



The First Word

**First Lutheran Church
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October 2009

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Congratulations, Confirmands!

Congratulations to ten First Lutheran students who made public affirmation of their faith at the 9:00 service on Sunday, September 27.

**Breanna Hanson
Allison Hunter-Rosene
Kasey Kitchen
Timothy Lange
Peyton Marten
Jacob Marx
Matt Parenti
Tyler Peterson
Zachary Riel
Jessica Wellman**



Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church

...

*Hearing, Living, and
Sharing God's Word
Together*

Dates to Remember

Confirmation Sunday	September 27
New Member Classes	October 11 & 18
Stewardship Kickoff Breakfast.....	October 24
Bible Sunday	October 25
New Member Reception.....	October 25

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we speak with many of you and with other Lutheran pastors, it is painfully clear to us that the recent decision of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding changes to ministry policies has been a cause of great anxiety (even anger) with some; a relief (even joy) for some; and for others, it's really not a big deal one way or another. We know that some people (even some pastors) and some congregations are thinking about whether they can live with the change in ministry policy which allows homosexual men and women living in lifelong, committed, monogamous, faithful same-gender relationships to serve as pastors, or whether they, in good conscience, must leave the ELCA. This is hard stuff!

And all this presents a special challenge to us, because we have been called to be pastors to all of you, whatever your feelings or viewpoint on this issue. We are called to provide pastoral care and support to every one of you as we, as a congregation and as individuals, discern what these recent decisions mean to us, and what we are going to do in response to them.

Our Bishop, Gary Wollersheim, has made it clear that if we, as a congregation, do not choose to change our ministry practices in response to these decisions, **NO ONE WILL FORCE US TO DO SO**. But if we do choose to align our practices with these recent decisions, no one will prohibit us from doing so. He does ask us, however, to *"...pause and take a deep breath. We need to pray, reflect, discuss, and pray some more about the decisions that this church has made. Knee-jerk reactions rarely serve anyone well. Let us be sensitive to the reality that some are disappointed, others rejoice, and still others will accept these decisions out of respect for the Assembly voting and the long and prayerful process it has taken to get to this point. St. Paul writes: "Bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ"*

Galatians 6:2

So let us prayerfully reflect on these recent decisions **TOGETHER**, as brothers and sisters in Christ, as we respectfully listen to one another and try to find a way to work through all this **TOGETHER**. Whatever your point of view on this issue, **THIS IS STILL YOUR CHURCH!** God is still here. Jesus still walks with us. The Holy Spirit still guides and leads us. We are still in God's hands. Whether you support or oppose these decisions, Jesus loves you.

So please, let's not allow a single issue to define who we are as people of God. Let's not allow a single issue to fracture the body of Christ here at First Lutheran. There is so much more to who we are as a congregation, and who the ELCA is as a denomination, than this one thing. We truly believe that if this is all a big mistake, God will correct it. And if it wasn't a mistake, God will bless us for it. So let's trust God and leave it in God's hands.

We close with another of Bishop Wollersheim's stories: *"The Lutheran Church is a big old boat. **There is room for all who want to come aboard:** reformers, evangelicals, traditionalists, land lovers, and all those who are cast away. Yes, the old boat creaks, lists, and leaks. And sometimes, frankly, the rising and falling can literally make one sick. But the old boat is faithful and gets her passengers to where they are supposed to go. Always has. Always will. Thanks be to God."*

We invite you to come and talk about your feelings on this issue privately with one of us, or more publicly at one of our forums. No one will judge you for your feelings on this, whatever they are.

Trusting in God as we walk this journey of faith together,

Pastor Marilyn and Pastor Roy

Congratulations to **Jill Sanderson and Fared Haque** on the birth of their son, Erra Euphrates Sanderson-Haque, born on September 6. His proud grandparents are **Brad and Lisa Sanderson**. We also celebrate with **Jennifer and Kyle Guymon** on the birth of their son, Carter Derek, born on September 6. His proud grandmother is **Barbara Baie**.

Our congratulations to **Heather Hart** and **Jerritt Tuestad** who were married at the church on Saturday, September 12.

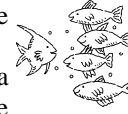
A very special thanks to **Dean Burgemeister, Howard Jacobson, Jim Johnson, Jim Luebke, Kermit and JoAnn Nordeen, Arlyn Strike, and Jim and Jan Womack** for moving all the Rummage Sale "left-overs" to the Habitat for Humanity Garage Sale in the WalMart parking lot August 27.

Congratulations to **Jess and Helen Williams** on the celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary on October 2; to **Lou and Michelle Scheri** on their 20th anniversary on October 21; and to **Gerry and Linda Sanderson** on the celebration of their 51st anniversary on October 26.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Jesse Cole, Jane Fay, Don Johnson, Bertil and Marian Larson, Barbara Lindus, Rebecca Looney, Rodney Lothson, Brad Manning, Ken Pumfrey, Al Ritzman, Pat Smith, Ruth Smith, Pat Tuecke, Emmett and Dorothy Youngren, Chuck Wrigley (son of Bev Wrigley), Nancy Abrams (sister of Debra Burgin), Margaret Bauling (mother of Michael Bauling), and Elinor Robbins (Kathy Aase's mother).**

New Member Lunch Discussions – A Lutheran Perspective on Faith and Life

If you are considering becoming a member of the



**NEW
Member
Class**

body of Christ here at First Lutheran or are just curious about our Lutheran view on faith and life, please join Pastor Roy in the Social Hall on October 11 and 18 at 11:20 AM for a light lunch and group discussion to find out more about who we are and what we are all about at First Lutheran. Childcare will be provided.

During 9:00 AM worship on Sunday October 25, we will welcome into the faith community all who attended and desire to become members of the congregation. Please contact Pastor Roy or the Church Office to let us know if you are planning to attend and if childcare is needed.

Wanted

The Kindness Klub would like to collect gently used books for children at Hope Haven. If you have any books you would like to donate, please drop them off in the box in the Atrium. We request books from infant up to sixth grade. The Kindness Klub children who are in Fifth and Sixth grade will be going to Hope Haven on Wednesday, November 18th to read to the children and bring the donated books. If you have any questions, please contact **Cathy Foelske** or the Church Office. Thank you for your kindness of sharing a blessing.



Cross Walk Sunday Workshop Updates

Rotation 1 — Moses and the Burning Bush

For these first three weeks of Cross Walk Sunday, the students have been learning about the story of Moses and the Burning Bush and discipleship through these three workshops: Salvation Stadium, Scripture Cinema, and Apostle's Art Studio. In Salvation Stadium, students play a life-sized board game where they answer questions about the story. During Scripture Cinema, students watch the story of Moses' life and think about how they will do God's work as Moses did. At Apostle's Art Studio, students practice their art skills by making their own burning bushes to help them remember that God is always with them.

Rotation 2 — The Widow's Mite

Beginning October 11, the students will start a new round of workshops focusing on the story of the Widow's Mite and Stewardship. These workshops will be Cornerstone Computer Lab, Peter's Theater (puppetry), and The Living Word (storytelling). This rotation will end with a family event led by Thrivent on November 1. Parents are invited and encouraged to come with their children to this event.

Thank You! A big thank you to everyone who has donated items and their time to help Cross Walk get up and running: **Jean Callary, Cathy Foelske, Jenny Franzene, Heidi Hietanen, Stan Lindahl, John and Lou Longeville, Debbi Ploetz, Jesse and Karen Schramer, Keith Setchell, and Jim and Jan Womack.** There are always

items being added to the "Angel Wish List" in the Atrium for Cross Walk. Anything you can contribute would be truly appreciated.

Tanzania Famine Relief Fund — Sunday School offerings are collected each week during Music Time. Offering envelopes were distributed on Sunday, September 20. A note was attached stating that all Cross Walk offering will be contributed to the Tanzania Famine Relief, a cause promoted by our very own Stubbs Family. This cause also ties to our "helping others" and hunger themes that the students will experience during their rotations.

Cans for Tanzania



We're collecting aluminum cans and the money raised will also go towards famine relief. This is such a simple way to show love and concern for our brothers and sisters in need. Ask your friends and neighbors to save their cans, too. Together we **CAN** make a difference!

Greeting Schedule — The third Sunday of each month is designated for our Cross Walk children to be greeters before the 9:00 AM worship service. Please note when your child's class is scheduled to greet. The class will meet approximately 20 minutes before the start of the service. Thank you!

- October 18 — Fifth/Sixth Grade
- November 15 — Third/Fourth Grade
- January 17 — First/Second Grade
- February 21 — Pre K/Kindergarten
- April 18 — Tiny Tots

Cross Walk Wednesday

Cross Walk Wednesday is off to a great start! This year we have three different age groups and six awesome leaders. **Kelly Buhk and Nicky Henke** are back to lead our Preschool - First graders. **Adina and Matt Morfoot** are leaders for the Second - Fourth graders, and our new tween group for Fifth and Sixth graders is lead by **Elsa Glover and Vicki Kothrade**.

Each group has its own Bible based lessons and activities, plus 20 minutes of music time. **Cathy Foelske** will lead Kindness Klub once a month for each of the two older groups.

All three groups gather in the Jungle Room at 7:15 PM to recap the evening, sing, and pray together. Parents are invited to join us.

Wednesday evenings are a great time for kids to bring their friends to church. There's a lot of excitement and energy in the building and we are having fun!

O u r t w o children's choirs have begun meeting on alternating Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:20 PM in the Music Room.

Praise Kids, for Second - Fourth graders, meets on the first and third weeks of the month. **Joyful Noise**, for Fifth - Eighth graders, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays. New singers are always welcome! **Come and make a joyful noise with us.**



Join the Cross Walk kids and youth as we prepare shoe boxes full of gifts that will be sent to needy children around the world. Here's how you can participate:

1. Decide whether your box will be for a girl or boy. You may fill more than one box.
2. Choose an age category — ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
3. Pray for the child who will receive your box.
4. Take a shoe box and fill it with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, etc. (Check the gift list guide on the display in the Atrium soon.)
5. Wrap the box; the lid must be wrapped separately so the box can be opened.
6. Please **enclose a check for \$7** in your box, **payable to Samaritan's Purse**, to help cover shipping and other costs. **Note on the memo line that the gift is for Operation Christmas Child.** Place the check on top of the gift items in your box so it is clearly visible.
7. Close the box and put a rubber band around the box and lid.
8. Return your box to church by **Sunday, November 8.**

If you are unable to fill a box, please consider making a donation to Samaritan's Purse, or donating small items that others can put in their boxes. Check the gift list guide at the display. Bring your donations to the Church Office, marked Operation Christmas Child.

Our goal is to fill 50 boxes! This is one way we can work together to be the hands and feet of Jesus. What may seem like a small task to you can bring great joy to a child who otherwise might not receive a gift this year.



**YOUTH
GROUP
SCOOP**

Junior High Activity:

We will go to the Jonamac Corn Maze on Sunday, October 18. We will meet at First Lutheran Church at 2:00 PM and we will return around 4:00 PM. Cost per person will be \$5.00. Sign up is required by Sunday October 11. To sign up please call, text or e-mail Liz.

Service Project: On Saturday, October 24, the junior high students are invited to join the high schoolers for a service project at the DeKalb Public Library where we will tell “scary” stories to kids age 3+. We will meet in the Children’s Department at 10:00 AM.

We also need a few parents to host the Coffee Hour on October 11. If you have a child going on the Dells Quake please consider helping us out with this great fundraiser.

Senior High: We have a very busy month for the Senior High program. We will continue our Taking Root series for Senior High Crosswalk.

We will meet on October 4, October 11, and October 18. We will not meet on October 25.

Meal and a Message will meet every Wednesday in October. On October 7, we will have a game night where we will play Scattergories. Our devotion will be based on the issue of gossip. On October 14, we will be going to the library for our service project where we will host a night of “scary” stories for kids age 3+. Our devotion that night will be based on the issue of sharing your faith with your peers. On October 21, we will have a movie night where we will watch Ghostbusters. Our devotion that night will be based on the issue of procrastinating. Then, on October 28, we will finish watching Ghostbusters. Our devotion will be based on the issue of having your priorities in order.

Fun Activity: We will go to the Jonamac Haunted Corn Maze on Saturday October 17 from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. The cost will be \$5.00 per person. Sign up is required by October 9. Sign up by texting, calling or e-mailing Liz.

Service Project: On Saturday, October 24, we will go to the library to reprise our “scary” stories for kids age 3+. We will meet at the library Children’s Department at 10:00 AM. The junior highers will be joining us for this activity.

Trick-or-Treating for canned goods: we will be trick-or-treating for canned goods again on Halloween! We will meet at First Lutheran at 5:30 PM and trick-or-treat until 7:00 PM.

Items needed: The high school youth group needs to borrow a wagon for our trick-or-treating for canned goods. We also need old clothes for a dress-up trunk for our service projects at the library. Old dresses, suit coats, hats, etc. would be greatly appreciated. If you can donate any of these items, please contact Liz.

Kudos to: A big thank you to **Heidi Hietanen, Robert Morphis, Dawn Gersic, and Bill and Lee Todtz** for hosting the Coffee Hour in September. All proceeds from our monthly youth group hosting of Coffee Hour will go to offset the cost of the Dells Quake/

The Harvest Fest was a BIG Success!



Pastor Roy, Liz Peregrine, Lynn Cook, and Mark Mackeben lead us in worship.

We had a wonderful Harvest Fest at **Gerry and Linda Sanderson's** country setting on Saturday, September 19. Over one hundred people, both young and old, attended the day of outdoor fun. With a blue sky and warm temperatures, it was a perfect day for hayrides, fishing, making s'mores, going on a scavenger hunt, and just sitting, relaxing, and eating some delicious grilled brats and hotdogs. Thanks to all who attended and made the day such fun!

Special thanks to all who donated food, beverages, and firewood. Thanks to those who planned the scavenger hunt, assisted with the outdoor worship service, or stayed to help clean up afterwards.

Ticket sales for the Harvest Fest brought in \$525.00. The offering taken at the worship service totaled \$198.00. An anonymous donor added another \$277 to this, so we were able to send \$500.00 to support Lutheran Campus Ministry at NIU and \$500.00 to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Oregon, IL.

Finally, a great big THANK YOU to Gerry and Linda Sanderson for hosting the event for us all!



Thanks to Scott and Bridget Meier who served brats and hot dogs during the afternoon festivities.

You Can Make a Difference!

When was the last time you were a hero ... because you could tie a knot?


Prepare to color outside the lines, and come support the MOPS ministry serving mothers of young children. You can make a difference! MOPS seeks to help mothers of newborns through kindergarten experience God's love. Free and loving childcare is a critical part of this ministry. Do you have a heart for children and a desire to be an encouragement to a mother who desperately needs it?

Read any good books lately? ... We've got a captive audience! Put on your softest clothes for snuggling, and come support this ministry serving mothers of young children.

Can you give four - five hours of your time in October? (**First Lutheran is responsible for childcare only in October** — October 5 and 19.) If the answer is YES, please contact the Church Office.

OCT BER

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27  9:00 AM Worship with the Rite of Confirmation 10:00 AM Confirmation Reception 2:00 - 4:00 PM Sr. High Trip to Honey Hill Orchard	28 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Professional Leaders Conference at Bishop Hill in Rockford</div>	29 8:30 AM Project Group	30 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Praise Kids Choir 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	1 2:00 PM Naomi Circle 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	2	3
4 Food Pantry Donations 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities 11:20 AM Rotation 2 Cross Walk Sunday Staff Orientation	5 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	6 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00 PM Executive Committee	7 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM Praise Kids Choir 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	8 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	9	10
11 9:00 AM Worship (First - Sixth Graders sing for worship) 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities 11:20 AM New Member Class	12 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	13 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council	14 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	15 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	16	17 6:30 PM Sr. High Trip to Jonamac Corn Maze
18 9:00 AM Worship (PreK - Second Graders sing for worship) 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities 11:20 AM New Member Class 2:00 PM Jr. High Trip to Jonamac Corn Maze	19 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	20 8:30 AM Project Group 9:30 AM Northeast Conference Pastor's Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran, DeKalb 6:00 PM Women's Night Out at Nat's on Maple, Sycamore	21 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM Praise Kids Choir 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	22 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:30 PM Needlework Group 7:30 PM Adult Choir	23	24 8:30 PM Stewardship Kickoff Breakfast 10:00 AM Jr. & Sr. High Service Project at the DeKalb Public Library
25 9:00 AM Worship with Reception of New Members and Presentation of Bibles 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities	26 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	27 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	28 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	29 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:30 PM Personnel Comm. 7:30 PM Adult Choir	30	31 5:30 - 7:00 PM Sr. High Trick-or-Treating for Canned Goods

Highlights of the September Council Meeting

- Formed four Ad Hoc Committees made up of council members to address the Bridgebuilding goals assigned to council - Stewardship: **Bill Sanders, Kayla Kittleson, Trent Lange**; Leadership: **Cathy Foelske, John Longeville, Paul Letheby**; Mission: **Tarryn Thaden, Bob Snow, Karen Schramer**; Communication: **Barbara Henson, Stan Lindahl, Caroline Peregrine**.
- Discussed the ELCA's newly adopted Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the ministry policy changes that were made at the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis in August.
- Affirmed the need for a strong stewardship emphasis this fall as we begin the budget process for 2010.
- Discussed being leaders with our giving and asking the congregation to join us in giving generously to the ministry and mission of the church.
- Affirmed our commitment to our partner relationship with Lutheran Campus Ministry.



School Kit Results

WOW!! Did we surpass our 120 school bag goal for this year. A total of 156 school bags will be assembled by MOPS on Monday, October 5th!

Extra support for filling the bags was given this year by women identifying with the back to school sales and pursuing the bargains. In addition, three women donated cash in which purchases could be made. This was especially helpful to get the last needed items to complete bags. One of the cash donations was made in memory of Robert Murphy. Thanks to **Jeanette Gommel, Jean Callary, and Sharon Wadle** for making all the bags. Fabric was donated by the Project Group and purchased at garage sales and from Johnson Seat and Canvas Shop in Cortland.

Urgent Need: We have just received word that LWR has an urgent need for health kits. With the ongoing natural disasters and political refugee camps the need is ever increasing. Can you donate an item or a kit? Items may be brought and placed in the LWR basket in the Narthex. For further information go to the website and click on Health Kits: <http://lwr.org/beinvolved/>

Each kit contains a hand towel (dark color), wash cloth (dark color), adult size toothbrush, metal nail file or clippers with file, sturdy comb (wide-toothed preferred), six band aids (1/2" or 3/4"), and a bath size bar of soap. Thank you for your support of Lutheran World Relief.

First Lutherans follow Christ's mandate in 1 John 3:18 *"Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."* Thanks be to God for his faithful servants!

Women's Night Out!

Monthly informal fellowship dinners for women in our congregation (as well as friends who wish to join us) will continue on Tuesday, October 27, at 6:00 PM at Nat's on Maple in Sycamore.

These dinners are based on the simple concept that we just want to get together on occasion for fellowship with our sisters in Christ. No one has to cook, no one has to dress up, no one has to develop a business agenda. We just show up, have dinner (dutch treat), and enjoy each other's company. Whether it's a group of two or 20, it will be a fun night! Women of all ages are invited and will be welcomed with open arms. Please call the Church Office by noon on the 27th if you plan to attend.

Naomi Circle to Meet



Naomi Circle will meet on Thursday, October 1, at 2:00 PM. **Anna Diab** will present the program "Making Chrismons." **Velma Chamberlain** and

Sharon Wadle will serve as hostesses and **Karen Sjolund** will give devotions. All women are welcome.

Needlework Group

Join us on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM to get your projects completed (or started!). Come share your needlework — counted cross-stitch, knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. Lessons are given to help you get started, too. We're a social group of all ages and dessert is always served. Please join us; mark the date on your calendar.

Calling All Women ...

Looking for a Bible study to nurture and strengthen your faith? If so, consider checking out "Prelude", a Bible study geared especially for women. This fall we are studying the book of Romans on the second Thursday of the month, using the Bible study in the Lutheran Woman Today magazine. On the fourth Thursday morning of the month we are discussing topics of interest to the women attending. The Bible study is held in Classroom A, coffee and goodies are always served, and newcomers are always welcome. Please, come and join us. You'll be glad you did!

Book Discussion Group to Meet

The Book Discussion Group will meet next on Monday, November 2, at 12:00 NOON in the Community Room to discuss Population 485



by Michael Perry. "When Perry returned to his tiny childhood town, New Auburn, Wisconsin, after 12 years away, he joined the village's volunteer fire and rescue department. Six years later, he'd begun to understand at last that to truly live in a place, you must give your life to that place. These charming, discursive essays are loosely structured around the calls Perry responds to as a volunteer EMT. Perry's insights into the small-town mentality come from apparent contemplation, and he writes about them with good humor."

All those attending are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion.

Thrivent Build Update

Our final opportunity to help with actual construction of the new Habitat for Humanity house at 119 Home Drive will be on Saturday, October 3. The crew should be working on flooring and First Lutheran will be providing lunch. There is still a very important job to be done, however. Each of the Lutheran churches participating in the build has pledged \$1,000 toward the cost of the house. To date, First Lutheran members have contributed \$456.47. If you have not yet given toward this worthy project, I hope you will consider how important it is to provide decent affordable housing in DeKalb. If we each give a small amount, we will not have trouble reaching our goal.

Feed the NIU Students



Prior to worship at Lutheran Campus Ministry each Wednesday evening, the students meet for fellowship and to share a meal. First Lutheran is responsible to serve the meal on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We are looking for individuals willing to make the meal or a portion of it. 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 donation to order pizza.

Please contact the Church Office or sign up on the bulletin board outside the Library if you can help.

Hope Haven Needs Volunteers

The Hope Haven chart for volunteers is posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. There are still several openings for volunteers. Volunteers are asked to help provide a portion of the meal (main dish; vegetable or salad; or dessert and milk). First Lutheran is responsible for the second Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in helping, contact **Carrie Engstrom** at 758-2588 or sign up today!

Love INC News

The Love of Christ continues to be visible in our communities as the church reaches out to those in need. Various churches have been able to build some lasting relationships with people and effect life transformation not only by meeting a need but also by getting to know each other. This is the goal that Love In the Name of Christ desires. Communities will change as people change, as they grasp the truth of Jeremiah 29:11, where God tells us that the plans he has for us are to, *“give us a hope and a future.”* With your continued volunteer work and financial support, we can continue to meet needs and build relationships that will bring a godly transformation to our communities.

Are you able to help with a gas gift card so someone can get to work, care for their children, or attend a medical appointment? Are you able to donate an Aldi's or WalMart gift card to be used to purchase meat for a family? If so please contact our office or you may drop it off at 151 W. Lincoln Highway, Suite B.

Nathan Scott
Director, Love INC

Did You Know?

I think it's time to draw my little column to a close. There is one topic that has never been introduced that I had wanted to add. This seems to be a fine time to do it. Fifty years ago after the December 25th Centennial Sunday service, I took out my reel-to-reel tape recorder to interview my parents that afternoon as to some of the experiences of growing up in the old church (the second church).

Back around 1908 the next generation of boys and girls and young men and women were becoming the Swedish-American generation. They formed the majority of our congregation by the 1930s. To salute those wonderful parents and grandparents of that special generation, I have one opportunity to ask our final question: "Did You Know" about Swede School? These young people of one hundred years ago were asked to return to school in the summer but this time to learn the Swedish of their parents and grandparents. This exercise must have continued for around 30 years.

As the Swedish settlement on North Sixth Street in DeKalb grew, the old North School on North Fifth and Locust Street became the summer school for learning Swedish. It was popular to invite one of the seminarians from the Theology School at Augustana College to help with the classes and to play baseball with the boys. These seminarians also served as role models.

Children often learned to pick out leading phrases that helped to draw the Swedish sermon to a close. My father, for example, had learned the Swedish phrase for "Let Us Pray" and when he heard that, he knew the sermon was drawing to a close. My mother had a

different experience with word recognition. She heard a phrase from time to time that according to her indicated that the women of the congregation were being chastised firmly for various shortcomings and misbehavior. However, she had adopted these sounds straight into English and came up with "So! Ladies." She was sorry that the women of the congregation were always in trouble. Later she learned "So! Ladies" in Swedish, with minor adjustments for sound, is simply the Swedish word for "Therefore."

The photos in our Centennial Yearbook include a wonderful picture of children attending the Swede School around 1900. There are around 50 kids there and in the back row is a group of rangy boys, and of course the little faces of the smaller boys and girls are wonderful. As early as 1907 the suggestion was made to Pastor Stark that an English language Sunday School be added but space restrictions did not permit it. In 1916 our prayers were joyfully answered.

Thank you so much to Yvonne Johnson and her wonderful Sesquicentennial Committee and to Pastor Roy and Pastor Marilyn. Thanks again and Tusen Tak!

Corinne Johnson

Newsletter Deadline

Just a reminder, the deadline to submit articles and information for The First Word is on the 20th of each and every month. Articles should be brief and may be edited. Newsletter articles for the November issue should be in to the Church Office no later than Tuesday, October 20. Articles can be e-mailed to: Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org Thank you for your cooperation.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Travis deOliveira
Brent Dienst
Judy O'Connor | 11. Megan Stubbs
Jesse Wiemer-Hastings
Kathi Wood | 22. Lindsey Engelsman
Meghan Hanson
Colleen Johnson |
| 2. Janice Averill
Elijah Botts
Taylor Hallgren
Taylor Wallin | 12. Rodney Lothson
Barbara Schrader | Kaiylee Mecklenburg
Arlyn Strike |
| 3. Kathy Hott
Sharon Williams | 13. Jean Nelson
Ralph Neumann
Madison Votaw | 23. J.C. Longeville
Chad Marten
Ashley Olsen |
| 4. Bradley Larson
Aaron Russell | 14. Bill Colvin | 24. Tammy Carson
Madison Henke
Jessica Wellman |
| 6. Cathy Foelske | 15. Faith Anderson
Stefanie Mecklenburg
Catie Olsen | 25. Jeffrey Countryman
Addison Kuhns
Trudy Wesemann |
| 7. Hannah Brennan
Debe Fullington
Corinne Johnson
Stan Lindahl | 16. Bridget Meier | 26. John Engstrom
Nathan Lawler
Jaden Longeville |
| 8. Debbi Ploetz
Annie Stern | 17. Debby Black
Lon Dienst
Adrien Fell | 27. Mary Lou Letheby
Amanda Wesemann
Katja Wiemer |
| 9. Matthew Colvin
Michael Jaros
Kyle Kuhns
Thomas Yaeger | 18. Joyce Lothson | 29. Julie Karolus
Ethan O'Connor
Kyle Pumfrey |
| 10. Andrea Taylor | 19. Owen Botts
Melody Himan
Jacob Wadle
James Womack | 30. Michael Billip |
| 11. Beverly Cress
Carrie Engstrom
Alan Fisher
Steve Olsen | 21. Rachel Carson
Matthew Hamel
Paul Letheby
Christine Myroth
Jacob Young | 31. Susan Callahan
Naomi Morphis |

Comptroller Report for August 2009

	August Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	August Budget
Income	\$35,512.48	\$271,140.38	
Expenses	\$37,216.46	\$321,851.71	\$41,942.75
Ahead/(Behind)	(-\$1,703.98)	(-\$50,711.33)	

Capital Building Fund Loan Balance - \$480,174.43

One day's interest on mortgage - \$76.94

Attendance Figures for August 2009

	9:00 Sunday
August 2	197
August 9	177
August 16	181
August 23	174
August 30	215

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

Director of Youth Ministries

Liz Botts

liz_botts@yahoo.com

Cross Walk Sunday Coordinator

Stephanie Corn

Education@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Music Ministry Coordinator

Cross Walk Wednesday Coordinator

Children's Choir Director

MaryJean Nelson

Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Organist

Mark Mackeben

Organist@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Adult Choir Director

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

Custodian

Bill Colvin

Security

Howard Jacobson

Congregation Council

President

John Longeville

Vice-President

Bob Snow

Secretary

Cathy Foelske

Treasurer

Bill Sanders

Barbara Henson

Kayla Kittleson

Trent Lange

Paul Letheby

Stan Lindahl

Caroline Peregrine

Karen Schramer

Tarryn Thaden

Ministry Team Chairpersons

Endowment

Arlyn Strike

Evangelism

Mary Colvin & Sue Grafe

Finance

Dorothy Thorsen

Learning/Growth

Personnel

Jill Olson

Property

Keith Setchell & Jan Womack

Social Ministry

Jack Cress & Harold Grafe

Stewardship

Gerry Sanderson

Worship/Music/Fine Arts

Jean Nelson, Music Coordinator

Youth Ministry

Caroline Peregrine