

Upcoming Events

6:30—Wednesday, December 2
Church Decorating for Christmas

6:00—Friday, December 4
Family Movie Night (F6N)

8:00—Saturday, December 5
Christmas Bazaar/Cookie Walk

5:30—Saturday, December 12
Worship with Live Nativity to follow @ 6:15

10:30—Sunday, December 13
Worship with Children's Christmas Program



Mission Statement

To experience and celebrate God's amazing grace together.

Vision Statement

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.

FOCUS on ...

DECEMBER 2015

Living Together at First Lutheran Church

Pastor's Corner



Happy New Year! *Happy New Year?* Yes, Happy New Year!

Without the hoopla and fireworks that marks the cultural new year, the Lutheran church, along with various other Protestant denominations, and the Catholics, enters a new liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, which this year is November 29. The “holiday season” gets a lot of hype, the days between Halloween and Christmas Day when we run headlong, heart-pounding and breathless into our many holiday tasks, as if the coming of Christmas depends on us being “ready.” The church, however, leans into the darkening days of December with prayers, readings, songs, and images that mark the season of Advent. Instead of “hurry, hurry,” we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit into “slowly, slowly.” We are drawn into a rhythm of faith and life that is ancient and counter-cultural, now and not yet. We wait, prepare, anticipate. We give voice to our longings and hope that the Holy One who came to us in flesh and blood, who was crucified and raised and is living among us, will soon bring the whole of creation into its final fullness of goodness and life forevermore. We pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” realizing Jesus comes whether we are ready or not.

God has, throughout human history, called human beings into a life-giving relationship with God. During Advent we listen to words of hope, promise, restoration, promises of God's righteousness and justice, from the Hebrew prophets Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, and Micah. We begin our new year's journey into Luke's gospel with a vision of end times, then feel our hearts quicken at John the Baptist's cry from the wilderness to prepare and repent, for God is surely coming. By the last week of Advent, we are antsy, standing on tip toe, waiting with barely bridled anticipation and expectation. Not fully understanding God's mystery and mercy we nonetheless breathe our hope into Mary's song of praise, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” These readings are this year's opening lines of the ongoing story that is God's love story with humankind. Each gives us a glimpse of the whole story, a story that will not be complete until God makes it complete.

Advent allows us to once again begin at the beginning, to enter anew into God's love story with us. It is a gift of time for us to gather together as God's people, and claim the story as part of us, as vital to our lives as breathing. Our personal and communal stories find their true meaning in the grander story of “God with us.” God is the author of our lives, and God has not yet finished writing us, not yet finished writing the world. During Advent Wednesday night worship services, I will be doing a special Advent meditation series called “Our Advent Story.” I invite you to come and worship as we reflect on how all of our stories are made complete in the Christ whom we praise and worship, who loves us without end.

Shalom, Vicar Pat

Advent Wednesday night worship, 6 p.m., Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23.

First Lutheran to Provide Holiday Food Baskets

As the Christmas Holiday approaches, Social Concerns Small Group Ministry asks you to continue moving forward in your faith and help us provide holiday food baskets to the members of our congregation and community less fortunate than others. We would like to continue with that ministry and again ask for your financial support.

In addition to your financial support, we need your assistance in updating our food basket list. If you or a family you know could benefit from this holiday basket, please provide the Church Office with the name, address and phone number by December 7th.

Please note the donation form that can be filled out and put in the offering basket or returned to the Church Office at your convenience. Donation forms will also be available at the information booth in Friendship Hall or in the Church Office. We will be ordering our food on December 11th and packaging and delivering the baskets on Saturday, December 19th.

At this time of year, we often forget about those who must struggle to put food on the table. We ask for your continued donations of non-perishable food to the Food Pantry box located in Friendship Hall.



These items are distributed monthly to the various agencies within our community and are greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your generous donations in helping First Lutheran meet the needs of our congregation.

May you have a happy and blessed holiday season.

Social Concerns Small Group Ministry

PLEASE CONTACT SHEREE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE FOCUS ELECTRONICALLY! THANK YOU!

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 December 12/13.

If you need something during the month at another time, just contact the Church Office at 885-4497. Please keep these items in mind for your Christmas gift giving. Thank you!



2015 Holiday Food Baskets And Christmas Decorations

Social Concerns Small Group Ministry asks for your continued support in helping us provide baskets for those in our congregation & community less fortunate than others. If you or a family you know are in need of a holiday food basket, please provide name, address and phone number to the Church Office by December 7th. Baskets will be made up and delivered on Saturday, December 19th.

If you would like to donate towards Christmas decorations and/or poinsettias, you may also use this sheet to do so. Thank you!

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Christmas Food Baskets \$ _____

Christmas Decorations and/or Poinsettias \$ _____

Given by: _____

With winter approaching in the not too distant future, Dusty is asking anyone who is willing/able to donate bags of salt for the sidewalks at church. The city of Beaver Dam does not have this readily available as in the past. Your donations can be dropped off during the church when the building is open. Please let us know if you will be dropping off donations so we can thank you!



HISTORY BOOKS AND SMALL SILVER CHALICES AVAILABLE

The 150th Anniversary Committee has ordered some additional History Books titled, "Through These Doors and Beyond," that will be out for sale before Christmas. These books were produced to help celebrate 150 years since First Lutheran was established in 1860. The cost of the book is \$10.00 and they will be packaged with the small silver chalices that we had used for communion in past years. Please look for these items as possible Christmas gifts.

If you don't see the books/chalices or would like to get one during the week, please contact the Church Office at 920-885-4497.

Christmas Bazaar/Bake Sale/Food Stand/White Elephant Sale

The date is December 5th from 8am to 2pm. We will have our Cookie Walk and bake sale and lots of yummy items for your holiday parties will be available. All members are encouraged to bake for the sale. Cookies, bars, breads, pies, cakes, candy, etc. are all needed. Your items do not need to be packaged or priced. Everything should be brought to church by noon on Friday December 4th. Please sign in when dropping off your items so we know for future sales who has donated. We are also in need of Christmas tins, plates or plastic holiday containers for our customers.

We have **only 1** space left to be filled for the event! The following **vendors** will be attending: Origami Owl, Avon, Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Scentsy Fragrances, Cynergy & Creativity, Breathe Easy Cleaning, L'Bri Pure'n Natural and Local Honey. We also have original crafters coming and most of them are repeats from past years. Get your shopping list ready and shop our sale!

Help is needed Friday at 11:00 to get the cookies ready on the serving trays for the **Cookie Walk**. The other items will need to be priced and packaged also. See the signup sheet on the Retirees' bulletin board. Please sign up so we know if you are coming and we know if we have enough help. Everyone is welcome to help and make this event a success!

Items for the **White Elephant Sale** can be dropped off at church anytime from NOW until December 2nd. Christmas decorations or items that are new or like new can be used for stocking stuffers and will be accepted. Gently used books/cd's/dvd's will be great also. Please mark your items that they are for the Christmas Bazaar so they get stored in the right location. Any questions? Just let us know. Help will be needed to price the items also. **Dates/Times** are all listed on the signup sheet on the Retirees' board. We do go out for a lunch break on our prep days and enjoy some great fellowship.

The day of the Bazaar we need help with the White Elephant Sale, the Cookie Walk and to help serve our guests. We need you! Please sign up! You do not need to work the whole time—a few hours or even an hour will be appreciated. The proceeds from the Bazaar RENTAL SPACES have been used to buy 3 tables that were needed for the Annual Rummage Sale setup. The Bake Sale/White Elephant Sale proceeds will go towards the mortgage principle.

A BIG THANKS in advance to Dusty and John for getting Friendship Hall ready for this event. Also, thanks to our many bakers and workers that help with this huge task, including the Church Office staff for their help and Karla Jensen for helping with advertising for the event.

A Food Stand will also be available the day of the sale. Please stop by and have a snack if you are able!



Carol and Pat

P.S. Items for the 11th Annual Rummage Sale in 2016 can be dropped off any time during normal Church Office hours. The response that we have received has been great and the 2 storage rooms that we have are filling up. The proceeds from this sale will again go toward the mortgage principle. Thanks for your continued support of this event!

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES



We are trying something new with our offering envelopes for 2016. Instead of retrieving one packet of envelopes at the end of the year, we will mail envelopes directly to you each quarter. This will mean no one has to worry about picking up their envelopes or volunteers needing to deliver envelopes not picked up. Each quarter it can serve as a reminder to assess where we are in being good stewards. We also have the opportunity to do *Simply Giving* which gives us the confidence that even if we're out of town our offering is given to the church, we don't have to write a check or lick an envelope!

CONSIDER ELECTRONIC GIVING

This Thanksgiving & Christmas season, First Lutheran Church thanks those individuals and families that support the church throughout the year with their time, talent and financial contributions. We also extend a warm welcome to many new and returning congregation members and hope that you, too, will be generous with your time and contributions in support of our work here at First Lutheran Church. To assist everyone in making the consistent offerings that are so important to First Lutheran, we ask you to consider making automatic, electronic donations. Please contact Jill Gibson in the Church Office for more details.

The *Simply Giving* Program
endorsed by



NURTURING EVENTS

SCHEDULE:

All Are Welcome!



Adult Forum is in the Chapel at 9:15am on Sunday unless otherwise indicated and there is no charge.

We are looking forward to a good turnout for our Adult Forum sessions. Our attendance has been increasing and we have enjoyed the many lively questions and discussions that have been presented. The following is a list of our December sessions:

December 6th: *Chat with Vicar Pat*

December 13th: *Sing along with Pat and Dave Crawford* (will end at 10:00 due to Children's Christmas program at 10:30)

December 20: *The Joys and Challenges of Serving as Pastors as a Couple,*

Pastor Terry and Rev. Sue Larson, presenters

We are looking forward to a great start in 2016. We have many of the session dates filled with some very interesting topics. We would like you to join us in learning more about a variety of subjects that help us learn and grow.

We are always looking for new ideas. If you would like to join us as a team member, please contact Pastor Mark or Phyllis Eilbes at 885-4497 or contact us by e-mail at churchoffice@firstluthbd.org.

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 Pastor Jensen if you want to participate in the future. Remember to mention to Pastor Jensen or the parish nurses, 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 also usually go out to eat together afterwards for more fellowship.

First Acts 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 or Pastor Mark Jensen for more information. Thank you to the group for providing us with an entertaining drama at the Thanksgiving worship service. Please join us for the Live Nativity on Saturday evening, December 12th following 5:30 worship.

NURTURE (CONTINUED)

The Gathering Table (Dinner for 8)

meets throughout the year—set up by the group.

We have several groups that either go out to a restaurant or have dinner in someone's home. If you would like to be a part of a Gathering Table group or if you are interested in some good fellowship, please call Pastor Jensen at 885-4497 or email us at churchoffice@firstluthbd.org.

If you do **not** want to participate in The Gathering Table for 2015-2016, please contact Gail Henschel at 887-1215.

ManPower continues to meet to work on strategic planning for additional men's ministries here at First. Our next meeting will be **Monday, December 7 at 6:30pm**. The group would like to work with any interested youth in the future as well. You can attend our meetings at any time.

Men's Breakfast

All men at First Lutheran are invited to the Men's Breakfast which meets every Saturday from 8:00-9:30. Our gatherings include a meal, fellowship and study. Guests are always welcome also! We are meeting at the Beaver Dam Hospital Cafeteria usually the first Saturday each month and at church the rest of the month, unless otherwise noted. **The December 5 meeting will be at the hospital cafeteria.** There is a signup sheet for someone to bring a hot dish each week and unlock for the others that are attending when the meeting is at church.

Marriage Retreat Group

The couples that have gone on marriage retreat weekends in the past continue to meet monthly for fellowship and study. This event is an enriching experience for couples who have good marriages. The weekend also provides a great opportunity to get to know others in our parish even better. For more information on a future experience, contact Pastor Mark or Karla Jensen.

PAVE offers a monthly adult support group for friends and families dealing with domestic violence. Call 1-800-775-3785 for a private conversation.

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.

Thrivent Group

We will meet in December on the 3rd at 5pm for our combined holiday meeting. Great potluck, fellowship and projects that benefit the congregational community. Our next cookie sale will be on January 9/10. As always, everyone from the congregation is welcome to attend. Just bring a dish to pass. Thank you! Our group recently donated toward the Children's Christmas Program goodie bags.

NURTURE (CONTINUED)

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 **December 8 at 1pm.**

Worship Texts Bible Study

Mondays @ 9:00am

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 the exercise appropriate for all ages. Free! Please join us.

Most of these activities last an hour but provide endless joy for all participants. What catches your eye? Check it out!!

**In this season of giving,
choose to give the
greatest of all gifts.
Donate the Gift of Life.**



Prayer Texting

Remember that Prayer Texting Sundays occur every Sunday. We encourage you to be an active participant by texting your prayer requests to the number posted in the worship bulletin each Sunday.



PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU.....

- ◆ Have moved
- ◆ Have a new phone number
- ◆ Have a new email address
- ◆ Have someone in the hospital
- ◆ Have a child now at college



With updated information we are able to keep you up to date on all the great things that are happening at First Lutheran. It only costs about 16 cents to mail a Focus but, if we don't have your correct address, it costs 57 cents to send back to us and then, you don't get to read the Focus either! Also, kids at college may have a different address than last year. We would like to stay in touch with them. Thank you!



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ALL RETIREES INVITED

RETIREES will plan on meeting next on Wednesday, December 9. We will meet for devotions followed by a meal from Ponderosa. The price for this wonderful full meal is \$6.00.

Retirees has been an ongoing program at First Lutheran since 1982 and offers the opportunity to get acquainted with other members and is the setting for maintaining longtime friendships.

****Please note****

A Parish Nurse is available before and after the meetings for help with blood pressure checks and any other questions that someone may have.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIAL GIFTS AND OTHER ITEMS WILL BE LISTED IN THE RED BOOK ON THE BOOK STAND IN THE NARTHEX. THANK YOU FROM PAVE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE POSTED ON THE BOARD. PLEASE LOOK FOR THEM!



Holiday Schedule

Saturday, December 5th ~ 8am-2pm
Christmas Bazaar/Bake Sale/Cookie
Walk

Saturday, December 12th ~ 5:30pm
Worship Followed by Live Nativity

Sunday, December 13th ~ 10:30am
Sunday School Program

Sunday, December 20th ~ 8:00am
Worship with Christmas Music by
Vocal Choir and Bell Choir

Thursday, December 24th ~
4:00, 6:00 & 11:00
Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 25th ~ 10:00am
Christmas Day Worship Service



Please support Friendship International's
ministry to Liberia, West Africa by visiting
our booth at the Christmas Bazaar at First
Lutheran on December 5th 2015.

God is good! All the time! All the time! God is Good!

We have a variety of handmade
accessories available. Stop by and check
out the rolled paper bead jewelry, T- shirt
and Ruffle scarves, gift boxes and more.



November Council Highlights



- ◆ Pastor Jensen led devotions.
- ◆ The finance report was given by Trish Pias—there is a current deficit balance of: -\$88,426.72.
- ◆ We are still looking for someone to replace Trish Pias as Church Treasurer.
- ◆ The Amazon Smile fund has started. Members were encouraged to hit the smile button when ordering from Amazon. Amazon will send the church a small percentage of the sale when the smile button is used for First Lutheran.
- ◆ The church has a used copier and a used ice maker for sale.
- ◆ Sheree Voigt expressed her concerns about a potential cutback in hours for the Office Manager.
- ◆ The Council met in closed session during the meeting for an hour.
- ◆ Harvest Dinner was a success. Everyone left full....
- ◆ Several members attended the synod event, "Telling Our Story."
- ◆ The staff is going on a retreat Friday, November 20.
- ◆ Pastor Terry will be gone for 2 weeks in December.
- ◆ Pastor Jensen reported there are several marriage groups that are in place and meeting regularly.
- ◆ Thank you to Karen Gibson for taking the minutes of our meeting.

Turkey Points ~ Thanks to all those who were able to donate their turkey points to the church. The turkeys we get are used for the Christmas food baskets, as well as different events that are happening in and through First Lutheran Church such as the soup suppers and the Community Meal.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting will be on
Monday, **JANUARY 25th** at
6:30pm.

We have Befrienders who have been trained to provide respite for families who have a member with dementia or Alzheimer's. These Befrienders will go out in pairs to homes to stay with the person while his/her caregiver is away. We currently have the ability to serve 4 women and 2 men (3 homes). They would not be providing medical care. For information on how to contact Befrienders for this service, contact Pastor Jensen.

This group is free and open to Beaver Dam and the surrounding area. For more information on the Alzheimer's Support Group, contact Pastor Jensen at the Church Office 920-885-4497.



PLEASE TUNE TO 1430AM WBEV RADIO FOR CANCELLATION INFORMATION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. YOU CAN ALSO CHECK THE CHURCH WEBSITE WWW.FIRSTLUTHBD.ORG OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 885-4497. EXTENSION 29 WILL GIVE YOU A STATUS UPDATE ONE HOUR BEFORE SERVICE TIME. THIS APPLIES TO CHURCH EVENTS AS WELL AS WORSHIP SERVICES. THANK YOU!

****To help save the congregation funds, we will not be plowing the parking lot if the snowfall is less than 3".**

Baptismal Classes

In our ministry to prepare families for a baptism of an infant, child or adult, there are two classes that families need to attend: the first on a Sunday morning and the second, normally on a Monday evening. The classes are generally held every other month. The next classes will be on Sunday, January 10 at 9:15am, with the family attending worship either before or after the class AND the second class will be on Monday, January 18 at 6:30pm. In these classes the following is covered: Milestone Ministry, the meaning of baptism, the Rite of Baptism, parenting styles, prayer and Bible study. Grandparents and sponsors, if local, are welcome and encouraged to attend with the parents. Child care is provided on Sunday mornings; the class on Monday evening is longer and designed for adults only.

January Baptismal Classes:

Sunday, January 10 at 9:15am (worship before or after)

The second class will be on Monday, January 18 at 6:30pm

Both classes are needed for baptismal preparation.



MUSIC

- New Spirit ~ Mondays @ 6:00pm
- Joyful Praise ~ Wednesdays @ 7:30pm
- Glory Ringers ~ Thursdays @ 7:00pm
- P-Jays ~ Fridays @ 3:15pm
- BNA ~ 3rd Wednesday @ 6:30pm
- Sparks ~ Sundays @ 11:30

Most of these groups do not meet between Memorial Day and Labor Day but resume in the fall.



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Beaver Dam, WI 53916
Office: **920-887-2849**

25638LG R4-15

NEW SPIRIT Musicians/Singers Needed!

New Spirit can always use backup guitarists (rhythm and/or bass) and pianists. If you are interested in learning the songs and can fill in on an occasional basis, please join us on Monday evenings at 6:00 in the Sanctuary for rehearsal. Anyone who would like to join us as a singer should also come at that time.



SPARKS NEEDS YOU!

Students in grades 1-5 are invited to join the Sparks Choir. Come ready to eat a healthy snack and then SING! Sparks practice is on Sundays during the school year from 11:30-12:30 and we sing in church the 2nd Sunday of each month @ 10:30. If you are interested in joining the Sparks group, contact the Church Office or Kathi Wiedenhoef at 920-356-9009.

Your Sparks Director, Kathi Wiedenhoef

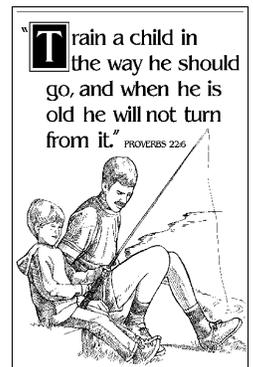


Joyful Praise rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:30pm. New members are ALWAYS welcome. Please join us and sing with us on Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day.

We Celebrate *God With You!*

There are milestones in life at which God grabs your attention in special ways:

Baptism, starting Sunday School, First Bibles, First Communion, Confirmation, graduation, marriage, birth of children, retirement, death ~ among others. We lift these milestones up and celebrate *God With You* throughout life.



Finance\$ at FirSt

During the month of October, income received of \$33,279.81 and expenses incurred of \$48,800.57, equates to a year-to-date deficit of - (\$88,840.43).

October Income: Current Contributions = \$32,487.05, Open Plate = \$429.21, Sunday School Benevolence = \$241.25, Other = \$117.30

October Expenses: Mission Outreach = \$1,667, Mission Development=\$685.05, Education=\$396.03, Activities=\$1,253.03, Small Groups=(-\$671), Administration=\$4,070.57, Mission Leadership=\$33,099.54, Mission Station=\$2,604.39, Mortgage Payment=\$5,695.96

The 2016 Budget Proposal that the Finance Committee, Pastor Mark, Pastor Terry and Vicar Pat worked on over the past month was presented to the Council at the November 15th meeting for review. The 2016 Budget will be voted on at the December Council Meeting – with any changes implemented prior to the Treasurer presenting to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

Be kind to one another.

Peace be with you,
Trish Pias
Treasurer



Stop and check out the Pastors' Corner in Friendship Hall. This is a monthly posting, located next to Vicar Pat's office.

Remember when you are at worship or in meetings or classes at church, please turn your cell phone off or on vibrate. This courtesy is much appreciated. Thank you!

Donations are being accepted for the purchase of Kpelle Bibles for Liberia. Marty Slager and Don Slager were instrumental in bringing this Bible to print. The cost is \$10, with checks payable to First Lutheran Church, earmarked for Liberia Bibles. Purchased Bibles will be shipped to Liberia.



ANNUAL REPORTS/ MEETING REMINDER!!

Annual reports are due by January 1, 2016 to the Church Office.

Also, the Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 24th at 12:45, following the Chili/Soup Cook-off at noon. Any cooks interested in cooking should contact the Church Office ASAP! Thank you!



A word of thanks from Pastor Mark Jensen

On November 2nd my mom passed away in Castle Rock, CO. Your prayers, cards and memorials have meant a great deal to my family and I. Thank you all for the many ways that you have blessed us with your support as my mom's health was failing, and as we have been grieving her passing.

God's blessings to you all!
Pastor Mark D. Jensen

Thank You to our Volunteers—December

As the Advent season prepares us for the birth of Christ, we would like to recognize those who add their creative talents to the benefit of the church worship experience. This month we would like to salute all those who are involved with the Music Ministry and Drama portion of God's work. We extend a hearty "Thank You" to the following people:

Music Ministry & Drama

Accompanist

Children's Christmas Program

Sparks

P-Jays

Be Not Afraid

New Spirit

Hand Bell Choirs

Joyful Praise

Organize Files

Voice/Instrumental Performance

First Acts

Live Nativity

Anyone who shares their artistic talents in our church and beyond.

We are truly blessed to have you as a part of our First Family. God Bless your work.



HARVEST OF BLESSINGS

We hosted our annual Harvest Dinner for 2015 on Sunday, November 8th. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of those that were able to help and to those who were able to attend and make this event a success!

P.S. Proceeds are going to offset needed repairs at First Lutheran Church.

Also, if you have not been able to return your pledge sheet and Time & Talent Sheet for 2016, you may still do so. These can either be brought to the Church Office or brought to worship and put in the offering basket. Thank you!

