

A Year of Abundance!

“And 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

Dear friends in Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem,

It is always fun to share good news at the beginning of the year, and we have some! We applied for, and the Saint Paul Area Synod has chosen FELC for, a Renewing Transformation in Community grant. Our application requested some grant money in order to do some community book studies, which we hope will happen at The Lodge, at Coffee Talk, or here at FELC. We applied for this grant to get some valuable conversation on topics we thought would engage people, us and others in the community.

The three books are Surprise Me, by Terry Esau, a book about prayer and being open to seeing God’s work in our lives; The Dance of Connection: How to Talk to someone when you’re mad, hurt, scared, frustrated, insulted, betrayed or desperate by Harriet Lerner, Ph.D. who helps to see ways to connect with the people we really want to, even when it is hard; Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church views Racism by Drew Hart, which looks at the teachings of Jesus alongside the history of the church, and offers practical suggestions for reconciliation & growth.

The grant we’ve been given will pay for the cost of books, for a fresh fruit snack when meeting at FELC or at the Lodge, and a beverage when we are meeting at Coffee Talk. We have a commitment to doing as many of the studies outside of our walls as we do inside, and all the studies are open to anyone who’d like to have thoughtful, respectful conversation, and learning & growth in any of the 3 topics.

The first book study will be on Trouble I’ve Seen and will meet on Sunday afternoons here at FELC, and will begin Sunday, January 1! Anyone is welcome to join us, but we ask that you read the first 2 chapters of the book, so feel free to invite friends to be in touch with me, as I have extra books already.

The salmon signup sheet that has been posted on our bulletin board gives some
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Good News In Your Neighborhood—*continued from page 1*

info about other time options for groups, or watch for more info. Our hope is to do the next group at Coffee Talk or at the Lodge, and all 3 books are available, though it may take a week to get the books here.

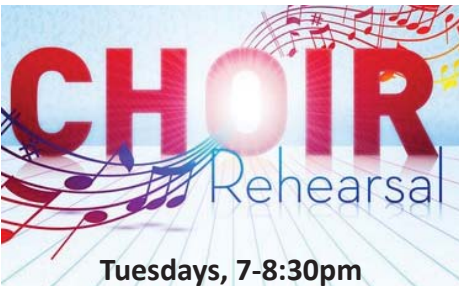
How many groups we're able to do depends on how many people sign up for each group, but the grant should pay for 6+ studies, so we have some exciting learning opportunities.

People of any age, willing to read & discuss, are welcome. Let me know if you have any questions, and we thank the SPAS for their support. It is my hope and prayer that everyone in our congregation will give serious thought to participating in one (or more - you're not limited) of these book studies in the coming year!

Thankful for the newborn Savior, for you, and for chances to learn & grow,
love, Pr. Mary Kaye

January COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet again, **Sunday,
January 15th, at 10:30 am.**



Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

Help to keep the choir alive during the winter months. Share your voice while the snow birds head south. **Choir Meeting, Tuesday, January 3th!**

GIVINGTREE

Thank you to all who gave so generously to families in our community who were in need this Christmas. We were able to give gifts to 12 families. Thank you for blessing our community!

*E*piphany

HOME BLESSING

Celebrate the Epiphany by going to chalk homes and to pray over them and bless them. Meet at First Lutheran at **6:30pm on Wednesday, January 4th. We need additional drivers. Plan/dress warmly enough to be outside most of the evening.**

New Member
W E L C O M E !

Want to join First Lutheran Church? If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley.

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will not meet during the months of January or February. Meetings will resume **Tuesday, March 7th at 9:30am** at the Chisago House.

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.

12/04 Giving:	2,147.50
12/11 Giving:	3,114.10
12/18 Giving:	4,514.00
12/24 Giving:	1,632.25
12/25 Giving:	7,643.00

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.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you receive our newsletter and are not a regular giver, your donation to FELC is welcome to defray printing, producing and mailing costs. But don't worry—we'll send it either way, unless you tell us not to.

Pr.MK



GIVING NOTES

You can help us to save high postage costs by picking up your giving envelopes on the table near the church office.

Please remember to stamp and mail your giving envelopes if you travel this winter.

