



FOCUS

...on life at First

August 2017

Our Mission:
To experience and celebrate God's amazing grace together.

Our Vision:
First Evangelical Lutheran Church will share God's amazing grace by welcoming, growing and serving in Christ's name, enriching the well-being of all.

Upcoming Events:

Labor Day
 September 4
 Church office will be closed

Rally Sunday & Church Picnic
 September 10

Harvest Dinner
 November 5

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Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran,

Grace and Peace be with you!

These first weeks of our time together have flown by. Summer was just beginning and now attention is beginning to shift for staff and volunteers alike toward plans for fall. My attention, as your Lead Interim Pastor is on helping you get ready to call your next pastor. This is generally referred to as the "call process". To best facilitate this process, we will be putting together a Transition Team to guide the process. This team will consist of 6-8 people who will work to help discover God's will and purpose for the future of this congregation. The transition team will work and then recommend to the church council when it is time to elect our call committee. They will also put together the Ministry Site Profile, which is the equivalent of a "missional resume" of our congregation. To put together the Ministry Site Profile, the Transition Team will be asking for input from the entire congregation. The work of the call committee will then be shortened - they will receive and study the Ministry Site Profile and then interview potential candidates for call and recommend the candidate of choice.

I have utilized a transition team in other congregations and find that it works very well. It allows more people to be involved in the call process while also allowing the work to be spread out so it is not such a big job for one group. It also helps the congregation take greater ownership of the process as we move forward. At this time, your church council is raising up the names of people who they feel might be good to serve on this team. In August, Pastor Terry, Bev Anderson, and I will begin to contact people to serve on this team. I invite your prayers for the working of the Holy Spirit as we step out in faith together.

Finally, as we said goodbye to Vicar Tim last weekend, we are also living into yet another transition here at First Lutheran. I am serving you $\frac{3}{4}$ time and Pastor Terry is serving you approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ - so between the 2 of us you have one full-time pastor. Additionally, neither one of us live in Beaver Dam. We will all need to make adjustments for this to work well. We are hopeful that this will also provide opportunity for individuals to get involved in new ways. We have also not yet hired a new Christian Life Coordinator so as we head toward fall we are not entirely certain how all of this will look quite yet. Times of transition, while being times of uncertainty and change, can bring about many positive things and I am excited about the ministry and the mission and the people that God has here at First Lutheran!

God's Blessings,
Pastor Joy

Grace to you, and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Most of the sermons I gave this year started with the above statement or a version of this greeting. The Apostle Paul begins most of his letters in the new testament the same way. Thirteen of the 27 books in the new testament; almost half, begin with grace and peace.

So, why is this important? Well, as we all begin a time of change within the life of First Lutheran, I think it is important to recognize that we are a church of grace and peace. As I look to leave and you all look forward to changes in pastoral leadership, you can lean into God's grace as you anticipate who will be your next lead pastor and congregational ministry coordinator. As you feel the impatience of waiting and wanting the process to move faster, remember that God gives you a promise to bring you peace. This same God will never leave you or forsake you!

As my family and I prepare to leave (by the time you read this we will be gone) I am so conflicted. Part of me wants to stay here, in the welcoming arms of this congregation who has lifted me up with the same people who have embraced my family. You have taught me what pastoral ministry is and confirmed my call to become an ordained pastor. I don't want to leave you! But, because of you, I am filled with God's grace which allows me to leave you here and continue on this journey.

The other part of me yearns to move forward. I can't wait to continue my education at Wartburg Seminary nor can I wait to become an ordained pastor. I can't wait to arrive at a new church and begin pastoring them, leading a new congregation in old and new ministries that can further God's mission of reconciling God to the world! There is so much grace and peace in this.

I remember just a year ago while driving to my new home being filled with fear, doubt and anxiety, wondering if I could do this pastoring thing. When I arrived, I saw the kingdom of God, the good people of First Lutheran, rising from my lawn, welcoming us with their open arms that were soon filled with boxes helping us to move in.

