



# First Lutheran Caller

DECEMBER 2011

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Excitement was everywhere in our building on Sunday, November 6, All Saints Sunday. In our chapel. In our sanctuary. In the Commons and the Link. In Martin Luther Hall. Not only were we remembering Christians who have set an example of the faith for us, and have now left this earth. We were being an example of a congregation that cares for people in need.

The Doug and Lisa Miller family was the object of our love that Sunday. Both parents suffer from cancer, and their three children face numerous stresses. We wanted to raise money to make their lives a little brighter. Many members pitched in to assist our Men's Club in putting on a pancake breakfast and silent auction. All the hard work was blessed by God. Altogether about \$18,000 was raised for the Miller family.

Somebody said, "You mean you are doing all of this for a family that does not even go to your church?" Yes! Our congregation responds to needs of all kinds. The love of Christ compels us to reach out in love to all people.

Remember the story Jesus told about the rich man who was going on a trip, and he gave a lot of money to three of his servants to invest while he was gone? (Matthew 25) Two of them made investments that doubled the master's money. One of them buried the money in the ground. The rich man was furious

when he returned because the servant had not invested the money, but simply sat on it. Jesus seems to be telling us that we need to be investing ourselves in the lives of others. The resources God gives to us are not meant to be kept to ourselves, but shared with others.

As a congregation, that means that we need to be constantly looking for ways that we can invest in other people. That may mean helping a family with severe illness. Or providing housing for homeless families. Or inviting the neighborhood youth into our building. Or offering a place for a Spanish-speaking church to grow their ministry. Or funding the education of seminary students. Or bringing food to the SACA food shelf. All these things we are already doing as a way of investing in other people.

Can you think of other ways we as a congregation should be investing the resources God has placed in our hands? I would love to hear them.

Pastor Tom

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## Christmas Pageant Practice & Performance Schedule

We need several parents to stay and help  
out during the practices

**Rehearsals: Sat. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at Church**

9-10:30 am for Speaking Roles

10:30- Noon for All Children and Parent Helpers

**Sat. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at Church with Costumes**

9-10:30 am for Speaking Roles

10:30- Noon for All Children and Parent Helpers

**Performances: Sun. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**At Church & Crestview Senior Community**

9 am Speaking Roles at the Church for Final Rehearsal

9:30 am All Children and Parent Helpers with Costumes

11-11:30 Christmas Pageant at Church

11:45 Jesus' Birthday Party Lunch

12:45 Drive to Crestview

1 – 2pm Christmas Pageant at Crestview



## CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE

Youth of all ages are needed to provide prelude music for the 4:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to sing or play an instrument, contact Peter Carlson.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

12/4: Chapel worship at 8:45; full worship at 10:00 am

12/11: Chapel worship at 8:45; full worship at 10:00; Sunday School Christmas program at 11:00

12/18: Chapel worship at 8:45; Christmas carol sing-along at 9:45; full worship at 10:00

12/24: Christmas Eve services at 4:30 and 10:30 pm

12/25: **only one service:** Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:00 am

**NOTE:** On Jan. 1, we will also have **only one service** at 10:00 am.



## Have you heard?

The FLC Senior Choir has been invited to sing in the Holidazzle Parade! Choir members will be singing Christmas carols on one of the parade floats on **Saturday, Dec. 10**. The parade starts at 6:30 pm and can be seen along Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis. Come join the fun and support our great choir!

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for worship on Christmas Day! A Service of Lessons and Carols will be offered in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. This beautiful service features scriptures telling the story of God's Incarnation alternating with favorite Christmas carols. Come hear great music and add your voice to the celebration of Christ's birth!

