

JUNE 6TH LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT & PASTOR ERICK THOMPSON

Dear Friends and Members of First Lutheran, President Greg Peterson and Interim Sr. Pastor Erick Thompson are sending this letting to you to tell you about some important changes happening here at First Lutheran.

First, Pastor Erick has accepted a call to St. John Lutheran in Fargo, ND. He has enjoyed his time with First Lutheran, and greatly appreciates your affection and faithfulness to the church. His tenure as interim has been focused on First Lutheran's readiness to call its next Senior Pastor. With the vote last Sunday approving our call committee for the role of Sr. Pastor, Pastor Erick's main purpose here is completed. He wishes you well and is confident about your future knowing how richly blessed you are as a congregation. Pastor Erick's last Sunday was

June 25th.

Second, we have formed and approved a call committee to begin the search for our Senior Pastor. As you know, Pastor Jennifer has accepted a call to serve as co-pastor with her husband, Matthew, in Wisconsin. First Lutheran will call an associate pastor after the call process for the next Senior Pastor is completed. Because of the preliminary work will be completed, the call for the associate pastor should proceed quickly.

Third, in the meantime, we are in discussion with a highly regarded clergy couple to be our Interim Senior and Interim Associate Pastors beginning in early July. After interviewing this couple by phone, the Executive Committee will be asking Church Council to approve an Interim Contract with them at its meeting. Finally, we ask

that you continue to pray for the ministry here at First Lutheran. Times of change can bring anxiety, but we must remember that God is always with us. The synod is also a very important resource for us during the transition. They have been instrumental in helping provide a seamless transition for First Lutheran and they care deeply about the success of our ministry. First Lutheran is a great church with a strong foundation and wonderful traditions. We can rely on the strength of our church community, knowing that we will continue to provide the good news of God's grace for all people throughout this time.

Peace,

Greg Peterson

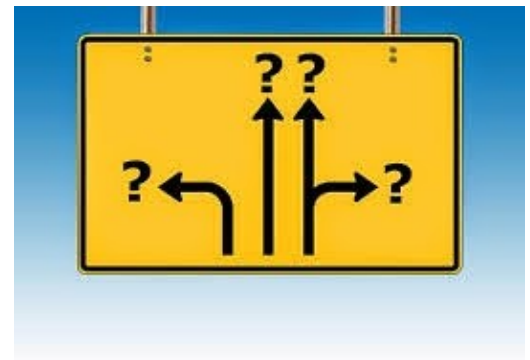
Pastor Erick Thompson

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MYSTERY MISSION TRIP 2017!

Fourteen youth will be traveling to a mystery location this summer for a mission trip on July 24 and returning July 30. Keep them all in your prayers in the coming month as they discover the many ways that God works in the lives of people all over the world.



MEET OUR NEW INTERIM PASTORS

Pastor Martha Halls has served in interim ministry with congregations in Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois for the past 22 years, most recently at Luther Memorial Church of Chicago. Earlier she served congregations at Stewart and St. Joseph, Minnesota. She also taught courses in human identity and relationships and in family and marriage relationships at the University of Northern Iowa. She is a graduate of Bemidji State University and Luther Seminary.



Pictured left to right: Marcus, Andrew, Martha, Daniel.

Martha grew up on a farm near Brooten, Minnesota. She enjoys visits with her mom, who now lives in Glenwood. She likes working with others to achieve a common goal, finding and celebrating the gifts of those around her, organizing projects, space and people, laughing and finding the joy in life, and finding new ways to use things that have been discarded or underused. Her goal in ministry and in life is to preach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving the people that God has put in her life.

Pastor Marcus Kunz has also served a variety of calls in ministry, including interim ministry, development of a new congregation, and service on synod and churchwide staffs. For 10 years he taught a New Testament Introduction class at St. Cloud State University. He is a graduate of Valparaiso University, Luther Seminary, and the University of Chicago.

