First Things
The Newsletter of
First Evangelical
Lutheran Church

OCT 2016

Gather | Grow | Go

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

651-465-5265 • www.tflutheran.org

by Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley

Walking with Jesus
Preparing to affirm & confess & live our faith.

This (the title above) is what the rite of confirmation is for our youth, an affirmation of their baptism that they now choose to confess for themselves, acknowledging God's claim on their lives, and the gifts God has given them. And I hope you're praying for them, as our entire confirmation education class prepares to do that at some point in their learning & lives. They are full members of this church from their baptism, but they become voting members on the day of their confirmation, and we stand together, following as God calls us. And hopefully, they see good role models for that life of faith in us.

The apostle Paul writes "But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession...."
1 Timothy 6:11-13 (NRSV)

Parents, youth, and anyone else interested— our confirmation education program is changing a bit this fall! Please bring your Bible, an open heart, a notebook that you can take notes into. I and our other confirmation education volunteers will be providing a robust array of ways to grow & learn & deepen our faith in our loving God this coming year, and you are welcome!

If you've been in confirmation, if you haven't, if you'd like to be, and any friends you'd like to have join us, come! Parents, if you have questions or concerns, please come!

Come once, and check it out! (Feel free to share this invitation with friends, friend's parents, neighbors...)

Here are the dates we will be meeting on Sunday mornings at FELC from 10:15-11:30: September 25 (no worries if you missed one), October 2, 16, 23; November 6, 20, 27; and December 4.

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W alking with J esus . . .

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In 2017 confirmation group will meet: January 1, 15, 29; February 19, 26; March 5; April 23, 30; May 21 and June 4. And on Wednesday, December 21, we will be going to a concert in Forest Lake in the evening to hear Agape & Rachel Kurtz. Cost is free will offering.

We will be doing some fun things this year, and you don't want to miss them! Our study to begin the year will be "Loving our Muslim Neighbors". We will visit a Muslim iftar during Ramadan next summer. We'll also be talking quite a bit about worship, and visiting at least 3 other worship services during the year! We'll talk some near the beginning of the year about our confirmation service in October!

We also will be focusing a lot on Martin Luther, as this is the 500th year, 2017, from the posting of the 95 theses (And if you don't know what that means, you will after this year!) We are going to be experimenting with art & video, and music, and other ways to learn, express & nurture faith. I am so delighted that Cheryl Moberg & Don Hansen are helping with this. We will be using & reading our Bibles.

A colleague of mine Pr./Chaplain Chris Duckworth, sent the following to his confirmation families, and with his permission, I am sending it to you, because it speaks so well to my beliefs about confirmation education, and the direction I am going with it:

> "There are no "requirements" for Confirmation. If your kid indicates to me that they want to affirm their faith on Sunday, October 30th, and they came to few, if any, classes or special events throughout the year prior, we're going to bless your child. I never turn a child away from a blessing."
>
> "Will it be meaningful? Whether we have requirements or not, we cannot guarantee meaning-making. We cannot promise a rich experience of faith formation. But the more you and your child participate in this ministry, the more likely you and she will find meaning in it and in the faith we strive to nurture in this ministry. I'm done with Confirmation Ministry as a requirement-driven class."

Now, directly from Pr. Mary Kaye. Does this mean I have no expectations of our youth participating in worship, studying God's word, serving others, loving those you live with? No. **I DO** expect you to do those things, just like you expect me to do them. But my expectations of our confirmands & their parents are the same as for every other member of this community. Everyone in our community should be doing these things—because you will be blessed in the process. If you don't participate, we all lose—but you lose the most.

Call or text or email if you have questions. See you Sunday!
Love, Pr. Mary Kaye

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
Tverberg, Lucille	10/16
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
Alexander, Lexie	10/30
Cluckey, Rebecca	10/30
Eilertson, David	10/30
Heyers, Chelsea	10/30
Caneday, Michelle	10/31
Johnson, Ashlynn	10/31

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

New Member WELCOME!