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

By Peter Carlson, Director of Music



I hope you'll be able to join us for the Christmas at First concert on Dec. 18. This year's theme, "In a Lowly Manger Born," comes from the title of a hymn in our hymnal. This hymn, written by a Japanese pastor and professor, outlines the life of Jesus from humble birth to glorious resurrection. Our concert will use this hymn, along with other music and readings, to meditate on one of the great mysteries of Christianity: why would God send the Savior of the world as a tiny, helpless baby? God's people had been waiting thousands of years for a Messiah to come and rescue them from the many hardships they had faced...how disappointing that he was born in a smelly stable!

And yet, how comforting.

If God willingly took the form of a cold, hungry, uncomfortable human baby, is there anything about us that God can't truly understand? More than choirs of angels or an impossibly bright star, this is the true wonder of Christmas. God understands us because God became one of us.

We're hearing so much in the news these days about people being treated poorly because they are different. Perceiving someone as out of the ordinary is too often a license to harass, ridicule or injure, and more and more people in our society are speaking out about this problem. I believe we in the Church need to restate what has always been the Christian message. God created each and every person. Jesus came to redeem each and every person. If being "out of the ordinary" was against God's will, how can we

possibly explain that small-town virgin birth surrounded by farm animals and dirty shepherds and scientific foreigners? That's just downright bizarre.

We'll be exploring these ideas at our second IMAGE service on Dec. 17, so I hope you can attend that as well. Bring your kids, a friend, or anyone else you know who sometimes feels unloved. (Who doesn't, once in awhile?)

So...IMAGE on Saturday night, Christmas at First on Sunday. It's a big weekend with an important message: Jesus has a charter membership on the Island of Misfit Toys. Think you're too weird, different, sinful, ugly, rebellious or (fill in the blank) to be worthy of his redeeming love? Just try him.

### BE A STAR IN THE ALL-CHURCH MUSICAL!

As a part of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, First Lutheran will present a musical on Saturday, April 28. **ALL First members are invited to be a part of the cast!** The script will be written by Director of Music Peter Carlson and will feature contemporary Christian music. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting event, plan to attend the informational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 pm. If you can't make that date, just talk to Peter for more info.



### CHRISTMAS AT FIRST

The annual First Lutheran Christmas Concert will be presented on **Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4:00 pm**. In a *Lowly Manger Born* will explore the mystery and contradictions of the Savior of the world being born in a humble stable. Featuring a chamber orchestra and all the talented musicians of FLC, it will be a beautiful celebration of Christ's birth!

A holiday reception sponsored by Music at First will be held in the Commons following the concert.

#### Other holiday concerts at First...

Sunday, Dec. 4, 3:00 pm	<i>Celebrate Christmas!</i> presented by the Columbia Heights Fine Arts Foundation
Sunday, Dec. 11, 4:00 pm	Chorus Polaris

## YOUNG AT HEART

### **Tuesday, December 13, 12 noon Christmas Dinner**

A festive holiday dinner will be served at beautifully decorated tables in Martin Luther Hall.

Music will be provided by 96 strings.

\$15 tickets can be purchased in the Commons on Sunday mornings, December 4 & 11.

### **Comin' up:**

*Tuesday, January 24, 1 p.m.  
2012 PARTY*

*Tuesday, February 14, noon  
Valentine luncheon*

*Tuesday, April 17  
Century Celebration*

## SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

Our Sunday Morning Adult Class is now meeting in the choir room on second floor. We have plenty of room for participants to have space for Bibles and notebooks, and even coffee. The class meets during the education hour, 11:00 – 12:00. Our abbreviated schedule for the month of December is as follows:

December 4 – Pastor Tom will delve more deeply into the Narrative Lectionary topic for this Sunday, the prophet Habakkuk. Learn how to pronounce his name – and more!

December 11 – Come to the sanctuary and enjoy our Sunday School children's annual Christmas program. It's guaranteed to be great.

December 18 – Pastor Tom will delve more deeply into the Narrative Lectionary topic for this Sunday, the prophet Malachi. The last class of the year will study the last book of the Old Testament.

December 25 – Christmas Day. No class. One worship service at 10:00.