Marcus lived in Texas, Tennessee and Missouri while growing up in a Lutheran pastor's household. He finds great satisfaction in discovering the gifts God gives both in the Word and in the people who live in the Word. He has experienced great joy in preaching, teaching, singing in choirs and being with family and friends. He is much more faithful about his daily bowl of oatmeal than his daily workout.

Martha and Marcus met while students at Luther Seminary, and they are the parents of two sons. Daniel lives and works in Chicago, and Andrew just graduated from college in May. They look forward to Andrew spending a gap year with them in Fergus Falls.

NEW SUMMER DEVOTIONAL

If you didn't already receive a copy of the summer devotion, please call the church office at 218-739-3348 or send an email to firstlc@live.com

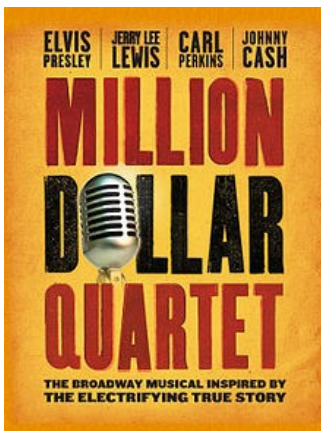
You won't want to miss this first time edition of a weekly devotional to keep your family centered on Christ this summer!



FIRST LUTHERAN OWLS EVENTS

Two great summer trips planned for you to enjoy!

Tuesday, July 25 we'll travel by coach to Fargo for supper and to the beautiful Bluestem Outdoor Amphitheatre in Moorhead to enjoy "Beauty & the Beast" presented by the Trollwood Performing Arts School. Plan to leave the lower level parking lot at First Lutheran at 4:00 pm—eat supper at Doolittle's around 5:00 pm—and attend the show at 8:30 pm.



Thursday, August 3 we'll travel by coach to Alexandria for dinner and to L'Homme Dieu Theatre. Plan to leave lower level parking lot at 4:00 pm—have dinner at the Pike & Pint restaurant around 5 pm—attend the *Million Dollar Quartet* at 7:30 pm.

Cost for both events is \$25 per person payable to FL OWLS.

Sign-up sheets are on the info counter.

Any questions can be directed to Margaret Kratzke or Marlene Wilde.

Guests are always welcome!

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Last week, a committee met to look at our constitution to better reflect the Model Constitution of our Northwestern Minnesota Synod. Changes have been proposed and with the approval of the Church Council, will be voted on at the next Annual Meeting in January, 2018.

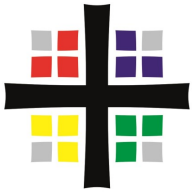
If you are interested or would like a copy of the revised constitution, please contact the church office at 218-739-3348.

CALL COMMITTEE

The members of the Call Committee have met and are working towards their ultimate goal of finding a Senior Pastor.

The work continues with the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a document that gives us an opportunity to request certain attributes that we see would best fit our congregation, mission and goals.

Please keep each of these individuals in your prayers as they invest time and energy into this process.



First Lutheran Church
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org
Phone: 218-739-3348
Fax: 218-739-0916
E-mail: firstlc@live.com

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following who were received into our First Lutheran family on May 7, 2017.

Chad & Molly Lappegaard;
Hayden, Wyatt, Grace & Natalie

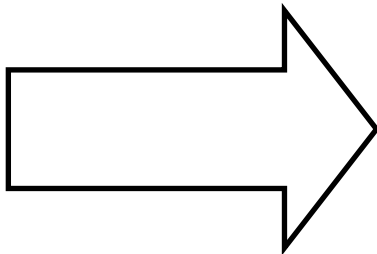
Dusty & Sara Reese;
Colby, Ben & Abbigail

Attn: First Lutheran Families!



You are invited for a **NEW FUN FAMILY SUMMER Get-together called FAM JAM!**

This is for ALL AGES and is going to be a blast! Watch the church Facebook page for more info!



Block Party

At Church

Food & Games

July 18 6-8 PM



Beach Party

Pebble Beach

Swimming & Food

Aug 22 6-8 PM