



First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Glencoe, MN
April 2018 Church Newsletter
“Sharing Christ Changing Lives”

Wounds Now Healed- Jesus and Yours

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

This year April begins with the most important day of the whole year: Easter! Jesus rose from the grave which means our sin is atoned for, the devil is defeated, and death is overcome in victory! Jesus is alive! The wounds He endured on Good Friday are healed forever. Wounds. We all have them. Some of us are battling terrible physical trials. Even if the wounds you carry around are not physical ones, they drain the life out of you just the same. Rejection can be a terrible wound. You try hard to be accepted by people at school or by someone you like or by the person you married or by your own parents or by your children. When you want to be accepted and appreciated, rejection can cut deep. Sometimes we feel pressure to do things we know we shouldn't do. Peer pressure at school, the pressure of job security or making commission—pressure leaves its mark. Even worse, at times we wound ourselves. We cut ourselves away from God when we let the little temptations lead us down dangerous paths. There are many things that cut us down in this world.

Whatever your wounds are, look to Easter. On the first Easter morning, out of a tomb walks One who suffered the most deadly of wounds. With several fatal wounds, Jesus should have stayed dead, but He came out of the tomb. He came out of the tomb to be back in the world where we need Him most.

Easter isn't just a then-and-there event. Easter happened almost two thousand years ago, and it comes to you today. Jesus' resurrection is here for you now. Jesus overcame all His wounds so that He may bring healing to yours.

Through His powerful Word and Sacraments, Jesus comes to be with you so that you know that no matter what wounds you suffer, no matter what disasters come your way, no matter what pain and suffering you bring on others or on yourself, you have One Who is with you Who overcomes all wounds.

Through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus will always come to us until the Last Day, when He will empty every grave. He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed, Alleluia! Amen.

~In Christ, Pastor Welch



Spring Paper Truck Drive:

Unfortunately, the NYG youth will NOT be participating in the paper truck drive this spring! Due to the changes in policy and

reimbursement, it is not feasible for us to participate at this time. We truly appreciate all whom have participated in this fundraiser in the past and will notify you of future paper drives. THANK YOU!



We are especially thankful for all you do to bring glory to God through the various ministries here at First Lutheran Church!

Sunday	Apr. 1	6:30 AM- Dennis Wolter / Doug Dahlke 8:00 AM- Dave Uecker / Brian Schuch 9:15 AM - Brian Schuch / Lee Terlinden 10:30 AM - Don Hepner / Dave Uecker
Sunday	Apr. 8	8:00 AM- Dean Dahlke / Tim Halligan 10:30 AM- Fritz Schulz / Robert Schuft
Sunday	Apr. 15	8:00 AM- Fritz Schulz / Lee Terlinden 10:30 AM- Bruce Bergmann / Stan Karg
Sunday	Apr. 22	8:00 AM- David Wolff / Doug Dahlke 10:30 AM- Dean Dahlke / Robert Schuft
Sunday	Apr. 29	8:00 AM- Dave Uecker / Lee Terlinden 10:30 AM- Fritz Schulz / Bruce Bergmann

As I was prepping for writing this I felt like Psalm 46:6 resonates with how we feel, “The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.” What we would give for this snow to melt already?! It looks as if another month has come and gone so here is what's going on in the Christian education world at First Lutheran. We had our annual lock-in with the 5th-8th grade youth. What fun it is to have so many youth here in church to hear devotion and stay up all night being in fellowship with one another! Along with that age group, our tweens is still going on every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from after school until 5 pm. This group has continued to grow in size and energy. With the high school youth group we are continuing to go through the book of John. This month we looked at what it meant when the lame man is at the pool and Jesus asks, “Do you want to get well?” A tough question to wrestle with because sometimes we use what leaves us feeling unwell as a crutch. Or maybe even think that your mess is too much for Jesus to take on. At this point, we look to the cross where Jesus says, “it is finished” that he died to take away that mess. We are quickly coming up on just one month left of confirmation before our 8th graders have questioning and get confirmed. Be praying for the youth that are going to be confirmed that they continue to be faithful to church, and their spiritual life. Lastly, this month I finished what should be my last meeting for the Creative Team, which helps plan the mass events for the National Youth Gathering. I feel very humbled to have been able to be a part of that process in planning what our youth will get to see in 2019. My prayer is that through this event they come to know that our God is so Real and Present in their lives!

God's blessings to you all ~ Tori Kidd

Strengthen the Christian Church by Being True to God's Word

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

For Martin Luther, true doctrine is what matters the most. Luther is noted for saying that doctrine saves. In general, doctrine is what is believed by a person or group. True Christian doctrine for Luther is not varying in any way from God's Word. Luther wrote, "Doctrine is heaven... 'One dot' of doctrine is worth more than 'heaven and earth', therefore we do not permit the slightest offense against it." Luther also added, "In theology, a tiny error overthrows the whole teaching."

