talked, please be in touch!

*(To be fair, that's also the earnest intent of our sisters & brothers in Christ who also see confirmation as a sacrament.)



Bring Your Backpacks!

BLESSING of the BACKPACKS
Sunday, Sept 6th @ Worship

THANKYOU

We have lost someone very special...
Thank you for prayers, meals and food, and for sharing our grief.
Family of Ann Holmberg Wilson

As we begin a new school year, we invite students of any age to bring backpacks or briefcases to worship, and any other workers who want to be prayed for as we seek God's presence in all we do.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pastor Mary Kaye (PMK) will be providing a schedule of confirmation sessions. Please watch for updates in bulletins/emails or contact PMK.

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 13th at 4:00pm.**

New Members
WELCOME!

On August 30th First Lutheran officially welcomed into membership:

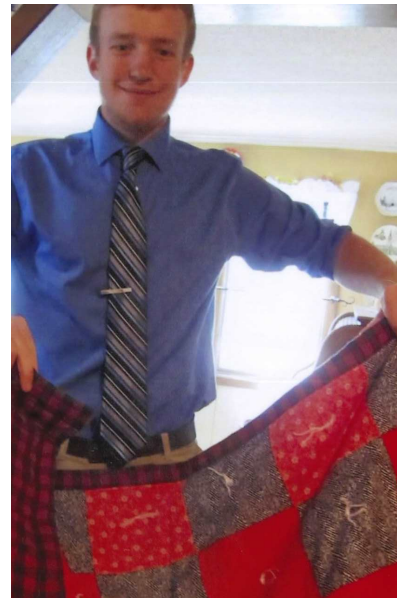
Harriet Peterson

Sydney Paredes

Rebecca Hulden

Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley.



THANKYOU

First Lutheran Quilters,
Thank you so much for the awesome quilt! I really like this quilt and will use it alot! ~Jesse Loen

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet for a brunch hosted at First Lutheran on **Tuesday, September 1st, 9:30am**. All invited!

WELCA North Cluster Gathering

2015 North Cluster Gathering
Saturday, September 26th, 2015
8:30 - 11:30am

(First Ev. Lutheran Church—Rush City)

FALL Bible Study & Learning

Some of us are planning a new form of experiential learning for adult study on Sundays following the regular service, beginning in the last part of September. Talk to Jim Jordal or Jerry Rhoads for more information. We'll have a fuller account in upcoming bulletins.

SEPT BIRTHDAYS



Carlson, Brent	09/01
Johnson, Joan	09/01
Bjorklund, Ryan	09/02
Schultz, Mary Jane	09/03
Landgreen, Ethan	09/05
Olson, Torger	09/05
Landgreen, Jonah	09/06
Lindgren, Donna	09/07
Bisel, Gavin	09/08
Donahue, David	09/08
Lindgren, Timothy	09/08
Miller, Taylor	09/08
Moberg, Caleb	09/09
Smith, Skylar	09/10
Peterson, Deagan	09/13
Magnuson, Sheldon	09/16
Vitalis, Jeremy	09/16
Zollner, Ashley	09/16
Keto, Ross	09/18
Nelson, Luke	09/18
Hansen, Bailey	09/19
Olson, Ingrid	09/19
Berg, Phyllis	09/21
Clasen, Mark	09/22
Searles, Matthew	09/24
Stomberg, Cleo	09/24
Bjorklund, Ethan	09/27
Shelton, Pastor Wayne	09/27
Lunde, Nichole	09/28
Shepardson, Gordon	09/28
Vitalis, Caitlyn	09/29
Landgreen, Joseph	09/30



The school year is soon approaching. Please continue to support Food-4-Kids which each school-year-weekend provides meals for children in need. Contact Deb Rhoads for more information.

Peace in the Valley

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

a ministry of stonecroft.org

Mon • September 21st • 11:30am

\$10.00—inclusive • Oak Forest Center
2824 130th Street, Frederic, WI 54837

—Special Feature—

Marie Berhow
Double Trouble

—Music—

Delane Jorgenson & Laurie
Parker

—Speaker—

Linda Berg
Becoming an Author
Wasn't My Plan.

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.

Please call for reservations at least one week prior.

651-257-4741 (Carrie)

715-554-2330 (Mary)

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

08/02 Giving:	3,359.00
08/09 Giving:	3,957.93
08/16 Giving:	2,402.75
08/23 Giving:	3,163.75
08/30 Giving:	n/a

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please contact FELC Treasurer, Joe Landgreen with any questions or concerns at:

3- 715-417-1429 or jlandgreen.jl@gmail.com.

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.*

Youth Kick Off Wed, Sept. 9th! 6:30-8pm

ALL YOUTH welcome grades 6-12! This is a time and place for you to come and connect with one another and more caring adults while learning about the deep love Jesus has for you! It is our mission to: INVITE youth into the life and love of God; CONNECT youth to a Christian Community; and EQUIP youth to make God-honoring choices and put their faith into practice. We have a lot of fun through worship, music, games, small group discussions, large group teaching sessions, and special events throughout the year. And we ALWAYS WELCOME FRIENDS you would like to invite. Can't wait to see all of you again in a few weeks! ~ Michelle Lynch, Youth Minister 715-220-2782
felcyouthminister@gmail.com

Special Youth of the Valley Gathering again this year! **Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 6:30-8pm** at the Alliance Church on Hwy. 35 in St. Croix Falls. We will be attending as a youth group and would love to have parents also join us that evening.