On Sunday, October 2nd, 2016 First Lutheran welcomed through baptism to the body of Christ:

Lyla Jean-Marie Johnson

We are so glad you are with us!

If you are intersted in baptism, becoming a member, or celebrating another faith milestone, please contact Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley.

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.

KIDS OUTERWEAR FAIR

Outerwear will be collected at
Trinity Lutheran Church - Lindstrom

October 1 - 26

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.

Questions:
Contact Bonnie at
bonnie@trinitylindstrom.org

Distribution will be:
Thursday, October 27 & **Friday, October 28**
2:00 – 7:00 p.m.
✦
Saturday, October 29
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

LAYETTE NEEDS

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!

SARAH CIRCLE

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!

Men & Women Invited!

Christian Women's Connection
a ministry of stonecroft.org
Mon • October 10th • 11:30am

$10.00—inclusive • Wapogasst Bible Camp
738 Hickory Point Ln, Amery, WI 54001

—Special Feature—
Scott Gottschalk
Your Bucket List–Your Legacy

—Music—
Lee and Robert Olson

—Speaker—
Scott Gottschalk
Desperate Moments: The Making of a Transformed Life.

RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS NECESSARY.
Please call for reservations at least one week prior.
651-592-7416 (Betty)
715-554-2330 (Mary)

Beginning October 16th

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 10:15

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.

EDUCATION HOUR

Confirmation

Meets: October 2, 16, and 23
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 BIBLE STUDY

Our Men's Bible Sudy 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.

FLYS chedule

October Youth Events

W 10/5: Youth 6:30-8pm "No Limits" Session 3

W 10/12: 6:30pm Mandatory Parent/Youth Information Meeting

- NEW 2017 Summer Mission Trip Venue

- 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering (Houston, TX)

7:00pm Youth/Parent Service of Transition & Healing

W 10/19: Youth Bonfire 6:00-8pm @ Lundholm's (meet @ FELC)

W 10/26: Adult Leader Meeting 7pm; NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES

All youth grades 6-12 are welcome and invited to come to Youth Group the first 3 Wednesdays of every month ~ and feel free to invite a friend! Our SCRIPTURE FOCUS this year is **Psalm 139:1-16** (NIV and The Message translations). Our first series/topic is called "NO LIMITS"

When you were little, what did you dream about becoming? An astronaut? A ballerina? A professional wrestler? Whatever it was, chances are it was something that you felt was important. Something big. That's the thing about little kids - they dream big because no one has told them that they can't do something yet. They literally have no limits. But it's different when we get older, isn't it? In middle school and high school we start to see the areas we lack for the first time. We're not the most popular or influential. We aren't the most talented. And eventually we start to wonder if we can ever do or be anything significant. The big-dreaming days of our childhood feel long gone under the weight of our all-too-limiting reality. That's exactly what happened in the life of a guy named Moses. With a tough past and not many real skills, he had no reason to believe that his life would be used do anything extraordinary. But after a few encounters with God, Moses' perspective changed completely. He found that, with God, there is no limit to what you can do.

Session 3 10/5: If you want to make your days count, count your days.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The basement window replacement project is nearly compltеded, with most of the work remaining on the indoor repair and trim. Continued thanks to Bruce Carlsted and Don Hansen for the many hours put in rebuilding the window openings and in the repair of the surrounding brick and mortar structure.

Thank you to those who have given to help cover the costs. Only $500 is still needed to complete our obligations.

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.

08/07 Giving:	2941.15
09/11 Giving:	3504.75
09/18 Giving:	3115.75
09/25 Giving:	2604.40

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.

Service of
TRANSITION & HEALING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd
2:00pm

JOIN US AT...

The Lodge of Taylors Falls
1051 Mulberry St, Taylors Falls, MN 55084

Are you going back to college?
...moving to a new home?
Do you have new employment?
...ANOTHER NEW ADVENTURE?
...or new awarenesses about yourself?

You and our community (young, old, and in-between) are encouraged to come and be renewed with God's healing Word, prayer, and alternative Christian music. Bring friends!

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

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

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, October 9, 10:30am 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.

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