According to the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study, more and more American Christians do not follow Christianity's basic doctrines. Now, this is a matter of eternal life or eternal damnation.

As of Pew's most recent study, 70.6 percent of Americans identify themselves as a Christian. This has been a downward trend. These numbers have fallen with every survey since 1990. In 2015, 75 percent identified as Christian. In 2001, 81.6 percent identified as Christian. In 1990, 85 percent identified as Christian.

Now, where did these Christians go? There are many ideas on that. Personally, the world and its values have led many of the flock to stray in order to be liked by the world. The world's values have led many of the strayed to believe that Christianity is too exclusionary, or too conservative on social issues. But this is not the case, Christianity has never changed its values while the world is constantly changing its values.

Sadly, many Christian denominations are now following the world, instead of Christ, as their foundation in doctrine.

So, if we have 70.6 percent of Americans identifying as Christians, how many of them are attending weekly worship services? Pew found that 47 percent of American Christians attend once per week. That is less than half of American Christians. Among Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) attendance, Pew found that 47 percent attend weekly. Among Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) attendance, Pew found that 35 percent attend weekly.

Attendance is a good standard on parishioners hearing the Word of God, but what do they believe? Pew found that 76 percent of all Christians believe in God or are absolutely certain in God. Among the LCMS, this is 80 percent and among the ELCA this is 67 percent.

Now when it comes to interpreting Scripture, Pew found that 39 percent of all Christians said that the Word of God should be taken literally, while 33 percent said that the Word of God should not be taken literally. Among the LCMS, 40 percent said the Word of God should be taken literally, while 41 percent said the Word of God should not be taken literally. Among the ELCA, 20 percent said the Word of God should be taken literally, while 42 percent said the Word of God should not be taken literally.

This statistic says it all. This shows the state of Christianity in America. Frankly, if the Word of God no longer matters to the majority of Christians, then Jesus Christ's promises do not matter. Are we sure of heaven, forgiveness of sins, salvation, eternal life? We can't be if God's inerrant Word is no longer important. Likewise, Christian living (our sanctified life) no longer matters. All this does is cause doubts and this is what Satan desires. When the Word of God no longer matters, then

anything goes. There is no longer morality. There are no longer absolute standards for right and wrong. Everything is all a matter of opinion. Christianity becomes about us, instead of Jesus Christ. Instead of worshipping Christ, we begin to worship ourselves. We replace the one true God with the god of self.

So, how do we correct these issues? While I attended the Best Practices for Ministry conference in Phoenix in February, I came across many good resources for First Lutheran Church and the wider Christian church. One of the sessions I attended was on healthy congregations, which was led by Ted Kober who wrote the book *Built on the Rock*. Kober reiterated that a healthy congregation is not because of the newness of the building or even the membership numbers of the congregation. He also reiterated that without Jesus Christ as the foundation, there will be conflict.

Jesus said: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Kober said that all healthy congregations are grounded in Christ, nourished in God's Word, apply God's Word to their lives, and practice confession and absolution. While all of the unhealthy congregations were unfamiliar with God's Word, fail to apply God's Word to themselves, and are spiritually immature.

So, if we are not in God's Word, what then influences our decision making? Without being immersed in God's Word, we end up following the world's desires.

Jesus said: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

As Christians, we are to bear much fruit. In fact, God judges us by our fruit (Matthew 7). This fruit is shown by our time, talents, and treasures. For everything is a gift from God given to all of creation. As Christians, we are to give thanks in our sanctified lives by spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions, being in the Divine Service regularly, receiving the Means of Grace: hearing the Word of God proclaimed in truth and purity in Law and Gospel and receiving God's gifts in His Sacraments, participate in Bible studies, giving tithes (10 percent of our first fruits) and offerings (more than 10 percent of our first fruits) to support the congregation and its witness, and to be involved in boards, committees, clubs and choirs.

So, by being nourished in God's Word and applying it to our lives, the entire Christian church can turn back the tide of unbelief and false doctrine. For there is only one way to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

So, do not be dismayed. For Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and He will never forsake His flock. We, as followers of Christ, know that our lives will not be easy. For Jesus said: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). We have a great example of living Christlike from Jesus Himself, who

was beaten, smitten, afflicted and died. But, we know what happened next: Jesus, the Son of God, rose that Easter morning.

"And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain...But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15: 14, 20).

Christ died and rose to give the gift of forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation to everyone by grace through faith.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

~In Christ, Pastor Adelsen



Your faithful service is what continues to make First Lutheran Church a wonderful place to worship, fellowship and serve together!

