First Things
The Newsletter of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

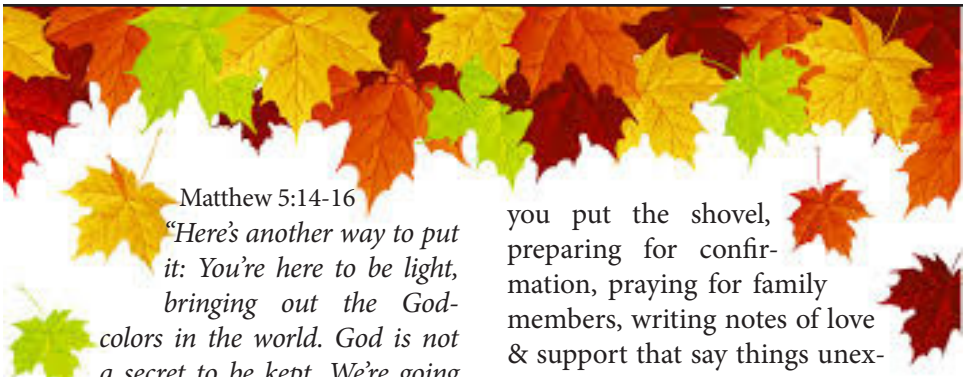
OCT 2015

Gather | Grow | Go

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

Keeping On Keepin' On

Making FELC a community that affirms baptism: growing disciples of many ages.



Matthew 5:14-16

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

—The Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

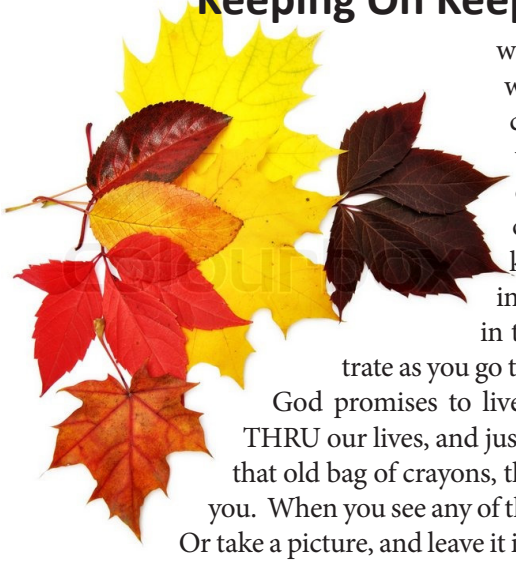
Sometimes we're just in the middle of it, whatever it is. Sitting with a friend, slogging thru the parliamentary procedure, putting the storms on, washing clothes, celebrating weddings, focusing on taking in nutrition, clearing the leaves from the yard, or the cobwebs from our brain. Getting back into the swing of learning, remembering where you put the shovel, preparing for confirmation, praying for family members, writing notes of love & support that say things unexpressed. Job reviews, ministry reviews, planning for upcoming worship seasons, cleaning the church toilets, selling syrup. Do we remember that God walks right there beside us? Do we listen for the Holy Spirit's prompts & encouragements as we go on about what we do?

Surely, we are on a side hill, but do people see into the life of this place beyond the steeple? Do the people on your job wonder why you're so kind and patient? Do your children want to know why you want them to come and learn in Sunday School or confirmation? Does your Bible have dust on it?

I kind of like the idea of us being placed all over to bring out the God-colors in the world! As we look & see the bright colors of the trees, and the leaves as they fall all too fast,

continued on page 2

Keeping On Keepin' On —*continued from page 1*



what might be the God-color our Lord would like to live out thru you in your corner of the world. I don't know what you will do in your social studies class, or with the defiant student you are called and blessed to deal with. I don't know what a difference you might make in how you talk to the person you run into in the bank, or in the kindness you perpetrate as you go thru your days. I am sure of this, though. God promises to live and change things, IN our lives, and THRU our lives, and just like that new box of colored pencils, or that old bag of crayons, the Artist can make beautiful things thru you. When you see any of them, be sure to come & tell me, will you? Or take a picture, and leave it in my office. Thanks for your continuing prayers for your pastor, and for the ministry we share together. Keep on!

