

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

First Lutheran Church

JANUARY, 2017

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ERICK

When I was in school, I remember that our first day back after Christmas break we all told our friends everything we got for Christmas. It was a time-honored tradition of proudly telling your friends how many Star Wars action figures you got, and also enviously hearing what awesome presents your friends received. The Church has a season for doing just this same sort of thing, it's called Epiphany. Epiphany is a season for us to show off our Christmas presents. Or, to put it another way, Epiphany is the season to "show off" the good news of Jesus Christ to our neighbors and the world.

You might be thinking that telling others what I got for Christmas is one thing, but sharing God's love with others is completely different.

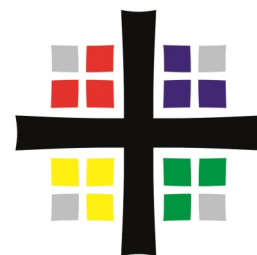
If you're wondering how you might do this, I've got a couple ideas to get you rolling. First, start with gratitude. If we are able to see all the gifts in our own lives, we can be grateful for all that we have. Living in an attitude of gratefulness, we stop our neediness, and instead turn and become someone who can offer care and love to others. It is this awareness of God's blessings and love for us that can spark our outreach to the world.

The second idea is what I call "Epiphany Plants." Let me explain, in worship sometime in January or February, we'll have a bunch of little plants available for people. Each family or person would take two plants: one to keep and one to give away. The idea here is that you would bring the plant to a friend or neighbor as

a gift. In doing so, you would be sharing the love of God found in the beauty of creation with them. Pretty easy, right? Just be on the lookout for the Epiphany Plants announcement. And, over the coming days and weeks, I encourage you to notice how God has been gracious to you, and how you have been blessed. God's call to us to be good news for others will seem so easy once we remember how wonderfully gifted we actually are.

Peace,

Pastor Erick Thompson



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January
29, 2017**

Potluck at Noon
followed by the
Annual Meeting in
Fellowship Hall

Inside this issue:

Transition Update	2
Visitation Outreach	2
New in the Library	2
Outreach	3
FLY News	4
Sunday School News	5
WELCA	6

**DEADLINE FOR
THE FEBRUARY
MESSENGER IS
JAN. 24th**

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

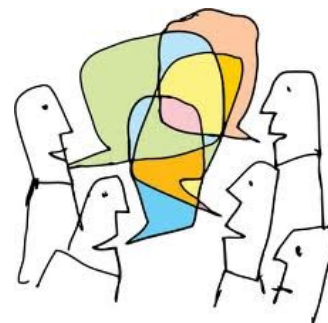
TRANSITION UPDATE

The transition process is moving forward, with a Transition Team to be chosen by the council, hopefully by its January meeting. Once the Transition Team is assembled, they will host Listening Forums for people to come and share their views on a variety of topics. (Watch for more information on the Listening Forums in later January and early February.)

From these listening forums, the Transition Team hopes to have a better idea of where we are as a congregation around five focus points: Heritage, Leadership, Connections, Mission, and Future. These five focus points will help the Transition Team to understand when it would be appropriate to officially assemble a call committee and begin the call process. If you are interested in

being a part of the Transition Team, or would like to nominate someone for the Team, please contact Pastor Erick Thompson at the church office, or by email: revdocerick@gmail.com. If you have any other questions about the process, please contact me. I would love to discuss further any questions or concerns you may have.

Peace,
Pastor Erick



Watch for more information on the Listening Forums in later January and early February

"Even a short note can bring a smile."



MAKE 'EM SMILE

Pastor Stan Satre, Visitation Pastor, is looking for a few folks to organize an outreach to our older members and friends who are living alone. As holiday greetings came to us we realized how

important a single contact is. Even a short note can bring a smile. If you can take some time to help, call the church at 218-739-3348, and let him know. It should be fun!

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

The library has a new TABLE and CHAIRS given in memory of Val Wollan whose family generously donated the proceeds from her son's musical performance at First Lutheran following her death in 2015. Val was an avid reader and devoted member and

leader of the library committee until her death. Her leadership is dearly missed. Thank you to the Wollan family.

Also new, are books for adults and children suggested by users of the library: Books dealing with grief, depression and bullying; books on

Martin Luther; the newest book in the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series; and 8 Magic Tree House books. They will be on the shelves as soon as they are cataloged and cards put in them. We hope you check them out.

The Library Committee



"Val was an avid reader and devoted member and leader of the library committee"

"...there have been times our members have been moved to tears by the gifts they received from the church. Also, because of your partnership with us, we can freely discuss Jesus at our club even if some people are opposed to it. When local churches give to AP2B we believe we have a responsibility to let Jesus in the door."

*Sue Wilken, E D
A Place To Belong*

GIVING TREES: THANK YOU!

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our Giving Trees this year. The gifts were given to two of our local benevolences: Someplace Safe and A Place To Belong. We are excited to continue this important ministry next year with your help.



**O
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FERGUS FALLS FOOD SHELF

Over Thanksgiving, our congregation participated in our processional food offering. The Outreach Committee would like to share our appreciation with you! Thank you so much. We were able to give 390 lbs. of food to our local Fergus Falls Food Shelf and even more was brought

to the Salvation Army to help families in need. First Lutheran is proud to give to our local benevolences and share the good news of God's love to each and every one. A special thank you to Sandy Kvern for helping deliver all of those groceries!

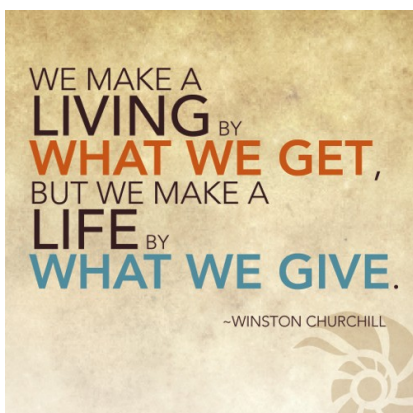


CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

On December 17th, The Outreach Committee, with the help of Council members, delivered 40 Christmas food baskets to families in need in our community. We want to say Thank you to LeAnne Jaenisch, Kile & Tonya Bergren, Duane Gran, Rick West and Ashley Shuck for delivering the baskets. Also, thank you

to Tim Johnson for delivering the food from Service Foods.

We plan to continue this exciting ministry in the coming year. If you know of someone who would appreciate a basket, please contact the church office each year.



JANUARY NEWSLETTER



January FLY News

Turning the Lights on!

Upcoming Events:

- * January 22nd, 8-12th Grades Summer Trip Informational Meeting, 12:00 Noon
- * January 25, 6:30-7:30 PM Superfly Minute to Win It night for 8-12th grades!
- * February 5—Luther Crest Camp Promo Sunday!

Senior Fly Schedule:

(8:00-9:00 PM)

January 4

January 11

January 18
(Minute to Win It)

January 25

Fly K4 and Fly 57 Schedule:

(4:30-5:15)

January 4 Fly 57

January 11 Fly K4

January 18 Fly 57

January 25 Fly K4

In the month of January, after the 12 days of Christmas, we celebrate the season of Epiphany in the church.

Epiphany is basically an “AHA” moment—or like any epiphany you might have—suddenly you realize that you want to be a doctor when you grow up, or suddenly you realize that your shoes are on the wrong feet. Simply put, an epiphany is a sudden realization of something.

In the church, the Epiphany (or AHA!) is about Jesus. It is the season when we celebrate the wise men coming to see the newborn baby Jesus. And they had an Epiphany or an “AHA” about who Jesus

is and why Jesus had come.

Epiphany is also known as a season of light—Jesus our Savior, illumined in the light, has come for you. It's like someone has turned the lights on in your brain so that you can see, too.

So what AHA moments are you experiencing in this season? Where have the lights turned on where you can see Jesus among you?

I just saw a neat youtube video of a group of students at a high school who gave a gift to one of their classmates—a new pair of shoes! His classmates had noticed that he was trying to squeeze his feet into shoes that just didn't fit. So every-

one chipped in to get him a new pair of Nike's in his favorite color.

God was present in this action of these students. God notices when we are dealing with something difficult. That gift of noticing is so important.

Jesus came to us in the form of an innocent, tiny baby, and grew up experiencing the aches and pains of life, and has come for you! So in this season of epiphany, watch for those “aha” moments where you see Jesus working out in the world. You might be surprised at how many of these things you notice when you are looking for them!

In Christ, *Pastor Jiffr*

SuperFLY 2nd Annual Minute to Win It Night, Wednesday Jan 25

Are you fast? Come and test your reflexes as we enjoy a SUPER FLY Minute to Win It night on Wednesday, January 25th from 6:30-7:30 PM. (This event is required for confirmation students.) Join us for some fun and lots of laughs!



First Lutheran Church

Sunday School News

CINDY LARSON
2017

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT**

Jesus is our Superhero!

January Happenings

Thank you to all of our SOUP-er Workshop Leaders and Shepherds for helping our students learn all semester about Jesus' love and for helping them present the story of His birth at Christmas! We want all of these helpers in our Sunday school program to pick up a Soup mix from the Education office in appre-

ciation for your dedication to our Youth!

Of course we want to **thank** our director, Kelsey Felstul, and accompanist, Joyce Perez, for sharing their enthusiasm and musical talent by directing another fun Christmas Program.

Thank you to all of the students who bundled up on that FRIGID day to

present the Christmas story in song! Your effort was remarkable!

**"I can do all things
in Him who
strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13**



No Sunday School
Jan. 1

"Butterflies" for
0-3 yr. olds and parent
Sunday School resumes
Jan. 8

Preschool 2- Mile-
stone Class with parents
Jan. 22

Preschool 2 Milestone
Blessing during worship
Jan. 29



Helping hands :)

One of the things we try to help our First Lutheran students learn is; thinking of others. In December, our congregation and Sunday School students collected many items to assemble personal care packages. These "Blessing Bags" will be packaged in January by the 7th-8th graders and given to Salvation Army for people who need them. We are always looking for ways to be God's hands.

If you have an idea for our Sunday school, please let me know!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We're on the web!

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Your *Giving* 
Makes a Difference

2017 Offering envelopes are here!

Stop by the table in the Narthex and find your envelopes in alphabetical order. If you cannot find yours, please call the church office at 218-739-3348 and talk to Katrina.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 10th
10:00 am
Kairos Room

Circles

Sarah: Wed., Jan. 25th
9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah: Wed., Jan. 25th
1:00 pm at First Lutheran
Church

THE FIRST LUTHERAN NURSERY IS A FOOD FREE ZONE...

First Lutheran asks that our children and nursery attendants do not have treats while they are in the nursery in order to protect our children from food allergies, incidents and other emergencies. Thank You!



A BIG THANK-YOU

To everyone who helped with the Special Friends' cookie project for shut-ins and others on Wed., Dec. 14th. 75 plates of beautiful Christmas cookies were delivered to shut-ins and families that no longer bake!