Sunday	Apr. 1	6:30 AM- Cassidy Rislund / Rebekah Welch 8:00 AM- Lauren Bernstein / Elise Betcher 9:15 AM - Ella Malz / Alexis Dahlman 10:30 AM - Zachary Dahlke / Caden Lang
Sunday	Apr. 8	8:00 AM- Rebecca Dammann / Logan Ober 10:30 AM- Paris Stradtman / Brianna Tabbert
Sunday	Apr. 15	8:00 AM- Jordan Mickolich / Kyle Hagen 10:30 AM- Cassidy Rislund / Margaret Schuff

Fellowship Time is a wonderful time to visit with one another and meet new friends. If your church board or organization is interested in helping to sponsor Fellowship Time, we have openings on April 15th and April 29th. Please consider this opportunity and contact the church office. Thank you!

First Edition Book Club

First Edition Book Club's next book is Last Light, by Terri Blackstock. We will meet to discuss the book at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 3rd at Deb Donnay's house, 1523



Louden Ave, Glencoe. Doug Branning's mind raced to understand – planes were falling out of the sky, crashing and burning ...Birmingham has lost all its power. Its streets are jammed with cars that won't start, its airport engulfed in flames from burning planes. All communications – cell phones, computers, even radios – are silent. In the face of a crisis that sweeps an entire high-tech planet back to a time before electricity, the Branning family faces a choice. Will they hoard their possessions in order to survive—or trust God to provide as they share their resources with those around them? Yesterday's world is gone. Family and community are all that remain, and the outage is bringing out the worst in some. Desperation can be dangerous when a killer lives among you.

The next book we'll be reading is If I Live, by Terri Blackstock. Discussion will be in May – date and location to be determined after

April meeting. The hunt is almost over! Casey Cox is still on the run after being indicted for murder. The hunt that began with her bloody footprints escalates, and she's running out of places to hide. Her face is all over the news, and her disguises are no longer enough. It's only a matter of time before someone recognizes her. Dylan Roberts, the investigator who once hunted her, is now her only hope. Terrifying attempts on Dylan's life could force Casey out of hiding. The clock is ticking on both their lives, but exposing the real killers is more complicated than they knew. Amassing the evidence to convict their enemies draws Dylan and Casey together, but their relationship has consequences. Will one life have to be sacrificed to protect the other? With If I Live, Terri Blackstock takes us on one more heart-stopping chase in the sensational conclusion to the If I Run series.

Library News:

"GROWING UP LUTHERAN" by Janet L. Martin and Suzann J. Nelson

An autobiography of their "Growing Up Lutheran" remembrances, written to poke fun of their Lutheran heritage. Both authors are speakers at many Lutheran churches of various synods throughout the year, countless Lutherans have related their endearing, and often-hilarious stories, many of which are included in the book and help capture the "Lutheran Experience." This book is a combination of memories and pictures with other Lutherans who grew up in the 40's and 60's rather like an old-fashioned Lutheran Church basement hot dish.

Written generously, salted and peppered with gentle humor and a few granules of Lutheran theology. This will "fill" you with smiles and remembrances of the good old days. This is most certainly true.



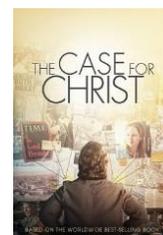
Lutheran Night at the MN Twins



Tickets are reserved for the 7 PM game on Tuesday, July 31st against the Cleveland Indians. Seats are located in the Home Plate Terrace at a cost of \$34 each. At a cost of about \$12 per person, bus transportation will be arranged from Glencoe. Please contact Cindy at 238-2148 or eggsgluecscindy@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

First Lutheran Movie Night

The movie "The Case for Christ" will be shown in the Fellowship Center on Saturday, April 7th at 7:00PM. Popcorn and refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30pm. A free-will offering will be accepted.





ANGEL SEEDS | April - June

The April-June Angel Seeds will be donated to Faith Comes by Hearing Military Outreach program. Their goal is to provide audio Bibles, called BibleSticks to all of the United State Armed

Forces. The "BibleSticks" have the entire New Testament of the Bible plus selected Psalms for the service men and women to listen to. It comes with headphones in a small, convenient size for the listener to take with them wherever they go.

Thank you for prayerfully considering donating to this important mission endeavor!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML Prayer Service
Monday, April 2nd | 7:00 PM
LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE



LWML will meet April 2 at 7:00 PM for a Prayer Service "Living As God's People."

Peter encourages us to remain hopeful in what may seem like hopeless times. "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. . . You have received mercy. Keep your conduct honorable. . . that they may see your good deeds and glorify God." 1 Peter 2: 9-12.

Mr. Scheele will also tell us about the recent 7th and 8th grade outdoor education trip to Wolf Ridge in northern Minnesota that we helped fund. Refreshments will follow. All women of the congregation are invited to join us.

MUSLIMS NEED JESUS

First Ev. Lutheran Church | April 21st | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

What is the difference between Christianity and Islam? Do we have the same god? What is our church doing to reach out to Muslims? What about dating and intermarriage between Christians and Muslims? These topics and others will be discussed at a mission event at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glencoe on April 21st from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM.

Speakers: Rev. Peter Adelsen, assistant pastor at First Evangelical, will lead a Bible Study "The Truth of Islam" and a Lutheran response to Muslim history, beliefs and practices.

Missionary Nader Alaraj, P.O.B.L.O. (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) will speak about Christian witness to Muslims. He was born in Palestine and moved with his family several times to avoid political unrest. After working in the medical field in the United States his heart was moved by the Holy Spirit to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus to Muslims and others through Lutheran "Friendship Centers" in Bloomington and Burnsville. You can read more about him at www.poblo.org.

Registration: begins at 8:00 AM. The cost is \$5 and includes an optional light breakfast and lunch.

Opportunities for giving: Gas cards (Holiday or Super America or personal check) for use by Missionary Alaraj
"Mites" (Coins, cash or check) for LWML mission grants

Offering for Minnesota South District LWML (ALL checks should be made payable to McLeod Zone LWML.)

All women and men are welcome. Content is appropriate for high-school age through adult. This Mission Event is sponsored by McLeod Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League and First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Replies to the church office the week before the event are appreciated but not mandatory. 320-864-5522 or office@firstglencoe.org.



Happy April birthday to LWML honorary members Aurelia Werth, Verda Wittenberg, Dorothy Rose and Pastor Mathison. A \$5 gift to LWML mission grants has been given in honor of each of you!



LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

Lutheran Hour Topics for April

Each Sunday during April at 12:30 PM listen to the Lutheran Hour on radio station KDUZ 1260 AM.

This month you will hear the following program topics:

April 1 "They Were Afraid, You Know?" with Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer. It takes a lot to overcome fear, a lot of words, in fact a lifetime of words. Let this Easter Day be a new beginning of trusting Jesus' words of resurrection and life! (Mark 16:1-8)

April 8 "It's Really Real" with Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus. Here' the deal. If Jesus actually rose from the dead, it would be wise to believe in Him because there will be salvation in no one else. If He didn't rise, we're all toast. Tune in to today's message and hear why you can be confident Jesus' resurrection is really real. (1 John 1:1-3)

April 15 "Peace to You" with Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer. Christians often say, "The Lord be with you." What does that look like? And how do you know Jesus is indeed with you? Jesus' visit to His first disciples shows us the how and what of confidence in Christ. (Luke 24:36-49)

April 22 "What's in a Name?" with Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus. We live in a disposable age. If something wears out, breaks down or is lost, we replace it. But who or what can replace Jesus? Who else can save us? (Acts 1:42)

April 29 "The Answer to Unhappiness" with Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Newman. What do you really want? What does your heart yearn for most? A blogger recently asked her readers the question: "If you could say in one word what you want more of in life, what would that be?" Can you guess the number one answer? It was happiness. (Acts 8:26-40)

God's Word provides the light we need. Psalm 119:105



FLC Prayer Chain

We're always looking for new members to join our Prayer Chain! We have both a Phone Chain and an E-Mail Chain. You can join anytime. Participation as a member is simple, but so very powerful! The Bible says in Phil 4:6, "But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God." If anyone would like to join the Prayer Chain or make a prayer request, please contact the church office or one of the prayer chain phone #'s listed on all weekly bulletins.

Maximize Charitable Giving



You can remember the ministries of First Lutheran Church and School through a wide variety of gifts. Gifts come in many ways and sizes. Some of these planned gifts can even provide significant financial and tax benefits to you.

Giving is important to you. It's good for the soul, and for your financial life, too. People make charitable donations for a number of reasons. Among the most common are to leave a lasting imprint. But, don't be ashamed to list tax breaks among your reasons for giving. Our country's well-being relies on public donations, which is why the U.S. government provides taxpayers with these benefits.

Gifts that Give Back. Give happily. There are many ways to give and not all of them involve writing a check. Some forms of charitable gifts commit cash and other assets to future purposes, while assuring the donor continued income. Yes, you can continue to earn interest on monies promised to your favorite cause.

Life Income Gifts. Consider establishing a life income gift such as charitable gift annuities and remainder trusts. These assets are irrevocably transferred to an organization to be managed for a term of years or until the end of a donor's or beneficiary's life. In exchange for this commitment, you secure annual income for yourself or other beneficiaries, as well as substantial tax and charitable advantages. What's more, with good management and favorable market conditions, the original value of your gift can increase over the term, which means you'll actually be giving a larger gift when the time comes.

Charitable Gift Annuities. Charitable gift annuities typically involve transferring cash or property to a charitable organization in exchange for the charity's contractual promise to make fixed annuity payments to the donor (and/or spouse) for life. Payments can begin immediately, or the start date can be delayed to coincide with a particular event, such as retirement. This is a great way to simultaneously generate income and give charitably.