As I prepare to leave you all, I am constantly reminded of how day after day this representation of the kingdom of God was revealed to me through you. You were patient with me, let me fail which led to success, which then led me to confidence and the knowledge that I have been given the gifts to be a pastor. You all have blessed our entire family and have taught me the meaning of what being a pastor really is.

Words cannot express the love and appreciation we have for this congregation. God bless you all!

***May the Grace and Peace of God which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus.***

~ Vicar Tim



From the Parish Nurse....

For those of you with children going off to college or to start a career think about having a medical power of attorney (P.O.A.) sometimes called a power of attorney for health care put in place. When your child reaches the age of 18 in Wisconsin you can no longer make health care decisions for them and medical information cannot be shared with you without an active P.O.A. in place.

Here's a scenario, your child at college has an accident in which they receive a brain injury that leaves them unable to communicate. You cannot make decisions about the care they will, or will not, receive. You cannot have them transferred to a facility near where you live or your home. This would take a court action, unless a medical P.O.A. is in effect. Here is a link to a site that has a power of attorney form you can fill out:

<https://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/professional/hcw/resources-2/hcw-advance-directive/>

It is also a good idea to be a co-signer on any bank accounts they may have. This will give you access to the funds in case of emergency without having to go to court. Stop by to visit with me in Friendship Hall on Sunday, August 13th between 9:00 and 10:30.

Wishing you good health and happiness,

Bob Gionet, RN, BSN, Faith Community Nurse, First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Are you a PAL? The Beaver Dam Unified School District is looking for volunteers to participate in the Partners Are Learning program.

Partners Are Learning volunteers are matched with a student in grades 3 – 8 and meetings are held twice each week at the student's school.

If you would be willing to share a bit of your time (2 – 40 minute weekly sessions-before or after school) with a youth that could use assistance in completing homework, learning math facts, reading and being a PAL please contact Barb Loeffler-Hartl at 920-887-5300 ext:1135 or loefflerb@bdusd.org for more information or with questions.

If anyone had a child baptized in recent years and have not picked up their baptismal water droplet, they can be picked up in the church office from 9am – 4pm daily.

Droplets are put on the banner in the Sanctuary during the baptism and are available anytime after the baptismal remembrance ceremony in January each year. This is a beautiful reminder of God's blessings.

Friendship International is collecting 2018 calendars to include in their next shipment to Liberia. You may drop off your calendars during normal church office hours through October 15th. Thank you for your help!

Gathering Table

It is with extreme regret that we will be discontinuing the Gathering Table group.

The many meals shared either in homes or restaurants have been very positive events, with those participating coming away with a whole new group of friends they may not have known otherwise.

A program like this cannot survive without our hosts and hostesses. We want to give our utmost thanks to all who took this on. We know it wasn't always easy, but you did it.

We realize that many may be disappointed, but at this time we feel it has run its course. We have given it our all, and it would be our hope that someone would give it a try again in the future.

*Joyce Balliette
Gail Hope Henschel
Eileen Bonnett
Jan Laabs*



Scrapbookers & Crafters

Summer is almost over and it's time to get back into crafting and scrapbooking! On Saturday, September 23rd, we will again be crafting and scrapbooking in Friendship Hall from 9am-4pm.

We would like to invite anyone that is interested in doing scrapbooking or any craft to join us. For more information call Bev Helsdon at 920-928-2718.

If you'd like to attend, please call Bev prior to September 18th to reserve a table. This is a good time to get lots done and have a relaxing day. Hope you can join us!

Evangelism Run/Walk

The Evangelism Committee has been hard at work to organize their annual fun run/walk. The event will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the event kicking off at 8:30 a.m.

What a wonderful event to do with the whole family!!

The registration form can be found on the website and Facebook page. You can also register online at firstfunrunwalk.racewire.com.

Didion Mill Donation

Thank you so very much for those that contributed to the collection we received for the victims of the Didion explosion in Cambria. We were able to send them \$730.00! It is wonderful to see neighbors helping neighbors.

We will continue to pray for those who have lost family members as a result of that day and ask that God give strength to all impacted.

EQUAL EXCHANGE

Please look for our coffees, teas, chocolate and olivewood when you are at church.

We will have our display in Friendship Hall again on August 26th.

If you need something during the month at another time, just contact the church office at 920-885-4497.

Thank you!



We are approaching that time of the year when we again draw attention to Lutheran World Relief. Lutheran World Relief helps people all around the world who are in need or who have suffered from some disaster. Now we give each member at First Lutheran a chance to help in some way.

School supplies are on sale in July and August so we are stressing school kits. A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption caused by war or natural disaster. School kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in refugee camps. A school kit may also be used in adult literacy classes.

Each school kit is to include the following (any items you provide are appreciated):

- Four spiral notebooks (8 ½ x 11) containing 70 sheets
- One blunt scissors – not pointed
- One ruler – with centimeters on one edge
- One pencil sharpener
- Five unsharpened new pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel pens)
- One eraser, approximately 2 1/2" long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons



These items can be brought to church any time and placed in boxes in Friendship Hall marked Lutheran World Relief. There is no need to enclose the items in a kit.

Let's all work together and make this a great year for Lutheran World Relief.

JUNE/YEAR TO DATE FINANCE SUMMARY

Church finances are on budget for the first six months of the year and for the month of June. Member offerings exceeded budget in June by over \$9,000, while expenses were lower than budget by over \$3,000. On a year-to-date basis, the income over expenses total is above \$30,000.

Operating expenses are lower than anticipated and reflect reduced costs associated with the minister transition and reduced expenses in most other expense categories. In the upcoming two months, the capital project of floor replacement in the narthex is anticipated to be implemented and completed under budget.

Since January of 2017, over \$37,000 has been paid on the mortgage with a remaining balance of \$614,718, including the loan to ourselves from restricted funds. This total exceeds budgeted expectations and is a positive trend.

Thank you for supporting the church through your generosity during the first half of 2017.

Joe Bonnett
Treasurer



JUNE/JULY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

⇒ *Transition Team* is building to start the ground work on our pastoral needs for calling a new pastor. Once this team has completed the ground work it will be sent to the Synod.

This step needs to be completed prior to establishing a Call Committee enabling the synod to better match our needs to the gifts of a new pastor.

⇒ *Congregational Life Coordinator* – a team is in the process of identifying the skills we are seeking to fill this position. A job description has been written and is being reviewed to seek potential candidates.

⇒ *Finances* both for the month and year are on the positive side with expenses remaining below budget.

⇒ *Church Committees* – we don't have an accurate record of who is serving on which committee or who the lead/contact person is for many. If you are on a committee that meets infrequently, or feel the office has incorrect or missing information, please let the office know.

We are compiling a list of committees, members, lead/contact persons, dates/times each meets and synopsis of what the committee is all about. If you are contacted please be as helpful as you can to get our records up to snuff!

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we continue this transition to grow our ministry here at First.

We are thankful for the support and look forward to new and exciting opportunities for all.



ARE YOU PREPARED TO RETIRE WITH CONFIDENCE?

When it comes to retirement, we all have dreams. Give yourself the best chance of making yours a reality by carefully preparing a plan ahead of time. We can develop a strategy or strategies to help address concerns you may have about inflation, outliving your savings and the effects of negative market performance.

To learn more about how we can help, contact us today.

Duane E. Ohland CLU®, LUTCF, FIC Financial Associate	Michael J. Kapets FIC, CLTC® Financial Consultant	Dan L. Yagodinski FIC, CLTC® Financial Associate
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Beaver Dam Office

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Thrivent Financial representatives are licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. They are also registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.
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New Member Information Dates Set

As fall approaches, we look at all the events that take place when the start of the school year begins. One of the things that takes place is the beginning of our autumn new member sessions. We are looking forward to welcoming new members into our First Family.



Our sessions will take place at 9:15am on Sunday between the early and late service. These are not difficult classes which require homework, memorization, or confusing paperwork. This is an opportunity for new members to get to know the love of Christ through the actions and activities that take place here at First Lutheran Church.

There will be three sessions that last about an hour. They are on September 24th, October 8th, and October 22nd. New members will be welcomed on October 29th at the 8:00am service. A special coffee fellowship will take place following the service with the new members being our honored guests.



