

First Things

The Newsletter of
First Evangelical
Lutheran Church



561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

651-465-5265 • www.tflutheran.org

Walking with Jesus

by Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley

While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called “the Baptizer,” was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.”
Matthew 3:1-2

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

The world is changing around us - aren’t the leaves beautiful? We love some changes, and welcome visitors to our cities to see! As preparation continues for the lighting festival, for Advent & Christmas, and as the season changes from autumn to that colder time, we enjoy the colors, and steel ourselves for the parts we’re not as fond of.

Some changes happen to us, and some, we cause. And some are somewhere in between. Our beloved ministry coordinator, Caroline Greene, has just left us for a full time job with full time benefits - and we are happy for her! And as we search for our new person to work with and love in this position, things will look a little different around our office for a bit. It’s all good. If you have questions about the search, or how things might change in the office, Don Hansen & Pr. Mary Kaye will be happy to tell you what we know when we know it. (Our application deadline is Nov.

15, so, not much to tell before that.) (Applications available in church office; job description elsewhere in this newsletter.)

When our world changes, sometimes we react with fear - but “Fear not!” is one of the most common admonitions in the New Testament! Things will be different, but even if we cannot imagine how, we are children of a good God who loves us, who is faithful, and who will both lead us into our future, and whose Spirit abides with us constantly.

Look on our bulletin board for information on some book studies/faith formation coming up end December/early January. (Signup is on a salmon-colored sheet.) Listen as the team that went to the racial justice workshop shares about their experiences. Ask questions of our confirmation class as they learn about caring for our Muslim neighbors, and as they experience various worship services and field trips this year, including one on Sunday, November 13, (you can join us; look for the lime green signup sheet.) Take some deep breaths, and look all around

—continued on page 2

Message from Pastor

—continued from page 1

at the abundance of what God has blessed us with in Creation, work, family, health care, friendships - we are so rich!

Our liturgical new year begins at the end of November. What new, fun might it bring us, and what old & cherished traditions will we repeat together again? Look, ask, listen, watch - the Kingdom of God is here!

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

Journeying toward Justice: Privilege and Race in Our Church

October 7th-8th, 2016

PMK, Riley Linngren, Michelle Lynch, Sydney Paredes and myself journeyed to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to spend two October days in a workshop, considering important questions facing the church and the world regarding privilege and race. I was a bit skeptical of the idea of "white privilege" and yet.....not really knowing what it meant. I did not feel that I had any particular advantage or special privileges over others. Growing up in my childhood, with a single mother of 3, an absentee Dad, and living at what I would call low income to poverty levels. Even as I looked back, working throughout high school and college with no grants or scholarships, no one gave me special privileges or a "leg up". I had to work for and earn everything.

Journeying toward Justice: cont

It was difficult for me to see any benefits or privilege to being a white male. As the workshop progressed I got a clearer understanding of what "white privilege" is, what the impacts are, and the unrealized effects, once I listened to the speakers' stories and the information/data they shared. It was still hard for me to accept this idea of privilege and racial justice and yet at the same time, felt guilty about it. I exclaimed, "it is not my fault!" "I did not do this or create these circumstances". For me it was like asking a fish to notice water or a bird to discuss the air.

At the end of the 2 day workshop I came away with a better understanding and wanting more.....more information, more answers and more conversations.

Our team of 5 that attended made a commitment to invite more conversations, defining "white privilege" as a mindset, and to invite those interested to hold conversations surrounding racial justice prior to the Lenten Season.

Each one of us came back with different thoughts and feelings and how this weekend has touched each of us. Be curious!

Blessing and Love,
Don Hansen

NOV BIRTHDAYS



Goetz, Kaomi	11/01
Nelson, Derek	11/03
Johnson, David	11/06
Kaiser, Mariah	11/06
Loen, Janna	11/06
Lamb, Alisa	11/07
Casterton, James	11/08
Olson, Evan	11/08
Lamb, Yvonne	11/09
Vitalis, Mathew	11/10
Goranson, Emily	11/13
Dale, Margaret	11/20
Ellis, Meagan	11/21
Langer, Joel	11/22
Nelson, Jon	11/23
Nelson, Diane	11/23
Vitalis, Garrity	11/26
Rogers, Jeff	11/27
Parks, Annalise	11/28
Kuether, Mary	11/29
Luschen, Cassidy	11/30

Please notify the church office of errors or omissions. Thank you.

BOOK STUDIES/FAITH FORMATION

Look for the salmon-colored signup sheets on our bulletin board detailing a book study to begin in late December/early January. A good time for warm conversation & learning-check it out!

Adult

CHOIR REHEARSAL



Consider joining just for the Christmas season! Cantata rehearsals begin **Tuesday, October 4th from 7-8pm.** We'd love to have you!

Adult Choir rehearses Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm. ALL are welcome to come! We are a very fun welcoming group and would love to have you join us to edify our worship services. Upper Junior high and Senior High students are also very welcome! We love to mentor young singers.



CARING MINISTRY

If you have a calling to care for others, or a desire to expand your skills in Christian care-giving, we are scheduling meetings to support our members with this type of ministry. Please indicate your interest to Pr. Mary Kaye.

REFORMATION REMIX

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS! And anyone else high school & older who'd like to join us. On Nov. 13, we will meet at 2pm to travel to St. James Lutheran in Crystal for a spoken word presentation & some valuable talking together about racial justice today.

Sign up sheet on lime green paper J Return 6:30p

LAYETTENEEDS

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

- **Receiving Blankets**
- **Sleepers (boy & girl)**
- **Receiving blankets**
- **Quilts or larger blankets.**
- **Newborn diapers**

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

SARAHCIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet again, **Tuesday, Oct. 4th at 9:30am** at the Nelson farm. All are welcome!



QUILTERS

Quilting meets each 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 9:30am. No experience needed to join this enjoyable group!

Ministry Coordinator Position

First Lutheran is seeking a Ministry Coordinator, to serve as an assistant to the Pastor and facilitates communication among the Pastor, Congregation and Congregational Council. The Ministry Coordinator communicates all ministry events, compiles and maintains parish files, database, reports and statistics. The position is 15 to 20 hours per week and is supervised by the Pastor. Submit resume to Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley at felcpastor.mk@gmail.com

ADULT EDUCATION **HOOR**

Join us for discussion on a Biblical view of politics and politicians. In this uncertain political climate join us in searching God's word for understanding. Meet in lower-level classroom.

EDUCATIONHOOR

Confirmation

Meets: November 6, 20 and 27at

10:15am — Library

Come as you are and be prepared to learn better how to love your neighbor!

— • —

Sunday School

10:15am

(PreK–Grade 5)

— • —

LifeGroup

10:15am — Youth Room

(9th grade–college age)

LIFE **GROUP**

Life Group is meeting **Sundays, from 10:15-11:15am** in the youth room. We welcome all **confirmed or high school and college aged** youth who are looking for a good place to connect deeper in the Scriptures, prayer, and relationships.

Men's

BIBLESTUDY

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

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.*

FLY Schedule

November Youth Events

W 11/02: Youth 6:30-8pm "No Limits" Session 3

W 11/09: Youth 6:30-8pm

W 11/16: Youth 6:30-8pm

W 11/30: Adult Leader Meeting 7pm;

NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Nov. 2nd: Regular Youth Night: TOPIC: "UPSIDE DOWN" 6:30-8pm Be the friend you want to have:

Have you ever thought something worked one way, only to find it didn't? Like maybe as a kid you thought the bathtub drain was a death trap. Then you learned it couldn't actually suck you into the sewer and that was a game changer. Or maybe you were sure that the closet should be avoided because monsters lived there. Then you learned they didn't. That changed your morning routine for sure. Any time you learn new information, it can turn your world upside down. Jesus had a habit of doing just that with the people closest to Him. He often did or said things that were the exact opposite of what anyone expected. He'd take ideas that everyone agreed with, ideas that everyone would say, "Of course, that's just the way it is," and He'd flip them upside down. He would tell people to do the exact opposite of what they

- ★ **NEW 2017 Summer Mission Trip Location-Minneapolis**
- ★ **2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, (Houston, TX)**

thought. This was especially true when Jesus talked about how we treat people, specifically people who like us, people who don't, and people we don't even notice.

Wednesday Nov. 9th: Christmas Syrup Sales Service Project Night 6:30-8pm Youth and their FAMILIES are invited/ NEEDED to join us for a fun night in the fellowship hall and Sunday School area gift tagging and boxing all of our syrup for the upcoming Holiday Sales. There will be music and refreshments! Syrup will be signed out and sent home the following Wednesday Nov. 16th - just in time for Thanksgiving when youth have a good chance to see relatives and friends; get a jump on Christmas gifts! Our group is getting smaller and we need additional help this Christmas Season to get ready for sales.

SALES ARE GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT AS WE PREPARE FOR NEXT SUMMER'S NEW MISSION

FLY Schedule

Wednesday Nov. 16th Regular Youth Night 6:30-8pm: "Upside Down"

God move in me when it comes to my enemies.

**Signing out of Holiday Syrup Sales Boxes

**DEADLINE: MISSION TRIP 2017 TO MINNEAPOLIS JUNE 11th-16th, 2017 SIGN UP AND \$50 NON-RE-FUNDABLE DEPOSIT DUE. Forms will be made available at church, mailed to youth families, and emailed as attachments.

Wednesday Nov. 23rd: NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES; Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service at 7pm (site TBD) ALL are welcome!

Wednesday Nov. 30th: NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES; Adult Leader Meeting 7pm Coffeetalk

THANK-YOU-

On behalf of my family I would like to take this time to thank SO MANY of you who have been holding Geary and my family in prayer, providing the most delicious meals at just the right time for us, and for the deep Christ-like love this congregation showers on those in need. God is teaching me humbleness in being able to accept this outpouring of love; and I cannot begin to express to you how much your love and generosity has meant to us during this very difficult life transition. This Church Family means everything to me and with my whole heart I thank you for walking beside Geary, Dylan and I in these challenging months ahead. I love you all and cherish your friendship. In Christ's Love, Michelle

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: \$3158.

10/02 Giving:	2465.50
10/09 Giving:	3576.00
10/16 Giving:	2133.03
10/23 Giving:	2090.83

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.

Lighting Festival

Nov 26-Sugar Shack Tours and Syrup Sales, 10am-2 pm

Nov 26- 4:30pm Vespers Service, Methodist Church

Nov 27-Noon-5pm, First Lutheran, Card Making/Faith Talk Jars. Self guided tours of First Lutheran

Church Office
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org



2016-2017
Council/Officers:

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

Vacant
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

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, November 13, @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.” *Psalms 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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 9, 2016

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

A. Opening Prayer-Don

B. Pastor's Report-Pastor provided a confirmation update and new schedule. There are several field trips scheduled. Respectful conversations workshop is planned for conversation about LGBT marriage- Kim Olstad, Volunteer for St. Paul Council of Churches, to lead Sunday afternoon. PMK will schedule by way of a doodle poll. PMK provided update on visitation, pastoral care and prayers for members undergoing hospitalization. PMK attending the Bishop's Theological Conference in Trego October 9-11.

C. President's Report-

Journeying toward Justice, Privilege and Race Workshop Report- Riley Linnngren, PMK, Michelle Lynch, Don Hansen and Sydney Paredes attended workshop this past weekend, This team will be working on following up with a report to the Congregation, identifying action steps, and inviting to action.

Nominees for Council Vacancy—Don will followup with potential candidates

D. Parish Coordinator Position—

PMK-Motion to pay Caroline up to 15 hours in addition to her regularly scheduled hours, Gayle seconded. Motion carried. Coordinator Vacancy will be advertised within and outside Congregation simultaneously. Don will update position description, Advertise in Facebook, tflutheran.org website, Synod website. Newsletter, Bulletin. Salary Range \$12-\$14.50 per hour, 20 hours per week, There will be a three person interview team, The contact person is PMK via church email, felcpastor.mk@gmail.com PMK will talk to Caroline on Monday to send out volunteer request to answer phones and fill in until Parish Coordinator position is filled. Recognition of Caroline on October 16.

E. Property Committee- Bids are being solicited for steeple.

F. Finance Report- Joe

We are paying bills on time. The charges for basement windows are now completely paid off. Weekly summary of giving reports available and located in the office.

G. Undesignated Gift from Estate of Carlyle Klink - List distributed, Defer decision for November meeting.

H. Other Business- Capital Campaign Questionnaire-deferred till November meeting

The grant request from Synod for a Book Study is due by October 31st. PMK will submit proposal for the \$2,000 for this book study.

Respectfully Submitted, Don Hansen
FELC Council President

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Communion 9am - Confirmation Sunday 9am - Worship 10:15am - Adult Bible Study 10:15am - Confirmands 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday School	31 Halloween	1 9:30am - Sarah Circle @ FELC 10:30am - Staff Meeting 11:30am - Worship Team 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Christmas Cantata	2 6:30pm - FLY Event	3	4	5 8am - Men's Bible Study @
6 Daylight Saving Time ends Time Sheets Due 9am - Worship 10:15am - Adult Bible Study 10:15am - Confirmation 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday School	7	8 Election Day 10:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Christmas Cantata	9 9:30am - Quilting Group 6:30pm - FLY Event	10	11 Veterans Day	12 8am - Men's Bible Study @ 9am - Scrapbooking Day
13 POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE 9am - Worship 10:15am - (NO Confirmation) 10:15am - Adult Bible Study 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday School 10:30am - Council Meeting 2pm - Confirmation-	14	15 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE 10:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Christmas Cantata	16 6:30pm - FLY Event	17	18	19 8am - Men's Bible Study @
20 Time Sheets Due 9am - Worship 10:15am - Adult Bible Study 10:15am - Confirmation 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday School	21	22 10:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Christmas Cantata	23 9:30am - Quilting Group 7pm - Ecumenical Worship-UMC-	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26 8am - Men's Bible Study @ 10am - Don's Sugar Shack tours 4:30pm - Vespers Service-UMC,
27 Advent 1 9am - Worship 10:15am - Adult Bible Study 10:15am - Confirmation 10:15am - LifeGroup 10:15am - Sunday School 12pm - card making/faith talk	28	29 10:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Christmas Cantata	30 7pm - FLY Leader Mtg	1 Delivery of Poinsettias	2	3 8am - Men's Bible Study @