Life Insurance Legacy. Naming your favorite charity as beneficiary of a life insurance policy may be a low-cost way to give that can go a long way to minimizing the final taxes payable upon your passing. There are a few fairly straightforward ways you can use a life insurance contract as a form of charitable giving. You can, for example, name an organization as a life insurance beneficiary. This may be a good option for donors whose beneficiaries have preceded them in death or whose beneficiaries are covered by other life insurance contracts or assets. Donors may receive an estate tax deduction for the donated proceeds of the contract, but no tax benefit during their lifetimes. You can also donate a life insurance contract that has been paid up. Gifts completed more than three years prior to your death are generally not included in your estate for federal estate purposes. As a result, your estate may be subject to lower taxes

As always, we make ourselves available for your questions.

2018 Endowment Committee Mark Schmidt, Wayne Albrecht, Brian Grochow, Sheryl Mumm-Touailat, Stephanie Schlauderaff, Deb Ramirez & Les Engelmann



Stories of Faith

The Public Relations (PR) Team has invited members to share their stories related to situations or events in which they experienced God's love and providential care. If you are willing to share a "story of faith," contact the church office or a PR Team member. If you have a story, but would like help putting it on paper, please contact us, as we'll be happy to assist!

Cindy Eggersgluess 238-2148

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Jesus went to the cross to make Himself the target of the devil and all his demons, the target of every evil that people can imagine, and the target of God's own wrath against every sin. Jesus removed your sin. When He removed your sin, He also removed your shame and your guilt. He restores your voice. He hears your confession. He answers your prayer. He gives you His own Word to confess. He restores your voice to speak in faith toward Him and in love toward one another. Jesus died for us and has risen! Alleluia!

- Excerpt from The Lutheran Witness

Student Scholarships Available



MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Frieda Perschau Educational Trust provides scholarship funds for LHS students, based on financial need. Pick up application forms from the church or school offices. Forms must

be returned by **Tuesday, May 15th** in order to be considered for the 2018-19 academic year.

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Edwin & Ella Ponath Education Fund scholarships are again being made available for the 2018-19 academic year. All First Lutheran Church members with students enrolled in First Lutheran School are eligible for scholarships. Scholarship awards are based on financial need AND on the amount of available funds.

Application forms will be mailed to all member students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 by the end of April. Forms must be returned by **Friday, June 15th** in order to be considered for the 2018-19 academic year. Questions on either of these scholarships should be directed to **Debi Ramirez, Business Manager at (320) 864-5522** or **dramirez@firstglencoe.org** or **Michelle Alsleben, FLS Secretary at 320-864-3317** or **malsleben@firstglencoe.org**.

First Lutheran School also offers tuition aid. Anyone and everyone is eligible for this aid. The amount of the aid is calculated with a formula based on Adjusted Gross Income. Please turn in the first page of your **tax form 1040** into the School office any time before the school year begins. The bottom line on that page has the calculation of your Adjusted Gross Income. Your information is treated with the utmost privacy. Any questions, please contact Principal Dean Scheele, School Secretary Michelle Alsleben, or Business Manager, Debi Ramirez.

Time with Me Children's Club

Is an "activity group for children ages 2 to 4 years old to spend time with their parent(s)/guardian. We will nurture little ones spiritual and academic growth here at First Lutheran. Our theme this year is "God takes care of us as we grow". Our last session for the school year will be Wednesday, April 18th at First Lutheran Church in the fellowship center from 6:30-7:30 PM. Come play, do projects, and eat fish with fishing rods. We'll explore Jesus' call to make Disciples (catch fish/people)



Wednesday, April 18

Jesus calls his disciples – FLC Fellowship Center

April 2018 News Thrivent Financial

✓ **Thrivent Choice** – If you are a Thrivent member, please check to see if you have Choice \$. If you qualify, Choice \$ are periodically released to you throughout the year.....you must keep checking and directing. First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are two of the



many organizations you can direct your monies to. It's fast and easy to do. You can visit (www.Thrivent.com/choice) or phone 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars." Have your Thrivent ID# handy. You can phone Mon – Friday from 7 am to 6 pm. If you would like assistance, please contact Cindy or the church office.

✓ **Twins Game** – On July 31st, Cindy will be organizing an Action Team to attend Lutheran Night at the MN Twins.

✓ **Workshop for Preparing for College** – – Would you like ideas on discovering grants and scholarships? When should one start preparing for college? Watch for details on an upcoming workshop!

✓ **Thrivent Action Teams** - A Thrivent Action Team is a simple, flexible way for you to bring people together to make a positive difference.....you might hold a fundraiser, conduct a service activity, or hold an educational event.