## HOLDEN VILLAGE 2012 - TENTATIVE DATES

The tentative dates for Holden in 2012 are:

Departure from Chelan/Arrival at Holden	Friday, July 27
Departure from Holden/Arrival at Chelan	Friday, August 3

Dates will be dependant upon space available at Holden Village so may change slightly.

Deposit of \$40.00 per person needs to be paid prior to December 20 to make firm reservations.

The boat from Chelan leaves approximately 8:30 am. We will leave Holden at 1:30 pm, arriving back to Chelan at approximately 4:00 pm. Transportation plans need to take these times into consideration. We will check the Bed and Breakfast for availability on July 26.

More details to follow. Contact Kathy Ballard at 651-486-9149 for further questions.



## LOCK-IN WITH SPECIAL GUEST CAPTIVE FREE!

6-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sat., Dec. 10, 7pm – Sun., Dec. 11, 10am

Bring: \$5 to offset the cost of pizza/breakfast, sleeping bag/blanket, pillow, air mattress/cot (there will be no mattresses or couches

for youth - they are reserved for our fearless adults who help out), overnight "stuff," Sunday "stuff" (things you may need for Confirmation or worship), Bible.

## CONFIRMATION REMINDERS

Please keep an eye on your schedule for the month:

4 – Moses' Birth and Call

5 – 6-7<sup>th</sup> graders only: Service Project at Global Health Ministries, 5:30-8:30pm Meeting at and Returning to First. The bus needs to leave by 5:35, please be on time.

11 – No class due to the Sunday School Christmas Program

12 – 8<sup>th</sup> graders only: Service Project at Global Health Ministries, 5:30-8:30pm Meeting at and Returning to First. The bus needs to leave by 5:35, please be on time.

18 – Moses and Pharaoh

25 – No class

Class resumes on January 8.

Don't forget that on January 21<sup>st</sup>, each student is asked to work a shift at the Lutefisk dinner as a service project. They will receive youth credits for working. If they are unable to work a shift, then they will be expected to make up a service project on their own.

## 2012 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Participants: Please remember your \$100 payment on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Also, please plan to meet at 9am on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Chapel.



## 2012 30 HOUR FAMINE!!!!

“Overcome  
Hunger

Sign up for the

2012 30 Hour Famine!

Friday, February 24, 6pm – Saturday, February 25, 7pm

Must be 12 years old by February 24, 2012 to participate.

Many adults are needed also.

Sign up today!

Pick up your fundraising materials and information from Leisha at FLC on Sunday mornings.

See [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org) for more information.

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## 10:00 AM

**Acolytes:**

December 4	Jessie Husen	Tori Husen
December 11	Jacob Rolfs	Simone Woods
December 18	Joseph Super	Bailey Ratliff
December 24	Adam Larson (4:30 pm)	Bailey Ratliff (10:30 pm)
December 25	Erica Edstrom	

**Communion**

**Servers:**

December 4	Dave Tharaldson Meredith Tharaldson Don Wahlstrom Carol Wahlstrom
December 11	Sonja Super Bonnie O'Brien Don Rosell Barb Rosell
December 18	Sandy Vant Wendy Ramirez Chester Shattuck Clara Shattuck
December 24	(10:30 pm) Cheryl Ballingrud Ruth Dodson
December 25	Bev Thompson John Miller Larry Bugbee Jane Bugbee



## 10:00 AM

**Ushers:**

December 4	Einar & Elinor Berg Roger & Dorothy Anderson Rita Schultz	Dave & Karen Maurer Nicole Maurer Levi Green
December 11	Tom Dillenburg Glen & Betty Krahl Mike & Pam Hartel	Janet Streed Ben Streed Erin Johnson
December 18	Len & Jan Casanova Tom & Sonja Super Laura Super	Tom & Bonnie O'Brien Bill Baker
December 24	(4:30 pm) Fred Edstrom Erica & Jonathon Edstrom Dave LaSota	Larry Larson Ramona Wold Tim Traynor
	(10:30 pm) Matt Palm Sid Anderson Maggie Proft Doug & Pat Johnson	Helen Skoglund Donna Novak John Kennedy Chad Myhre
December 25	Kevin Kaliher Forrest Anderson Charles Pierson III Wendy Ramirez	Randy Dodson Jay Craft Judy Opheim Joshua Rolfs Jacob Rolfs