A HUGE THANKS again to all who helped in any way with our annual rummage/bake sale. Our rummage sale storage rooms are really starting to fill up. You are able to drop off your items for 2018 rummage sale NOW. If at all possible, please have your items packed in a box for ease in stacking. We do have a limited number of boxes available for you to use to box up your items. Tax donation slips are available in the church office.

We will not accept older TV's and entertainment centers, computers/monitors, used carpeting or large exercise equipment. Baby/Child car seats need to be current (please check the date on the car seats for expiration date). Lawn mowers or snow blowers can be dropped off the week of the sale **only**. All items should be clean and ready for the sale.

Items for the Christmas Bazaar can be dropped off also but please mark your box that to note if it is Christmas Decorations or new items for gifts. The bazaar sale date is December 2, 2017 and ALL of the spaces are rented!

At our rummage/bake sale wrap up meeting, it was decided that we will be running the food stand for the Christmas Bazaar. We are looking for members to help prep the food, plan the menu and serve our guests. The funds from the food stand will go in an account for purchasing electric signage in the future. We will be replacing the signage that is currently being used.

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS BAZAAR DATES FOR 2017

October 30 and November 20 @ 10:00 a.m. -
Preplanning meetings

November 27-29 - Set up in the nursery for the
White Elephant Room

November 29 - Make cake boxes

November 30 - Mark the floors

December 1 from 8 to 3 - Crafters/Vendors will be
setting up. Bake sale will be prepped and priced

December 2 - Bazaar runs from 8-2

IMPORTANT RUMMAGE SALE DATES FOR 2018

April 6 - Stage Tables

April 7 - Bring up items from storage room

April 9-11 - Sort and price items

April 12-13-14 are the sale dates

Wall Dogs Event a Success

Once again, First Lutheran Church showed their willingness to step forward and reach beyond our church family to help our community become a better place. We are so fortunate to have willing hands when there are times of need.

It all began over five years ago when the Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce put our city's name on a waiting list to have the Wall Dogs, a talented group of wall mural painters, engaged to come and decorate the walls of our city. In that five year time frame, many people were involved in planning for the coming of over 175 artists to find housing, be fed meals, provide transportation, and general welfare of the artists. Some artists came from as far away as Australia to paint. There also needed to be advertisements, wall preparation, permits, sketches etc. to complete a project of this magnitude. As a church, we were asked if we would be willing to take on a task that would be beneficial to this event. We chose to feed the artists for a noon lunch on June 30th.

Our Thrivent Team volunteered to fund the cost of the lunch. With that accomplished, the next step was to find people to help prepare and pack the lunches. All of the meals were held at the Watermark so there was a need to transport the box lunches to the meeting place. All of these things were accomplished by our members. The following groups and individuals helped to accomplish our goal: Thrivent Financial, Margaret Luck, Jack and Bev Helsdon, Mary Kahler, Dr. Mark Moldrem, Lois Bennett, Dorothy Ebert, Lois Knaack, Joy Ganske, Vicki Strom, Marje Nelson, Julie Flemming, Eileen Brower, Tom & Mary Irwin, Dusty Szewczyk, Sandy Baird, Jan Laabs, The Afternoon Youth Room kids, and our Blessed Bakers who supplied the delicious chocolate chip cookies. We used this opportunity as an evangelistic tool by including the common table prayer and the contact information for First Lutheran Church.

Thank you all for the amazing outpouring of your time and talents. You did God's work with your hands and it showed!



Become Involved!

A new school year is upon us. Check out all of the neat opportunities we have to offer here at First. Whether you prefer music, bible study, or helping others, there is something for everyone. These groups will begin their fall meetings soon!

ADULT FORUM

Informational/educational gathering where people can learn, socialize, and become informed about their church, their lives, and their community.

Sessions will resume this fall. Please look for more information to come outlining speakers and other presentations.

BEFRIENDERS

Our Befrienders offer caring support for shut-ins and for those who are going through difficult life transitions such as divorce, loss of a loved one, family health issues and unemployment. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate in the future. Remember to mention to the Pastor or the Parish Nurse, any changes you note in the people you are caring for.

CALICO CUTUPS

This is a group of women who **meet the first Tuesday of every month at 9:00am** to do crafts. If you are working on a craft, come join us! If you have something you started years ago, come join us! If you want to just bring a coloring book and crayons, come join us! We celebrate each other by visiting, laughing and creating. We typically go out to eat together afterwards for more fellowship. **Our next meeting will be held on September 5th.** We will NOT meet in August.

DARTBALL

This group meets every Monday September-March at 7:00pm. Try your luck at a game of dartball and enjoy treats and conversation. For more information please contact Marlin "Spin" at 887-2895.

MANPOWER

This group of gentlemen work on strategic planning for additional men's ministries here at First. The group meets monthly to discuss new ideas. The group would like to work with any interested youth in the future as well. You can attend our meetings at any time. We are looking forward to growing our work here at First!

FIRST ACTS

Our drama team is always looking for adults and teens to participate in dramas for church services. If interested, contact Dorothy Ebert at 920-885-3960 for more information. Thank you to the group for providing us with an entertaining drama at the Live Nativity and skits throughout the year.

LADIES AID

This group of women aids the congregation in many events. They help with meals, special projects, and strive to be a support for the members. They meet the 4th Friday of each month Sept-May at 1:30pm. **The next meeting will be August 25th.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men at First Lutheran are invited to the Men's Breakfast which meets **every Saturday from 8:00-9:30** at the Beaver Dam Community Hospital cafeteria. Our gatherings include a meal, fellowship and study.

QUILTERS GROUP

Meets **every Wednesday of the month @ 9:00am**, from Labor Day to Memorial Day. We can always use more help to make quilts for those in need. Come if you can! Please join us if you are able. We encourage the beginners and seasoned sewers and quilters to attend.

RETIREES

This group of retired folks gather to spend time together started by a devotion, then meal catered by Ponderosa, ending with a speaker or guest. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:30am. The next meeting will be held September 13th

SHARON CIRCLE

Come join us for a wonderful Bible lesson and good conversation. Call Jean Spindler with questions at 887-2895. We will meet again on **August 8th @ 1:00pm in the kitchenette.**

THRIVENT GROUP

This group meets monthly started by a potluck before the meeting. They enjoy fellowship and engage in projects that benefit the congregational community. **The next meeting will be August 24th @ 5:00pm.**

As always, everyone from the congregation is welcome to attend... just bring a dish to pass and join in on our fun.

WORSHIP TEXTS BIBLE STUDY

We meet **Mondays @ 9:00am year round.** Deepen your worship experience with this preview into next week's worship.

YOGA

We are currently meeting on **Tuesday evenings from 5:00-6:00pm.** Come if and when you can. Improve your total well-being through exercise appropriate for all ages. Free! Please join us.

WANTED!!!

Very Much Alive



Who: Women and Men with a heart for service. Our church needs good people to become worship helpers in all categories at all services.

Last Seen: At worship services on weekends.

Reward: Priceless!!!!

A chance to help God with your actions at the same time you come to worship.

If Willing: Contact office immediately at 885-4497 x 17 or e-mail phyllis@firstluthbd.org.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

New Spirit ~

(Contemporary music group who lead singing @ 10:30 worship, 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

Joyful Praise ~

(Classical church choir who sing @ 8:00 worship, 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Glory Ringers ~

(Handbell choir who play @ 8:00 worship, 3rd Sunday of the month)

BNA ~

(High school praise band who lead music @ 10:30 worship, 4th Sunday of the month)

Sparks ~

(Elementary-aged singing group who sing @ 10:30 worship, 2nd Sunday of the month)

P-Jays ~

(Middle school praise band who lead music @ 10:30 worship, 2nd Sunday of the month)

Singers wanted. Inchoir within.

(Seen on a church sign)

Joyful Praise Choir will resume rehearsing on Wednesday, September 6. We meet in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m. Our first service will be Sunday, September 10, 7:30 a.m. Warm-up for the 8:00 service.

While we truly enjoy the camaraderie of our core group of members, we certainly would welcome additional voices. Joyful Praise is open to High School age through Adults. To be honest, when a high schooler sang with us last spring, that brought our median age down by quite a bit! (Thank you Ella Biel.)

The choir sings four part harmony on most of our anthems, as well as leading the congregation in the hymns and liturgy. The third Sunday of the month is "off" as that is Hand bells week. We especially relish the additional opportunities to contribute to worship at Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Festival service, and Holy Week and Easter.

If you are interested in joining us or have further questions, please contact director Mary Irwin at 887-0218. Marty Slager, our amazing accompanist, is also good to talk to.

"Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord, our rock and our salvation."

Glory Ringers

Our hand bell choir, Glory Ringers, will begin our 2017-2018 season with rehearsal on Thursday, September 7 and our first performance Sunday, September 17. I am so proud to be directing this group. We may be the most multi-generational group in the church as we span at least three generations and possibly four. It was also great fun playing for Vicar Tim's last service with us. This performance could not have happened without dedicated ringers and substitute ringers. However, one of our substitutes was an out of town guest and two others are off to college and no longer available to help us. We always need new ringers and if you are not ready to be a full time ringer, we need ringers who can be substitutes for us. While it is certainly helpful to be able to read notes, we have had many successful ringers with little or no note reading experience.

Glory Ringers practice on Thursday nights at 7:00 for an hour and generally perform at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service on the third Sunday of the month. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Tom Irwin at 887-0218 or contact the church office. You can also sign up on Rally Sunday.

Glory Ringers would also like to thank all of those who have contributed monetary gifts to the bell choir fund. It is inspiring to know that people support us in this way.

Tom Irwin



More Than "Just a Pot Luck"

On Sunday, September 10th, we will celebrate our "Back to Sunday School" rally day. To coincide with that day we are also celebrating our annual church picnic. Our location will be in Friendship Hall after the late service (approximately 11:45.) **This is NOT your traditional potluck.**

We ask everyone to bring a dish to pass. The church will provide the hot sandwiches, plates, cups and tableware. We will have music, play games, get prizes and have a great day of friendship and fellowship. We encourage any one of any age to come and enjoy. In order for a church to remain strong, we must work together. In order for a church to remain joyful, we must play together.

Be a part of what makes First Lutheran Church our church family. God has given us so many blessings. It is time to come and enjoy one of the many blessings; your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We will see you on September 10th!

Rally Sunday

The first day of Sunday School will be held on Rally Sunday, September 10th. We will celebrate this day together with a number of activities. Watch for a bulletin insert with Rally Day happenings.

Note to Parents: New registration forms will be required for all students attending Sunday School this year to be sure we have the most updated information on file.

YOUTH ROOM DONATIONS

Summer hours continue for the month of August. We will be open Monday through Friday 12-3 p.m. We need your help with soda, snacks or monetary donations/scrip cards to purchase some of these items.

Thank you for your support of those that attend. It is a wonderful place for them to be and a great way to continue those friendships through the summer months.

Our school year hours will begin after labor day and will return to Monday-Thursday from 2:45 - 5:00 p.m. The Youth Room will be closed on Fridays during the school year.

Confirmation Classes and Schedule

We are still planning our confirmation classes and activities for the new year. We will have solid dates available in the next Focus.

Please continue to watch for updates on our website, through mailings, and during our church announcements if your child is of middle school age as well.

Thank you for your patience as we work hard to prepare a curriculum and activities for our youth.

Reminder From the Church Office

With the hours of the church staff and pastors, please be sure to call ahead if you need to speak with someone specifically to be sure they are available. Thank you for your help!

Thank you from the Internship Committee

As a little kid, I used to think that Pastors had the easiest job in the world. They got up in front of the congregation on Sunday for a few hours, led the service, and preached. Being a part of the Internship Committee has completely opened my eyes to what being a Pastor entails. As I write this, we are gearing up for our final weekend with Vicar Tim. We wish him and Mary Kay well in his final year at seminary and transitioning into a new congregation.

Sarah and I would like to thank our congregation for their support during the last two years with Pat Schutz and Tim Knipfer. Pastor Pat graduated from Seminary and is part of a congregation. She is doing well and it's rewarding to know that First Lutheran was part of her success. We're looking forward to seeing Vicar Tim continue to excel in his career as well.