Visit Thrivent.com/actionteam for more information or to complete the online application. You must make your request a minimum of 3 weeks (but less than 90 days) before your event. You'll sign on using your current user name and password. When applying, you'll be asked the proposed project date and details. Once you submit your application, you'll get an email within a week letting you know if it's approved.

When you're project is approved, Thrivent will provide resources (Action Team Kit) to help you plan the event, promotional items (including Thrivent T-shirts to increase your visibility), and seed money to cover promotional and material expenses (\$250 Community Impact Card).

Each Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year. Involve others – it's all about your friends, family and community coming together to make a positive impact! If you need inspiration, check out the "101 Thrivent Action Team Ideas" on the Resources page of the web site or on the Literature stands here at church.

✓ **Run the Numbers** – Are you financially on target for retirement? Check out Thrivent's retirement planning calculator at Thrivent.com/retirementcalculator

Thrivent is committed to supporting our church congregation and wants to help First Lutheran meet our members' needs. There are educational workshops, programs, and resources that focus on life events, giving back, and managing finances.

Thrivent events have absolutely no "Sales Pitch" or "product talk." The workshops are free of charge to all – not just Thrivent members. Keep in mind that Thrivent's purpose is to strengthen Christian communities by helping people be wise with money and inspiring them to live generously!

Cindy & Neil Eggersgluess - 320-238-2148 / eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com

Linda Becker, Charles Jensen, Verna & Harold Kunkel, Pastor Mathison, Amy Welch – Your Congregational Advocates

7th & 8th GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL

SERVICE PROJECT:

The 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class would like to thank everyone that donated to our "Birthday Blessing Bags" and "Toiletry Bag" service project. Thanks to your generosity, and the use of a Thrivent Action Team gift card, we were able to assemble 50 bags (each included a cake mix, frosting, disposable pan/cupcake liners, and party supplies). We were also able to donate over 130 toiletry items. This added up to a 211 pound donation to the McLeod County Food Shelf! We are so grateful for your support. Thank you



to the 7th and 8th graders who helped with this project and a special thank you to Gabby Fountain, Amanda, Cavin and Maelee Streufert for delivering the items to the food shelf.



BOARDS, COUNCIL & COMMITTEES SUMMARIES:

Church Council | February 15th

The Council reviewed minutes from all of the Board meetings in February as well as the January financial reports. Stewardship Board is discussing how to promote online giving. Should you have any suggestions, please contact a member of the Stewardship Board. All new communicant members since November 2017 were approved. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Endowment Committee recommendations to release 2017 interest earned from five funds. The appointment of a new board member to the Board of Evangelism will take place next month.

Church Finance Committee | March 8th

The Finance Committee met on March 8 and included Cindy Eggersgluess, Les Englemann, Kathy Schiroo, Mark Schmidt, Debi Ramirez, and Pastor Adelsen. Kevin Hagen was also in attendance as a representative from Day School Board. Discussion focused on FL financial issues and future direction. In reviewing income vs disbursements for past several years, we are spending more than our income. What can be done to increase both attendance and giving? What are our needs vs wants? How best to clearly and accurately communicate to the congregation? What plan is in place? We recommend that Church Council focus on these issues and develop a plan. We ask all congregation members to pray for guidance and help concerning FL's financial situation. Our next meeting scheduled for April 12.

Youth Board | March 13th

Lock-in for 5th-8th grade went well. We had 76 kids in attendance. We will be looking at options for future events for this age group. High School Youth Group and Tweens Youth Group both continue to do well. "The Case for Christ" will be shown on Saturday, April 7th (Note date change). The Board discussed projects to work on in the summer, which included: Safety Policy regarding Youth, updating Youth Board description, starting a college group and brainstorming about next year's Valentine's Day Dinner. Discussed having a "Senior Night" for this year's graduates. Updated our preliminary budget. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 pm.

Day School Board | March 6th

Spelling bee coming up on April 14 at Mayer Lutheran. Wolf Ridge trip went well. Silent Auction was a success (no numbers yet at this time). LuAnn Schmidt is long term subbing for Katie Erickson while she is on maternity leave. DSB motioned to take over responsibilities for Flames of Faith. Motioned to donate \$5000.00 to boiler fund.

Board of Trustees | No March Meeting

Board of Evangelism | March 6th

The Board of Evangelism along with the Day School Board attended the Glencoe Community and Business Fest held at the Panther Field House on February 10th, 2018. The Board of Evangelism is also sponsoring a food drive for the month of March. Donation Baskets have been placed in the foyers of the church and all donations will be given to the McLeod County Foodshelf the first week in April.

Board of Deacons | March 1st

No Summary Submitted

Board of Stewardship | March 6th

This board is working on a timeline to help with being more efficient in planning, researching ideas and keeping on task for the year. We continue to work on ideas on how to increase online giving by trying to collect any logistics or data regarding current pattern of donations. Budgeting for next year was discussed but not completed as we had some questions.

Christian Education Board | March 8th

No Summary Submitted

2017-2018 Financials: FEBRUARY (YTD)

GENERAL FUND INCOME (February):

		<i>Last Year</i>
Offering Envelopes	\$ 472,904.72	\$ 501,584.49
Thrivent "Choice" Member Election	3,009.00	3,007.00
CHP – Be Well Rewards	-0-	-0-
Confirmation Fees	2,350.00	NOT REPORTED SEPARATELY
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	2,420.005,	943.20
School Tuition	<u>101,842.47</u>	<u>111,026.23</u>
	<u>\$ 582,526.19</u>	<u>\$ 621,560.92</u>

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (February):

		<i>Last Year</i>
Staff	\$ 590,054.86	\$ 588,306.11
CHP – Be Well Rewards	-0-	(3,049.91)
Employer Payroll Expenses	67.66	-0-
Buildings	65,705.13	65,694.59
Operations	36,891.64	27,702.90
Interest on Line of Credit	<u>944.42</u>	<u>7,947.41</u>
	<u>\$ 693,663.71</u>	<u>\$ 686,601.10</u>

2017-2018 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:

\$ 13,537.53	\$ 17,255.28
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February 28th GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS:

(\$ 279,991.13)

Last Year's February 28th General Indebtedness:

(\$ 206,641.54)

Special Gifts Received For March

Del & Ida Rutske (In Memory of Kenneth Donnay)	\$10	General Fund
Del & Ida Rutske (In Memory of Laurence Oberlin)	\$10	General Fund
Willis & Lois Herrmann (In Memory of Kenneth Donnay)	\$10	Debt Reduction
Larry & Edna Lou Lindemann (In Memory of Dianna Robeck)	\$10	First Lutheran School
Joan Wandrei (In Memory of Kenneth Donnay)	\$20	First Lutheran School
Robert & Kathy Schuetz (In Memory of Mel Jungclaus)	\$20	Debt Reduction
Dean & Sheila Scheele (In Memory of Kenneth Donnay)	\$10	First Lutheran School
Sidney & Joanne Samuelson (In Memory of Kenneth Donnay)	\$10	First Lutheran School
Marcella Cohrs (In Memory of my husband Vernon Cohrs who passed away April 19, 1985)	\$25	Debt Reduction
Richard Cohrs (In Memory of my father Vernon Cohrs who passed away April 19, 1985)	\$25	Debt Reduction
Alice Bandemer Family (In Loving Memory of Alice Bandemer)	\$950	General Fund
Dennis Wolter (In Memory of Alice Bandemer)	\$10	General Fund

First Lutheran School Flame Flash ~ April 2018

Please Pray For:

- Lutherans in Africa, our chapel offering recipients, as they work to help spread the Gospel of Christ in Africa.
- The Silent Auction Committee and all involved for all of their hard work before, during, and after the big event.
- Those families that are considering sending their children to FLS that they might be led to realize the importance of a Christ centered education.
- A penitential heart during Holy Week.

Thank You To:

- Annette Bernstein & Becky Edwards for heading up the Popcorn Sales Fundraiser as well as all those who took part in the sales program.
- Tori, Ms. Gabby and all of the youth who helped with watching young people during the Silent Auction.
- Everyone who donated to our 11th annual Silent Auction as well as all the great folks who showed up for the meal and those who bid on items. Your love for FLS is greatly appreciated!
- Chris Pratley for cooking the delicious pork for the Silent Auction!
- The LWML for making pies for the Silent Auction!
- Dave Goff for setting up the flying program at the Glencoe airport for our students as well as Stuart and Jackie Selchow and all of the other pilots who helped with this great event!
- Becky Edwards, Alissa Hanson, Jenn Goff, Dawn Hagen, Sheila Scheele, and Linda Donnay for heading up the Flame Boosters Silent Auction event and all the others who pitched in. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!!

Chapel Offerings

Our third Trimester chapel offerings will be going to Lutherans in Africa. The following was taken from their website: There is a severe shortage of trained pastors in Africa. In America, the Lutheran Church has 1 pastor for every 376 members. In Tanzania, for instance, there is 1 pastor for every 3,500 members. By training Africans to be teachers of the faith, Lutherans In Africa (LIA) is able to help fill the need for pastors and further spread the Gospel, allowing God to work through His external Word. We collected over \$600 for our 2nd trimester chapel offerings for LHM-Cambodia.

