NOV 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

Cultivate Thankfulness

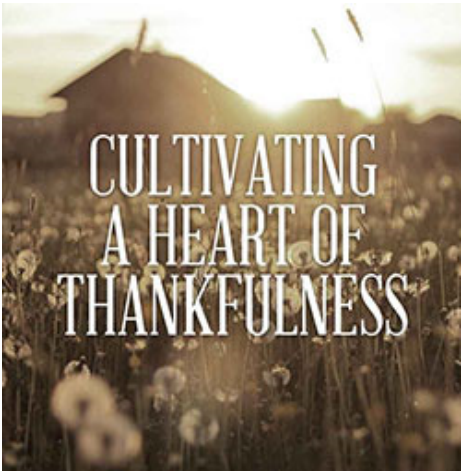
Colossians 3:15-17
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here comes November! This is the time of year we think might get busy, but we've already been quite busy, right? Let us look for the joy in every season that comes upon us, and let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts!

Busy at work? Isn't it great to have a job? Struggling to learn something new? Wow, I'm not too old to learn this technology? Not the funds to buy someone what you want for a gift? A unique opportunity to attend to what the person might really want or need, and surprise them with a frozen box of homemade cookies, or doing their least favorite chore once or more.

Don't want to spend all of Thanksgiving day arguing with contentious siblings? Invite them to join you for the morning at the Mall of America, raising money in the Walk for Hunger—or make plans to go shovel walks together for neighbors in need—or invite someone new to dinner who hasn't anyone to be with—may just change the dynamics enough to improve your day. The beginning of the "gimme" season? Write a note of memories or appreciations for each person you want to share with at Christmas - they'll be saved long after the new socks, or the newest toy...



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Cultivate Thankfulness *—continued from page 1*

As the new liturgical year begins—on November 29th—First Sunday in Advent—or on Thanksgiving—or as Christ the Sovereign Sunday (November 22) comes around, what would be happening in our hearts, in our homes, in our congregation, in our community if we really looked to the Messiah who is the prince of peace to come to us; if we thoughtfully wondered what route our gratitude ought to take, if we tried to yield our lives, and our coffee budget, and our calendars to the One who comes to rule in love?

If I had all the answers, I wouldn't ask so many questions—but some of these answers are found in your heart, (where the Holy Spirit has promised to walk with you) for your life. May our life together as a community of faith testify in word and action to the One who comes. May our hands do God's work. May we continue to reach out in love to people close to us, but also look beyond—or maybe closer, but more attentively—to where else God might show God's love thru us.

Looking to where God calls us,
Pr. Mary Kaye

Colossians 3:15-17 — The Message

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will meet for a brunch hosted at First Lutheran on **Tuesday, November 3rd, at 9:30am.** All invited!

November COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet again, **Sunday, November 15, at 1:00pm**.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Tuesday—Thursday
9:30a-12:30p

CONFIRMATION BLESSINGS

Blessings to our Confirmand,
Spencer Langer,
as he affirmed his faith on
Sunday, October 25th, 2015!

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

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!

Join us as we continue our Christmas Cantata rehearsals each Tuesday.

NOV BIRTHDAYS

Nelson, Derek	11/03
Woeltge, Mark	11/04
Kaiser, Mariah	11/06
Loen, Janna	11/06
Lamb, Alisa	11/07
Olson, Evan	11/08
Lamb, Yvonne	11/09
Vitalis, Mathew	11/10
Goranson, Emily	11/13
Goetz, Diane	11/16
Dale, Margaret	11/20
Woeltge, Garin	11/21
Langer, Joel	11/22
Nelson, Jon	11/23
Nelson, Diane	11/23
Redland, Wendy	11/23
Vitalis, Garrity	11/26
Rogers, Jeff	11/27
Parks, Annalise	11/28
Kuether, Mary	11/29
Luschen, Cassidy	11/30

Please contact the church office if there are any

SAMARITAN OPPORTUNITY

The friends and family of First Lutheran, through the Samaritan Fund have been working to help fund the repair of the home heating system of our custodian, Tim Nelson who has faced serious health issues in recent months. Tim had previously kept his family warm through the winter with wood heat which may not be possible this season. We are nearly to the $5,800 goal to cover the heating system, but would like to assist with fuel as well. Cold weather is setting in. If you would like to assist, please make checks payable to FELC Samaritan Fund with Tim Nelson in the memo line and send to the church. Your continued prayers for strength and healing are also appreciated. Thank you!

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.

10/04 Giving:	3,183.50
10/11 Giving:	3,283.20
10/18 Giving:	1,976.00
10/25 Giving:	2,303.37

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.

Create Your Own Faith-Talk Jar

Want a fun craft project to do with children or friends late on a Sunday afternoon? (A pre-dinner activity!)

