FEB 2015

First Things
The Newsletter of
First Evangelical
Lutheran Church

GATHER. GROW. GO.

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

What Does Lent Mean to You?

Lent. For some, it means giving something up (in order to draw us closer to God); meat, cursing, candy, pop, entertainment. For some, it means doing more (in order to help us focus on where Jesus walked, how He lived); being kinder, listening more, giving to hunger or Samaritan needs, Food for Kids, or reading God's word more, an additional worship and prayer opportunity on Wednesdays, (actually, two!)

We're doing some things you've done before this year at First, gathering for a simple lunch or a simple dinner and worship. We're using the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer, one of my favorites, and the music you used for Lent last year. We'll be looking for people who would like to help the meals happen, (watch for signups, or call or email the First office to do so). Wednesday afternoons will still be worship at 11a followed by lunch at 11:45.

And there will be some new things; a new schedule on Wednesday evenings; dinner at 5:30p for those who want to and can; worship at 6:15p; youth group from 7-8, (though we hope the youth will join us at 5:30 and 6:15 as well!)

And our new theme for Lent is ***God-Watch***! We're going to be looking for where we see and hear, feel & notice God's work and presence in our world, in our communities, in our relationships and in our ministry together. Worship will use Holden each evening, but there will be something different each week, so come check it out, and bring friends! And if you want to share some place you're sure God's been, and want to share with the congregation, let Pr. Mary Kaye know. All as we walk with Jesus during his life on earth, and prepare for the joy of Easter!

As we begin Lent, we gather on Ash Wednesday, February 18th for a somber & meaningful remembrance that we live in a world pursuing death while we hold on to hope of the resurrection. Please worship with us at 7pm that evening, and be reminded that "you are dust and to dust you shall return" - But dust with hope!

And where will we be led? To a cross with Someone who loves you more than life itself, to an empty grave and wonderful good news, and who knows what else Jesus might have in store for us next?

P.S. And watch for preschool dance party one night in March-Spirit-led movement!

FEBRUARY 18TH
***Ash Wednesday* Worship at 7:00pm**

Our Lent schedule continues
WEDNESDAYS:
11:00am Mid-day Lent Worship
followed by a simple Lunch
or
5:30pm Simple Supper
6:15 - 7:00pm Lent Worship
7:00-8:00pm Youth Group

An Invitation

How have you grown as a giver, as a sharer, as a steward, as an investor of the time, talents and treasures God has given you? Would you be willing to share some of that experience, verbally, at worship, or in writing, in our bulletins or newsletter? Talk with Pr. Mary Kaye if interested and willing.

ADULTCHOIR...We would LOVE to have you sing with us this winter! Our numbers in the choir drop during the winter and we sure could use your talents! **Jr high and High School Youth are invited to come! We love to mentor young singers!**
If you need help with a ride please contact Michelle Lynch.

ADULT CHOIR &
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Rehearsals: February 3, 10, 17, 24
Tues nights 7-8:30pm
Sing for Worship Services: Feb 1 & 15
100 White Flags Leading Worship Feb. 8th
Kids on Board Leading Worship Feb. 22nd

COMMUNITYPOTLUCK

Taylors Falls Community Winter Potluck Supper will be held on Saturday, February 7th at 6:00pm at the First Baptist Church in Taylors Falls. All Taylors Falls area residents are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a bounty of good eats!

(Sponsored by the Taylors Falls Crime Watch Group)

MUSICALYOUTH...Are you a musical youth interested in helping lead worship? Kids on Board is a group of youth grades 6-12 who help lead worship 1x a month at 9am and usually rehearse on the Saturday of the weekend they lead worship. Do you like to sing? Play guitar? Percussion? Any other instruments? Please talk to Michelle Lynch about joining KIDS ON BOARD to become more involved in leading music during our worship services! We would love to have you! Our next worship service is Sunday February 22nd with rehearsal on Saturday the 21st - most likely 11am.

FEEDthe**NEED** In Our Community

Hiram Lodge #287 is offering again this year to **match funds going to Family Pathways in February**. All personal **checks must be made out to** *Hiram Lodge #287* and in the memo it can say *1 for 1 match*. What a great opportunity to double your donations and continue to feed the hungry in our community!