**Bus Driver:**

December 4	Dale Streed
December 11	Scott Arne
December 18	Ron Davidson
December 25	Vance Husen

### FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

First Lutheran's major checking and savings accounts and the balances as of October 31, 2011 are listed below. If you have any questions or would like to obtain more specific information, please call Julie 763-788-9653.

.October 2011		
<b>General Fund Balance 9/30/2011</b>	\$	30,396.85
Offerings received	\$	37,238.45
Other Deposits/Transfers	\$	37,617.11
	\$	105,252.41
Transfers to Payroll	\$	(21,010.25)
Other Checks/Transfers	\$	(78,948.53)
<b>General Fund Balance 10/31/2011</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,293.63</b>
<b>Building Fund at 9/30/2011</b>		
Offerings, interest	\$	139,950.44
Mortgage Payment	\$	9,470.38
	\$	(15,928.37)
<b>Building Fund Balance 10/31/2011</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>133,492.45</b>
<b>Perpetual Reserve Balance 10/31/11</b>		
\$10,000 Loan taken in May 2011	\$	96,099.90
<b>Special Projects Balance 10/31/11</b>		
	\$	68,599.05
<b>Memorial Fund 10/31/2011</b>		
	\$	20,377.07
<b>**Endowment Fund Principle 10/31/2011**</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>656,482.19</b>
Earnings available for Undesignated Use	\$	-
**Endowment principal is held in perpetuity and cannot be spent ("Dollars Forever").		
Only the investment earnings on this balance are available for use with		
the approval of the Endowment Committee.		

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY DELIVERY

The pictorial directory is expected to arrive the end of January or early February.

## 2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

will be available for pickup in the Commons by Sunday, December 18. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you or if you would prefer not to have offering envelopes please call Julie in the church office 763-788-9653.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

is designated for Kinship and Alexandra House.

## LAYETTE PROJECT - for Lutheran World Relief

Baby Care Kits : include the following items : **Size 6 month to 24 month**

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long-or short sleeved gowns or sleeper (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted, or knitted with light-weight yarn, up to 52" square
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred 22 1/2 X 36
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 or 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- Two diaper pins

Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

**(Items due by January 15th)**

# THRIVENT MEMBERS – Have you heard about Thrivent Choice?

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you may be eligible to direct some of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' charitable outreach funds to First Lutheran Church. Through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible benefit members can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to their congregation, as well as thousands of Lutheran organizations including Lutheran camps, schools, seminaries and campus ministries.

To be eligible for Choice Dollars, you must be a benefit member age 16 or older who has:  
\$800 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products; or  
\$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.

Choice Dollar amounts range from \$25 to \$2,500 for eligible members and are allocated based on the following:

- \$4 Choice Dollars per \$100 of annual premium on qualifying insurance products is designated monthly based upon the premium payments you made in the prior month.
- \$2 Choice Dollars per \$1,000 of contract value of qualifying products is designated on a quarterly basis. 25% of this amount will be designated to you each calendar quarter based upon the actual contract value at the end of quarter.

Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. For example, you can direct Choice Dollars designated to you in 2011 until March 31, 2012.

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, First Lutheran has received nearly \$7,000 in 2011 from Thrivent Choice Dollars directed by eligible members of our congregation. As a benefit member, your ownership of Thrivent Financial products and services helps make this support possible. If you have questions about Thrivent Choice and Choice Dollars, you can visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice), call 800-847-4836 or contact your Thrivent Financial representative.

## BIG BRASS BAND BENEFIT FOR FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

What: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Benefit Concert for Families Moving Forward performed by The Lake Wobegon® Brass Band conducted by Michael Halstenson.

Where: Colonial Church of Edina, 6200 Colonial Way, Edina

When: Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 PM. Doors open at 6:30, arrive early for best seats.

Your free will offering will help to fund our emergency shelter program plus advocacy and supportive services for families moving into permanent housing. Refreshments will be served.

In partnership with more than 40 metro area congregations, Families Moving Forward provides emergency shelter, meals and advocacy for families; helps them to locate safe, stable permanent housing; and provides ongoing support as families transition from homelessness to home.

# December 2011

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer - Chapel 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 6:30 PM SpiritWind Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00 PM AA Meeting - Gabriel	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Tim Practice Time - Sanctuary 9:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship Team - Gabriel	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School Rehearsal - Speaking Roles - Sanctuary 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday School Rehearsal - All Children & Parent Helpers - Sanctuary 5:00 PM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Elijah 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship - Sanctuary
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
8:45 AM Chapel Service w... 8:45 AM Weight Watcher... 10:00 AM Confirmation - Sa... 10:00 AM Monte Ho... 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Adult Fellowshi... 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Take 10 - Chapel 11:30 AM Finance Bear... 11:30 AM Monte Horeb W... 11:45 AM Lunch - ... 12:00 PM Monte Horeb Sunday School - Gabriel, Elijah, Noah's Ark & Eli... 3:00 PM Columbia Heig... <b>Food Shelf Sun...</b>	9:30 AM Monday Morning Music - Sanctuary 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM 6 & 7 Grade Confirmation Service Project - Global Health Ministries 6:30 PM Hope Circle - Peace	9:30 AM Joy Circle - Peace 9:30 AM Staff Meeting - Faith 10:00 AM LaLeche League - Noah's Ark 11:00 AM Columbia Heights GA - Gabriel 11:00 AM Easy Exercise - Katie Luther Cellar 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Girl Scout Cookie Training - Gabriel & Noah's Ark 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Chorus Polaris Rehearsal - Ch... 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Wor...	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study Breakfast - Bobby & Steves Auto 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM AA Meeting - Elijah 6:00 PM Campanile Rehearsal - Bach 6:30 PM Baptism Orientation - Faith 7:10 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal - Bach 7:15 PM Rachel Circle	9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer - Chapel 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:00 PM AA Meeting - Gabriel	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Tim Practice Time - Sanctuary	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School Rehearsal - Speaking Roles - Sanctuary 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday School Rehearsal - All Children & Parent Helpers - Sanctuary 5:00 PM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Elijah 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Youth Lock-In
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