We would also like to thank the members of the Internship Committee for all of their work over the last couple of years: Mary Ann Aaroen, Doug Dray, Sandy Dray, Dave Keil, Sharon Keil, Lisa Killingsworth, Glen Link, Barb Link, Ann Schubert, Eileen Brower, and Carol Crawford. We have enjoyed working with you and appreciate the time and dedication each member gave to our interns.

Blessings,
Adam & Sarah
Pfister





Confirmation Camp Recap

We had the privilege to take 15 of our confirmation youth to Pine Lake Church Camp. Vicar Tim attended along with our youth and they all had a wonderful time.

The youth participated in team building, bible study, outdoor activities, swimming, hiking, and music. Everyone said that they had a wonderful time and some didn't want to leave!

What a wonderful way for our youth to experience God in so many new ways and to interact with others the same age. Many of them developed new friendships and still stay in contact with others from across the state.

The weather was not favorable upon arrival and some activities had to be omitted, but everyone made the best of it and did not let it ruin their week. God is Good!



Sparks!

The children's choir here at First Lutheran is excited to start a new year. We are a group of energetic children in grades 1 through 5 who enjoy learning new music and singing together. We sing in church the 2nd Sunday of each month during the School year, participate in the Christmas program and enjoy learning new songs to share with each other and of course with you, too!

We practice most Sundays from 11:30-12:30 with the exception of the days we sing in church. Each practice starts with a blessing, snack and fellowship followed by singing for about 45 minutes, learning new songs and the biblical connection for the Sunday we sing that song. We end our time together with a prayer and blessing. Our accompanist this year is Elise Zahs, a former member of Sparks!

If you know someone who would like to join our group please contact the church office at 885-4497 or call director Kathi Wiedenhoef at 318-1448.

Sparks camp will be Thursday August 31, Tuesday September 5 and Thursday September 7. Each of these days we will be together from 4-5 PM. These 3 days give us a chance to get to know each other prior to the start of Sunday School AND allow us to learn the songs for our first day to sing in church which is September 10th.

Come and sing with us!



LEFT: Kids celebrating a year of singing together in June 2017 with our annual pizza party.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

6:00 PM **Wednesday** **Casual**
5:30 PM **Saturday** **Traditional**
8:00 AM **Sunday** **Traditional**
(Broadcast Live on WBEV)
10:30 AM **Sunday** **Contemporary**

*Child Care Available Sunday
8:00am to 11:30am*

Handicapped Accessible/Hearing Assisted
Large Print Bulletins & Hymnals Available

Sunday School – 9:15am

Contact us...

Office: 920-885-4497 Fax: 920-885-5886
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm CDT

E-mail: churchoffice@firstluthbd.org
website: www.firstluthbd.org

Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe Rev. Terry Larson
920-420-8342 608-513-1360
revjoy@firstluthbd.org revlarson@firstluthbd.org

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FOCUS



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Church Staff

Heather Gensch Ganske, Administrative Assistant
Deb Vis, Receptionist
Bob Percifield, Accountant/Bookkeeper
Tom Szewczyk, Facilities Supervisor
John Huebner, Custodian
Phyllis Eilbes, Shared Ministry Coordinator
Mary Irwin, Kathi Wiedenhoef & *Bryce Muenchow*,
Choir Directors
Tom Irwin, Bell Choir Director
Cheryl Poetter & Liz Figueroa, Nursery
Marty Slager, Organist & Accompanist
Bob Schwoch, Sound Coordinator

2017 Church Council

Bev Anderson	President
Jeff Klug	Vice-President
Katelynn Strieff	Secretary
Joe Bonnett	Treasurer
Pat Abitz (Education)	Don Erstad (Social Concerns)
Jeff Klug (Property)	Aaron Cannon (Stewardship)
Jonathan Gibbs (Worship)	Katelynn Strieff (Youth)
Shaun Bradley (Finance)	Bob Viola (Scrip)
Vikki Fischer-Kurth (Endowment)	
Jeff Klug/Joe Bonnett (Personnel)	
Vikki Fischer-Kurth/Bob Viola (Evangelism)	