



**“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”**

**Micah 6:8**

Dear First Evangelical Lutheran Church community:

As you may know, in the fall of 2014, our church council voted unanimously to change our congregation’s policy regarding marriage, to allow same sex weddings to happen at FELC. Our policy now states that any couple with a valid Minnesota marriage license may be married at FELC.

In a few conversations since then, it has come to Pr. Mary Kaye’s attention that there were not congregational conversations about this change before it happened, and I recognized that there are many differing thoughts about this issue, and many other issues of conflict in our world today. Though the council has changed the policy, and we’ve lived fine with it for more than 2 years, we recognize that this is a chance for us to practice the skill of dialogue (instead of debate) where we both listen and speak, to understand and to be understood. Our desire is for FELC to be able to respectfully converse on divisive issues of all kinds. Our racial justice team, who went to a workshop in October, also felt that this process could be very valuable to us, in our future in talking about other issues.

So, with the assistance of Kim Olstad, who was trained by the the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC), in the “Respectful Conversation Project” we have arranged to have a respectful conversation about this issue. MCC says of this project:

Conversations about divisive issues can sometimes be emotional, pick-a-side and fight-it-out discussions that leave us feeling worse about the people we disagree

*continued on page 2*

## **Good News In Your Neighborhood**—*continued from page 1*

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with, and sometimes worse about ourselves. But there is a way to talk that feels open, honest and impartial, where you can actually be heard and learn about the people with whom you disagree.

Respectful conversations are designed not to change minds, but soften hearts.

Details you will want to have:

Sunday, February 12 ; 1:00-3:30 We begin with a potluck lunch, then gather at tables for facilitated conversations. RSVPs to the church office will be helpful, but not absolutely necessary, (but will allow us to plan for enough of any materials we use). We always have enough food! 😊

We encourage all to participate and be heard. Kim Olstad, (who has preached here before), is an experienced facilitator with the Respectful Conversation Project, and will lead us in this respectful discussion. If you have questions or concerns about this process, you are welcome to be in touch with Pr. Mary Kaye and/or you can read more about the Respectful Conversation Project \* that Kim is trained in, <http://mnchurches.org/respectfulcommunities/respectfulconversations.html>. \*\*though our conversation is not formally in partnership with the MN Council of Churches.

Please note that if you are not able to participate in this discussion and would like to share your thoughts on this issue, you can reach out to Pr. Mary Kaye or to any council member directly. We ask that if you have questions or concerns, you contact Pastor or council directly. Indirect or unsigned feedback or second hand information will not be considered by the Council because, as loving Christians, all opinions will be welcomed and respected.

Thanks for your investment in our growth in talking about important issues in our congregation.

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

### **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.*

# FOOD4KIDS

BACKPACK PROGRAM



In cooperation with Family Pathways, we help to supply 49 elementary school kids (10% of the school's population) with weekend food: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, a vegetable, a fruit and 2 snacks. The cost is only \$2.50 per week per child, and is ongoing throughout the school year.

Contact Deb Rhodes 257-1658

## 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.

1/01 Giving:	8,238.58
1/8 Giving:	5,281.67
1/15 Giving:	1,780.25
1/22 Giving:	1,878.00
1/29 Giving:	1,528.75

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).

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### *Painting Project Scheduled*

We have scheduled Saturday, February 25 at 9 am to give the Fellowship Hall a new coat of paint. The new windows look great and we want to complete the job by brightening up the walls and ceiling with a fresh coat of paint. Bring your rollers, brushes and paint clothes. Lunch will be served at noon. Many hands will make light work of the project. We will also be exploring the options for remodeling the restrooms on the lower level. These are 1940's & 1950's vintage fixtures and we are considering updating these.

Joe Landgreen -3-

## SIMPLY GIVING



Did you know that you are able to direct deposit your giving to First Lutheran? With one simple phone call or a quick form to fill out, your giving can arrive confidentially, regularly, and safely at whatever intervals or amounts that you set. Changing or cancelling the service is as simple as another phone call to the church office. Help us to keep the salaries & utilities paid with your regular giving to our ministries.



## FEB BIRTHDAYS

Berthiaume, Dustin	02/01
Fick, Gordy	02/01
Johnson, Carol	02/01
Flysjo, Miriam	02/03
Gustafson, Gail	02/03
Bonkoski, Dena	02/05
Lamb, Michelle	02/06
Curry, Edna	02/07
Erdman, Joshua	02/07
Parks, Wendy	02/07
Christensen, Dixie	02/09
Anderson, Ian	02/12
Curry, Orval	02/12
Hansen, Scott	02/12
Thorson, Tonia	02/16
Vitalis, Jessica	02/16
Olson, Shirley	02/20
Fors, Fred	02/21
Moberg, Cheryl	02/21
Valez, Shawn	02/21
Vodenka-Reed, Jacob	02/21
Robinson, Joyce	02/22
Donahue, Kayla	02/23
Ashley, Mary Kaye	02/24
Nelson, Leo	02/24
Tangen, Marilyn	02/24
Casterton, Noah	02/26
Lynch, Michelle	02/26
Johnson, Jaime	02/27
Stolp, Irvin	02/27
Valez, Randy	02/28

Please contact the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you.