Calendar Notes:

- March 29 -April 3 No School, Easter break
- April 1 Easter Sunday, He Has Risen
- April 16-20 Basic skills testing 2-8 grade
- April 18 Time with me 6:30 PM
- April 27 3rd and 4th grade field trip, Ft. Snelling
- May 19 Mr. Scheele skydiving at 10:00 AM at Winsted

Another Great Auction

The eleventh annual Silent Auction and Luncheon is in the books and by most accounts, we can consider it a huge success! As of this writing, it looks like we will have earned over \$16,600 plus another \$2500 from a corporate gift for a total of around \$19,000! We would like to thank all of the people who helped with the auction, whether you were a person who donated, bid, or just showed up for the meal. We ask that you please patronize and thank the businesses who have donated. They are instrumental in making our auction a success. We would also like to thank the parents who sent in items with their children for their classroom baskets. They were awesome! The majority of proceeds from this auction will be used to improve the various curricular programs for our school as well as other updates that are overdue. We will also use some of the monies for tuition assistance. When everyone pitches in it can really make a difference!!

Authentic Cajun Crawfish Boil

Again, this year, supporters can continue to help FLS raise funds and have a great time doing it! The teaching staff and others are hosting a Crawfish Boil on Friday, June 1 starting around 6:00 PM. It will be held at Doug and Mary Stuedeman's barn, 1314 110th St, Plato. This is an all you can eat affair which includes: hot boiled crawfish (flown in live from Louisiana), red potatoes, smoked sausage, corn on the cob, hot dogs, carrots, mushrooms all spiced up just right Cajun style. We will also have tasty Louisiana desserts and live music provided by assorted artists!! (possibly the Gruber Girls Bluegrass Band) All of this for only \$35 a person! So come on, indulge in this captivating, cultural, culinary experience, and take part in an entertaining social event that will benefit our great students. 100% of your donation will go toward the purchase of needed supplies or programs for the school. To purchase tickets (which are limited this year) and secure a spot, just contact Mr. Scheele at 320-864-3317. "Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler" let the good times roll.

Young Investors Program

The Youth Investors Program (formerly K.I.D.S. Stamps) is an ongoing program. Students can bring their deposits on Thursdays and carry out transactions after chapel services in the church. YI is a way for kids to save money and help our Church Extension Fund as well.

\$200 for Free

As a continuing incentive, First Lutheran is offering \$200 to any school or church family who recommends a family to First Lutheran and that family registers a child, or children, for this school year. If you get two families to register, you get \$400! Spread the good news that First Lutheran School is a great place to learn about God's love and the awesome world he has given to us!

Ongoing Fundraisers

We are collecting: Box Tops, Coborns MORE Rewards, Kwik Trip milk tops, and Country Hearth labels. Our last check was for over \$260 from the Box Tops program and we usually receive a large check from our Coborn's MORE Rewards. Our most recent Kwik Trip tops earned us a check of \$166.35. Keep up the good work!

Fifth Grade News

With spring weather just around the corner, the school year marches on, albeit a bit too quickly at times. The fifth grade is blessed with a class of polite and inquisitive individuals that are a joy to work with. Some highlights of their current curricular progress include:

Religion: In depth discussion of baptism and the Lord's supper

Science: Study of the elements, as well as time spent tapping the school's several hard maple trees... they've already produced a small batch of quality maple syrup

English: Prepositions and prepositional phrases

Spelling: Prefixes

History: The conflict between the North and the South and the onset of the Civil War

Math : Multiplication of fraction

Literature: Ongoing novel studies supplemented by SRA activities designed to support the five key components of reading development

Health: Review of the functional nature of eyes, ears, mouth, etc.

PE: Floor hockey

As the school year rapidly moves to completion, the fifth graders can look forward to warmer weather, achievement testing, and a couple of field trips. Their homeroom teacher will certainly miss them as they move on to sixth grade but they're capable and ready for their promotion to their next year of studies. Easter blessings in the name of our resurrected Savior!



Perfect Church Attendance

Congratulations to the following students who had perfect church attendance for the second trimester; Rachel Pixler Grady Schuft, Maggie Schuft, Kole Christensen, Beau Christensen, Sophia Pixler, and Rebekah Welch. The 8th grade class had the best average class attendance for the 2nd trimester and as a result, they will receive a root beer float party! Praise God for healthy bodies and dedicated parents.

Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students who attained the honor roll for the second trimester at First Lutheran School.

"A" Honor Roll: Lauren Betcher, Seth Mathews, Rachel Pixler, Jackie Lemke, Emma Becker, Elise Betcher, Abby Gruber, Maggie Schuft, and Kyle Hagen .

"B" Honor Roll: Colin Bernstein, Grace Brickzen, Laura Busse, Micah Frey, Owen Schauer, Katlyn Hanson, Audrey Pertersen, Dylon Terlinden, Meara Busse, Alyssa Gruber, Lauren Bernstein, Beau Christensen, Jordan Mickolichuk, Cassidy Rislund, and Becky Dammann .

Praise God for the gifts he has given these students!