Love & blessings, Pr. Mary Kaye

CONFIRMATION & CLASSES

Pastor Mary Kaye (PMK) will be leading confirmation sessions Sundays at 10:15am in the Library during October. Please watch for updates in bulletins/emails or contact PMK.

Confirmation Sunday will be held on **Sunday, October 25th** at the **9:00am** worship service.

October COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet again, **Sunday, October 4, at 4:00pm**.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Tuesday—Thursday
9:30a-12:30p

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet for a brunch hosted by Carol Nelson at her home on **Tuesday, October 6th, at 9:30am.** All invited!

We would love to fill EVERY choir chair this Christmas! Share your beautiful singing voice in worship by joining the choir - even for a season. Jr & Sr high singers also welcome!

Christmas Cantata rehearsals begin Tuesday, October 6th.

An Invitation to a **VETERAN'S** LUNCH with PMK

Tuesday, October 20th at 12n, Pastor Mary Kaye welcomes veterans to lunch at First, and to an opportunity to talk about some of your experiences where and when you served. A simple meal will be served; I am interested in learning, please RSVP for lunch if you're willing to participate. Call the church office at 651-465-5265 or PMK at 612-532-7083.

FOOD4KIDS
BACKPACK PROGRAM

The school year is soon approaching. Please continue to support Food-4-Kids which each school-year-weekend provides meals for children in need. Contact Deb Rhoads for more information.

OCT BIRTHDAYS

Lindgren, Annie	10/03
Kirchoff, Brayden	10/08
Jorgensen, Kelly	10/09
Halstrom, Teresa	10/10
Young, Barbara	10/10
Kittleson, Autumn	10/11
Lundholm, Kent	10/12
Nelson, Brittany	10/12
Streed, Jerome	10/12
Landin-Cooper, Debra	10/13
Clasen, Lucas	10/14
Johnson, Kenton	10/14
Johnson, Brittany	10/15
Parks, Kullan	10/20
Dexter, Cody	10/21
Luschen, Kelly	10/23
Olson, Karen	10/23
Sibilia, Marian	10/24
Johnson, Weston	10/26
Riis, Otto	10/27
Carlsted, Bruce	10/29
Johnson, Jerry	10/29
Alexander, Lexie	10/30
Cluckey, Rebecca	10/30
Eilertson, David	10/30
Heyers, Chelsea	10/30
Caneday, Michelle	10/31
Johnson, Ashlynn	10/31

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.

SAPPY T-SHIRTS

Pr. Mary Kaye has some green "Sappening" tees that she'd like walking around the community, rather than residing in her office. At last count, there was ONE 2XL, and many smalls, mediums or larges. They are going for $10 each (to the band Lost and Found), but if you buy more than one at a time, I'll make you a deal. Talk to me :)

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.

09/03 Giving:	2,803.00
09/13 Giving:	2,571.80
09/20 Giving:	2,525.18
09/27 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.

THANKYOU!

A warm "THANK YOU" to the individual(s) who provided fall floral decorations for the exterior of First Lutheran. The entrances look so much more welcoming!

Additional 'thank yous' go out to all who have given of their time to help with the church cleaning in Tim Nelson's absence. First Lutheran Youth are working to 'adopt' the Sunday School area for cleanings after youth events as well as others. If you would like to adopt an area of the building for a specific date/time, please let us know on the sign-up sheet on the usher stand bulletin board. Your willingness is appreciated!

The Sharing Shop
Clothing Event
Friday, October 16, 9a-12p & 5-7p
Saturday, October 17, 9a-12p

Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom
29620 Olinda Trail
651-257-2677

We have gathered gently used fall and winter clothing for men, women, and children. There will be a 10 cent charge for each clothing item and 25 cents for shoes, boots, coats and snow pants. All money is used to purchase new undergarments and socks. All are invited to come and ship and recycle their clothing.

