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# The First Word

**First Lutheran Church  
324 North Third Street  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
815.758.0643**

**[www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org](http://www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org)**

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## February 2012

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### In This Issue

Pastor's Message..... Page 2  
In the Family ..... Page 3  
Valentine Tea ..... Page 3  
Children's Ministry.. Pages 4-5  
Youth Ministry..... Pages 5-6  
Lent ..... Page 6  
Evangelism ..... Page 7  
Calendar ..... Pages 8-9  
Council Highlights ..... Page 10  
Women's News ..... Page 11  
Social Ministry ..... Page 12  
Getting to Know You.. Page 13  
February Birthdays..... Page 14  
Comptroller Report ..... Page 14  
Staff and Council ..... Page 15

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Just a reminder, the deadline to submit articles for The First Word is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Articles should be brief and may be edited. Articles for the March issue should be in by February 20.

**Ash Wednesday Schedule**  
**February 22, 2012**

9:30 AM — Worship in the Atrium  
10:15 AM — Coffee Fellowship  
5:15 - 6:00 PM — Soup Supper  
6:15 PM — Worship in the Sanctuary

### Dates to Remember

Chili Dinner .....	January 29
Special Congregational Meeting .....	February 5
Valentine's Day Tea .....	February 14
Teen Roller Skating .....	February 17
Ash Wednesday .....	February 22

Dear Friends in Christ,

The journey begins this month. The journey of Lent, that is. We begin this new season of the church year with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This is perhaps the most solemn day in the liturgical year with its emphasis on our own mortality. **“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return,”** are the words spoken as the ashes are imposed on our foreheads that day. These are hard words to hear. None of us likes to think too hard on the fact that we will one day die. Yet, sometimes it is good for us to think about our own mortality and also to consider, as we live, just how far short we fall from God’s hope and expectation for our lives. It makes sense to begin the season of Lent with this kind of reflection.

It may be helpful to think of Ash Wednesday as the start of our personal “spring cleaning.” When I was growing up, spring cleaning meant storm windows being taken down and washed, screens put up, closets cleaned, and rugs taken outside and beaten. Lent is a time for us to “sweep clean our hearts” once again of all those things that tend to mess up our daily lives – things like anger, rudeness, jealousy, and pride. It is a time for us to remember our baptisms and to allow the waters of our baptism to wash us clean again with forgiveness and new life. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, this is possible for all of us!

As we are cleansed, we can approach this new season of the church year with confidence. I encourage you to use this season not only for “sweeping clean your heart,” but also for beginning some new healthful habits to enrich your spiritual life. Perhaps one of the suggestions below will work for you:

- Commit to reading a chapter from the Bible each day. Our Sunday morning lectionary this year leads us through the Gospel of Mark, with some texts interspersed from John. Read through the 16 chapters of Mark, the 21 chapters of John, add a few Psalms, and before you know it, Easter will have arrived.
- Plan to attend mid-week Lenten services each Wednesday night at 6:15 PM, beginning on February 22. Stop by the Social Hall for a soup supper first and enjoy the fellowship of others.
- Get moving ... by walking a mile a day (either indoors or outdoors) and use that time to pray.
- Make use of the coin folder you will be receiving in the mail soon. Place a quarter a day in that folder ... and bless the life of another with your gift.
- Call up church members you haven’t seen for a while. Let them know they’ve been missed at worship. Offer to give them a ride to church and sit with you.
- Invite an unchurched friend or neighbor to join you at worship. It could be the best and most significant invitation they’ve ever received.

Whatever you choose to do, may this Lenten season be a time of spiritual growth for you.

Blessings on the journey,

*Pastor Marilyn*

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our member **Grace Johnson** who passed away on December 23, to the family and friends of **Don Sibigroth** who passed away on December 26, and to the family and friends of **Paul Yamber** who died on January 14. Our sympathy is also extended to **Roger and Nikki Burdick** and their family at the death of her sister, Kristy Phelan on January 8 and to **Arlyn and Biruta Strike** and their family at the death of her sister, Anna Smoot on January 13. May God comfort those who mourn.

Congratulations to **Aimee Levine** on her graduation from Kishwaukee College with a degree in Nursing.

Congratulations to **Kermit and JoAnn Nordeen** who will celebrate their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 20 and to **Don and Dee Anderson** and **Roger and Barbara Astling** who both will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 24.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Virgene Christensen, Al Fisher, Amy Harris, Gene Listy, Dan Metzger,** and Veronica Willis (mother of **Jim Womack**).

## Valentine's Day Tea

*"What better way to suggest friendliness — and to create it — than with a cup of tea?"*

J. Grayson Luttrell

Are you someone who does not have a 'significant other' to share a hug with on Valentine's Day? If so, come and join us on Tuesday, February 14, at 1:30 PM for a touch of inspiration, tea, and dessert. This event is being planned by **Ann Lindahl, Barbara Schrader,** and **Pat Smith** and will be held at Pat's home, 232 Delcy Drive in DeKalb.



Please RSVP on or before Thursday, February 9, to Pat (815-756-2227) or the Church Office (815-758-0643) if you are planning to attend..

## Meet our New Nursery Attendant

**Pariss Garner** has recently been hired as our new Nursery Attendant. Pariss is a student at Northern Illinois University and plans to graduate in May of 2013 and become a physical therapist for pediatrics. Pariss has had lots of experience working with children, especially at her home church, Victory Apostolic Church in Matteson, Illinois. She has also worked as a counselor at summer camps for children. Working with "little ones" is her specialty. Please stop by the church nursery on Sunday morning and give a warm First Lutheran welcome to Pariss!



## **Cross Walk Sunday Workshop Updates**

### **Rotation 6 – Naaman and Elisha**

From January 29 - February 12 the students will learn about how God used Elisha to help cure Naaman.

In Good News Station WWJD, classes will create a TV show based on the Naaman and Elisha story. During Cornerstone Computer Lab, students will play Naaman and Elisha baseball. In Peter's Theater, classes will put on a puppet show after making their own Naaman and Elisha puppets.

### **Rotation 7 – Abraham and Sarah Promised a Baby**

From February 19 - March 11 the students will learn about how God always keeps his promises when he promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child.

In Cookin' with Jesus, students will make star pizzas. During Living Word, students will read a book about the story and investigate stars. Classes will create star stoles in Apostle's Art Studio.

This rotation will also have a whole group workshop that will introduce the story through a video and activities surrounding the story.

**Help Needed:** 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.

**Mark your Calendars:** Cross Walk Students will be singing a medley of



Tiny Tots and Pre-K students, Anna, Aidan, Jackson, Seth, and Logan, see how to take care of the terrariums they made during Solomon's Science Lab's creation lesson.

*What a Mighty God We Serve* and *I'm in the Lord's Army* on Sunday, February 26 during the 9:00 worship service. Please meet in the Music Room at 8:40 that morning for a quick run through. Dress rehearsal for the medley will be held on Sunday, February 19. Music will go until 11:30 that day.

### **A Big Thank You!**

Huge thanks to our workshop leaders for Rotation 5 of Cross Walk: **Barbara Henson, Peter Hastings,** and **Mike and Madison Bauling.**

Another big thanks to our second semester angels who provided supplies for the upcoming workshops: **Vivian Courtney, Barbara Henson, Colleen Johnson, Joyce Lothson, Sharon Wadle,** and all anonymous donors. We couldn't do it without you!

**Greeting Schedule** — The Fourth and Fifth graders are scheduled to be greeters before the 9:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, February 19. Be there with smiley faces by 8:40 AM!

## Cross Walk Wednesday: Paradise Found!

First Lutheran Church is the place to find a little taste of paradise on a cold winter night! As we learn about Jesus through the Jesus 4U curriculum, we are finding that church here on earth can be a slice of heaven's splendor and unsurpassed fun yet to come!

The pre-kindergarten group has been doing more creative crafts, like fish mobiles based on the story of Jesus calling



Jaden makes a joyful noise!

Andrew and Peter to come follow him and be fishers of people.

The young girls and women have been getting together to learn more about being a woman of noble character as described in Proverbs 31. After a brief Bible study, they

participate in hands-on projects like sewing that teach basic skills. Any skill like sewing a button, proper nail care, or balancing a check book is part of becoming a woman of noble character. In God's eyes such a woman is worth more than precious rubies, thus this group is called the **Rubies!**

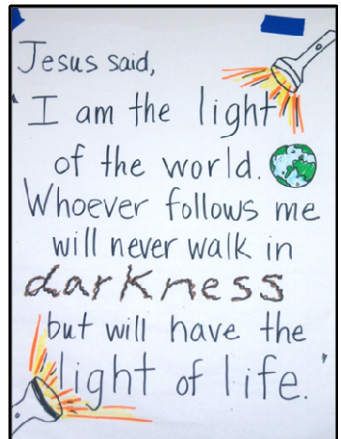


Jan Womack dishes up delicious!

## Middle School Students Stand on the Rock!

In the fall, our Sunday morning Cross Walk lessons for the middle-schoolers have been based on the names of Jesus — like Alpha and Omega, Rose of Sharon, and Messiah. After the Christmas break, we have continued the search for understanding of who Jesus Christ is by learning about his “I am” statements.

Our lessons illustrate through music, art, and games how Jesus is the Great “I am.” In John 8:12 Jesus proclaimed, **“I am the light”** and in John 15:1, Jesus said, **“I am the vine.”** FLC has some brilliant youth who brainstormed all the various uses for rocks, as the Psalmist David proclaimed that, **“the Lord is my Rock”** in Psalms 18:2. From entertainment to weaponry, a rock is everything...just like Jesus is our everything! As always, interesting and intense discussions ensue, as this group of strong Middle School youth learn to stand on the rock.



Illustrated Bible Verse Posters

## Youth Events

### **Creature from the Black Lagoon**



All middle-schoolers are invited to join us during the Chili Dinner on January 29, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, for a movie - Creature from the Black Lagoon. Get your chili and meet in Classroom B Prepare to be scared!!! This movie is not yet rated, because it is so old that the rating system was not around!

### **Teen Roller Skating Night**



Join us at Funway in Batavia  
Friday, February 17  
7:00 to 10:00 PM

If you need a ride, meet at the church by 6:30 PM and call or text Ann Oduber at 630-730-2085. The cost for this event will be \$6.50.

## **Our Lenten Journey Begins**

The Lenten season begins on February 22 this year. We enter this penitential season of the year with a solemn call to fasting and repentance on Ash Wednesday, which begins our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. We will offer two worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday, a service at 9:30 AM and 6:15 PM. Holy Communion will be offered at both services, as well as an Imposition of Ashes. The sign of ashes on our foreheads suggest our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending, however, is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

### **Our midweek Lenten schedule will be as follows:**

5:15 – 6:00 PM - Soup Supper in the Social Hall

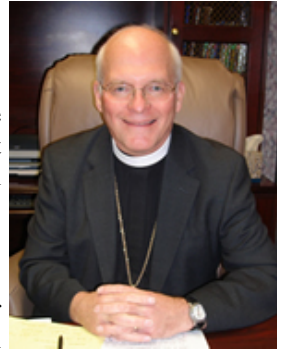
6:00 - 7:30 PM - programming for Children  
(preschool thru sixth grade)

6:00 - 7:30 PM - (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students  
meet for worship and class discussion)

6:15 PM - Worship in the Sanctuary

A special mailing highlighting all of our planned activities and worship opportunities for Lent will be arriving soon. Please plan to join us on our Lenten journey this year.

## **Bishop Wollersheim to Preach at First Lutheran**



On Sunday, February 5, Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Northern Illinois Synod will be the guest preacher at First Lutheran. He will also be in attendance at the Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for 10:15 AM that day.

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

A special meeting of the congregation has been set for Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 10:15 AM in the church sanctuary. The sole purpose of this meeting will be to hear the report of the Consultation Team that was in our congregation in December. Bishop Gary Wollersheim will be in attendance at the meeting, as well as Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop – Northeast Conference; and Susan Gavle, lay member of the Northern Illinois Synod Consultation Team.

## **Did You Know? Today You Are Jesus' Disciple!**

That is right! Today you are Jesus' disciple. When he physically walked the earth he had Mary and Martha, Peter and Andrew, James and John, etc. But today we are his followers and he is calling us to be his disciples and reach out to those around us.

In the book which the Evangelism Ministry Team is reading, **Cultivating Fruitfulness**, it states (on page 16), *"In most communities, forty to sixty percent of people have no church relationship. Many of our neighbors do not know a pastor to call when they face an unexpected grief. Most of our co-workers do not know the sustaining grace that a church offers. Practicing hospitality is not inviting people to join a club in order to enhance revenue through dues. We invite people into that mysteriously sustaining community that finds its purpose in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

I think that means that Jesus intends that as his followers we are to reach out to those who do not have a church home or don't know about Jesus. Make a list of three people (neighbors, co-workers and family) who do not have a church home and pray for them daily. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you courage to reach out to them. Most of us will probably be stepping out of our comfort zone.

**Listen, God is Calling!!! Someone was listening to the sermon, scripture and music the last two Sundays and heard a call to go to Tanzania. Are You Listening? Where is Your Call? Listen!**

**Sue Grafe, chair  
Evangelism Ministry Team**

# FEBRUARY

## First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:15 AM</b> Annual Meeting <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>11:30 AM</b> Chili Dinner	<b>30</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>1</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>5:30 PM</b> Family Meal <b>6:00 PM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes	<b>2</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:15 AM</b> Special Congregational Meeting <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities	<b>6</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Ministry Team Meetings <b>8:00 PM</b> Executive Committee	<b>8</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>5:30 PM</b> Family Meal <b>6:00 PM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes	<b>9</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Prelude - Women's Bible Study <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON</b> Church Council Retreat
<b>12</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities	<b>13</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Northeast Pastor's Conference Meeting <b>1:30 PM</b> Valentine Tea <b>6:30 PM</b> Congregation Council	<b>15</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>5:30 PM</b> Family Meal <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:00 PM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes	<b>16</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>17</b> <b>6:30 - 10:00 PM</b> Teen Roller Skating Party at Funway in Batavia	<b>18</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast and Service Project
<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship with Holy Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities	<b>20</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>22</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>5:15 PM</b> Soup Supper <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:00 PM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:15 PM</b> Lenten Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes	<b>23</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Prelude - Women's Bible Study <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:15 AM</b> Special Congregational Meeting (pending) <b>10:20 AM</b> Cross Walk Activities	<b>27</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Project Group <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> Red-Eye Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Clergy Text Study <b>5:15 PM</b> Soup Supper <b>5:30 PM</b> GED Classes <b>6:00 PM</b> Cross Walk Activities <b>6:00 PM</b> Faith Trek <b>6:15 PM</b> Lenten Worship <b>6:30 PM</b> FPU Classes	<b>1</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

**Highlights of the January Council Meeting**

- Approved the minutes, financial reports and staff reports that were presented.
- Received a copy of the final revision of the Resolution to establish First Lutheran’s Mission Endowment Fund. This will be distributed to the congregation for review and approval at the Annual Meeting of the congregation on January 29, 2012.
- Discussed the needs of LSSI In-Touch Home Care employees who have an office at First Lutheran Church and how we will respond to them.
- Approved the hiring of Pariss Garner, an NIU student, as our new Nursery Attendant.
- Heard an update from the Nominating Committee on who they have invited to serve on Church Council and the various ministry teams of the congregation.
- Decided to hold the Annual Church Council retreat on Saturday, February 11, 9:00 AM– 12:00 NOON.
- Received the proposed 2012 budget/salary recommendations from the Finance Committee. Approved presenting the budget proposed by the Finance Committee, as well as an alternate budget (which includes the staff salaries proposed by the Personnel Committee), at the Annual Meeting. The latter budget would include a “Faith Offering” in order to balance the budget.



**January 12 Special Church Council Meeting Highlights**

- Welcomed Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Northern Illinois Synod; Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop – NE Conference; and Susan Gavle, lay member of the NIS Consultation Team.
- Heard the report of the Consultation team as presented by our guests.
- Approved holding a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2012, 10:15 AM for the purpose of hearing the report of the Consultation Team.
- Approved holding a Special Congregational Meeting, if needed, on Sunday, February 26, 10:15 AM for the purpose of acting on the Consultation Team report.
- Discussed how to re-establish the correctly staggered terms of Church Council members, as mandated by the First Lutheran Church Constitution.
- Discussed the importance of having all elected Church Council members in regular attendance at our meetings.

## Prelude ... A Morning Bible Study for Women



**Prelude**, the ongoing Thursday morning Bible study group for women, will meet next on February 9 and 23 from 9:00-10:30 AM upstairs in Classroom A. Using the Bible study included in the January/February issue of *The Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, our sessions this month will focus on the theme, "Tough Questions," with the theme verse from Mark 10:49: ***"Take heart, get up, he is calling you."***

The Prelude Bible Study group is always ready to welcome newcomers, so if you are looking for a way to "connect" with others in our church, then come and check this group out! We begin the day with coffee and conversation, then open the scripture and wrestle with how God's Word connects to our everyday life. Pastor Marilyn serves as the facilitator of the group. We'd love to have you join us!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have been asked to assist St. John's Lutheran Church of Sterling to crochet/knit prayer shawls for the Northern Illinois Synod Military Chaplains. Specific directions are available on the kiosk in the Atrium or from **Ann Lindahl** — who can also answer all your questions.

## Thanks for LWR Donations!

Many mothers, like Mary (Luke 2:7), give birth in challenging circumstances. First Lutherans and other U.S. Lutherans through Lutheran World Relief gave babies and mothers around the world healthy and warm gifts. Thanks be to God! How many Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits were collected in the U.S. in 2011?

355,786 quilts  
166,427 School Kits  
311,763 Personal Care Kits  
72,610 Baby Care Kits  
21,234 Fabric Kits

How many Lutheran World Relief kits were collected at First Lutheran in 2011?

166 School Kits  
23 Personal Care Kits  
18 Baby Care Kits  
Also: a box and bag filled with bars of soap

In addition First Lutheran also gave 17 AIDS/Hospice Kits and 15 towels to Global Health Ministry in Minnesota. Someone has requested the contents of the AIDS/Hospice Kits — 1 new or gently used bath towel and wash cloth; 1 bar of soap; 1 toothbrush and tube of toothpaste; 1 "pick" comb; 1 nail clipper; 6 Band-Aids; 1 jar or tube of petroleum jelly; 1 pair of heavy duty household gloves (kitchen type size medium); and a devotional booklet such as "Portals of Prayer."

## From the Altar Guild

The Flower Chart for 2012 still has several openings for the year. The altar flowers will come from Glidden Florist and will cost \$40.00 plus tax for the two arrangements. Please sign up at your convenience.

## What's new at Love INC?

The February highlighted gap ministry emphasis will be on appliances and furniture. Please remember Love

INC's needy clients when you replace your stove, couch, etc. And remind your friends to do the same! Call 217-0082 to arrange a delivery or pick-up.

Love INC is taking steps toward a Relational Ministry Program. Want to be part of a mentoring ministry? Can you be the love of Christ to one in need? Contact Nathan at Love INC at 815-217-0082 or stop by the office during morning office hours for more details.

Do you have one morning per week from 9:00 AM to noon available for serving? Join our Office Ministry Team and help support the ministries of Love INC. Or, form a team of 4-5 individuals in your congregation and each of you can take one day per month. Your time will enable more people to be served! Call 815-217-0082.

## Congregational Resourcing Event

The Congregational Resourcing Event of the Northern Illinois Synod will be held on Saturday, March 10 at Kishwaukee College, beginning with registration at 8:30 AM. The theme this year is – “Seeds Grow Fruit — From God's Story to Our Story.” Pastor Jeff Marian, pastor at Prince of Peace in Burnsville, Minnesota, will be the keynote speaker. More information is available on the kiosk in the Atrium or check out the Northern Illinois Synod website at [www.nisynod.org](http://www.nisynod.org)



## Please Consider Supporting Pr. Seth's Education Ministry

Are you like us, finding it hard to believe that Pastor Seth began his fourth and final semester of classes in NIU's Graduate School of Music on January 17? After graduation in May, he will return to Makumira University to join **Randy and Carol Stubbs** in the Music Program as a professor and program leader.

This semester he will continue to teach and conduct the University Choir while also participating in both the Chamber and Concert Choirs — watch for dates to see him perform. He will present traditional Maasai music at one state and one regional conference. He will also focus this semester on his Master's project and Comprehensive Exams.

If you donated or tasted the Chili Lunch, thanks very much for your participation and support. (Since the First Word went to print before the chili was served on January 29, the proceeds will soon be announced in a Sunday bulletin.) If you were not able to take part, you still have the opportunity to support Pastor Seth's Education Ministry — checks may be donated at any time.

Our best estimate of remaining financial need is \$3,310, which will help address the 50 - 100% inflation of basic food costs (beans, rice, cooking oil, etc) for Pastor Seth's family in Tanzania, and includes repayment of the Stubbs' personal loan when they paid for Pastor Seth's flights for the 2010-11 school year.

Thank you for your support,  
Social Ministry Team and  
Mike & Sharon Wadle

## Getting to Know Our Members

**Ellen and Jack Cress** are members of the First Lutheran family that you should get to know. (This “Getting to Know ...” column was written by Ellen.)

Jack was born in Sycamore and graduated from DeKalb High School. I grew up and graduated from high school in Ottawa (where a river is really a river!). We met at NIU and have been married for 29 years. Our son Scott will graduate from Columbia College Chicago in May with a degree in graphic design.



**Jack and Ellen Cress**

Jack owns Cresswood Shredding Machinery in Cortland, a business his dad started in 1963. He manufactures shredding machinery for the plastics, paper, and wood industries. I have taught for 19 years and am a fourth grade teacher at Cortland Elementary School. Jack enjoys fishing in his free time but his real passion is photography, a talent he has applied to his love of mission work in orphanages in Russia and Thailand and as well as visits to our sister congregation in Ketumbeine (Pastor Seth’s hometown). TEAR (The Evangelical Association of Russia), published Jack’s portraits of Russian orphans and he helped prepare videos for the Living Word Ministries’ refugee projects in Thailand.

In the summers, while Jack is traveling to places with no electricity, dangerous insects, and deadly snakes, I’m home enjoying gardening, baseball (Cubs – not White Sox!), and reading in my backyard, preparing my mind and spirit for nine months in the classroom. Retirement, if and when we get around to it, will mean traveling, playing more pinochle, and taking long walks in the forest preserve with our dog Skip.

My favorite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 – *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.* Jack’s is Romans 8:38-39 – *For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Jack’s favorite hymn is “*How Great Thou Art*” and mine is “*Up From the Grave He Arose,*” because it’s so rousing and joyful.

Music at First Lutheran is a special joy for us and the beautiful voice and bell choirs make the balcony a special place to be on Sunday morning. First Lutheran, our church home since 1994, has been a nurturing place for Jack to put his missionary interests into action and for us to raise our son and worship as a family.



- |                           |                      |                       |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Joyce Klein            | 8. Mary Jean Bauling | 20. Margaret Dierking |
| Nolan Lindahl             | 10. Jesse Cole       | Andrea Holder         |
| Evan Skinner              | 11. Trent Lange      | Paige Pardridge       |
| 2. Debbie Benson          | 12. Paula Bryner     | 21. Tyler Peterson    |
| 3. Jean Campbell-Peterson | Laina Scheri         | Lou Scheri            |
| Scot Hallgren             | 13. Blair Hallgren   | 23. Amy Feyerherm     |
| Richard Hansen            | Lois Johnson         | Steve Hardenbergh     |
| Elizabeth Peregrine       | Kayla Kittleson      | 25. Carla Hardenbergh |
| 4. Otta Ritzman           | 14. Karl Faivre      | 26. Dee Anderson      |
| 5. Nicole Billips         | 15. Kevin Faivre     | Logan Corn            |
| Debra Quinn               | Adam Karolus         | Christopher Hartman   |
| 6. Joyce Gardner          | Elliot Lange         | Judith Thorson        |
| Sharon Retrum             | Daryl Rolland        | 27. Roberta Burke     |
| Abigael Riel              | Bob Schmidt          | Jeanette Gommel       |
| 7. Samantha Hammond       | 16. Rick Campbell-   | 28. Sean O'Connor     |
| Jeanna Hunter             | Peterson             | Matt Parenti          |
| Jackie Winfield           | Mary Colvin          | Takoda Peifer         |
|                           | 17. Megan Baker      | Jill Sanderson        |
|                           | Berla Buhk           | 29. Ryen Probasco     |
|                           | Tiffany Burdick      |                       |
|                           | Christine Jouris     |                       |
|                           | 19. Ralph Chaplin    |                       |
|                           | Robert Johnson       |                       |

## Comptroller Report for December 2011

	December Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Remaining Budget
Income	\$72,292.95	\$426,459.79	
Expenses	\$39,645.64	\$378,458.25	
Ahead/(Behind)	\$32,647.31	<b>\$48,001.54</b>	

**Capital Building Fund Loan Balance - \$256,079.76**

One day's interest on mortgage - \$40.92

## Attendance Figures for December 2011

	9:00 Sunday	
December 4	174	
December 11	169	
December 18	246	
December 24	229 (4:00 PM)	161 (11:00 PM)
December 25	70	

## First Staff

Senior Pastor

Marilyn G. Hanson  
pastor@firstlutherandekalb.org

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary

Lynn Schmidt  
office@firstlutherandekalb.org

Christian Education Coordinator

Ann Oduber  
aoduber@firstlutherandekalb.org

Cross Walk Sunday Coordinator

Stephanie Corn  
education@firstlutherandekalb.org

Sr. High Volunteer Youth Directors

Trent and Teresa Lange  
ttmelange@comcast.net

Comptroller

Ken Hermach  
khermach@firstlutherandekalb.org

Adult Choir Director

Interim Organist

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Custodian

Bill Colvin

Security

Kyle and Jennifer Guymon

## Congregation Council

President

Paul Letheby

Vice-President

Barbara Henson

Secretary

Nancy Dashner

Treasurer

Bob Snow

Randall Baker  
John Countryman  
Joyce Davidson  
Cathy Foelske  
Bill Sanders  
Barbara Schrader

## Ministry Teams

Learning/Growth  
(Children & Youth Ministry)

Endowment

Evangelism

Finance

Personnel

Property

Social Ministry

Stewardship

Worship/Music/Fine Arts

*First Lutheran Church ...  
... hearing, living, and  
sharing God's Word  
together.*



**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**