## OFFICE HOURS

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Monday—Tuesday—Friday  
8:00a-12:00p

*Yes, you can!!!*

On Feb 10, the annual staff appreciation luncheon is happening at Taylors Falls Elementary. For this collaborative community event, our contribution includes 12 ½ lbs. of ham, and one more volunteer to join Carol Elliott-Olson in helping serve the meal. Let the church office or PMK know if you are willing to help honor our education workers!

Our worship planning team (PMK, Michelle Lynch & Pete Lindgren) meet once a month, on a Tues. morning to pray, discern and plan for our congregational worship. If you have any ideas or would like to serve as part of this group, please let any of us know!

Conference assemblies are Saturday, 2/11/17 from 8 am – 12 pm in White Bear Lake. 3 more people (confirmed and older) may join Don Hansen and learn about the churches that comprise the North Conference of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Good snacks and a fun morning-meet friends!

## February COUNCIL MEETING

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Council will meet again, **Sunday, February 12th, at 10:30 am.**

## *Maple* SYRUPTIME

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February means March and the SAP SEASON are just around the corner!! Do you know where your sapping boots and gloves are? Mid-March begins the tapping of the trees! Anyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry! More hands makes light work! Contact Don Hansen 612-201-1086 or Michelle Lynch 715-220-2782 if you would like more information on how to be involved this spring. We would love to have you on board! Mission Trip Youth and their families are encouraged to be involved as much as possible—these funds pay for your June Trip.



## February MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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We meet **every Saturday from 8a-9a.**  
at the Chisago House in Taylors Falls.

*Everyone is welcome!*

*New Member*

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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.

# Youth Winter Retreat

to Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI  
Friday - Sunday February 3-5, 2017  
with the worship band 100 WHITE FLAGS!



100 White Flags + Youth will be leading worship Sunday February 5th @9am. Come join us for some wonderful music and testimonies from the youth what they learned over the weekend and how they came to understand Psalm 139 more personally.

## *Our Scripture focus for the weekend:*

Psalm 139: 13-16 "Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; You formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God -- you are 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.

*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!

You may STILL SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMER 2017 MISSION TRIP TO MINNEAPOLIS JUNE 11-16TH! Reserved spaces will be dropped February 14th. See Michelle for the form to sign up and pay your non-refundable \$50 deposit (can be earned through the New Creation Award!) by 2/14 and you are on the team!

Next Mandatory 2017 Mission Trip Team Meeting:  
Sunday Feb. 19th at 11:30am in the youth room.

## First Lutheran Youth

YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!



### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

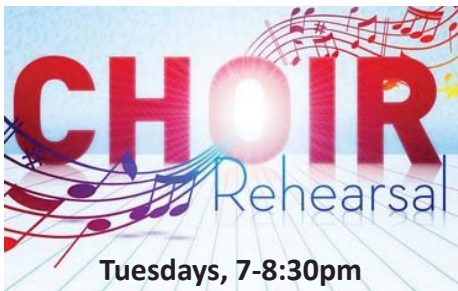
Wednesdays ~ 6:30-8:00pm

2/1 Regular Youth Night 6:30pm "I'm In"  
Session 3 plus retreat planning

2/8 Regular Youth Night 6:30pm

2/15 Regular Youth Night 6:30pm

2/22 NO YOUTH; Adult Leader Meeting  
7pm @Coffeetalk



**Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm**

Help to keep the choir alive during the winter months. Share your voice while the snow birds head south.

### ADULT CHOIR Schedule

Rehearsals: Feb.7th, 14th, 21st, 28th 7pm

#### Service Schedule

2/12 "Our Father"

(w/Mobergs on percussion)

2/19 "Amazing Grace"

2/26 "We Are More Than Conquerors"

(I would love to do this again if possible!)

### SAMARITAN Fund

#### *The Samaritan Fund needs volunteers!*

As you know, the Samaritan Fund is dedicated to emergency assistance to families in need. We provide emergency funds to pay for gas cards, utility bills, groceries, school supplies and occasional temporary living arrangements. We need volunteers to help revamp how we effectively reach out to the community we serve. Do you have a caring heart and a great imagination for how we can re-do our Samaritan Fund program? We are taking volunteers now who are interested in helping us with this important program. **Please contact Don Hansen at 612-201-1086 for details.**

### 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.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank the Congregation for its generosity in response to the December call for special offerings and gifts. We were able to bring our bills up-to-date entering the 2017 new year. *Joe Landgreen*