Youth Ministry looking for more caring adults to work with young people:

This is an integral part of our Christian family here at First Lutheran and it takes a village! Your talents and love are very important in connecting with teens and you can make a difference. Please contact Michelle Lynch (Youth Minister 715-220-2782) to talk with her about how you may become more involved in our youth ministry. We would love to have you!

Adult Choir Rehearsal Resumes - Tues. Sept. 8th, 7-8:30pm

We would love to fill EVERY chair in the balcony this year! Share your beautiful singing voice in worship by joining the choir. We mentor Jr & Sr high singers, too! So if you are in grades 7-12 you are invited to share your talents. This is a fun, energetic group that not only loves singing together, but we enjoy learning together. You don't have to be a "professional". A big part of what I love to do as a choral director is work with the singing voice and teach. It is my hope that people gain more confidence in their singing - plus completely enjoy edifying our worship services. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Lynch. And even if you can only join for a part of the year we also welcome that. Christmas Cantata practices will be starting up Tues Oct. 6th and will include extra community singers as well.

GOD WATCH

Seeing God's Hand at FELC



This monthly column has the goal of continuing our 2015 Lent theme of watching for God among us and our community. We see God through the eyes of our members.

Cheryl (Cheri) Slattengren

I was baptized and grew up in this church. I was raised, along with 6 brothers, on a dairy farm in Franconia township. Our house was originally a hotel by the river, but in the late 1800s it was moved up from the ravines to its present location. Here it became a multi-generation home. My grandparents lived downstairs and we grew up upstairs. I always knew I would be a nurse, so, after graduation from TF high school, I moved to schooling in St. Paul. By age 21 I had my RN, was married and had twin boys. I always have lived in or near Chisago County. I worked in the area rural hospitals and added another son to the mix.

Throughout my career I was always able to see God's hand in people's lives. When I started working in chemical dependency I could see practical steps converting Christianity into action. Another conversion happened at that time and although I had always thought I'd be a bedside nurse, I started facilitating groups and lecturing. Through a long convoluted pathway I ended my nursing career after working some 25+ years at a technical college, -5-

teaching in a LPN program. In the 90's I moved back to my birth home. Now I'm the grandma downstairs and the grandsons upstairs are the 6th generation in this home. (two other grandchildren live in Texas and 2 granddaughters are in Shafer.)

Currently I have an occasional sale in our pole barn. It started with my mom's estate sale in 2006. Her family nickname was Willie. She recycled, refinished, and repurposed items long before it was politically correct to do so. 2 years later I had my cousin's estate sale. With encouragement and support of friends and family we started a consignment sale called Willie's Ways. Watch for advertisements and come visit us.

Coming back to First Lutheran was comfortable. The love I once knew here was again tangible. As I've encountered bumps in life (cancer, divorce, acting president of church council, etc.) I am able to see more clearly the gracious blessings of God in my life and my environment. I believe First Lutheran is a place for me to pass on that love and acceptance to others. My crutch for getting through the tough times is the Serenity prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the difference. ■



Greetings from Luther Point

September 2015

There will never again be a “first” summer for me as the Executive Director of Luther Point Bible Camp. The 2015 full-throttle summer camp experience was truly a team effort. If we could just bottle the faith, endurance, and energy of our campers and counselors we would truly have something valuable beyond measure to place on the auction block for fundraising. I am grateful to all of our staff who sustained the momentum and energy to tend to countless daily details and follow-through. Many thanks are also due to our awesome summer counselors under the leadership of our new Program Director, Aaron Good. It was an emotional and difficult farewell as the counselors completed the summer season. More than 50% of our counselors for 2015 had previously served in this leadership role and their experience served our campers and families extremely well. Many had also been BUDDIES (Building Up Dedicated Disciples Into Experienced Servants). I am encouraged that many counselors (and BUDDIES) expressed an enthusiastic commitment to return for another summer in 2016.

The beautiful items you created and donated to the 2015 Luther Point Summer Celebration and Quilt/Craft/Arts Auction brightened the day and brought some much-needed revenue to the camp. It was an enjoyable day (despite the downpour just as the bidding was about to commence). The ministry that takes place here and the lives that are changed would not be possible without your support. Every effort and contribution makes a difference and for that I am grateful. Our gross revenue for the day was \$15,483 (\$622 more than 2014).

Spend some time to unplug, reconnect, relax, retreat, and play. Plan an easy fall coloring “Get-A-Way” in our affordable and cozy family cabins on Big Wood Lake! You can even bring your boat, canoe, or kayak (and don’t forget fishing gear). These cabins are newly remodeled and fully winterized for year-round use. Each cabin has a kitchen where you can cook your own meals. Please visit our website to learn more.

Come Join Luther Point: Run Down Hunger~10 Mile Run/Walk, September 26, 2015~All proceeds to be used to help fight hunger in Burnett County and surrounding area.

For more info about Run Down Hunger, Retreats or any other events here at Luther Point go to www.lutherpoint.org

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

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

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, September 13 @ 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)

"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.



561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110
651-465-5265 www.tflutheran.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RALLY DAY!
Sunday, September 13th
— • • • —
Sunday School Begins
Sunday, September 20th

NOT FOR PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US
POSTAGE
PAID
TAYLORS FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO.5