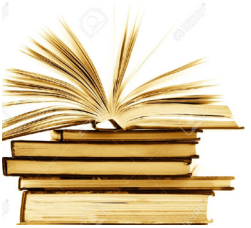
Join us at **4:30 pm** on
Sunday, November 29
at First Evangelical Lutheran Church for a project anyone can do, that will bring fun & conversation about things that matter to you family table for the whole year. Painting, a take-home resource to use every week, at the level of everyone in the family who can talk. (Yes, you can make them for friends, too! Cost for materials, about $2, there will be a donation basket.) Make as many as you like, but please RSVP how many jars you'd like to leave with, so we have enough materials:
Caroline Greene,
parish@tflutheran.org
or (651) 465-5265.

(What you'll leave with, if you want) A canning jar, decorated as you like, containing 52 questions related to faith, God and church, to provoke meaningful conversations among family & friends, young & old.

THANKYOU!

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and concerns during my hospitalization. I expect to be at the Christian Community Home for several weeks yet, am being fitted for prosthetics, and will be learning how to navigate this new experience. Visits and calls welcome.

~ Darlene Mueller



LIBRARYTREASRES

Come visit the FELC Library. We have many books for young and old in many areas of interest.

'Thank you' to Julie Valez for maintaining the library so beautifully!

THANKYOU!

We wish to thank all First Lutheran members and friends for your prayers, thoughts and cards for our grandson Austin's death, for our daughter Becky's summer of dealing with a concussion, and our son Tim's surgery and extended hospital stay. Thank you also for your continued support of Tim as he faces new challenges and recovery. We truly appreciate all you have done.

Thank you and God's blessing.
Leo & Carol Nelson

THANKSGIVING Worship & Choir

First Lutheran will be involved withand you are invited to attend our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service on

Wed. November 25th at 7:00pm

to be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Taylors Falls. Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley will be involved in the service.

A Thanksgiving Community Choir will meet at **6pm** at St. Joseph's Catholic Church that same day to rehearse the anthem "Give Thanks" ~ to be sung during the worship service at 7pm. All singers are invited! Michelle Lynch will teach and direct. Music will be available.

Chisago Lakes Area Annual
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
At Chisago Lake Lutheran
Church in Center City
November 26th
Seating at noon
Serving from 12:30-2:00 pm

The free dinner is hosted by Chisago Lake Lutheran Church with the support of the Chisago Lakes Lions and other area churches. A tasty, homemade turkey dinner will be served for those seeking fellowship this Thanksgiving.

Individuals wishing to donate cash to support the event are invited to contact Louise at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church - 651-257-6300. Any donations not used towards the dinner will be given to our local food shelf. The dinner is free, but reservations are requested by November 23rd.

To make a reservation, please call Chisago Lake Lutheran Church at 651-257-6300. You may leave a message i after office hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

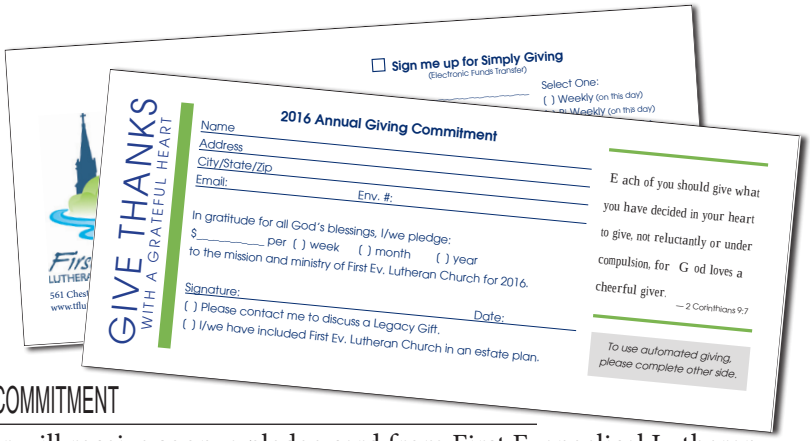
First Lutheran has several scholarships available for members.

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.



GIVING COMMITMENT

You have, or will receive soon, a pledge card from First Evangelical Lutheran. (Some congregations call this an estimate of giving card.) It is your church council's hope that you will prayerfully and thoughtfully fill it out, and return it during worship on the **15th of November** or before, having thought through how you may grow in your giving to our ministry together. This information will help us plan better for ministry needs in the coming year, and to accomplish the hopes we identified at our annual meeting in August.

This would also be a great time to sign up for our automated Simply Giving program. This would allow an electronic funds transfer on a schedule you select, for an amount you want, to make sure your church receives from you regularly. Both automated giving plans, and your pledge card, can be adjusted at any time if your intentions or situation changes, (job loss, etc.), but they are great helps in our congregational stewardship. Thanks for your generous giving to date, and in the future, to share God's love as followers of Jesus, in this congregation, community, and world!

FOOD4KIDS
BACKPACK PROGRAM

We continue to pack weekend meals for our elementary school. Please consider supporting Food-4-Kids, which each weekend, provides meals for children in need. Contact Deb Rhoads for more information. Checks can be made to "Family Pathways" with "FELC Food 4 Kids" in the memo.