*Praise
GOD!!
from
WHOM
ALL
blessings
FLOW*

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Forum—Meets some Sundays, 9:15-10:15am September through May. See the schedule under Nurturing Events for more information.

Alzheimer's Care Group—We usually meet on the 4th Monday of the month. The next meeting will be in January on the 25th at 6:30pm. Come if/when you can.

Baptism Classes—January 10 @ 9:15am and January 18 @ 6:30pm

Men's Breakfast—Saturdays @ 8am—We are meeting on the first Saturday of the month at the BD Hospital cafeteria and at the church the other weekends of the month, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin.

Sharon Circle—
On December 8 we will meet at 1pm for our lesson.

Sunday School/Joyful Junction—
Sundays @ 9:15am

Weekly Pastor's Bible Study—
Mondays @ 9am



Come, explore, enrich your spiritual growth!

**PEOPLE
OF THE
WORD**

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO DONATE TO OUR MILITARY CARE PACKAGES. WE WERE ABLE TO SEND OUT 3 PACKAGES TO THOSE FOLKS ON BEHALF OF OUR CONGREGATION.

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From Your Parish Nurses

We're just celebrating Thanksgiving and are rolling on toward Christmas and New Year. With these holidays come celebrations, parties and for some, stress. Make an effort not to overindulge. If you should overindulge, don't hesitate to hand over the car keys or get back to your healthy eating habits soon. Don't beat yourself up about overindulging. Learn your lesson and let the past remain in the past. Spend some quiet time with family, friends and Jesus. These holidays are not a time of competition but of community.

Relax, have some fun and attend church services with your family and friends.



Your Parish Nurses are available to you each second Sunday between services. Stop by to say hello.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2016.

Angie Olson, RN, BSN
BSNangieo@churchclinic.org

Bob Gionet, RN,
bobg@churchclinic.org

Do you need help with chores? Our youth are volunteering their services as a project to help with special chores at home and in the yard. Please fill out the yellow volunteer request form at church and complete and return it to Shannon or the Church Office. Forms can be found on the Information Booth in Friendship Hall.

Our regular Disciple of the Month is taking a break for the month of December. We are honoring our New Disciples instead. You may nominate a member of the congregation if you wish for Disciple of the Month. Pick up a form in the Church Office at your convenience or at the information booth. Thank you for recognizing the gifts of others in our congregation, the Beaver Dam community and beyond!

Salvation Army Kettle Ringers!

Opportunities are available from now through Christmas Eve. If you are interested in helping for a few hours, please call 920-210-2568 or talk with Rhonda Steiner or Jack Hanks, through the Beaver Dam Kiwanis.

Locations include Beaver Dam Piggy Wiggly, Recheck's Food Pride, Shopko and Wal-Mart. Shifts are 2 hours in length. Thank you!



DON'T FORGET THE RED KETTLE CONCERT TAKING PLACE ON DECEMBER 6th AT 2PM. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE BEAVER DAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.

We are looking for two people to help vacuum and dust the Sanctuary and Narthex once a month on a volunteer basis. If you can help, please call the Church Office.



Our Youth Room averages 10-15 kids per day during the school year, Monday through Thursday from 2:45 to 5:00pm. We need your help with soda, snacks or monetary donations to purchase some of these items. Thank you!



9-5-10-30

6:00pm Wednesday — Casual
 5:30pm Saturday — Traditional
 8:00am Sunday — Traditional
 (Broadcast Live on WBEV)
 10:30am Sunday — Contemporary
 Child Care Available Sunday
 8:00 to 11:30am
 Sunday School — 9:15am

Handicapped Accessible
 Hearing Assisted
 Large Print Bulletins & Hymnals

Contact us...
Office: 920-885-4497
Fax: 920-885-5886
E-mail: churchoffice@firstluthbd.org
website: www.firstluthbd.org

Rev. Mark D. Jensen
920-318-9593
 revjensen@firstluthbd.org

Rev. Terry Larson
608-513-1360
 revlarson@firstluthbd.org

Vicar Pat Schutz
920-535-0014
 pschutz60@gmail.com

First Lutheran Church
311 W. Mackie Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The FOCUS



Staff and Leadership

Rev. Mark D. Jensen, Lead Pastor
Rev. Terry Larson, Assistant Pastor
Pat Schutz, Vicar
Shannon Fleischfresser,
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Sheree Voigt, Office Manager
Deb Vis, Receptionist
Jill Gibson, Business Manager
Tom Szewczyk, Facilities Manager
John Huebner, Custodian
Phyllis Eilbes, Shared Ministry Coordinator
Mary Irwin, Kathi Wiedenhoef & Marty Slager,
Choir Directors
Tom Irwin, Bell Choir Director
Dick Dornbrook, Sunday School Coordinator
Cheryl Poetter & Liz Figueroa, Nursery
Marty Slager, Organist & Accompanist
Bob Schwoch, Sound Coordinator

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED FROM A LAND LINE TO A CELL PHONE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR NEW NUMBER! THANK YOU!

2015 Church Council

Vikki Fischer-Kurth	President
Signe Schecher	Vice-President
Deb Parman	Secretary
Trish Pias	Treasurer
Pat Abitz	Shaun Bradley
Roger Herpel	Bill Wiedenhoef
Katelynn Strieff	Bev Anderson
Mary Kahler	Don Erstad
Sherry Jaquet	Jeff Klug
Mitch Klug	

These are the New Disciples.....

Robert (Bob) Ganz has been a longtime worshipper at First Lutheran Church. He is married to a lifelong member, Bev Ganz. Bob and Bev live in rural Beaver Dam. Bob is retired but has been busy in the past helping at First Lutheran. He was part of the Banner Team that helped organize and improve the banner system at church. Welcome Bob!

Gregory (Greg) and Pamela (Pam) Ludowese live on Niblick Road in Beaver Dam. They have two sons, Nicholas who is 11, and Nathan who is 8. Greg is a substitute special education teacher's assistant and Pam is a Certified Nuclear Medical Technologist. The family enjoys gardening, hiking and camping, along with other interests. They come to us from St. John's in Beaver Dam. Welcome to the Ludowese family!

Joseph (Joe) and Lynn Sullivan come to First from Fox Lake. Lynn works at the Dodge Correctional Institute in Waupun and Joe works in Beaver Dam at the Country Club. Lynn is interested in getting involved with First in a variety of ways and Joe would like to be a greeter and an usher. They are transferring to us from St. Paul's in Waterloo Wisconsin. Welcome Joe and Lynn!


Welcome

Ellen Sushak has many friends at First. She is a retired educator and dietitian. She is very active in the community in such groups as the Optimists, BDAAA, AAUW and the Watermark. She has already become involved in the Gathering Table group and would like to share some of her other skills in various ways. Welcome Ellen!



Mutual Ministry

A Mutual Ministry Team has been established here at First. The purpose of this team is to be a support/sounding board for Pastor Mark as he takes on more responsibilities in the life of this congregation. In the light of this ministry, we are asking this congregation to bestow on Pastor Mark some consideration in the next days/weeks and some privacy to allow for him to grieve the passing of his mother.

Please understand that for the past 14 years of Pastor Mark's ministry here at First, he has been available to our needs 24/7, which is very exemplary. For the next while, he is more than willing to help, as is his model. However, we are asking the congregation to allow him the time and space he needs to mourn.

Thank you for your understanding and your commitment to helping us in supporting Pastor Mark.

The Mutual Ministry Team,
Betsy Peterson, John Smedema, Kelly Strieff, Mike Biel and Sig Schecher



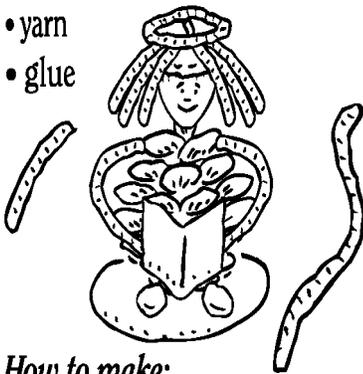
The Lord will
bless his people
with peace.

Psalm 29:11

Make a Pine Cone Angel

You need:

- a pine cone
- an acorn
- cardboard
- 2 beans or seeds
- black marker
- 1 white pipe cleaner
- small piece construction paper
- gold pipe cleaner or piece of foil
- yarn
- glue



How to make:

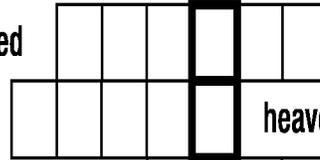
- Cut circle from cardboard for the base.
- Glue the wide part of the pine cone to the cardboard.
- Glue the beans or seeds to the cardboard for feet.
- Glue the acorn to the pine cone for the head.
- Make eyes with marker.
- Wrap pipe cleaner around for arms.
- Glue yarn on for hair.
- Use gold pipe cleaner for halo or make one from foil.
- Make book in hands from paper and glue.



"Peace on Earth"... "Good Will to All"

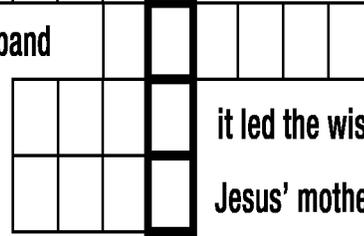
The story of Jesus' birth is found in Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2. Fill in the boxes below with words from the verses that fit the definitions. The letters in the darker boxes will spell a phrase that we hear during the Christmas season – and all year!

Baby Jesus' bed



heavenly messenger

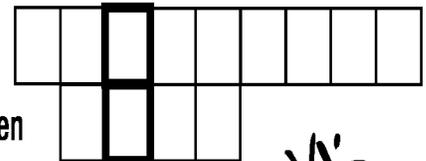
Mary's husband



it led the wise men

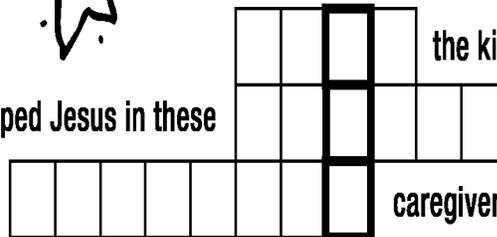
Jesus' mother

the town of Joseph's family



a gift from the wise men

Mary wrapped Jesus in these



the kings; wise men

caregiver for sheep

Final answer: Glory to God
manger, angel, Joseph, star, Mary, Bethlehem, gold, Magi, cloths, shepherd

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2015</h1>						
<p>6</p> <p>9 - 1st Act Practice 9:15 - Adult Forum 11:30 - Sparks 12-Summer Mission Gap 2 - Red Kettle Concert @ BDHS 5 - Synod HS Rise Up Event-Verona</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 - Bible Study 12 - Ladies Aid Christmas Party @ Ponderosa 2:45 - Youth Room 6 - N.A. Group 6 - New Spirit 6:30 - ManPower 7 - Dartball</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10 - Staff Meeting 1 - Sharon Circle 2:45 - Youth Run 5 - Yoga 5:30 - Evangelism Mtg 6-SS Ministry Mtg 6:30-Exec Comm 7:15 - Parish Ed Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:50 - HS Bible Study @ BDHS 9 - Quilting 11:30 - Retirees 1:30 - Archives 2:45 - Youth Run 6 - Finance Comm 7 - Confirmation 7:30 Joyful Praise 8-Youth Candle Time</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:45 - Youth Run 6 - 1st Acts Meeting 7 - Glory Ringers</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:15 - P-Jays</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Equal Exchange 8 - Men's Breakfast 9 - Youth Service Saturday 9 - Children's Christmas Program Practice 6:15 - Live Nativity following 5:30 Worship</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Equal Exchange 9-Parish Nurse Hours 9:15 - Adult Forum 10:30 - Children's Christmas Program @ Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Benvenuto's Share Event all day 9 - Bible Study 2:45 - Youth Room 6 - N.A. Group 6 - New Spirit 7 - Dartball</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10 - Staff Meeting 2:45 - Youth Run 5 - Yoga</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:50 - HS Bible Study @ BDHS 9 - Quilting 1:30 - Archives 2:45 - Youth Run 6 - Parents Night Out w/Gift Wrapping 7 - Council 7:30 Joyful Praise 8-Youth Candle Time</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10 - Cong Health Ministry Mtg 2:45 - Youth Run 7 - Glory Ringers</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:15 - P-Jays</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Youth Gamblers Game & Lock In Delivery of Holiday Food Baskets 8 - Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8 - Choir Festival in Worship 9:15 - Adult Forum 11:30 - Sparks</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Focus Deadline 9 - Bible Study 2:45 - Youth Room 6 - N.A. Group 6 - New Spirit 6:30-Stewardship Tm 6:30 - Friendship Int'l not @ First 7 - Dartball</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10 - Staff Meeting 2:45 - Youth Run 5 - Yoga 6 - Property Comm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:50 - HS Bible Study @ BDHS 9 - Quilting 1:30 - Archives 2:45 - Youth Run 6:30 - BNA Practice 7 - Confirmation—Family Night— Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE (Church Office closes at noon) 3:30—Sparks Practice 4, 6 & 11pm Worship 10:30 - Carol Sing before worship</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY (Church Office closed) 10am - Worship</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Equal Exchange Food Pantry 8 - Men's Breakfast Lessons & Carols @ Worship</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Equal Exchange Food Pantry Lessons & Carols @ Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 - Bible Study 12 - Leave for SCSW Thirsty Overnight in Janesville—back 1pm on 12/30 6 - N.A. Group 6 - New Spirit 7 - Dartball</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10 - Staff Meeting 5 - Yoga</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 - Quilting 1:30 - Archives</p>	<p>31</p>		

<p>Worship Helpers for December 2015:</p> <p><u>Acolytes</u> December 5 & 6 5:30 TBD 8:00 TBD 10:30 Brandyn Zahs December 12 & 13 5:30 TBD 8:00 TBD 10:30 Nick Ludowese December 19 & 20 5:30 TBD 8:00 TBD 10:30 Rebecca Dray December 24 & 25 24th 4:00pm TBD 6:00pm TBD 11:00pm TBD 25th 10:00 am TBD December 26 & 27 5:30 TBD 8:00 TBD 10:30 TBD</p>	<p>Altar Guild December 5 & 6 Bonnie Werner Lorraine Pahl December 12 & 13 Carol Miller Erv Cram December 19 & 20 Karen Bussewitz Deb Schmidt Laurie Schroeder Michelle Stephens</p>	<p>(Altar Guild cont.) December 24 & 25 24th 4:00 Diane Rosenmeier & Sandy Saunders 6:00 Bonnie Werner & Lorraine Pahl 11:00 TBD 25th 10:00am Ellen Storzor December 26 & 27 Ellen Voigt Sherree Voigt</p>	<p>Assisting Minister December 6 8:00 Marian Krueger 10:30 Betsy Peterson December 13 8:00 Signe Schecher 10:30 Karla Jensen December 20 8:00 Dorothy Ebert 10:30 Sabina Biel December 27 8:00 Royce Bentz 10:30 Bonnie Daniels</p>	<p>Communion Assistants December 5 & 6 5:30 Dave & Carol Crawford Lois Bennett 8:00 Gary & Edie Scharfenberg Don Erstad Ruth Roelke 10:30 Debbie Hermann Linda Dochnahl-Smith Roberta Marck Carolyn Huenink December 12 & 13 5:30 Donna Jordan 8:00 Royce Bentz Jeannine Bentz Linda Joeckel Bev Anderson 10:30 Dave & Sharon Keil Shannon Fleischfresser Dick Dornbrook December 19 & 20 5:30 Jim Jordan 8:00 Jean & Marlin Spindler Marian Krueger Gary Spielman 10:30 TBD Laurie Koneck Tom Amberson Ruth Amberson December 24 & 25 24th 4:00 Tom Amberson Ruth Amberson Ginny Klug Carolyn Huenink Josh & Maria Burrow 6:00 TBD TBD TBD Bill Flemming 11:00 Bev Anderson 25th 10:00am Ellen Storzor</p>	<p>(Comm. Asst. cont.) December 26 & 27 5:30 Karen Bussewitz 8:00 Rose Dobie Dick Nehmer Sue Bentz Don Erstad 10:30 Britney Arndt Paula Daniels Roberta Marck Andrea Brossard</p>	<p>Nursery December 6 8:00 Isalah Schlagel 9:15 Karen Ferstl 10:30 Marissa Ramos December 13 8:00 Harumi Sundstrom 9:15 Janet Arndt 10:30 Terr Pederson December 20 8:00 Ross Hansen 9:15 Karen Gibson 10:30 Julie Neundorf December 24 4:00 Marlene Muhle December 27 8:00 Sheryl Walker 9:15 None Needed 10:30 Karen Ferstl</p>
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December Youth News

First Lutheran Youth 2015

Call/text: 920.392.6947

email: 1stluthyouth@gmail.com

blog: 1stluthyouth.wordpress.com



Christian Education: Confirmation (6-8th grade)

Sunday Morning—9:15a

12/6, 12/13, 12/20

***6th, 7th and 8th graders
meet in Lower Level***

Wednesday Evenings

12/9

Youth Nights

Other Important Dates

12/12—Service Saturday

12/13—Christmas Program

12/16—Gift Wrapping &
Parents Night Out

12/23—Family Night-
Christmas Caroling

High School (9-12th gr)

Wednesday night—8pm

12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23

*We will meet in the 3rd floor
couch room. Come and see
what "Candle Time" is all
about.*

Other Important Dates

12/28-30

*We will be going to
Janesville for our 1st annual
SCSW HS Holiday event. We
will be focusing on justice
issues; speakers include
Rev. Steve Jerbi (All
Peoples, Milwaukee) and
Dave Scherer (AGAPE*),
who were in Detroit this
summer.*

*Register by December 12 to
go. Cost is \$100*



*Top Right: The staff take a break from the
staff retreat to play like children—and take
a photo of course.*

*Above: Our 21 youth and adults join the
total of 985 from our synod as we hear the
stories that are living. (#LivingStories)*

*Below: The youth listen to each other share
what they learned at the Peer Ministry
Leadership Training.*



Sshhhh... Listen...

Have you ever heard someone say something but you weren't actually listening to what they said? This month I was able to take 2 high school youth to a training for Peer Ministry. The whole purpose is to learn how to empty your mind, listen to the story being told, ask questions that help them tell more of the story, and be present with the person in the midst of their story. It is all too easy to sit back and hear a story without really listening to what is being said and then to turn the conversation to be about what you've experienced or to give advice— that is not listening.

The season of Advent is about preparing, but it is also about listening. Joseph had to listen to God, the shepherds had to listen to the angels, the wise men had to listen to history and current events. We listen to the story again.

In what way is God asking you to listen this Advent and Christmas season? Is there someone who needs to share their story with you? Do you need to find someone to listen to you? When can you set aside time to listen to God speak to you? Shhh... LISTEN!!

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
		1 6p—Youth Team Mtg	2 8p—HS Candle Time	3	4 6p—F6N: Christmas	5 8a—Christmas Bazaar/Food Booth 6p—BD Parade
6 9:15a—Education Hr 12p—Summer Missions Mtg & Deposits due 5p—HS Rise Up (Verona)	7	8	9 7p—Confirmation 8p—HS Candle Time *Deadline: Gamblers	10	11	12 9a—Service Sat 9a-12p—Christmas Program Rehearsal *Deadline: Thirsty
13 9:15a—Education Hr 10:30a—Christmas Program	14 Benvenutos Share day (11a-10p)	15	16 6p—Parents Night Out & Gift Wrapping 8p—HS Candle Time	17	18	19 4:45p—Gamblers Game & Lock-in
20 9:15a—Education Hr 10:20a—Pick up from Lock-in	21	22	23 7p—Confirmation Family Night-Caroling 8p—HS Candle Time	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26
27 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	28 12p— Thirsty	29 ——— event	30 —1p (Janesville)	31		

First Lutheran Youth

Church office: 920.885.4497
Call/Text Cell: 920.392.6947
email: 1stluthyouth@gmail.com

FOR YOUTH OF ALL AGES!

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTLUTHYOUTHBD

Mission Trip Planning...

Next meeting:

Sunday December 6 @12pm

We will be collecting deposits and getting everyone signed up on a mailing list.

We have a lot to cover at this meeting:

- 1) Fundraising policy
- 2) How much have you raised? (Google doc)
- 3) Costs and payment plans
- 4) December fundraisers & options
- 5) Outside fundraising
- 6) Pork Chop Dinner & Auction

Please be on time so that this meeting will not take more than an hour.

Upcoming fundraisers:

Monday December 14

Benvenuto's Share Day

Order Benvenuto's anytime during the day or night on Monday Dec. 14 and tell them you are supporting First Lutheran Youth, and a portion of all those sales will go to us.

Wednesday December 16

Parents Night Out & Gift Wrapping

We will be offering babysitting from 6-8:30pm in the Youth Room for a donation. All littles and up are welcome... we just ask all dropped off be beyond potty trained. While your little ones are being watched upstairs, you can bring your Christmas gifts and packages into Friendship Hall and get them wrapped!
No set price, all by donation!

Sunday February 21

Pork Chop Dinner & Auction

Join us for our Annual Dinner and Auction in Friendship Hall. We will be collecting donations of items and baskets for the auction starting Dec. 1. Tickets will go on sale January 10. Each year seems to get better and better.

Save the date and we'll see you here!!

In More Detail...

F6N is our First Fridays Free Family Film Fun Nights at 6pm. This month, in honor of Christmas, we will have a variety of movies and the group will choose! **December 4** All are welcome... Meet in Holyword Theater at 6pm!

Service Saturday group will meet at church at 9am on 12/12. We will be working on special projects for LWR.

Gamblers game and lock-in will be on Dec. 19. We will meet at church at 4:45pm. We will load up the vehicles and head up to Green Bay (stopping for dinner on the way). The game is at 7:05pm. The youth are encouraged to worship together and go to Confirmation before heading home! Cost is \$30 for the night.

In Other News...

Youth Room is in full swing this winter! We average about 20 youth in the Youth Room and are hoping to give each of them a small gift for Christmas. In order to do that, we need help! Contact Dusty or Shannon for more information. 6th grade & up to join us... Mon-Thur 2:45pm-5pm

"Rise Up" High School Nights will be going to Verona this month. Please let Shannon know if you are interested in going. She has room for 6 youth. If you are an adult interested in driving, please also let her know!

The **Youth Team** will meet the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm. This month that is Dec 1. See you in the Youth Room!

Save the Date:

- 1/3—Summer Missions Mtg
- 1/5—Youth Team Mtg
- 1/7—YouthZone reg due
- 1/8—F6N
- 1/9—Service Saturday
- 1/13—Confirmation
- 1/16—Elementary Snow Tubing
- 1/20—Mentors Mtg w/ Parish Protection
- 1/21—YouthQuake/Camp reg due
- 1/22-23—Jr/Sr. Ski & Snowboard Overnight
- 1/24—Annual Meeting
- 1/27—Confirmation
- 1/29-30 -HS Rise Up Lock-in (BD)

November Highlights

Confirmation... rollerskating... bowling... fundraisers... and leadership training. It was a busy month of growing and learning!



They come to skate... and hang out at the tables