### CHURCH SCHEDULE

#### **Thu Feb 9 (Pr. Hours: 3p-8:30p)**

**6:30-9p** PMK will be serving dinner for the Respectful Conversations Training.

#### **Fri Feb 10**

**11a-Noon**-Taylors Falls Education Staff Appreciation

#### **Sat Feb 11**

**8a-noon**-Conference Assemblies

#### **Sun Feb 12 (Pr. Hours: 8a-5p)**

9a worship

10:15a - LifeGroup

10:15a - Sunday School

10:30a-Church Council

1p Potluck Dinner & Congregational Respectful Conversation

#### **Wed Feb 15 (Pr. hours 8a-4p)**

6:30p-FLY Event

#### **Sun Feb 19 (Pr. Hours: 8a-2p)**

9a worship

10:15a - LifeGroup

10:15a - Sunday School

10:15a Confirmation

TBD Trouble I've Seen book study

#### **Wed Feb 22**

7p-FLY Leaders Meeting

#### **Sat Feb 25**

**8a-9a** Painting project in Fellowship Hall

#### **Sun Feb 26 (Pr. Hours: 8a-5p)**

9a worship

10:15a - LifeGroup

10:15a - Sunday School

10:15a Confirmation

#### **Wed Feb 28**

**11:30a**-Worship



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

**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**

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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, February 12, 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)

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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.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, FELC Council, FELC Payroll Schedule, Holidays in United States

Feb 2017 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			6:30pm - FLY Event		FLY Winter Retreat @ Luther Point Bible Payday	8am - Men's Bible
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
FLY Winter Retreat 8am - Pr. Hours 8a- 9am - Worship 10:15am - (NO 10:15am - (No 10:15am - Sunday 11:45am - Trouble	(No title)	9:30am - Pr. Hours 7pm - Choir	9am - Pr. at Text 9am - Pr. Hours 9a- 6:30pm - FLY Event	3pm - Pr. Hours 3p-	Taylor's Falls	8am - Conference 8am - Men's Bible
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Time Sheets Due 9am - Worship 10:15am - (NO 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday 10:30am - Council 1pm - Potluck &		Valentine's Day 7pm - Choir	NEWSLETTER Remind Evangelism 6:30pm - FLY Event		Payday	8am - Men's Bible
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
TBD-Trouble I've 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirmat 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday	Presidents' Day	7pm - Choir	7pm - FLY Leaders			8am - Men's Bible 9am - painting
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
Time Sheets Due 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirmat 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday 11:45am - Trouble		11:30am - Worship 7pm - Choir				





## Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 11, 2016

**Members Present:** Joe Landgreen, Riley Linnngren, Pastor Mary Kaye, Don Hansen, Sharna Braucks  
Rose Anderson **Members Absent:** Gayle Langer

### A. Opening Prayer-PMK

**B. Pastor's Report- Ministry Coordinator Position and Recommendation.** The interview team of Don Hansen, PMK and Donna Lindgren reviewed 5 applications, and interviewed 4 candidates. Roberta Young was recommended by the Team for Council decision to hire. Motion by Duane to accept the recommendation of the team and offer Roberta Young the position of Ministry Coordinator at \$13.50 per hour for as many as 20 per week. Joe seconded. Motion carried. PMK met with Emily Goranson regarding her ministry. She is looking for partners to assist in funding her Ministry with Cru.

FELC's grant request from the St. Paul area Synod was approved in the amount of \$2,000 for book study led by PMK. Study details will follow as PMK coordinates meeting times. Funds will be disbursed from the St. Paul Area Synod January 1, 2017.

**C. President's Report-** Revelations software conversion, 900 households would cost \$945/month, we currently have 1500 households in Revelations. This conversion is not affordable until we reduce the number of families in the data base. Currently the data base includes local churches, past visitors, and people who have passed away.

Newsletter mailing costs are \$850/year. Electronic delivery and selected first class mailing would lower costs.

**D. Property Committee-**Joe reported that the estimated cost of snow plowing is about \$100 per time. Bruce has offered to volunteered to continue to do snow plowing. Thank-you Bruce!! The contract cleaning service will be stopped as of December 31, 2016.

Concerns have been expressed about the heat left on at night. Don brought up the use of "Nest" or smart thermostats. These are thermostats that can be controlled by a smart phone. Joe will research the costs of these thermostats. Sharna made a motion to spend as much as \$1,000 to upgrade thermostats with "Nest" thermostats using funds from the Carlyle Klinke bequest. Rose seconded. Motion carried.

Joe will also inquire with Xcel Energy for an Energy Audit of the Church building.

**E. Finance Report-** Giving currently is \$10,300 below budget. We reviewed finances, and we will not be able to pay bills at end of month if giving does not improve. The letter for informing the congregation about the shortfall will be mailed on Tuesday December 13.

**F. Other Business-** Rose raised the question regarding policy covering meal expenses for Funeral. We need to clarify and communicate the food costs to families. The consensus was that food costs will be at the rate of \$4.00/plate when our church provides the lunch.

There was conversation regarding the Nativity Scene. There are not enough volunteers at this time willing to set up and take down this year. The Lefse activity was a success. 14 people participated, Thrivent contributed \$250.00 for new griddles and the advertising costs. Money for the sale of lefse will be deposited to the general fund. Thrivent will also contribute \$250.00 to provide bus transportation to the Reformation activity in January. Thrivent Choice dollars in 2016 to First Lutheran totaled \$874.

**G.** Motion to adjourn, PMK, Riley seconded.

Respectfully Submitted, Don Hansen  
FELC Council President