JAN BIRTHDAYS



Paredes, Sydney	01/02
Vitalis, Peter	01/04
Krueger, Rhonda	01/06
Olson, Duane	01/09
Langer, Isabella	01/12
Alden, Maia	01/13
Halstrom, Coby	01/14
Davids, Bill	01/15
Vodenka-Reed, Patricia	01/15
Johnson, Natasha	01/16
Peterson, Brynna	01/18
Magnuson, Dylan	01/19
Nelson, Timothy	01/19
Kelley, Brian	01/21
Dexter, Breanna	01/23
Larson, Terri	01/25
Olson, Marilyn	01/28
Linngren, Carli	01/31

C *haritable* GIVING CHANGES

President Obama signed the 2017 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>

First Lutheran Youth

YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

JANUARY SCHEDULE

Wednesdays ~ 6:30-8:00pm

- 1/4 “Epiphany Chalk Housing Blessing”
**Receive information on upcoming Winter Retreat to Luther Point Bible Camp Feb. 3-5
- 1/11 Regular Youth Night
- 1/18 Regular Youth Night
****SIGN UP FOR WINTER RETREAT! Permission slips and payment are due.**
- 1/25 NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES;
ADULT LEADER MEETING
7 PM COFFETALK.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RECHARGE EVENT

For those interested in growing in their leadership skills with youth, families, and children. This is a fantastic day with great worship, music, speakers, topics, vendors, lunch on site, etc.....great networking with so many people in youth and children's ministry! *Please contact Michelle Lynch if you would like to go-we can carpool!*

SATURDAY JAN. 7th 8:30am to 4pm St. Andrew's in Eden Prairie. I have 3 spots reserved but we can always bring more with our team. Youth Funds pay for a team to attend.

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.



E piphany

HOME BLESSING

**Youth & Congregation Epiphany
“Chalk Blessing of Homes” Event
Wednesday January 4th 6:30-8pm**

This is a very special event we went out and tried last year with great success and building/restoring of relationships. PMK has 5 sets of Chalk this year, chalk boards to hang on the homes if people do not want their mantles directly written on, plus prayers and blessings for the youth to pray over specific homes/places we choose. We would like to break up into 5 GROUPS so we will need 5 DRIVERS with the goal of chalking 3-4 homes in each group. Afterwards we will come back to the church for a short 15 minute closing worship. What a great way to begin the New Year by blessing others!

Youth Winter Retreat

to Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI
Friday - Sunday February 3-5, 2017
with the worship band 100 WHITE FLAGS!
Sign Up Due Date MUST be by WED. JAN 18th



**Permission slips coming! Friends, and FAMILIES from the Youth Group with younger siblings (Parents must attend with their children) are welcome to join us!
COST: Being determined (due to changes at LPBC) but you can get a start on earning your portion (Maple Syrup Ministry covers a portion) of the payment by **earning the New Creation Scholarship of \$50 by picking up the New Creation Award Blue Form by the mailboxes closest to the main office.** **There are 5 Sundays in January. Only 4 Sermon Notes are required to turn in along with this form to receive your scholarship! Get started January 1st or 8th and you will have them completed. *Turn in the completed form along with your sermon notes or summaries of 4 Nooma Videos by Feb 1st.*

THEME: "You are fearfully and wonderfully made" from this year's scripture focus Psalm 139:1-16 with special emphasis on verses 13-16:

**Oh yes, you shaped me first inside then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.**

**I thank you, High God --your're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!**

I worship in adoration -- what a creation!

**You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;**

You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit.

How I was sculpted from nothing into something.

**Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;
all the days of my life were spread out before you,
the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.**

I hope MANY are able to make this date in February! I would love to fill that retreat center up again! Contact Michelle Lynch at 715-220-2782 with any questions.

Summer 2017

Mission Trip Spots Open!

Spots still available for the Summer 2017 Mission Trip! Contact Michelle Lynch (Youth Minister) at 715-220-2782 or felcyouthminister@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more or would like to reserve your spot. First Mandatory Mission Trip Team Meeting: **SUNDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 11:30-12:30pm**

ADULT CHOIR Schedule

Rehearsals resume in the new year TUESDAY JAN. 3rd 7-8:30 pm.! Jan 3, 10, 17, & 24th. Let's each of us make an effort to personally invite someone new to come and sing with us during this winter season as we approach Lent and the Easter Season! I know it's hard to think about that just on the heels of Christmas - but it sure has been fun having new voices on board! Junior and Senior High students are more than welcome to come! The door is always open for younger singers!

MARTIN LUTHER Exhibit

A once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Martin Luther Exhibit and the story of the reformation that started over 500 years ago. This is the first time ever the artwork and historical objects have traveled outside of Germany. If you would like to join us on Friday, January 13, 2017, we have partnered with Thrivent Financial to receive FREE tickets and bus transportation. We have over 25 tickets available on a first come first serve basis. If you know of any friends (also non-Lutherans) they are invited to join you and us.

Tentative time is: bus loads at 9:15 am arrives at 10:30 am and returns about 1:30 pm to First Lutheran Church in Taylors Falls.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food shelf as a thank you to Thrivent Financial.

Church Office
651-465-5265
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c: 612-532-7083
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felcyouthminister@gmail.com

Roberta Young
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2016-2017 Council/Officers:

Don Hansen—President
Duane Olson—Vice President
Joe Landgreen—Treasurer
Gayle Langer —Secretary
Riley Linngren
Sharna Braucks
Rose Anderson
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, January 15, 10:30 am 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.