The Kids Outerwear Fair
at Trinity Lutheran Church
in Lindstrom will be
Thursday, Oct 22 & Friday, Oct 23
from 2-7pm,
and Saturday Oct 24
from 9-noon.

It is for anyone needing help getting coats, boots, snow pants, hats or mittens for their children although we do have some items for adults.

Outerwear will be collected at Trinity from Oct 1 – 21. We accept coats, hats, mittens, scarves, boots and blankets that are clean and in good condition. Donations of money for new items are also appreciated. Contact Bonnie at bonnie@trinitylindstrom.org with questions.

R ecognizing G od's
H andprint

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION
a ministry of stonecroft.org
Mon • October 19th • 11:30am
$10.00—inclusive • Camp Wapogasset
739 Hickory Point Lane, Amery, WI 54001

MEN & WOMEN INVITED!

—Special Feature & Music—
Indianhead Barbershop Quartet
First Choice

—Speaker—
BillSchultz - Author & Speaker
The Gift of Accemptance

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

DIDYOUKNOW?

First Lutheran has several scholarships available for members.

Suzanne Enebak Music Scholarship is available for any member who wishes to take music lessons. The church can make payment to the lesson provider. Tom Enebak has also provided a Clarinet if anyone would like to borrow it for lessons.

FELC also has a **New Creation Award** that can be used for youth faith experiences. Michelle Lynch has more information about this scholarship.

The **Palmquist Seminary Scholarship Fund** also has funds for members who are taking seminary courses towards becoming a minister.

For information on any of these scholarships, please contact the church office or Duane Olson on the Memorial Committee.

Adult BIBLESTUDY

A NEW GROWING EXPERIENCE

Some of us are planning a new "growing by learning" experience to begin September 27. We're hoping to begin something that will appeal---not to everyone---but to those willing to invest some time and effort into such an undertaking.

In essence it will be a shared investigation into current American problems and issues involving politics, economics, social issues, and whatever else fits. It is planned for three parts, something like a triangle, with one pole to be the problem itself, another concerning what God says about it, and finally what history and Scripture can contribute to understanding and dealing with it.

As the problems and issues faced by our country become more pressing, it stands to reason that both history and the Lord might have something to say on the myriad of problems we hear about every day. We will be aided in the historical portion of our learning by various college professors who have put together a commercially-prominent set of Great Courses, each of which equates to an actual college course in various subjects. We plan to (1) Identify and elaborate on the problem under discussion, (2) Listen to what a professor says about its historical aspects, and (3) Discuss a series of questions about what the speaker said, compared to several Scriptures on the subject.

Out of this---we hope---will come new understanding of what makes the news what it is, why we should care, and what role individuals and the church might have. There will be prepared study sheets containing a brief elaboration of the problem or issue, questions for discussion, and several Scriptures for present use and future study.

This will not always be easy---you will have to apply yourself and try to remember to bring your Bible to class. But it should be rewarding in meeting new ideas and viewpoints in a Christian, non-judgmental study.

J*im and Mary Jordal, Jerry Rhoads and others*

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.

Fall Youth Study Series: *Wired*

How many hours are you technologically connected on a normal day? If you were to add up your hours online, your glances at text messages, your streaming music, your perusing social media, your Netflix addiction, how many hours could you count? It's probably a lot. Our culture is obsessed with technology—and with good reason. Technology keeps us connected to each other and to the world around us. Nearly every device we own transmits signals to something else, somewhere else. Why? Because that's how they're wired to function. Our phones, tablets, smart watches, gaming systems—they all are wired to connect to something outside them. And the same is true for us. **We are wired for connection.** It's in our design. As we take a closer look at what Jesus called "the greatest commandment", we discover that **we were wired to have three vital relationships: with God, with ourselves, and with others.** And when those connections are made, everything else begins to function as it was designed.

YOUTH WEDNESDAYS: 6:30-8pm

Join us the first three weekends of each month! ALL YOUTH welcome grades 6-12! This is a time and place for you to come and connect with one another and more caring adults while learning about the deep love Jesus has for you! It is our mission to: INVITE youth into the life and love of God; CONNECT youth to a Christian Community; and EQUIP youth to make God-honoring choices and put their faith into practice. We ALWAYS WELCOME FRIENDS!
Michelle Lynch, Youth Minister (715-220-2782 or felcyouthminister@gmail.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be watching for other youth event announcements in late October or early November. We are in the process of planning a bonfire night and tentatively a lock-in event.

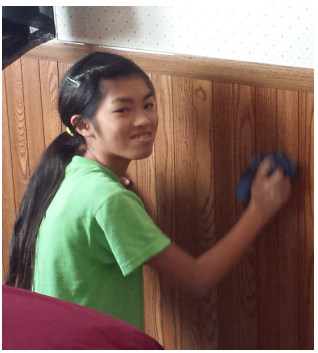
MISSION TRIP 2016!

We WILL be returning to Cass Lake once again next **JUNE 19th-24th, 2016**! Deposit forms are available online or at the usher stand. Please turn in SIGNED forms along with the NON-REFUNDABLE $60 (payable to: FLY) by Wednesday October 7th. Help with the $60 fee is available. See Michelle Lynch for more information.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church
joined together to be a part of the
"God's work. Our hands." Sunday, September 13th, 2015.
Some members handed out water at the state park, others assisted an elderly woman in cleaning her home, to name a few. We can all find meaningful ways of doing God's work everyday, right in our own back yard.



GOD WATCH

Seeing God's Hand at FELC

This monthly column has the goal of continuing our 2015 Lent theme of watching for God among us and our community. We see God through the eyes of our members.

Michelle Lynch

Youth Minister & Choir Director

I was born at home in a small farmhouse outside Highland, WI – delivered by my father, who is an Elementary Phy Ed Teacher! When I was two years old my family moved to Schofield, WI (near Wausau) and that's where I was raised. I graduated in 1984 from DC Everest HS along with 3 sisters and a brother. Both of my parents worked in the DCE school district. I have been married for 25 years to Geary Lynch and have one son, Dylan (20 yrs. old) and and two step-sons, Mark and Sal, who live in Oshkosh, WI. I went to St. Olaf College and graduated in 1988 with a K-12 Vocal Music Education Degree; sang in the St. Olaf Choir for two years and had the privilege to travel to Seoul, Korea to sing in the Olympics Arts Festival in 1988.

I taught in the public schools for 18 years: Berlin HS, St. Croix Falls, and Forest Lake. Currently I am in my 11th year as the Youth Minister and Choir Director of First Evangelical Lutheran Church and I teach 38 private students at home in voice and piano.

I love to swim; walk my dogs Chuck & Coco; golf, and sing! I belong to First Lutheran because I didn't want it to just be a place of "employment". I wanted this to become my church home – my church family. I grew up going to two different denomination churches: Catholic and Lutheran; so being a part of a church is a way of life for me. I have been the Youth Minister and Choir Director here at First Lutheran for 10 years….going on my 11th now. I love being involved with both children and teenagers….and of course, music! I have been involved in leading worship since I joined a guitar group at my dad's Catholic church when I was 16 years old. I've been a part of 8 mission trips; winter retreats, Youthquakes, Lockins, World Vision 30 Hour Famine, Christmas Pageants and Cantatas; Easter Cantatas, Together With Friends Summer Bible Camp; and the maple syrup ministry.

I love seeing God at work in the intergenerational relationships here at First Lutheran. It is such a blessing to see all the opportunities there are for children and youth to connect and learn from the older generations. 11 years ago God really nudged me hard to make a drastic change in my life to leave teaching in the public schools.

God Watch *continued from previous page.*

I had nothing planned except to start teaching privately. In 3 months I was made aware that First Lutheran had these two positions open and they were looking for someone or two people to fill the Youth Manager's position and the Choir Director. I took a huge leap of faith; applied; interviewed and was given both positions. Where I am today looks nothing like where I was 10 years ago. This church has really supported me in my training and education to get my Certification in Youth Ministry through Youth Leadership and I feel I have grown leaps and bounds.

My vision for how God can work through First Lutheran is to continue reaching out to the children, youth, and families in need. There are so many people hurting out there and need to know the love of Jesus Christ through our actions. As we purposely reach out to families we will see our Sunday School grow, Confirmation, and Youth. And at the same time we need to have a vision for reaching the parents of these kids. We live in a world where "busyness" has taken control and God is being pushed to the side because we are filling up our lives to the max with activities and over scheduling.

My favorite Bible verse is the passage of Philippians 4:6-10 I like this entire passage, but especially verses 6-7:

> *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

The pure singing voices of an acapella choir singing "Beautiful Savior" reminds me most of God. Singing that hymn at the close of every concert when I sang in the St. Olaf Choir, clasping hands, I felt the closeness of God like no other moment in my life.

And finally, prayer is my life-line to Jesus! I feel like I am always in a conversation with God from the moment I open my eyes every day. I am always talking to him in my heart – and pray whenever someone or something comes to mind. It is something that comes very naturally to me now. It didn't always. God has brought me a long way in my prayer journey and I am so thankful I have that connection with my Father God. It clears my cluttered mind, eases my anxiousness, and helps me feel connected to my friends and family. Prayer keeps me centered and renews my strength.

I know God led me to First Lutheran and I am absolutely blessed to be a part of this wonderful family!

Sincerely, Michelle Lynch ■

Greetings from Luther Point

October 2015

ANNUAL MEETING CHANGE!
The Board of Directors at their last meeting made the decision to change the date for the Annual Meeting. While the Annual Meeting was typically held in October over the past several years, the Board has decided to move the Annual Meeting to February of 2016. The reason for the change is that it will align with our fiscal year, allow us ample time to complete a full audit of the organization, and provide you with greater detail regarding summer ministries. A confirmed date for the Annual Meeting will be decided at the next Board Meeting. A notification letter of the specific date will be sent out in December. Information will also be posted at www.lutherpoint.org.

Come and appreciate God's creation at the **33rd Annual Cranefest at Crex Meadows** (http://www.crexmeadows.org/) on Saturday, October 10. Our affordable and cozy Pine Cove Family Cabins on Big Wood Lake provide the perfect landing spot for your family to migrate this direction for a weekend of retreat and renewal. Along with migrating birds at Crex Meadows, Big Wood Lake and the surrounding area offer an explosion of fall coloring (Link: http://www.travelwisconsin.com/fall-color-report). I stand in awe of the 30,000 acre wildlife area just north of Grantsburg. I visit this area with my family on a regular basis and we are never disappointed as Sandhill Cranes fly in from their daytime feeding grounds to their nightly roosting grounds. If you can't make it for the Cranefest, you can plan another weekday or weekend span in October and join Crex Meadow's weekly "Sunset with the Sandhills Tours." You can even bring your boat, canoe, or kayak (and don't forget fishing gear). These cabins are newly remodeled and fully winterized for year-round use. Each cabin has a kitchen where you can cook your own meals. See you there!

October Jr. and Sr. High Weekend Retreat moved to early 2016.
We are moving the Jr. and Sr. High weekend to early 2016. This will be a time to get away for a weekend and enjoy a taste of Luther Point during the winter. We will have time for games, worships, Bible studies, and more! This is a great chance to experience camp for those who have never been to Luther Point, or to relive the great memories of summer for those who have. We will also be having an elementary weekend in March as well so stay tuned for more details on both weekends.

The current 2015 Newsletter is posted at www.lutherpoint.org as well as programming and retreat updates.

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, October 4 @ 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