MEMBER UPDATES

Our prayers and sympathies are with the families of Leland Herberg and Harriet Peterson who's funerals were held at First Lutheran Thursday, October 8th and Saturday, October 17th, respectively.

LUTFISK UPDATE

The Lutfisk dinner will not be scheduled this year at FELC. Many thanks to those who have so graciously organized and served.

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.

YOUTHWEDNESDAYS: **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)

LOCK IN

YOUTH LOCK IN!!! **Friday, Nov 6, 7pm to Saturday Nov 7th, 8am**.
Invite a friend to join you; help with planning ideas; we are still very much in the planning phase right now – details coming soon!

Ask parents to help out the Youth Ministry Team by being here to help through the night…..I cannot stay up all night long without lengthy health consequences. So if you want to pull this off we will absolutely need parent involvement!

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.

Caleb Michael Moberg

I was born in St. Croix Falls on 9-9-99, but have lived in Taylors Falls, MN my whole life. I am the oldest of the three Moberg kids. This year I am in 10th grade at Chisago Lakes High School. Molly is my sister and Isaac is my brother, they are both in 7th grade at Chisago Lakes Middle School. My parents are Mike and Cheryl Moberg.

My interests and gifts are music and reading. I play the guitar and piano. My favorite author is J. R. R. Tolkein. I was confirmed at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taylors Falls. A lot of my friends come to youth here and I love this church! I have been on two summer mission trips to Cass Lake Indian Reservation, play my guitar and sing with Kid's on Board, attend youth group regularly, and do yard work for members of our church.

(Caleb continued on next page)

Isaac Ralph Moberg

I was born in St Croix Falls on 12-12-02, but I have lived in Taylors Falls, MN my whole life. I am the middle child in the Moberg family, I am in 7th grade at Chisago Lakes Middle School, so is my sister Molly but she is 4 months younger than me. My brother Caleb is a sophomore. My parents are Mike and Cheryl Moberg. My interests and gifts are basketball, cross country, piano, percussion, reading, and video games. I was baptized at First Lutheran and attended with my family since I was born. I attend church because I believe God works through our church. I have participated in the 30 Hour Famine, the Maple Syrup Ministry, attend youth group regularly, and help with worship through ushering and music.

(Isaac continued on next page)

GOD WATCH

Seeing God's Hand at FELC

(Caleb continued from p. 1a)

I feel that I have seen God's hands at work the most on the mission trips. I feel God can work through our church by our people helping those in need both close by and far away.

My favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 16:33, "Though we may role the dice, it is the Lord who determines how they fall."

The sound that reminds me the most of God is the sound of rain. Prayer matters in my life because it gives me peace.

Sincerely, Caleb Moberg ■

(Isaac continued from page 1b)

I have seen God work through our youth because we have fun together, worship together, and help around our community. I like being a part of the group. I see God working through our church by helping those going through tough times.

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Prayer matters in my life because it helps me turn to God when I am having a hard time.

Sincerely, Isaac Moberg ■

If you would like to share where you see God's hand at First with a brief bio please contact the church office or Jackie Bjork at 651-257-4425.

Greetings from Luther Point

November 2015

From: Clair Severson, Chair of the Property Committee, LP Board of Directors.

The fall season is a beautiful time of the year at Luther Point. Though the hustle and bustle of the summer camp season is over, Luther Point looks forward to the "off" season by hosting conferences and weekend retreats for the rest of the year.
This is also a time where some members of our association churches who are in the building trades face shorter work weeks or layoffs as the construction season is coming to an end. May I invite you to become part of the Luther Point ministry by offering your talents to the camp during the winter months?

During my five plus years on the board, I have witnessed the tireless dedication of David Weiss, Fred Albarado, and Steve Bigalk to the facility needs of the camp. There are many other volunteers (nameless to me) who have given their time and talents to the property needs of Luther Point. I thank all of you for the numerous volunteer hours you have given to keep Luther Point running smoothly.

As winter approaches, there are many ways that those in the building trades could help us at Luther Point. Your knowledge would be invaluable to us as a member of our Property Committee. This could be a "seasonal/off-season" term and would not mean you were obligated to serve on the Board or in other capacities. Connections you may have with other workers, contractors, and suppliers would be advantageous. Your willingness to volunteer your time to the "handyman" tasks needed to keep the camp up and running would be greatly appreciated.

I cordially invite you to become part of your churches outdoor ministry at Luther Point by sharing your gifts with us. For more information, please contact Rev. Mark Peters, Executive Director at Luther Point Bible Camp. 715-689-2347 ext. 105 or Mark@lutherpoint.org

Best Regards,
Clair Severson,
Property Committee, Luther Point Board of Directors

NOTICE - Annual Meeting Change! The Board has decided to move the Annual Meeting to late February of 2016. A notification letter of the specific date and time will be sent out in December. Information will also be posted at www.lutherpoint.org

The 2015 newsletter as well as programming and retreat updates are posted on our website.

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, November 15 @ 1pm 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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