Sunday Bible Study & Lunch will be offered monthly from Noon-1:30pm, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, and Apr. 26. Bring your own bag lunch or run home for lunch prior to Bible study. Open for all ages, but especially appropriate for Senior High through adult. The first 3 to sign up will be given choice of which area of Scripture to study.

In January, we began with digging into Amos some, watch bulletins for February & March foci: come one month or come every month. Join us in the library after confirmation. (We'll move downstairs if our group is larger than that.)

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT

On January 11th, we welcomed into membership in our congregation, and discipleship following Jesus, Piper Madalyne Ranger, daughter of Joseph & Sara Ranger, whose baptismal sponsors are Aaron D. Sampsel and Katie Pollock. (Piper is also little sister to Harvey, granddaughter to Jerry Johnson and great-granddaughter to Del & Carol Johnson.

As we promised to support Piper in her faith growth, and her parents & sponsors in their fulfilling the promises they made that day, may we also remember the other promises we have made to nurture faith in others, and may God enliven faith thru First Evangelical Lutheran in our daily relationships.

BIBLE STUDY - UPDATE

We had a great discussion on Sunday in our Bible study group and I invite more of you to join us on the next scheduled dates as have been listed in this news letter. We opened our Bibles to the book of Amos, a very small book but does it pack a punch, relevant in the time of the Old Testament in Israel, but it remains relevant and pertaining to us today.

A key verse that I picked out is God speaking to Amos saying "I want to see a mighty flood of justice 5:24 A torrent of doing good".

I personally got the message of how we need to help fight social injustices, here and around the world.

We should help provide the poor and the needy not just food and drink but to help to provide work, education and spirituality. Offer up the invitation to join us in worship, to encourage them to seek out God's word, to give them peace.

The Book of Amos is just a few pages in length, I would encourage you all to read it, it validates why we have our Outreach and Stewardship goals and our church mission statement of Gather, Grow and Go.

Blessings, *Carol Elliott Olson*

GREETER OPPORTUNITY

FELC will be hosting the pastors of our North conference of the Saint Paul Area Synod on **Tuesday, March 17**. Most helpful would be 2-3 persons to assist with greeting, directing folks, hovering over coffee & continental breakfast to be served at **9:00am**. Since your pastor cooks, food prep is not a great need, but if anyone has particular interest in making egg bake, cranberry or blueberry muffins, or donating or procuring orange juice, cantelope, strawberries, raspberries, pineapple or blackberries, your help is most welcome. Talk with Pr. Mary Kaye, please, or drop her an email, text, or note. Thanks!

A dventure & Travel

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION
a ministry of stonecroft.org

Mon • February 16th • 11:30am

$10.00—inclusive • Alliance Church of the Valley
1259 State Road 35, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

—Speaker & Special Feature—
Wildwood Flowers, Osceola, WI

–Music–
Jodie Beyl

—Speaker & Special Feature—
Karen Doyle,
World Traveler and Adventurer

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.
Please call for reservations at least one week prior.
651-257-4741 (Carrie)
715-554-2330 (Mary)

Educator APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Taylors Falls churches invite all TF Educators to a luncheon this **Friday, February 6th.** Lunch served at 11:30. Servers can sign up on the bulletin board for slots which **begin at 10:00am** or call Caroline in the office. First Lutheran is asked to bring 4 dessert recipes (also posted in the hallway). Thank you for supporting our amazing educators!

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

01/04 Giving:	$1,776.75
01/11 Giving:	3,487.59
01/18 Giving:	2,940.66
01/25 Giving:	1,883.00

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.

Save the Dates for Synod Events!

Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders
Saturday, February 21, 2015
St. Mark's, North Saint Paul

Conference Assemblies
Saturday, February 28, 2015
Christ the King, New Brighton

Synod Assembly
Fri., April 24—Sat., April 25, 2015
Prince of Peace, Burnsville

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
Rolla, Bob	02/21
Valez, Shawn	02/21
Vodenka-Reed, Jacob	02/21
Robinson, Joyce	02/22
Donahue, Kayla	02/23
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

Archiving CHURCH HISTORY

The work being done by Bruce Carlsted and Duane Olson has begun by unloading and sorting the storage rooms. Bruce has acquired shelving and have changed some things for efficiency. Unbeknownst to them, they found that a great deal of work on organizing FELC's archiving documents was done by Julie Magnuson at the time of our 150th Anniversary Celebration. We are very thankful to her for her many hours of work.

As we move forward, if there is anyone who has past information that we should know, please communicate it to us. We hope to get information and history of our church completed so there will be easy access to our church history going forward. *~ Duane Olson*

First Lutheran Youth

February Schedule

YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

Wed • Feb 4th • 6:30-8pm: ***Large Group*** Retreat Prep/***Small Group*** Time
Fri • Feb 6th • 5pm ~ Sun • Feb 8th • 10am: ***Youth Annual Winter Retreat*** Luther Point Bible Camp; 100 White Flags leading 9am Worship with Youth on Sunday February 8th
Wed • Feb. 11th • 6:30-8pm: ***Youth Group***
Feb. 12th: Final Count Deadline for Summer Mission Trip
Sat • Feb 14th: "Feed My Starving Children" Meal Packing Event 11am-1pm Burnsville with Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley: Sign up taking place via EMAIL. 20 spots available! Parents needed to help with transportation and packing of meals with their kids!
Wed • Feb. 18th: Youth Invited to Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7pm
Wed • Feb. 25th: 5:30 Supper; 6:15-7:00 Lenten Worship Service; 7-8pm Youth Group

Special **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** Meal Packing Opportunity! Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley has reserved 20 spots for our youth and families to pack meals on SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14TH in Burnsville, MN from 11am to 1pm. Notify Michelle Lynch if you are interested in signing up to join in this amazing service event!

Pastor has shared a link for any others who would like more information about the event or how to participate during the the week preceeding January 14th.
https://www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1111068&supId=400113092&

Greetings from Luther Point

February 2015

FAMILY WINTER WEEKEND! Feb. 13-15 (or through 16th if you'd like!)
Does winter and the post-holiday season got you feeling a bit stir crazy? President's/Valentine's Day is a three-day weekend for many-a perfect opportunity for a short getaway. I personally extend an invitation to families of all shapes and sizes to join my family and me at Luther Point Bible Camp for a fun-filled time away. We will be offering this as informal getaway-no programming, no schedules, just time to relax.

Come enjoy what Luther Point has to offer:
• Cozy accommodations including our comfortable Retreat Center and toasty warm cabins by the lake shore. Each family will have their own space, including their own bathroom and shower.
• Delicious, a la carte meals served in our dining hall.
• Outdoor activities: hiking, snow tubing, cross-country skiing (you will need your own skis), broomball, ice skating (you will need your own skates), ice fishing.
• Indoor activities: board games, quiet space to read or nap, visit, informal devotions and worship.

Please visit **www.lutherpoint.org** for pricing and additional details. Plan on booking an additional overnight to take advantage of the extended weekend and explore the sights and sounds of the great North woods.

OTHER NEWS:
Elementary (3rd-5th Grade) Weekend Camp is coming up - March 13 & 14. Details and Registration information will available online Feb. 1st. Weekend Camps are 24 hours jam-packed with faith, fun, and friends. Our Summer Camp Staff will be on hand to care for and lead the campers in all the great activities.

Summer Camp Registration will soon be Underway! Traditional In-Camp, Horse Camp, Adventure Trips, Family Camp, Grandparent/Grandchild Camp, and much more. Visit our website to view our 2015 schedule and pricing. Updates and information added daily.

Applications are available for our 2015 Summer Staff. A summer spent serving at camp is more than a job - it's an opportunity grow in faith and to help hundreds of youth do the same! Complete info can be found on the Employment page at www.LutherPoint.org

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Mark T. Peters, Executive Director

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

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH of TAYLORS FALLS

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, February 8th @ 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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED