

AUGUST MESSENGER—ISSUE 8

First Lutheran Church—Fergus Falls, MN

Special Points of Interest:

- *Introduction to our new Choir Director*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *Worship Themes*
- *Tanzania Testimony by Wendy Anderson*

MEET OUR NEW ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR: ERIK VIGESAA



Choral music—I love it! Singing is the essential instrument. All means of music seek to attain a “vocal” quality, in other words, an execution that flows from the heart. I am privileged to be a part of the long-standing choral tradition here at First Lutheran in Fergus Falls. In addition to singing, we as a choir have the opportunity to engage in worship with song as part of our worship services.

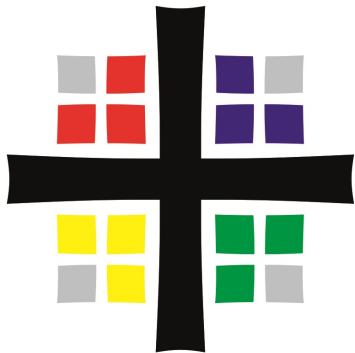
I hail originally from Montana, namely Great Falls and Billings. It was in Great Falls that my mother was the choral director at Redeemer Lutheran and I was roused out of bed

every Saturday for Choir School. From 1983 until about 1990, I directed the Hillcrest Lutheran Academy Choir and Choraliers, taking extensive tours throughout the country. I was also engaged as the choir director at Bethel Lutheran Church. Up until recently, I had been a substitute French Horn player in the Fargo Moorhead Symphony and still play principal horn in the Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra in Alexandria. I also had taught French Horn at NDSU and U of M in Morris. Currently, I own and operate Resound Recording here in Fergus Falls, a full service recording studio. I go up to Moorhead and record all the Concordia College music concerts, including the Concordia Choir and Chapel Choir. My wife, Ruth, along with my daughter, Karin, have made our home here in Fergus Falls since 1983, after we graduated from college in the Fargo area.

I would like to

invite all to sing in our choir. What are the requirements, you might ask? A love of singing, a love of community and a heart for worship. Being able to read music helps but is not entirely necessary. Can you sing on pitch? That is helpful as well. I have had a chance to look into our extensive choral library at First Lutheran and I am excited to hear what we can do. I am also open to suggestions for literature, your favorites you’d like to sing. Come join us!

Erik Vigesaa



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THANK YOU LIFETOUGH!

Rick West, our Outreach Committee Chair, would like to express our thanks to the Lifetouch Directories company and their Feed the Need Program. Thanks to members of the congregation who participated, and brought in your food items, Lifetouch has given us a check for \$438.00.

This money will be given to one of our many benevolences, the Fergus Falls Area Food Shelf. This money will go towards feeding families in our local community. What a great way to raise awareness of our local food shelf and supporting our efforts to give back! THANK YOU!

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf, we thank you for your recent donation.

The continuing success of this work depends entirely on volunteer contributions and volunteer workers.

No goods or services were received by you for your gift.

We greatly appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely, *Ann Butkus, Treas.*

Thank You!

Lifetouch Church Directories Inc. Date June 24, 2015

Pay to the Order of Fergus Falls Food Shelf **438.00**

Four hundred and thirty eight and 00/100 dollars Dollars

For Feed the Need Program *Richard P. Erickson*

⑆200012⑆ 123456789⑆ 987654321⑆



MEALS BY WHEELS

As many of you already know, the Meals by Wheels program brings cold, hot, and frozen meals to homebound adults and persons with disabilities. This program is very important to those recipients of the meals, and they need your help. If you are not already on the list of people that are called to help deliver meals, and would like a new opportunity to serve others, please call Rick to be included. The meals are prepared at the Senior Center, and are placed into separate coolers so it is easy to transport them. Each route has about 6 or 7 peo-

ple on it, and it goes fairly quickly. Many people enjoy driving for Meals by Wheels because it gives them a chance to do something kind for one another.

“Love one another, as I have loved you.”

John 13:34

Some people like to bring their kids along, which can brighten someone's day more than a hot meal. No matter the reason for being involved in Meals by Wheels, join us for a new experience.

You might just make a new friend in the process. November 2-6 & 9-13 is First Lutheran's next two week deliveries. Please call Rick West at 218-205-6963 if you are interested in helping.



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FIRST LUTHERAN OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS)—UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD—5:30 P.M. “CREATION’S WONDERS”

Meet at First Lutheran Church parking lot (upper level) at 5:15 p.m. to car pool to Bluebird Gardens. Mark Boen will be our tour guide at 5:30 p.m.

This will be a very educational and fun evening. Sign-up sheet is on the info counter our side the office. We could have supper together when

we get back into town? Questions? Call Margaret.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH - “GREATEST MUSICAL SHOW IN THE NORTHWEST”

“The Woodtick Band is back at the famed Woodtick Musical Theatre in downtown Akeley, MN. They are returning for their 24th season of foot-stompin', hand-clappin', fun, lively musical entertainment!”

The Owls will travel by coach to the Woodtick Theater in Akeley, MN to enjoy an afternoon of all kinds of music. The show costs \$20—please pay by check made out to First Lutheran Owls when you sign up. Sign-up sheet in on the info counter, deadline is August 20th. We have 30 tickets, so make sure you hurry and sign-up!

- 8 a.m.—Leave FL parking lot
- Lunch at Park Rapids
- 3 p.m.—Show
- Supper at Brauhaus (German Restaurant) on #34
- 9 p.m. Return to FF

The coach is sponsored by FLC Foundation—Meals are on your own.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14—PROSPECT HOUSE (CIVIL WAR MUSEUM) IN BATTLE LAKE.



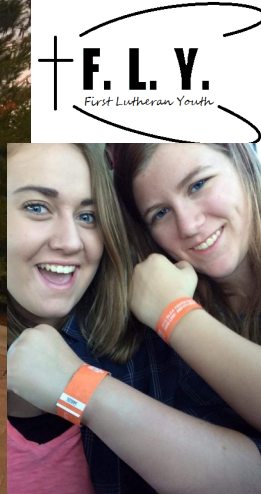
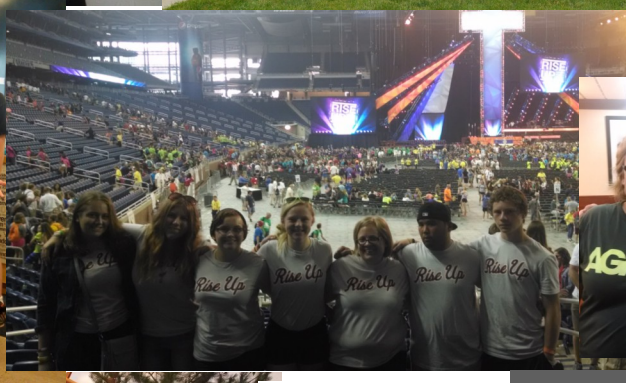
First Lutheran Owls will leave the FL parking lot (lower level) at 10 a.m. We will car pool to Battle Lake for 10:30 tour by Jay Johnson. More information on kiosk or check out their website: www.prospecthousemuseum.org. Admission is \$5—Write a check to Prospect House when you sign-up

at the info counter outside the office. We will also have lunch in Battle Lake after the tour.

“The Prospect House, a Georgian-style “mansion”, is a treasure in its own right. Continually inhabited by descendants of Cap Colehour since 1882, the Prospect House features the

Civil War Museum in the lower level. Century old trees define the grounds where the Prospect House was originally built and remains today as a historical site in Battle Lake, Minnesota. Historical markers around the yard tell the story of the Prospect House.”

FLY News August, 2015



We have had a busy summer! Here's a few pictures from some of our many adventures! Watch the calendar for upcoming August Events!

WORSHIP THEMES:

AUGUST 2:

“Snow in August?”

Text: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Is it snow that is coming down from Heaven today? Today the Israelites receive a strange gift – the gift of manna in the wilderness, raining from Heaven. How does God provide manna in our lives in unexpected ways?

AUGUST 9:

OUTDOOR WORSHIP @ 10 AM

“You’ll Never be Hungry Again!”

Text: John 6:35, 41-51

This is the second week of four when our Gospel text is part of the “bread of life” sayings of Jesus. Jesus tells us that whoever eats of this living bread will live forever, and never be hungry again! Can this be? Or is this just another inflated diet claim, guaranteed to disappoint us after a while?

AUGUST 16:

“You are What You Eat”

Text:

There’s a saying that we are what we eat. What does that mean for us, when we eat the body of Christ in Holy Communion? St. Teresa of Avilla said, long ago, “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.” We are the body of Christ in the world.

AUGUST 23:

“Nowhere Else to Go”

Text:

Jesus’ teaching about eating his body and drinking his blood is difficult to accept. Yet, as we come to the altar to receive the bread and the wine, all that is required of us “is simply a believing heart” as Luther said in the Small Catechism. Oh, that believing was so simple! But we truly have nowhere else to go.

AUGUST 30:

“Sanitizer for the Heart”

Text:

In a world where it is really easy to cleanse ourselves with hand sanitizer, wet wipes, and soap, God calls us to clean more than our exterior. Our interior is where the real dirt lives. God calls us to clean our hearts and minds and promises to walk with us even when we’re dirty.



AUGUST SERVICE UNITS

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE IN THIS UNIT
PLEASE SAY “YES” WHEN YOU ARE CALLED TO HELP

Shirley Alfredson

Liz Kulla

Verna Anderson

Eric & Melissa Babolian

Jaime Bengtson

Joyce Boettger

Janet Centers

Melissa Duenow

Christina Emerson

Joel Grant

Dustin Harris & Hayley Sokness

Allan & Judy Jensen

Steve & Roxanne Kronemann

Orrie & Dalyce Leabo

Greg & Mary Jo Marcus

Jim & Linda Matter

Gary & Janice Mickelson

Laverne Morstad

Lynn & Carla Olsen

Dan & Lynn Ouren

Tom & Kristi Rufer

James & Michelle Shearer

Paula Skaalrud

Gloria Springer

Ty & Katie Stortroen

Beth Swenson

Ronald Tomhave

Gerald & Karen Toso

John & Carol Totland

Janel Buttke

Tyler & Nicole Walls

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A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Do you like to **READ?** Do you like that the church has a library for children and adults to borrow books and DVDs? The library needs **HELP.**

You can help by:

1. Volunteering a few Sundays to check books in and out during the Sunday School hour.

2. Joining the Library Committee to check books in and out on Sundays and help decide on new purchases and get them ready for check out.

The Library Committee would love new members. But if you can only help on Sundays, that is needed too. (The more helpers, the fewer Sun-

days any one person has to help.)

Call Karen (736-2389) to get more information and/or volunteer your services.



*A book should be a garden
that fits in the hands. Word
petals of color. Stems of
strength, roots of truth. Turn
a page and turn the seasons.
Read the sentence and enjoy
the roses.*

~Max Lucado

COURTYARD UPDATE

*“Thank you to all
who have worked
towards making
our courtyard so
beautiful.”*

The Property Committee, along with members of the congregation, have made some changes to the look of our courtyard. New benches and flower pots were donated and re-

placed the wooden benches we had. The flower beds have been tended to, with new flowers added, along with mulch in some areas. New solar lights were also donated and placed

in the flower beds around the courtyard to light it in the evenings. Thank you to all who have worked towards making our courtyard so beautiful.

BABY CARE KITS—LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF MISSION DRIVE

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. She worries about her baby's health and well-being when there is a lack of money to buy the things every mother wants for her newborn. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the things a mother need to care for her baby the way she hopes to—soft blankets to give warmth and comfort, soap to keep germs away. Lack of something to dress her baby in often keeps a

mother isolated from her community, but the clothes in a Baby Care Kit welcome both mother and baby out into the world.

Include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onsie©)
- 2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square

- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size bars(4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones.



*“But Jesus called for
them and said, ‘Let the
little children come to
me, and do not stop
them; for it is to such as
these that the kingdom
of God belongs.’”
Luke 18:16*

The Baby Care Kits will be packed up in September, so please have your donations into the church by September 1st.

WOMEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN—OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

The WELCA Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at 10 a.m. in the Kairos Room.

Love Days Quilters meets every Monday from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. All are welcome!



September 13th

RALLY SUNDAY

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship Resumes

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Resumes

9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study Resumes

OUTDOOR WORSHIP—AUGUST 9TH @ 10 A.M.

First Lutheran Church is having their Outdoor Worship and potluck on August 9th at 10 a.m. at the Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter in Fergus

Falls. There will not be worship at First Lutheran Church. Please bring a dish to share, there will be hotdogs, buns, and beverages provided. Also,

bring a lawn chair to save the best seats in the grass. Our Praise Band will be playing at this service. We hope you can come and enjoy the outdoors!



KITCHEN CLEANING HELPERS NEEDED!

"A pinch of patience, a dash of kindness, a spoonful of laughter, and a heap of love"

We are in need of help in keeping our facilities neat and clean for the various events and gatherings that are held here at First Lutheran. Our Kitchen, Kai-

ros, and Narthex areas need to be organized and cleaned out. It has been some time since it has been done. If you are willing to help in this area, please contact Ashley in

the church office at 218-739-3348 to be added to the schedule. You would help for one day every six months or so. God's Work. Our Hands.

ARE YOU TROUBLED BY SOMEONE'S DRINKING? AL-ANON IS FOR YOU!



Millions of people are affected by the excessive drinking of someone close. The following questions are designed to help you decide whether or not you need Al-Anon:

1. Do you worry about how much someone

else drinks?

2. Do you have money problems because of someone else's drinking?
3. Do you tell lies to cover up for someone else's drinking?

If you have answered yes to at least one of these

questions, Al-Anon may be able to help. Al-Anon meetings are held at First Lutheran Church on Mondays at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.



First Lutheran Church
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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Fax: 218-739-0916
E-mail: firstlc@live.com

Come Share the Spirit

We're on the web! Check out our brand new website at:

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

August Schedule of Events

- **AUG. 3)** High School Sr. FLY Red Hawks game in Fargo
- **AUG. 3)** OWL's Event—Bluebird Gardens
- **AUG. 5)** FLY 57 at First Lutheran from 3-4 p.m.
- **AUG. 6)** Dairyland Devo's with Pastor Jennifer at 3 p.m.
- **AUG. 9)** Outdoor Worship at Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter at 10 a.m.
- **AUG. 26)** OWL's Event—Woodtick Theatre

TANZANIA TEAM TESTIMONY FROM OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN AUGUST, 2014



"I thought I knew where Christ was but boy were my eyes opened!!"

I was blessed to be able to go to Tanzania with 6 great girls and 3 other chaperones. It's hard to put into words this experience but, I feel the changes it has made in me and my thinking. How can a trip do that?? Since I was a young girl, my life has included daily prayer and devotions. "I thought I knew where Christ was but boy were my eyes opened!!"

Starting at Selian Lutheran Hospital, I found Christ in the form of a hospital administrator. He, along with Dr Mark Jacobson of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, have given many years of their lives to educate and improve the lives of the Tanzanian people. Elizabeth Makule was another person who showed me the presence of Christ in her life. She is the head of the Hospice program and gave us all an op-

portunity to see her working with the sick and needy. All three of these professionals worked against incredible odds and with very few resources – including trained staff and up to date equipment.

"Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide funds to all of them!! Thank you!"

I also found Christ in the form of a spunky red head named Sarah Wallis Rejman. This woman manages the Plaster House which is a home for children recovering from orthopedic and plastic surgery. It was obvious what kind of job she was doing, along with the teachers and helpers, as these kids have the biggest smiles in spite of the ordeals

they've been through.

When talking about teachers, one cannot forget those at the MaaSae Girls School. I can play the music they make for you but I can't really show you the joy in their eyes and voices. I believe that that is because of the love and security these teachers and volunteers show them. There again, is Christ in action!

Everywhere I went, I saw Christ. As the saying goes—"He's everywhere—He's everywhere!" Where do you see Christ? After this life changing experience, I pray you see him in me too!

Wendy Anderson