



The First Word

**First Lutheran Church
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www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

December 2010

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Christmas Worship

December 24, 4:00 PM
**Family Service
of Lessons and Carols**

December 24, 11:00 PM
**Candlelight Communion
Service**

December 25, 10:00 AM
**Christmas Day Service
with Holy Communion
(bring bells to ring)**

Trim the Trees for Christmas



**Trim
the
Tree**

Come and join the fun as we decorate the church for the Christmas season. We need people to assemble and put lights on our 18-foot Christmas tree in the Atrium, as well as

hang garland and decorate pre-lit trees in our Sanctuary and Narthex.

The tree-trimming party will be held on Wednesday, December 1, beginning at 6:00 PM. All workers, whether you can come for one hour, two hours or more, will be warmly welcomed!

Dates to Remember

Trim the Tree Party	December 1
Cookie Baking Party	December 1
Naomi Circle	December 2
Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner	December 4
Love Auction	December 12
Cross Walk Christmas Program	December 19

December 2010

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Matthew 24:44

Happy New Year!!! (new church year, that is) We have turned the page on another church year and have begun anew with the season of Advent ... the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of the Messiah, Immanuel, God with us.

Advent is the season in which we are reminded that we are watching and waiting with hope and faith in God's love made real for us in and through the coming Messiah. During this season, we remember that Jesus says we are to *watch* and be alert for the coming of the Son of God. But this doesn't just mean something that is going to happen someday in the future. It's about something that has already happened, and continues to happen! It's about looking for and seeing signs of God's presence in the here and now — which often appears to us through people who do God's work in the world. So *watch* for the presence of God breaking into your life and into the world around you. Be observant of where God is working in the world ... and then go and join in God's work.

We are Jesus' disciples. And we are invited to be God's presence in the world by learning from the Messiah and then doing his work of healing and restoration in the world around us. And we are better able to do this if we work first on healing and restoring relationships right here in the church — which I believe may have been damaged by the recent controversy over whether or not to continue to have an associate pastor.

I rejoice with your vote on November 14 to continue to have an associate pastor in 2011. I interpret this as a vote of confidence for the vision, ministry, and mission that we are working on together. But I am mindful of those of you who disagree and may not be rejoicing. I assure you that I remain open to hearing your comments and concerns about the future of First Lutheran. My prayer is that we can move forward together doing the ministry and mission that God is calling us to do.

So how about it? As we begin this new church year together, let us begin the work of healing and restoration of relationships. Let's try to put the divisiveness of this recent conflict behind us and move forward together in ministry and mission, for the sake of Christ, in the world. Hearing, Living and Sharing God's Word ... Together!

Live in harmony with one another ... If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12: 16a, 18

Pastor Roy+

Our sympathy is extended to **Michele Gray** and her family at the death of her aunt who passed away on November 10. May God comfort those who mourn.

Congratulations to **Al and Otta Ritzman** on the celebration of their 62nd anniversary on December 4, to **Gene and Joyce Listy** on their 45th anniversary on December 18, to **John and Pat Tuecke** on their 50th anniversary on December 26, to **Clem and Anne Stiely** on their 40th anniversary on December 27, and to **Don and Pat Johnson** on the celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary on December 29.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Anna Diab, Heidi Hietanen, Grace Johnson, Marian Larson, Dan and Hazel Metzger, Kylie Probasco, Ruth Smith, John Tuecke, Carl Funk (Cathy Foelske's dad), Gary Ryden (Judy Neumann's brother-in-law) and Amanda Bowman (granddaughter of Bob and Pam Bowman).**

Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner

Come to Troop 33's all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, December 4 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. The event will take place in the Social and included in the menu



Spaghetti Dinner

is a tossed salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, beverage, garlic bread, followed by homemade brownies and ice cream. Proceeds help boys pay for their Scouting activities. Cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children under 12, free to pre-school children.

From the Altar Guild

Commitment of Giving

Please Note:

It's that time of year to place



your order for poinsettias for the Christmas season. The plants will come from Yaeger's Greenhouse in a choice of three colors (red, pink or white) at a cost of \$12.00. All orders must be received by Monday, December 13. Checks should be made payable to Altar Guild.

The Flower Chart for the year 2010 is now posted in the Narthex. The altar flowers will come from Glidden Florist and will cost \$40.00 for the two arrangements. Please sign up at your convenience.

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted your completed commitment of giving forms for the year 2011. As of November 22, we have received 135 pledges totaling \$306,376 for the 2011 budget. (Last year on this date we had received 121 pledges totaling \$279,105.) We have also received 59 pledges totaling \$57,683 to the Building Fund.

We are thankful for every single one of these pledges. However, there are close to 250 giving units who have not yet completed a commitment of giving form. Please consider submitting your commitment today if you haven't already done so.

Lynn Schmidt
Financial Secretary

A Thank You to the Congregation

What an amazing turnout we had on Sunday, November 14 for church and the special Congregational Meeting! We are indeed a strong and resilient congregation; with 210 voting members reconfirming the path that we are on is the correct one. Thank you to all who participated in this decision. The council appreciates your involvement as we now focus on the 2011 budget.

We do have issues that will be challenging, that we as leaders in our church will need your help with. In accordance with our constitution, your council is tasked with presenting a balanced budget at our Annual Meeting. To begin this process of preparing a balanced budget, I am asking for help from the congregation. We have defined ourselves as a 'mission church' and we need to make decisions on how to accomplish this financially while determining which missions we can support.

I am proposing that we begin a series of forums to discuss where the money may be allocated. I am suggesting starting on Sunday, December 5 after the 9:00 worship service. We will begin with open discussions on the topics that need to be addressed and continue meeting as often as is required. Your input as to how to best achieve the goals of a mission church are needed. As a council we are here to see the direction of the congregation fulfilled, not create that direction. The council and I look forward to seeing all of you at church for service and for discussion.

God Guide and Bless us all,

Paul M. Letheby

Church Council President

A Delightful Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanks to all who joined us for our annual First Lutheran Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday evening, November 21. It was a marvelous meal enjoyed by about 135 members and friends. Special thanks to **Bill and Lee Todtz** who took charge of preparing the seven turkeys and two hams and **Cliff Golden and Boy Scout Troop 33** for helping to serve the meal and do the clean-up afterward.



Thanks to the many others who helped with all the details ... setting tables, creating placemats, decorating the room, carving the meat, cutting desserts, preparing the beverages, scrubbing the pots and pans ... and to all the fabulous cooks who brought the delicious side dishes to make it one fantastic Thanksgiving feast. And finally, special thanks to **Mark Mackeben and Pastor Roy** for leading this year's hymn sing. It was a wonderful way to end the evening that was filled with great food and fine fellowship.

Report on the Special Congregational Meeting November 14, 2010

A special meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, November 14 at 10:10 AM. **Paul Letheby**, our congregational president, called the meeting to order. When it was established that there was a quorum, our president outlined the voting procedures. A ballot vote was taken, with 141 yes votes to continue funding the Associate Pastor position and 69 no votes. Therefore, the congregation will continue to fund the position held by Pastor Roy Nelson.

Thanks to all of you who attended the meeting and exercised your right to vote. We now pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we move forward into the future.

Peace Be with You!

Dear Friends in Christ,

After reflecting on the November 14th congregational meeting, the words of Jesus that keep surfacing in my mind are these: ***"Peace be with you."*** Jesus spoke these words of comfort on various occasions. When he was preparing his disciples for his death, he reminded them that they would not be alone. The Father would send the Holy Spirit to teach them and to remind them of all Jesus had said to them. ***"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you," he said. "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*** After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to his followers as they were huddled behind closed doors. He stood among them and said, ***"Peace be with you."*** A week later, when Thomas was present, Jesus again entered into the home where the disciples were and said, ***"Peace be with you."***

The words of Jesus are my words to you today. ***"Peace be with you."*** These have been some hard months leading up to the November 14th meeting. They have been filled with anxiety and tension. The outcome of the vote may not have been what everyone hoped for or expected. However, I pray now that the vote has taken place and the congregation has affirmed that we retain the Associate Pastor position that a peace will fall upon us ... that a peace will fall upon the entire congregation.

It is time for us to start anew ... together. I want to believe that we will be stronger as a congregation for having walked through this time. I'm praying that we can all reach out to each other in love and forgiveness and commit ourselves now to working together as we move forward into the future. This is a great congregation with a great mission. We will be stronger as we work together.

May God's peace rest upon us all and may the message of the Christmas angel echo from our lips, ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all."***

Luke 2:14

Pastor Marilyn

**Cross Walk Sunday
Workshop Updates**

Rotation 4 – Advent

On December 5 and January 2 and 9, Rotation 4, Advent, will take place. Students will be going through Scripture Cinema, Solomon's Science Lab, and Peter's Theater. In Scripture Cinema, students will be viewing *The King Is Born*. During Solomon's Science lab, classes will be discussing stars, and how they impact the story of Advent. Peter's Theater will lead the students through a puppet show, where the classes will perform and view puppet skits that illustrate the importance of Advent to Christianity.



Rotation 5 – Philip and the Ethiopian

From January 16 - 30, students will participate in the Philip and the Ethiopian rotation through Salvation Stadium, Cornerstone Computer Lab, and Good News Station WWJD. In Salvation Stadium, students will work together to complete a crossword puzzle about the story. During Cornerstone Computer Lab, students will investigate the Bible story using the Play and Learn Children's Bible (Tiny Tots - Second Grade) and the Life of Christ (Third - Sixth Grade) programs. Good News Station WWJD will lead the classes through producing a TV show illustrating the Philip and the Ethiopian story.

Don't Forget your Bibles! All students from First - Sixth grade are

encouraged to bring their Bibles to use during Cross Walk Sunday workshops. Even though we don't use Bibles every Sunday, there are many opportunities for the children to use their Bibles and enhance the sharing of the Bible story throughout the rotation.

Help Needed!

Workshop leaders are needed for Rotation 5 - Philip and the Ethiopian, from January 16 - 30. A leader is needed for Salvation Stadium (playing a crossword puzzle game) and Good News Station WWJD (producing a TV show about the Bible story). If you can help lead our Cross Walk children through one of these workshops, please contact **Stephanie Corn**, 815-748-7409, or the Church Office 815-758-0643.



Thank You! A big thank you to our Rotation 3 workshop leaders: **Elsa Glover, Christian and Amy Kuhns, Kyle Kuhns, and Paul Letheby**. The children had wonderful experiences in each workshop as you helped teach them God's word.

Greeting Schedule — The First and Second Grade class is scheduled to be greeters before the 9:00 AM worship service on Sunday, January 16.

Reminders:

- Sunday, December 12 and Saturday, December 18 -- Christmas program rehearsals
- Sunday, December 19 – Christmas Program, 10:30 AM
- There will be NO Cross Walk Sunday, December 26 because of the Christmas holiday.

Cross Walk Wednesday Advent Family Time



December 1 - Cookie Baking Party

- Calling all bakers! Come and make cookies with Cross Walk Wednesday kids and parents. We'll be baking from scratch, so extra mixers, measuring cups and spoons, spatulas, cookie sheets, cooling racks, etc. will be helpful. Here's other ways you can support us:

- ☺ Donate flour, sugar, butter or eggs
- ☺ Share a favorite "easy" cookie recipe
- ☺ Prepare a batch of dough in advance for cut out cookies
- ☺ Help kids mix a batch of dough
- ☺ Supervise the ovens
- ☺ Clean up crew

Some of our cookies will be donated to the Love Auction on December 12 and some will be for a bake sale. The plan is to have a variety of cookies being made at the same time. The more helping hands we have, the more cookies we'll be able to make! Come join the fun.

December 8 & 15 - *The Mouse's Tail*, an Instant Christmas Program.

All the spoken dialogue, sound effects and music are prerecorded. We'll make simple costumes and scenery and get familiar with Granny

Mouse's story about the first Christmas night, as told by the animals in the stable. Cross Walk kids will act out the story which will be presented on Wednesday, December 15.

Advent Family Time is open to the entire First Lutheran family, even if you do not regularly attend Cross Walk Wednesday. Come share your gifts and time with our children.

Kindness Klub begins a New Year

I am excited to share that Doris Anderson and Keangela Newell are our new Kindness Klub leaders for this year. On November 10, the Second - Sixth graders made cards for the recipients of our Thanksgiving food baskets. Each card included a Bible verse, chosen by the kids, and creative art work or lettering.

The Kindness Klub invites the whole First Lutheran family to participate in the Cookie Baking Party on December 1. If you like to bake, and would like to share some of your expertise with our children, please come and join us. To sign up, contact **Jean Nelson** at 815-758-0643.



Presenting ... The Best Christmas Present Ever! Sunday, December 19, at 10:30 AM



This year's Christmas program centers around five toys that come to life and squabble about which one of them is the best present. As the fashion doll; a soft, cuddly doll; a race car driver; a "walking" cat; and a teddy bear bicker, a few nativity characters enter the room. Led by Gabriel, they tell the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. Finally, the toys begin to understand that Jesus is the best Christmas present ever. Our Cross Walk children have been busy learning songs and their parts for the program and **Jan Womack** is making wonderful costumes for the toys.

Who do you know who doesn't know the real Christmas story? Why not invite that person to come and hear the story as presented by our children?

Adopt an Angel

First Lutheran is once again partnering with the Salvation Army to help provide toys for more than 2,000 children, birth to age 18, in DeKalb County. The items we donate will be put into a "toy store" where parents can choose gifts for their children. Check the Christmas tree in the Narthex, take a tag or two and have fun shopping. Gifts should be returned to church, UNWRAPPED, by December 13. If shopping is not your thing, you can make a donation to The Salvation Army of DeKalb; the funds will be used to purchase toys for children. Thank you for your generosity!



Remember the Endowment Fund!

The year end is fast approaching and as we enter the season of giving, please consider a donation to the First Lutheran Endowment Fund. Your gift will join other gifts and be used to generate the income to fund special projects at the church.

If you are looking for a way to make a long-term commitment, you may wish to discuss with your lawyer plans to include the Endowment Fund as part of your estate plan. When the fund was established, six priorities were set for its use. Those priorities include: 1) outreach to the youth of First Lutheran and the community; 2) outreach to adults and senior members; 3) capital improvements (debt reduction); 4) Campus Ministry; 5) Social Ministries; and 6) Music and Education.

Committees or groups within the church who need funding for a special project may consider applying for Endowment Funds. Request forms are available in the Church Office and will be considered quarterly.

Calling All Middle Schoolers ...



There are several FUN events planned for the coming months that you won't want to miss! First, we'll have a **Christmas Party** here at the church for all 6th – 8th graders on Sunday, December 12 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. We'll start out with a quick meal — sloppy joes, chips, veggies, and brownies — followed by some fun Christmas games. Please bring a “white elephant” gift (something kind of funky that you don't use anymore) for a Christmas gift exchange. It will be a fun night. Please come (and bring a friend)!

Secondly, Club 7~8 is the name of the Sunday morning event for all students in 7th and 8th grades and is led by Pastor Marilyn. On Sunday, December 12, we'll be starting a new DVD series titled, “Messy Stuff.” It seems like a great topic because as we all know, life gets messy at times! Don't we all long for a day when all our relationships are a breeze, everything at school goes well, our anger doesn't sour our attitude, and we are as healthy as a world-class athlete? So come, let's explore together how to find healthy ways to respond to life's hurt and pain and messiness. We'll meet on Sundays from 10:30 – 11:15 AM in Classroom A. Come, and bring a friend!

And last but not least, don't forget to turn in your registration form this month if you want to go to the Dells Quake March 4 - 6, 2011. This annual outing to the Wisconsin Dells is a weekend not to be missed! Registration forms for this event are due in the Church Office no later than Wednesday, **December 15**. So get those forms filled out and turned in! Questions? Please contact Pastor Marilyn.

High School Youth Ministry

December/January Service — Cross Walk Sunday leaders; December 5, January 2 and January 9

Tech Crew for Cross Walk Christmas Program, December 19

Youth Zone deadline December 15

Ski Trip on January 14



Boy Scouts of America

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. To observe this anniversary, we had a Scout Sunday at First Lutheran on November 21. **Cliff Golden**, the Scout Leader for Troop 33 gave a presentation on the activities of Troop 33 and their outreach to the community. He also presented us with a book for our Library titled, Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History. Stop by the Library and take a look at this beautiful book and learn the history of this significant organization for young people. First Lutheran's Troop 33, which has been in existence for 85 years, is featured in this book. The article pictures the bicycles the Scouts donated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.



December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM NO Cross Walk Sunday Activities	29 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) 6:00 PM GED Classes 6:30 PM Nominating Committee 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	30 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	1 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Cross Walk Activities 5:30 PM Meal and a Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	2 2:00 PM Naomi Circle 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	3	4
5 Food Pantry Donations 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities 10:20 AM Club 7-8 10:20 AM Adult Forum	6 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council	8 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Cross Walk Activities 5:30 PM Meal and a Message 5:00 - 7:00 PM Feed 'Em Soup 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	9 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	10 Newsletter Deadline	11
12 9:00 AM Worship Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities 10:20 AM Club 7-8 10:20 AM Love Auction 5:00 - 7:00 PM Middle School Christmas Party	13 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	14 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	15 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Cross Walk Activities 5:30 PM Meal and a Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	16 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	17	18 9:00 AM Cross Walk Christmas Program Rehearsal
19 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:30 AM Cross Walk Christmas Program	20	21 8:30 AM Project Group 9:30 AM Northeast Conference Pastor's Meeting at Salem, Sycamore	22 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:00 - 7:00 PM Feed 'Em Soup No Cross Walk Activities	23 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service of Bells and Carols with Holy Communion Merry Christmas Church Offices Closed for Holiday
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM NO Cross Walk Sunday Activities	27	28 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	29 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study No Cross Walk Activities	30	31	1 Happy New Year!!

Highlights of the November Council Meeting

- Continued our conversation on the book Ask, Thank, Tell.
- Approved the minutes and financial reports for October.
- Accepted the resignation of **Matt Morfoot**, our Comptroller, with regret.
- Accepted staff reports and received all ministry team reports.
- Approved up to \$350 for kitchen repairs to be paid out of Undesignated Memorial monies.
- Heard that the final Bridgebuilding report continues to be on hold at this time.
- Discussed progress made on 2010 mission goals.
- Referred the Mission Endowment Fund documents to the Endowment Committee for their review and recommendations.
- Discussed procedures to be followed at the November 14 special congregational meeting.
- Defeated a motion to require a 2/3 majority vote on the Associate Pastor position at the November 14 meeting.
- Set date for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 23, with budget hearing on January 16 and council retreat on Saturday, January 29, with installation of new council on January 30.



Celebration Chorale's Christmas Cantata



The Celebration Chorale will present it's Christmas Cantata, "A Thrill of Hope," on Friday, December 3 at 7:00

PM, and Saturday and Sunday, December 4 and 5 at 2:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of North Fourth and Oak Streets in DeKalb. No admission, but a freewill offering will be received.

Job Opportunity

First Lutheran is seeking to hire a Comptroller who possesses a good knowledge of



accounting practices, including payroll and tax accounting functions. Work will average 5 hours/week. For more information about the position, please contact Pastor Marilyn Hanson at 815-758-0643. Application deadline is December 10, with the hope of filling the position before the end of the year. (If you know of someone who may be interested in this position, please share this information with him/her).

Naomi Circle to Meet



Naomi Circle will meet on Thursday, December 2, at 2:00 PM for their annual Christmas Party. A special program of music and treats is planned. You are invited to come and get in the Christmas Spirit. Guests are always welcome. Naomi Circle will not meet again until March 2011.

PRELUDE ... there's room for more!

Prelude, the ongoing Thursday morning Bible study for women, is open to all ages and we're always eager to welcome newcomers. Our December Bible study will be held on Thursday, December 9, 9:00 – 10:30 AM. Please consider joining this group that begins the day by studying God's Word together. The theme of our December study will be "The People of God: Gifts of the Spirit," based on I Corinthians 12:4-7.

Our Bible study each month is included in *The Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, a publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you don't subscribe to the magazine, a copy of the study will be provided for you. For information on ordering the magazine, just stop by the Church Office and ask.

Hope to see a good number of you on the 9th of December as we gather to wrestle with how God's Word intersects with our daily lives. **There's always room for more!**



What's New With Love INC?

- **Intake training** will be held on December 6 from 10:00 - 11:15 AM at the clearing house. Come and see how you can play a vital role by giving three hours a week to the phone ministry.
- **Copy paper** and **file folders** are needed for client files. Can you donate some?
- **Client needs** right now are gas vouchers, twin mattresses, couches, lamps and dressers. Call 815-217-0082 to donate or to help deliver them to those in need.
- **Consider sponsoring a drive within your congregation** to collect diapers, paper goods, gas gift cards, or stuffed animals for Love INC clients. What a great small group or youth activity this could be!
- Do you have a passion for service and a call to serve Love INC's clients as the **clearing house coordinator**? This person will oversee the intake volunteers, identify sources to fill clients' needs, and generally keep a busy office humming along. Interested in learning more? Call the clearing house at 815-217-0082.

The Linen Sisters are pleased to encourage your support of the Hillcrest Covenant Church Kitchen Ministry, also associated with Love INC. If you have dishes, pots and pans, silverware, small electrical appliances, or other kitchen items you can donate, please leave them at their church, 1515 N First Street in DeKalb, between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Love Auction to Support Ketumbeine Parish



“Who’ll give me \$40.00?” You will hear auctioneer **Bill Johnson** call out those words on Sunday, December 12 at 10:20 AM in the Social Hall. We are blessed to come to another Love Auction and help raise funds for our friends in the Ketumbeine Parish in Tanzania. This year it is good that we have a personal reminder of our friends in Tanzania, in the person of Pastor Seth Sululu — who will be the morning’s guest preacher.

Don’t be scared off by the \$40.00. This year we are having plates of Christmas cookies and goodies for lesser amounts. You may pick up your plates in the Church Office to fill with your goodies. Over the years we have been blessed by our relationship with our companion parish and now we have the opportunity to continue that circle of blessing. Bring a friend to worship and join us the Social Hall as we enjoy our treats and the ones that we buy to enjoy later.

Guatemala Mission Trip 2011 Cancelled

It is with a heavy heart that I must convey the sad news that the January 2011 Guatemala Mission Trip has been cancelled. At this time there is civil unrest in the area of Guatemala that we were going, such that conditions are just not safe for our missionaries. Since the safety of the missionaries is of paramount concern, the board of Journeys of Hope felt it had no choice but to do this most difficult thing and cancel the mission trip.

The work of the medical clinic and the School of the Saints are dear to my heart ... and my heart aches for the people of Retalhuleu, Guatemala ... and for our missionaries who so badly want to help.

The money you generously donated for the trip will be donated to the School of the Saints, because the work of finishing the school continues even in our absence. Local workers are being hired to put the roof on the second floor. So even though we cannot actually be in Guatemala to help, we will still help build the school with our financial contributions. Over \$600.00 was donated and will be going to help complete the school. Special thanks to **Diane Gomez** for leading the fundraising efforts. Thank you all for your generosity to help the poorest of the poor in Guatemala.

Pastor Roy+

Carson’s Community Day Update

We sold 72 coupon booklets for Carson’s Community Day on November 13 and raised \$395 for the School of the Saints in Retalhuleu, Guatemala! Thanks to **Diane Gomez, Don and Pat Johnson, Julie Karolus, Hwacha Kosobud, Jean and Ben Nelson, Debbie Quinn, and Lynn Schmidt** for sharing the news about the mission trip as they invited people to purchase the booklets.

Meals on Wheels Thanks

**Big
Thank
You!**

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with Meals on Wheels this year. November is normally a busy time of year and these people took time out of their busy schedules to help deliver meals to the area shut-ins.

Special thanks to **Barbara Anderson, Don & Dee Anderson, Bill Colvin, Joyce Davidson, Don & Phyllis Franzene, Joyce Gardner, Don & Pat Johnson, Jim & Colleen Johnson, Perry & Edythe Larsen, Shelly Peterson, Dick & Sharon Retrum, Ron & Jan Setchell, Keith Setchell, Tarryn Thaden, Mike & Sharon Wadle, and Sharon Williams.**

Feeding the Hungry

Thanks to all who have responded to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by making a contribution during World Hunger month. As of our November 21 offering, we have received \$3,075.30 for 2010. Many people will be fed and nourished because of your generous gifts. Thank you to all who have contributed! If you haven't yet made a gift to World Hunger and would like to do so, it's not too late! Gifts will be graciously received through the end of the year.

Thanksgiving Baskets — through your generosity, 15 families were provided with a real Thanksgiving feast, through the Thanksgiving baskets which the youth packed and delivered to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Thank you for caring for the poor in our community. God Bless.

Feed My Starving Children



Thank you to all the members from First Lutheran who packed meals at the Feed My Starving Children event on Friday, November 19 in Sycamore. The group packaged enough meals to feed 65 starving children for one year. Those helping included **Cyndy Baumgart, Stephanie & Alexia Corn, Duane Cowley, Jack Cress, Dawn & Alayna Gersic,**

Stephanie & Alexia Corn, Duane Pastor Marilyn & Meghan Hanson, Susan Kerschke, Florence & Amanda Miller, Pastor Roy, Jean, Ben, & Calla Nelson, April Parker, Patti Salazar, Bill & Will Todtz, and Sharon Williams.

The meals will be delivered to poor families in developing nations around the world who are at risk of starvation. God bless you for caring about the people Jesus cares about so much.



Pictured (left to right): Calla Nelson, Meghan Hanson, Jean Nelson, Ben Nelson, Duane Cowley, and April Parker.

Hope Haven Volunteers Needed

The chart for Hope Haven volunteers is posted on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall. Volunteers are asked to help provide a portion of the meal (a main dish; a vegetable or salad; or the dessert and milk). First Lutheran Church is responsible for the second Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Carrie Engstrom** at 758-2588 or sign up today! Thanks in advance for helping with this worthwhile community service.

Local Food Pantry Needs

Thanks to **Dean Burgemeister** for being the volunteer coordinator for the Food Pantry for First Lutheran Church. We are scheduled to work once a month for three hours. Please contact Dean, 815-756-4364, if you are interested in helping out at the Food Pantry.

Don't Forget! The first Sunday of each month is a special collection of canned goods, paper products, and/or toiletries for the Food Pantry. Please place your item/s in the basket in the Narthex.

Campus Ministry Meals

Prior to worship on Wednesday nights at Lutheran Campus Ministry, students meet for fellowship and to share a meal. First Lutheran Church is scheduled to serve on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We are looking for individuals willing to make the meal. There is no set menu and several people may join together to provide the meal. Ideas would include sloppy joes, chips, fruit, and dessert; a cheese and cracker tray and veggies and dip, or a \$30.00 donation to order pizza, etc. If you are willing to sign up for a certain month, contact Teresa Lange, 815-758-0855, or sign-up on the bulletin board outside the Library. Thank you.

Feed 'Em Soup

Feed 'Em Soup started serving free meals to the poor at First Lutheran on Wednesday, October 13. The meals are served on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Many of the people who could benefit from this meal program are unable to get here because they lack transportation. So we are looking for volunteers who could provide rides for Feed 'Em Soup guests. Please contact **Jean Nelson** at the church if you can help, 815-758-0643.

Men's Breakfast and Service Project

We met for breakfast at the Lincoln Inn and then delivered furniture to people in need for Love INC on Saturday morning, November 20. Thanks to **Randall Baker, Duane Cowley, Doug Dashner, Don Johnson, Dave Marx, Ben Nelson, Roy Nelson, Jacob Marx, Mike Wadle** and **Jim Womack**.

We'll do it again on Saturday, December 19. We'll meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at the Lincoln Inn and then head over to the Love INC storage building on Harvestore Drive. Pickups, vans, a tow vehicle and trucks are always appreciated.

Getting to Know Our Members

Sharon and Richard Retrum are First Lutheran members you should get to know. Sharon became a member of this congregation in 1961. She was a lifelong Lutheran and was confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore. Richard joined First Lutheran in 1962 shortly after they were married here by Pastor Milton Gustafson. Pr. Gustafson baptized their children, their son on the last Sunday he served as pastor of this congregation.



The Retrum's have two children — a daughter, Diane, married to Rob Hart and mother of eight-year-old Andrew. They live in Monroe Center. Their son, Michael, is married to Judy and they live in Bloomingdale.

Sharon was born in Newman Grove, Nebraska. Her family moved to Sycamore when she was a little girl. She worked as a beautician for 40 years before she retired. Her favorite hobby is reading and she volunteers her time at the church and at Oak Crest. Richard was born in Dubuque, Iowa. He worked for Wurlitzer for 10 years and then the phone company for 33 years before retiring. Dick enjoys bowling and playing golf.

The Retrums' favorite Bible verses are John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. Their favorite hymn is Amazing Grace.

Getting To Know You

There is an old song from Oscar Hammerstein's musical *The King and I*, called "***Getting To Know You, Getting To Know All About You***" and in October the Evangelism Ministry Team provided name tags to help us get to know one another better. Some of us know almost everyone but a lot of us only know a few people at church. Many people feel embarrassed having to ask a person what their name is especially if they have asked more than once. So we have decided to use the name tags again in December since there are usually more visitors at this time of year. Thank you for helping us with hospitality.

The Advent-Christmas Season is a time when all sorts of emotions are present. Love, concern, caring, and willingness to reach out to others with Christ's Love is one of the marks of a Christian especially at this time of year. First Lutheran has beautiful worship services, music, and activities and this is a wonderful time of year to reach out to your family, friends, and neighbors and have them come to church with you. Pray and help prepare the way of the Lord for others.

The Evangelism Ministry Team



- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lisa Cowley | 8. Mark Yaeger | Joyce Nelson |
| 2. Marian Larson | 9. Janis Nelson | 18. Barbara Henson |
| Gary Skinner | 10. Robert Rosene | 20. Kayley Aase |
| Will Todtz | 11. Russell Cook | Raelyn Colvin |
| 3. Pam Larson | 12. Carole Johnson | Bill Freeland |
| 5. Madison Bauling | 13. Jessica Marx | 22. Maxwell Lange |
| JoAnn Nordeen | 14. Paula McDowell | Ben Nelson |
| 6. Lindsay Franzene | 15. Karen Sjolund | 23. Audrey Bowden |
| 7. Karen Hart | 16. Ronald Johnson | Scott Meier |
| Mark Hartman | 17. Angela Listy | Ruth Smith |
| Katie Mooney | 18. Donna Peterson | 25. Hannah Pumfrey |
| Andrew Taylor | 19. Dylan Nelson | 27. Holly Peifer |
| | 20. Grace Bauling | 28. Jenna Levine |
| | 21. Ethel Moline | Michael Wadle |
| | 22. John Pickens | 31. Heidi Hietanen |
| | 23. Jason Wood | Joyce Listy |
| | 24. Anna Fell | Wanda Parsley |
| | 25. Carol Stubbs | Heidi Peterson |
| | 26. MacKenzie Carter | Sarah VanderBleek |
| | 27. Margaret Marten | |

Comptroller Report for October 2010

	October Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Remaining Budget
Income	\$33,489.79	\$329,715.53	
Expenses	\$33,088.17	\$377,650.25	\$104,117.75
Ahead/(Behind)	\$401.62	(-\$47,934.72)	

Capital Building Fund Loan Balance - \$350,981.72

One day's interest on mortgage - \$55.86

Attendance Figures for October 2010

	9:00 Sunday
October 3	228
October 10	205
October 17	188
October 24	237
October 31	189

First Staff

Senior Pastor

Marilyn G. Hanson
Pastor@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Associate Pastor

Roy Nelson
RevRoy@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary

Lynn Schmidt
Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Comptroller

Matt Morfoot
Support@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Cross Walk Sunday Coordinator

Stephanie Corn
Education@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Cross Walk Wednesday Coordinator

Children's Music Director

Shared Ministry Coordinator

MaryJean Nelson
Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Organist

Mark Mackeben
mark.mackeben@gmail.com

Adult Choir Director

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

Custodian

Bill Colvin

Security

Howard Jacobson

Congregation Council

Paul Letheby, President
Bob Snow, Vice-President
Cathy Foelske, Secretary
Bill Sanders, Treasurer

Randall Baker
Joyce Davidson
Barbara Henson
Keith Kish
Trent Lange
Stan Lindahl
Barbara Schrader
Tarryn Thaden

Ministry Team Chairpersons

Endowment

Arlyn Strike

Evangelism

Mary Colvin & Sue Grafe

Finance

Dorothy Thorsen

Personnel

Jim Womack

Property

Keith Setchell & Jan Womack

Social Ministry

Jack Cress & Harold Grafe

Stewardship

John Longeville

Faith Formation

Worship/Music/Fine Arts

Youth Ministry



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
324 NORTH THIRD STREET
DEKALB IL 60115**

**Non-Profit Org
Presort Standard Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
DeKalb, IL
Permit No. 43**

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship

9:00 AM

Cross Walk Sunday

10:20 - 11:20 AM

Cross Walk Wednesday

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Church Office Hours

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Mon. - Thurs.

9:00 AM - NOON - Friday

Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED