

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER ROSE

Dear Friends,

Does a s'more around a bonfire sound good to you right now? It seems crazy to think about camp in February, but it's time to think about Luther Crest again! Join us in worship and in Sunday School on February 5th as Maddie Gray from Luther Crest will be with us at both services to help us think about getting ready for camp at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota.

According to Vibrant Faith Ministries, camp "offers a unique blend of five fundamental characteristics: intentional relationships, emotional/physical safety, distinct differences and separation from the home environment, active participation, and faith interwoven throughout." These are all things that our young people need - and things that will help them grow into independent, mature adults who are able to integrate faith with their lives - not just now,

but years into the future.

What type of results come from camp? According to Vibrant Faith, "The evidence is overwhelmingly positive. Our research shows that the effects are clear, measurable, and remarkably consistent. Stronger faith. Increased engagement in congregations. More self-confidence. Willingness to try new things. Faith conversations in the home." The youth of our congregation are not just the future of our congregation. They are the present. Here, now, and today, the young people around us are an active and essential part of our congregational identity. So, how can you help? What young people in your lives need a little nudge to attend camp? (You and I can team together to help with that.) What young people in your lives need a friend to go to camp with? (I can help you figure this out!) What young people in

your lives need some help financially to get to camp (we can work this out!)

The early-bird deadline for camp registration (for cheapest registration AND greater availability of the week you want to go) is **February 14th**. Dollars are available for First Lutheran Members (Thank you to the First Lutheran Foundation for providing a large grant to provide for a great camp experience!) Be sure to see Pastor Jennifer for information on how to apply for these camp dollars.

Happy Camping!

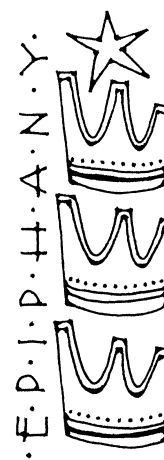
Pastor Jennifer

P.S. Looking for more ways to get involved? Luther Crest needs volunteers of all different abilities. If you have gifts in carpentry, baking, cleaning, or financial gifts that you would like to give, please don't hesitate to speak with me. I'd be happy to connect you.

EPIPHANY **PLANT SUNDAY**

February 26th
at both services

**Come and be part of a
fun new ministry at
First Lutheran**



Happy
Valentine's
Day



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

Sunday School
students will
sing at the
11:00 service
on February 5



FEB. EVENTS

1st Grade Mile-
stone Class with
parents 5

"Butterflies"
&
1st Grade Bless-
ing in Worship 12

Yes, there is Sun-
day School! 19

Sunday School News

CINDY LARSON
SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT

FEBRUARY 2017

Jesus is my Superhero!

I see the Superhero talents of workshop leaders and Shepherds reflecting God's love each and every Sunday. Our volunteers make it a priority to connect with the Sunday School students each week by telling the story and showing God's Love. Thank you!

Last month, during the Science workshop, students were able to think of their blessings while planting seeds. We are hopeful these seeds will be cared for by the students and eventually flourish. They are intended to be gifts to be given to congregational members as Epiphany

plants at the end of February. The idea is to be the good news for others as we share God's beauty. Hopefully we will produce enough so that you may each share the blessing with someone else.



Faith Milestone Classes



Every grade has a Milestone Class once a year on a different topic. We want to help you and your child have a faith experience through play, games, special guests, hands-on

activities, fellowship and conversation. As partners with you in your child's faith education, we can facilitate a time for families to discuss lots of faith related topics that are age

appropriate. We appreciate your efforts in being in attendance at these one-time a year classes. Added bonus: a great time to get to know other FLC families!



FLY NEWS

February 2017

Dealing with Disappointment

As many of you probably know, I am a huge fan of the Green bay Packers.



Far beyond my love of cheese, I know that I just have green & gold running through my veins. It's part of me. I grew up in Wisconsin. It's hard to shake.

If you aren't a football aficionado, I'll catch you up. Recently, the packers made it to the last game before the Super Bowl.

If they won this game, they'd be in the Super Bowl. They played against the Atlanta Falcons.

The game didn't start out well. The game didn't

have a good middle. Or a good end. The packers lost. Badly. After a whole season of cheering them on, this was disappointing. The final score was 44-21. That makes it sound like a better game than it was. It was a pretty strong blowout.

Life as a Christian can sometimes be disappointing like that. Maybe you didn't make the Varsity team like you'd hoped. Or you get some bad news about someone you love. Or maybe a bad grade. It can be really easy to get really frustrated. "Why, God?" might be something you say.

You certainly will deal with disappointments far greater than my disappointment with the Packers. Maybe you're a Vikings fan. How disappointing. (Yeah, I had to go there!)

But really, during disappointing times it is easy to wonder, "God, where are you?" These

are okay questions to wonder about and ask. It's okay and not a sign of weak faith. I've been there, myself, many, many times.

But even during the times that you doubt the most, God is there for you. God even says that the hairs on your head are counted. God knows you, through and through. On the day of your baptism, God promised to be with you always. Even when you doubt. And that's something you can count on! ~Pr. Jennifer

February calendar:

FEB 1 - FLY 57
(4:30-5:15)

FEB 5TH - CAMP SUNDAY!

FEB 8 - FLY K4
(4:30-5:15)

FEB 15 - FLY 57
(4:30-5:15)

FEB 22 - FLY K4
(4:30-5:15)

NEWSLETTER TITLE

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

I have a short list of names for the Transition Team and I look forward to meeting for the first time in February. In the meantime, I am working toward a few other goals that are necessary during the interim period. First, First Lutheran's constitution has not been up-

dated since 2001. The ELCA recommends that every church update to their model constitution every two years. Because it has been so long, First Lutheran may end up doing an "Amendment by Substitution," i.e., we would simply replace the old constitution with our

the ELCA's current model constitution. An updated constitution is important for First Lutheran both for its healthy functioning as a church, and potentially for legal aspects as well, given how much things have changed in the ELCA over the past 15 years. I plan to assemble

a small group of folks with the expertise and interest in church constitutions to move through this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me: revdocerick@gmail.com or simply call the church office.



"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

Harry S. Truman

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for office that were voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017.

- Vice President—Darren Krein
- Membership—Kim Ward
- Worship—Anne Taylor
- Education—Kirsten Kragness

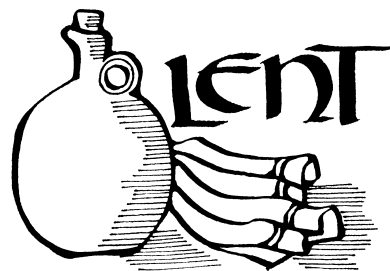
Greg Peterson, Vice President of the Church Council in 2016, will serve at President in 2017.

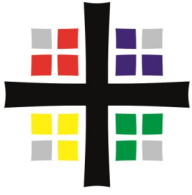
For Nominating Committee — Rick West, Andrea Loomer, Kelsey Felstul, LeAnne Jaenisch and Elizabeth Abrahams.

COMING SOON!

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on March 1st at First Lutheran at 7pm. During the remaining Wednesdays of Lent, the area

Lutheran pastors are again doing a rotating exchange of pulpits. Soup Lunch will be served following the noon worship. Please watch for more details.





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**DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH MESSENGER
IS TUESDAY,
FEB. 21, 2017**



LENTEN COIN FOLDERS

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS will be available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary beginning on Sunday, March 5th. They will also be available at the info counter, in the church office or we can

send you one if you call the church office. The folders are a wonderful way to give back during the Lenten Season. The money collected from the coin folders is given to Luther Crest Bible Camp.

ADULT EDUCATION—JOIN US!

Please join us for Adult Ed. between worship services in the Kairos Room. We meet (nearly) every Sunday at 10am. Pastor Jennifer and Pastor Erick usually lead the gathering and pre-

sent topics that connect current events, biblical stories, and Lutheran theology with our faith life. If you haven't already done so, please come check this out!

WELCA

Women of the ELCA

"Love Days" Quilters

Meets every Monday

9:00 am– 3:00 pm

Hope you'll join us!

WELCA Board Meeting

No meeting in February

Circles

Sarah: Wed., Feb. 22nd

9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah: Wed., Feb. 22nd

1:00 pm at First Lutheran Church



WELCA 2017:

New "Green Books" are available at the Information counter.

Feel free to pick up a copy!

All women are invited to participate in WELCA activities.