MAR 2016

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

Message from Bishop Lull

"Come, Lord Jesus, be Thou our guest ..." began the prayer my family shared on Sundays, supplanting the simpler prayer we used throughout the week. This Lent, I have resolved to use the fancy prayer every day and at every meal. Why? Quite simply because it reminds me that Jesus is a guest in every place where hunger is satisfied by food.

These days it is as common to take on a faith practice during Lent as it was once common to give up something or to fast during these 40 days. Whether you give up or take on, I invite you to join me in focusing on the needs of the hungry during these sacred weeks. Many resources are available for you to use within your congregation and those can be found at www.ELCA.org/hunger.

Across this synod, we are embracing the challenge of raising $100,000 for the ELCA's Hunger Appeal during Lent. Several congregations have already stepped forward with leadership gifts for this 2016 focus of the ELCA's Anniversary Campaign. The overall goal is to raise $24 million this year to support local, national, and global efforts to eliminate hunger and to build sustainable food supplies for all. I have written a check and invite you as faith leaders to do the same. Congregations can forward their contributions to the Saint Paul Area Synod, noting in the memo that it is for the ELCA Hunger Appeal. As Lent unfolds we will share updates on our progress towards the shared $100,000 goal.

—continued on page 2

LENT

Theme:
SABBATH
The gifts within the commandment.

Wednesdays through March 16th
LENT WORSHIP & MEAL

11:00am Worship
12:00pm Luncheon
—OR—
5:30p Soup Supper
6:15-7pm Worship
7-8pm Youth Group

WORSHIP

Palm Sunday, 3/20 .....9:00a
Followed by Pancake Breakfast

Maundy Thursday, 3/24 .....7:00p
(@ First Lutheran)

Good Friday Community, 3/25 .7:00p
(@ First Baptist)

EASTER SUNDAY, 3/27 .....9:00a

Message from Bishop Lull—*continued from page 1*

Our work to ensure that there are no more hungry neighbors will continue all through 2016. The Rev. Margaret Kelly, pastor developer for Shobi's Table, has been named as our synod ambassador for this fund-raising campaign. She is available to preach or speak to congregations about the ministry of Shobi's Table, one of our synod's innovative mission developments, which builds community through the outreach efforts of a food truck on the eastside of Saint Paul, as well as our common work through the ELCA Hunger Appeal. She can be contacted at shobistable@gmail.com.

Thank you for connecting prayers, actions, and advocacy to reduce hunger everywhere during this Lenten Season. May the Lord, who is both host and guest, be with you in all your efforts, small and grand.

Yours in God's service ---
Patricia J. Lull, Bishop

Job Opportunity

Temporary CUSTODIAN POSITION

Temporary Custodian Position
Position Description / Application
FELC is seeking applicants for a temporary custodian. The position would be no more than 15 hours per week and would include all aspects of cleaning and maintaining the church facilities. Compensation commensurate with experience. Contact the church office for more information at 651-465-5265.

Please submit resume and application by March 15th, 2016 to:
First Ev. Lutheran Church
561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

March COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet again, **Sunday, March 13th, at 4:00pm**.

IMPORTANT!

SAP SEASON

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

is being held immediately after the Wednesday Evening Lenten Service on **Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm** in the sanctuary for ALL YOUTH, PARENTS, and other CONGREGATIONAL FRIENDS / MEMBERS who have helped out in the past or would like to get involved in this wonderful ministry this spring! Sapping is just around the corner! Start finding your boots and gloves and flexing those arms to get ready to haul buckets of sap! Fun times! Hope to see many here for this meeting to kick off our spring! Any Questions? Contact Don Hansen at 612-201-1086 or Michelle Lynch 715-220-2782.

INSURANCE DISCOUNT

55+ Driver Improvement

Do you or someone you know need certification to get a discount on auto insurance premiums? If so you can now get your 4 or 8 hours at home on your own computer. (How neat is that!) No more travel and sitting in a classroom. The certification website: www.mnsafetycenter.org

Thrivent CHOICE GIVING

THANK YOU!

First Lutheran Thrivent Choice® participants chose to direct $503 "Choice" dollars to First Lutheran in 2015. The Thrivent Choice program helps Thrivent members make a positive impact in their communities.

FINANCIAL UPDATE —Mar. 2016

7 month budgeted.....96,534
7 month actual giving.....90,971
7 month net income..... - 5,563
7 month actual expenses....*92,077

*Note that actual expenses reflect lower than average heating expenses this winter and the lack of custodial salary expense.

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.

02/07 Giving:	4,838.45
02/14 Giving:	2,982.14
02/21 Giving:	2,907.55
02/28 Giving:	n/a

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.

Registration Open for Summer Bible Camp

at LUTHER POINT

Register for 2016 at www.lutherpoint.org. If you have any questions regarding the registration process or summer programming, call the LPBC office at 715-689-2347. Contact Michelle Lynch for FELC camp scholarship information.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Halstrom, Michael	03/03
Kirchoff, Taylor	03/04
Eilertson, Darin	03/05
Anderson, Rob	03/06
Landgreen, Benjamin	03/06
Loen, Craig	03/07
Schumann, Jason	03/08
Clippard, Andre	03/11
Miers, Caleb	03/11
Grover, Verna	03/16
Miller, Sarah	03/16
Puffer, Julie	03/16
Loen, Abby	03/17
Krueger, Randall	03/18
Keto, Pamela	03/19
Peterson, Aynslee	03/19
Goranson, Theodore	03/23
Loen, Brenna	03/23
Berthiaume, Darrin	03/24
Carlson, Daryl	03/24
Goranson, Rebecca	03/25
Krueger, Glenda	03/25
Lundholm, Chase	03/25
Vodenka-Reed, Hanichka	03/25
Schultz, Arlen	03/26
Carlson, Marinda	03/30
Hasselquist, Tammi	03/30
Johnson, Delano	03/30
Linngren, Levi	03/30
Johnson, Anna	03/31
Landgreen, Natalie	03/31

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

Palm Sunday

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, MARCH 20th
(following 9am worship)

Proceeds are going to support the youth's 7th mission trip to the Leech Lake Indian Reservation in Cass Lake, MN June 19-24, 2016. We have a smaller group going this year and will need additional help for this breakfast both in the kitchen serving and helping with clean up. Michelle Lynch will be contacting youth families; but if anyone is interested in helping with the breakfast preparation you can speak to Rose Anderson and Joe Landgreen. We would love to have our awesome cooks back again this year!

MILKCRATES

The Food-4-Kids program has many black plastic milk crates available for the taking. Most are stored at the east end of the fellowship hall. Please see Deb Rhoads or contact Caroline in the church office with any questions.

Many Hands MANYTHANKS

Many individuals have stepped forward in the last months to clean the church; Cheryl Slattengren, Julie Magnuson, Stan & Judy Peterson, Jason & Angie Linngren and family, Don Hansen & Sydney Paredes, Joe Landgreen, Karen & Rod Olson and family, Bruce & Kathy Carlsted, Duane & Carol Olson and many others who have joined in to keep FELC clean and welcoming. Thank you!

Men's BIBLESTUDY

Our Saturday morning Men's Bible Study is growing and want to invite you too. Join us at the **Chisago House** each **Saturday morning at 8:00am.** Contact Jerry Rhoads with any questions.

WOMEN'SRETREAT

Milltown Lutheran Church
invites all women to attend
the 12th annual Women's Retreat
Saturday, March 19, 2016
Registration & Coffee 8:15am
Program 9:00am
Cost: $10 (by March 14th)
Theme: Spring cleaning!
Send to: Milltown Lutheran Church
PO Box 39
Milltown, WI 54858
Questions: 715-825-2453

Adult CHOIRSCHEDULE

Rehearsals:
Tuesdays Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22
7:00-8:30pm (normal time)
Special Services:
Palm Sunday, March 20th @9am;
Maundy Thursday, March 24th @7pm;
Good Friday, March 25th @7pm**
**at the Baptist Church;

SPRINGAHEAD!

Daylight Savings Time...spring ahead, Sunday March 13th!

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.

FLYS chedule

Wednesdays, March 2, 9 & 16
5:30p Soup Supper
6:15-7pm Lent Worship
7-8pm Youth Group
Sun 3/20 Palm Sunday
9am Worship
7am-12:30pm Breakfast Prep/Cleanup
Wed 3/23 7-8:30 Youth Event/Speaker
Wed 3/30 NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES
7p Adult Leader Mtg. @ CoffeeTalk

NEXT MISSION TRIP MEETING:
Sunday, March 13th @11:30am

NEW CREATION AWARD: Youth who are fulfilling the New Creation Award requirements are encouraged to help with worship assistance at the remaining 3 services on Wednesday evenings in March.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Sunday March 20th: Mission Trip Youth & Parents plus any additional youth group memebers who are willing to help at the big "PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST"! Cooking usually begins around 7am; tables need to be set up; dishes washed; etc.....this is a big fundraiser for the summer mission trip and we can use all the volunteer help possible! Serving time runs 10-11am; Clean up is usually done by 12:30.

Wednesday March 23rd: We may be going to the Alliance Church to hear a very powerful story from a man named Brian Cole from Stanley, WI. He has spent much of his life behind bars and has since given his life to Christ and has been set free from the sin in his life. He will be sharing his story, and specifically how God has transformed his life. Brian is currently a youth pastor in Stanley and also does a lot of prison ministry. There will be additional activities and youth-led worship before he speaks. The night will run 7-8:30pm.

Wednesday March 30th: NO FLY; Adult Leader's Meeting 7pm @Coffeetalk.

SAP SEASON BEGINS IN MARCH! I am lining up Don Hansen to come and talk to youth and parents on Wednesday March 2nd and go over all the details and reminders of what it takes for us to come together to work really hard as a team this spring.

GODWATCH

Finding God in our community?

Andy and Geri Swenson:

Andy was born April 7, 1924 at his home and raised in the Trade River, Wisconsin area. He went to Orr Grade School and Grantsburg High School. He served in the U. S. Navy (1943-1945) during World War II and served in the European and Asian theaters.

I (Geri) was born at home on December 19, 1928 in the Amery, Wisconsin area and graduated from Grantsburg High School. We went together after he got out of the Navy and were married May 15, 1948 at the "Little Brown Church" in Nashua, Iowa. We started our lives together and moved to Almelund, MN. Five years later we moved to Angel Hill in Taylors Falls. Our kids attended the Taylors Falls School.

Andy worked in the hardware and appliance business for many years which he sold when he retired. I worked for 25 years nursing at the St. Croix Clinic—and loved it. We built Camp Waub-O-Jeeg and had many seasonal campers. We had church services with Pastor Ron Hackman and Pastor Goetz for the campers and the First Lutheran congregation. We joined First Lutheran when we came to Taylors Falls and became active in most things: Charter members of the Couples Club, I taught Sunday School and Bible School. Andy helped with the building of our new addition (education wing).

We went many times to Ecuador on short term mission trips (10 times). We spent time in the Amazon jungle getting involved in mission work there and getting to know the native people. We have also traveled a-lot and have visited Ephesus where we walked the path of Paul and visited his shipwreck site in Malta. We have done many things and are so blessed.

We have been blessed with three children; Linda, Mary Ann, and Wayne; 8 grandchildren and one with the Lord; and 16 great grandchildren. We love our church and all the friends of First Lutheran. When our two homes burned, our First Lutheran people were there for us with helping hands, showers, and love, gifts, and prayers. God has been good to us.

THRIVENTEVENT

"Maximizing Social Security"

Thursday, April 14, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Chisago Lake Luthern Church
1 Summit Avenue
Center City, MN

To reserve your place call:
Chisago Lakes Lutheran
651-257-6300

2016 LENTGIVING

Lenten offerings for this season will be split between Together-with-Friends summer day-camp program and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

SARAHCIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, March 1st at 9:30am** at the Chisago House in Taylors Falls. All are welcome!

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

2015-2016 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 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, March 13, 4:00pm 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.

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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