8:45 AM Chapel Service 8:45 AM Weight Watchers - Peace 9:15 AM - 12:00 PM Blood Pressure Checks 10:00 AM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Gabriel 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Sunday School C... 11:30 AM Monte Horeb W... 11:45 AM Lunch - MLH 12:00 PM Monte Horeb Sunday School - Gabriel, Elijah, Noah's Ark & Eli... 1:00 PM Sunday School Chri... 4:00 PM Chorus Polaris Co...	9:30 AM Monday Morning Music - Sanctuary 12:30 PM Hilltop Circle - MLH 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM 8 Grade Confirmation Service Project - Global Health Ministries 7:00 PM Martha Circle	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Young at Heart Set-up - Kitchen & MLH 9:30 AM Staff Meeting - Faith 10:00 AM Writer's Grou... 11:00 AM Columbia Heig... 11:00 AM Easy Exercis... 12:00 PM Young at Heart Christmas Dinner - ML... 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Yo... 5:15 PM Memorial & End... 6:30 PM Men's Club - H... 6:30 PM SpiritWind Rehear... 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Chorus Polaris Rehearsal - Ch... 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Wor...	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study Breakfast - Bobby & Steves Auto 9:00 AM Mission Workshop - Lydia & Gabriel 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM AA Meeting - Elijah 6:00 PM Campanile Rehearsal - Bach 7:10 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal - Bach	9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer - Chapel 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 6:30 PM IMAGE Worship Rehearsal - Sanctuary 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Norwegian Dance Group 7:00 PM AA Meeting - Gabriel	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Tim Practice Time - Sanctuary	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary 5:00 PM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Elijah 6:30 PM IMAGE Service - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship - Gym
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
8:45 AM Chapel Service 8:45 AM Weight Watchers - Peace 9:45 AM Christmas Carol S... 10:00 AM Confirmation - Sa... 10:00 AM Monte Ho... 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Adult Fellowshi... 11:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Take 10 - Chapel 11:30 AM Monte Horeb W... 11:45 AM Lunch - ... 12:00 PM Monte Horeb Sunday School - Gabriel, Elijah, Noah's Ark & Eli... 4:00 PM Christmas at Firs...	9:30 AM Monday Morning Music - Sanctuary	9:30 AM Staff Meeting - Faith 11:00 AM Columbia Heights GA - Gabriel 11:00 AM Easy Exercise - Katie Luther Cellar 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 6:30 PM Boards (Bach, Elijah, Gabriel, Hope, Peace, Youth Room) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Chorus Polaris Rehearsal - Choir Room 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship - Gym 7:45 PM Council Meetin...	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study Breakfast - Bobby & Steves Auto 10:00 AM Book Club - Peace 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM AA Meeting - Elijah 6:00 PM Campanile Rehearsal - Bach 7:10 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal - Bach	9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer - Chapel 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:00 PM AA Meeting - Gabriel	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Tim Practice Time - Sanctuary <b>Church Closed at Noon</b>	4:30 PM Worship - Sanctuary 5:00 PM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Elijah 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship - Gym 10:30 PM Candlelight Worship - Sanctuary
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
10:00 AM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Gabriel 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Monte Horeb Worship - Sanctuary 12:00 PM Monte Horeb Sunday School - Gabriel, Elijah, Noah's Ark & Elizabeth <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>CHURCH CLOSED</b>	9:30 AM Staff Meeting - Faith 11:00 AM Columbia Heights GA - Gabriel 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Chorus Polaris Rehearsal - Choir Room 7:00 PM Monte Horeb Worship - Sanctuary	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study Breakfast - Bobby & Steves Auto 9:00 AM Mission Workshop - Lydia & Gabriel 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM AA Meeting - Elijah	9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer - Chapel 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Open Gym 7:00 PM AA Meeting - Gabriel Schellinger/Strohmoeyer Wedding Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Tim Practice Time - Sanctuary Schellinger/Strohmoeyer Wedding (Ps. Amy)	5:00 PM Monte Horeb Prayer Time - Elijah 7:00 PM Monte Horeb New Years Celebration - Sanctuary & MLH <b>NEW YEARS EVE</b>

# PARISH NURSE NOTES - December 2011

## Palliative Care

Last month I covered hospice care, which is an established and well know concept of care but many people asked me what the difference was between hospice and palliative care. With the help of Allina Hospital and Clinics hospice and palliative care program I will attempt to differentiate the two.

We all want to live each day to the fullest, but for people with chronic or advanced illnesses it becomes more difficult. Palliative care can help people be as independent and comfortable as long as possible.

According to Allina Palliative Care program, Palliative care is available to anyone who is in any stage of a chronic or advanced illness. It is for people who are being treated for cancer or other serious diseases. Palliative care treats pain and other physical symptoms, as well as emotional and spiritual concerns. It helps patients and their families understand their illness and treatment choices, as well as address financial and community resource options. As stated last month, hospice care is for people who have six months or less to live.

The Palliative care treatment team makes sure that patients with advanced illness get the highest quality care in any setting. This approach sometimes decreases the length of hospital stays and eliminates unnecessary emergency room visits. It can also ease transitions between the hospital, nursing home and other care settings.

The Palliative care team includes: doctor, clinical nurse specialists, social worker, chaplain, pharmacist, and clinician. These team members allow for discussion of care options and goals for the best possible quality of life through pain relief, symptom control and mobility while respecting personal, cultural, and religious values, beliefs and practices.

**Medicare enrollment deadline is December 7<sup>th</sup> this year!** If you have questions regarding Medicare changes please call the **Senior LinkAge Line 1-800-333-2433**.

This is a free telephone information and assistance service which makes it easy for older adults and their families find information and community services and assistance with Medicare decisions.

**Weight Watchers continues every Sunday in Peace at 8:45 AM for weigh in and meetings beginning at 9:15 AM.** Starting January monthly passes will be available to join, so think about joining Weight Watchers in January to start off the new year lighter!

We need a commitment of 20 members for this program to continue.



Join us for the Christmas edition!



*An affirming worship experience*

Saturday, Dec. 17, 6:30 pm  
First Lutheran Sanctuary

This holiday season, are you feeling like you belong on the Island of Misfit Toys? Does "Peace on Earth" ring hollow because of the way others treat you? We have good news: God loves you just the way you are. God sent Jesus for you. And Jesus was literally born in a barn, so he didn't come with any attitude!

At IMAGE we worship a God who welcomes everyone. We rise above society's ideas of status and popularity. We look for ways to be the people God has created us to be. Come hear a message of grace through the popular songs of the season!

## **CHRISTMAS SCRIP ORDERS DUE BY DECEMBER 11TH**

### **POINSETTIAS**

It's time again to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season! If you would like to donate a plant, please sign up at the Reception desk. Plants cost \$10.00 each; you can pay using your offering envelope or by leaving a check in the office. Deadline to order is December 11th. If you wish, you can take your plant home after the Christmas Eve services.

If you are planning to purchase "scrip" (i.e., gift certificates) to give as Christmas gifts, orders must be placed by Sunday, December 11th in order to ensure delivery before Christmas. These gift certificates make great Christmas gifts, in addition to being a great way to make your everyday spending work for your church! Proceeds from scrip sales are currently designated for the replacement of the floor tile in the sanctuary, a project that has been on the wish list of the Worship Board for quite some time. Stop by the scrip sales table in the Link to see the full list of retailers!

Note - there will be no scrip sales on December 25th or January 1st. Please plan your scrip purchases accordingly.

## 2012 LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 21, 2012** for the Centennial Year Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. Tickets go on sale Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am in the Link or by calling 651-633-0679. The seating times are 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00. Tickets are \$18.

It has been said that many hands make light work, but in this case, many hands make a great party! It really is a fun time to get together with all of our First family and deliver what is widely recognized as the BEST Lutefisk dinner in town.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted in the Commons by December 4<sup>th</sup>. After decades of service, Faith and Dale White are retiring from leading the volunteers in this special event. So please don't assume we will know where you always volunteer and sign up early to get your favorite job. Babysitting will be provided on the day of the dinner, but you must sign up so we will know how many sitters to hire. As an added bonus, ALL volunteers qualify for half-price tickets to the dinner! Youth volunteers can get service project credit or camp credits for helping out!

Opportunities to volunteer:

- Wednesday, January 18, 2012 8:30am-noon Make meatballs
- Friday, January 20, 2012, 8:30-2:00, peel vegetables and set tables (lunch provided)
- Saturday, January 21, see sign-up sheets for all the opportunities

Contact Ruth Dodson if you have questions, 763-537-4284, [ruthdodson@msn.com](mailto:ruthdodson@msn.com)

## ENDOWMENT FUND "Dollars Forever" BENEFITS OF GIFTING

*Continuing our focus on assets which can be used for charitable purposes:*

Life Insurance is a valuable tool. An insurance policy can offer you peace of mind knowing that your loved ones will be cared for and can provide adequate financial resources to family at a time when they may not be able to provide for themselves.

Life insurance can also be used to financially support a ministry that has been dear to you and can be an important component of your life-long stewardship plan. In many cases, giving life insurance is a way in which you can make a significant gift to greatly impact ministry by making smaller payments to support a policy over time.

You can commit to making a gift of life insurance at any age. Gifts of life insurance have the benefit of passing to the church without delay and without being subject to probate or administrative fees.

Generally there are three ways to make a gift of life insurance to a ministry:


1. Change the beneficiary or designate a percentage of the proceeds to the ministry of your choice on an existing life insurance policy.
2. Transfer ownership of your paid-up life insurance policy. You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for making the gift and at your death the proceeds will be directed to the charity you have named.
3. Establish a new life insurance policy with the charity named as beneficiary.

To learn more about making a gift of life insurance, please contact Brenda Moore, Regional Gift Planner at (507) 934-4614 or call Julie in the church office 763-788-9653.

# Thank You

**THANK YOU!!!** Thank you to all who donated to the Turkey Basket drive! Thanks to your generosity 50 families will be enjoying a Thanksgiving meal this holiday!  
SACA

**RACHEL CIRCLE**  
**December Meeting**  
 December 7th  
 at  
 Joy Stinson's  
 6:00 pm  
 Potluck  
 Address: 3719 Lincoln St. NE  
**Note Change Of Time!**



**FIRST LUTHERAN WRITERS**

Have you ever thought, or been told by your friends or family, "You should write that down"? Writers, both beginning and published, meet at First Lutheran every second Tuesday from 10—12, in the Peace room. They share and encourage each other's writing. Journals, trip or family memories, poetry, opinions, letters to editors, stories: anything goes! Anyone is welcome to visit and see if this activity works for

## FROM OUR RECORDS

### November Weddings

*Shane Miller & Jennifer Hanson*  
11-05

### November Baptisms

*Matthew Frank Trahan*  
son of Cacey & Leilani Trahan

*Alessondra Ann Zahorski*  
daughter of Kendal Zahorski & Valerie Tatley

### November Funerals

*Richard Haesecke (Lisa Ericson's father)*  
*Sandra Troy*

## BOOK CLUB

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

### NEXT MEETING

January 18th, 2012

10:00—11:00 am

Meet in Peace

"Iron Lake"

By Wm. Kent Krueger

For information call

Char Zarich

763-572-1220

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 1555 40th Avenue NE  
 Columbia Heights, MN 55421-3195  
 763-788-9653

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Phone: 763-788-9653

**Staff**

Thomas M. Carlson.....Senior Pastor  
 Amy Orstad .....Associate Pastor  
 Leisha Tays.....Director of Youth & Family Ministry  
 Nathan Roberts...Director of Children's & Family Ministry  
 Peter Carlson.....Minister of Music  
 Timothy Short.....Associate Organist  
 Rock Hauser.....Food Services Director  
 Joline Dittbenner.....Nursery Coordinator  
 Carol O'Brien.....Assoc. Nursery Coordinator  
 Julie Johnson.....Business Administrator  
 Dayle Boyce.....Parish Secretary  
 Jane Bugbee.....Parish Nurse

**Custodians**

Roger Johnson, Sheldon Knutson, Don Rosell,  
 Florian Janey, Ron Boyce, Josh Tays

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Mornings**

8:45 AM	Chapel Service
10:00 AM	Worship
11:00 AM	Education Hour & Fellowship Time



**CALLER DEADLINES:**

Please have any information for the Caller into the church office by the end of the business day on the **12th** of each month.

E-mail address: [firstlutheran-ch@q.com](mailto:firstlutheran-ch@q.com)

WEB Address: [www.flcch.org](http://www.flcch.org)