

# NOVEMBER MESSENGER

**First Lutheran Church  
Fergus Falls, MN**

2015– Issue 11

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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER ROSE

Dear friends,  
I really truly miss my grandparents, who all now rest in God's loving care. All four of them lived quite a distance from us growing up – we generally saw them twice a year at best. One summer, there were two family weddings and my parents let me, at 8 years old, stay with grandma Eunice for a few weeks in-between the weddings. I absolutely loved it. My grandma was an incredible cook. She loved to spend time with me and take me shopping. I always thought she was wealthy, even though she really wasn't. She just liked to spoil me. (She had 5 children, all boys, and I was her first grandchild – a girl!) Grandma was a deeply faithful woman. She was active with the Bethel Bible Study series and learned how to be an instructor for other leaders. When she died, I inherited quite a few things from her: some of her cookware, some devotional books, and even some cross pendants that I like to wear sometimes on Sundays. Her memory lives on in my life, and I enjoy remembering her fondly as

I make a casserole in my home for my family, or as I pull a book off of a bookshelf, or as I prepare for worship. I know you have stories like mine. The stories of our loved ones are begging to be told: the way she used to fold clothes, the silly story he told over and over, the look, the smile, the tears, the laughs. They may not be easy stories to relive because sadness now creeps into them, but healing is in the memories. Our loved ones are not forgotten. The book of Hebrews is a good reminder of that. It describes the faith of generation after generation, Abel through Moses, prophets, women, all who "gained approval through their faith." Until at last in chapter 12 we hear, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." I like that image: our dear departed cheering us on as we live our lives. We learn from

their examples, we find courage in their faith, we hang on to the hope of being reunited – when there won't be a shred of sadness. But more than them cheering us on, one of the mysteries of our faith is that we're still connected to them. As we gather around the Lord's Supper we commune together, at the foot of the cross, with all the saints who have finished their journey before us. Our dear ones are far from gone. They still live in our memories and stories, still witness to God's love. And they live – fully, truly live – in God's presence. Strengthened by the saints,  
Pastor Jennifer

Join us All Saints Sunday, November 1st, as we remember and thank God for those who have run the race and now rest peacefully in God's presence.



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**Deadline for the  
December  
Messenger  
Is Tues., Nov. 17th.**

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

### **November 1—All Saints Sunday**

*"Love for Everyday Saints"*

Text: John 11:32-44

We usually think of saints as being too perfect to be anything like a real person, but the story of God's dealings with human beings is more a story of everyday saints; each of you whom you would recognize as being "more of a real person".

### **November 8**

*"Giving it All"*

Text: 1 Kings 17:8-16

If someone were to ask you to give away everything you have, what would you say? How would you react? Today

we hear two examples of faithful, extravagant giving, and ponder what it means to give extravagantly.

### **November 15**

*"One in Christ"*

(2014 Tanzania video)

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 24b-27

Our Christian brothers and sisters in Tanzania already have the Gospel. But as our Mission Team in the Summer of 2014 discovered, God uses the encounter with the Christians there to deepen our own love and understanding of our Savior. And we come to understand the meaning of the three words on the back of the Team T-shirts: "One in Christ."

### **November 22**

*"Not Your Ordinary Kingdom"*

Text: John 18:33-37

The Kingdom of Christ is most definitely not a Kingdom of this world. And yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our eyes can be opened to see signs of the kingdom in our midst; as the hungry are fed, the outsiders are included, and we who gather in Christ's name are made one.

### **November 25—**

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship**

*"Thanks Living"*

Text: Matthew 6:25-33

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday where we give thanks to God for the many

blessings we have received. How can we celebrate thanksgiving, not just one day out of the year, but each and every day in a spirit of thanks-living?

### **November 29**

*"The God of Promise-Keeping"*

Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Advent is about waiting. It is about waiting for God to keep his promises to us and to the world. "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made..." How do we wait for a promise so long delayed?

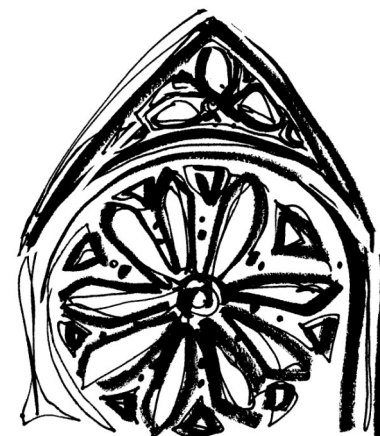
We're on the web!

[www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

## NOVEMBER SERVICE UNITS

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PEOPLE IN THIS UNIT  
PLEASE SAY "YES" WHEN YOU ARE CALLED TO HELP!

Donna Anderson	Wayne & Marlyne Johnson	Mike Wollan
Steve & Kay Anderson	Lewayne Moore	Jeff Schafer
Bonnie Bartsch	Marlene Noack	Ann Scheidecker
Larry & Geraldine Fjeld	Lynal Oscarson	Ed & Mary Schmidt
Jon & LuAnn Harris	Brian & Lori Overton	Ron & Lisa Spangler, Jr.
David & Deanna Kollar	Steve & Joan Rau	Audrey Torgerson
Irene Kraning	Dan & Kathy Rosendahl	Doug & Kay Wigtil
Stan & Julie Johnson	Ann Sampson	Marlene Wilde



CINDY LARSON

NOVEMBER 2015

# Sunday School News

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

### SHINE 2015



Our Sunday School students and teachers have been involved with an exciting new curriculum since September. The students in Pre-school-6th grade are studying one story, in-depth, for five sessions! The Kindergarten-6th graders visit a different Workshop every week.

The Workshops they visit are Creative Drama, Skills and Games, Cooking and Science, Arts and Crafts, and Video. This rotational model is intentional about getting to know the Bible stories better, by hearing the story many times and experiencing it

through different senses. It incorporates more active learning methods than a traditional method of sitting in a classroom.. We are finding it fun and effective! ***"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."*** **Matthew 5:16**

#### NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Kinder Milestone Class	1
Sunday School sings in both worship services	1
Kindergarten Milestone Blessing in worship	8
7th Gr. Milestone Class with parents	8
"Butterflies" note the change in date!!	15
7th grade Milestone Blessing in worship	15
No Sunday School	29

#### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PLANS

Our Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 20 at the 11:00 service.** Character and Speaking part tryouts are taking place now! There will be practices every Sunday, so keep those kids coming to Sunday School.

We want them to feel comfortable and confident for the Program. It's time to invite the relatives now :)







Invitation to the Women of First Lutheran

### Christmas Tea

Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Pioneer Pointe Dining Room

Come and share the Christmas spirit with our

Sarah and Hannah Circles!

(watch for more information)



**THANK YOU**

**Thank you** for your support of the **WELCA Fall Campaign**,  
“Coins, Cash and Checks”. Because of your Actions, we will be  
able to help Change Lives again this year.

Come join us in the Narthex for a

## Soup Lunch

Following the Noon Advent Worship

**December 2nd, 9th, and 16th**

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a delicious bowl of soup or  
grab a lunch bag to-go following the Noon Advent Worship services.

(There will be no lunch served in the Fellowship Hall)

### Love Days Quilters

Every Monday

9:00-3:00

JOIN US!

### WELCA Board

**\*\*No Meeting\*\***

### CIRCLES

Sarah—Wed. Nov. 18th  
9:30am @ Pioneer Pointe

Hannah -Wed. Nov. 18th  
1:00pm @ Church  
Hannah Circle will also  
host the PioneerCare  
Sunshine Aide on Nov.  
18th at 3:00 p.m.

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

**Wednesday, Nov.  
27th at 6 pm**

**Remember to bring  
your items for our  
local food shelf that  
night.**

## CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Each year, First Lutheran delivers all the food needed to make a Christmas meal to community members needing a little assistance this holiday season. If you, or someone you know would benefit from a Christmas Food Basket,

please contact the church office. The deadline to register for a basket is Thursday, December 4. Delivery will take place Saturday, December 20.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Beginning November 22, you will be able to pick an ornament from one of the Christmas Giving Trees located in the narthex. This year, there will be one tree for Someplace Safe and one for A Place to Belong. Each ornament on the trees will list a gift

request from that organization. Please take an ornament, purchase the gift listed on that ornament, and place it under the tree by Tuesday, December 15.

Please do not wrap the gifts.



## THANK YOU FROM OUR BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENTS

Thanks so much for your continued support of Meals by Wheels with your driver/delivery people and your money contribution of \$500.00. This is all greatly appreciated and brightens the lives of many!

Thanks again,  
*Dolores Simdorn, Treasurer*  
Meals by Wheels

Dear friends,  
Thank you for your gift of \$1,065.69 to The Salvation Army. Many of those who turn to us are victims of circumstances beyond their control. Others are fighting a battle against poverty which has gripped their families for years or even generations. Knowing someone cares enough to help ease their sufferings gives them hope. God bless you.  
*Linda McCormick*  
*Corps Officer*  
The Salvation Army



Dear friend,  
Thank you for your generous and thoughtful gift of \$250.00. Your support helps provide hospice patients and their loved ones the gift of compassion, dignity, comfort and peace. Hospice isn't about giving up; it's about living life to the fullest each and every day. Blessings to you,  
*Tammy Anderson, Foundation Director*  
Lakeland Hospice Foundation

## A NOTE FROM OBA'S DIRECTOR, DIANE JACOBY

Thank you from all of us at Operation Bootstrap Africa for your generous gift of \$7,500.00 for the Selian Lutheran Hospital/ Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) in Tanzania, headed by Dr. Mark Jacobson. Your gift provides much needed primary health-care for the children of

Africa, their families and their communities. Selian/ALMC's goal is to serve the poorest of the poor, providing competent and compassionate medical care. Specialty surgeons from the States volunteer at Selian/ALMC, providing services for children with club feet, cleft palate, skeletal fluorosis or

to provide plastic surgery for burn victims, and many other specialized services. In addition, Selian/ALMC has a hospice program serving HIV/AIDS patients, as well as an AIDS education program. Their hospice program serves as a model for all of Tanzania. Many graduates of the

MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School have gone on to be hired at Selian/ALMC. An exciting health care partnership for OBA! Thanks for your ongoing support.  
Regards,  
*Diane Jacoby*  
Director

# October FLY News



## **Fly K4 and Fly 57** **Schedule**

(4:30 pm-5:15 pm)

**November 4** Fly 57

**November 11** FlyK4

**November 18** Fly57

**November 25 NO FLY,**  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## **Senior Fly** **Schedule**

(Grades 8th-12th—7:30-8:30 pm)

**November 4** SR Fly

**November 11 SUPER**  
**FLY Harvest Dinner**  
**Prep 6:30-8:30 (Pizza**  
**provided!)**

**November 18** SR Fly

**November 25 No FLY,**  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## **Special Events**

**November 11** Harvest  
Dinner Prep, 6:30-8:30

**November 12**—Harvest  
Dinner! (Work assignments  
will arrive in the mail)

**November 21-22** NWMN  
Synod Middle School Youth  
Gathering, Sanford Center,  
Bemidji

## **An experiment in Gratitude**

Close your eyes. Think of someone who has been really important in your life. Why have they been important? What have they done for you? I invite you to take some time to think about that. If you want, take some time and write some notes about this person—why have they been important to you?

Then I want you to scan in this QR code.



It will take you to a YouTube video that is called “An Experiment in Gratitude”. Watch this video. Then we’ll talk.

Did you watch it? In the video, people were asked to think of an important person, write about the impact that this special person has made on their life, and then they are asked to call that person and tell them about how thankful they are. It wasn’t an easy challenge for them, but they did it anyway. They discovered that each of them had a 4-19% increase in happiness as a result of this experiment.

What do you think? How would it be for you to call or text the person that you thought of at the start of reading this letter, and let them know about how much you appreciate them, and why? I know this is a hard challenge, but I also know that you are up for it.

Each of us has had special people in our lives that have helped shape us into the people we are. Many of us probably have more than one person in this category.

If you take me up on this challenge, send me a text and let me know how it went for you. How did it feel? Was it hard? How did you feel afterward?

This month, join me in giving thanks to God for our many blessings. We are truly blessed by our God who loves us so much!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Pastor Jim'.

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1*

## CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

For over 80 years, church groups have attended the Concordia Christmas Concert as an event to kick off the Advent Season. Over a million have attended these concerts and this year it features 450 student musicians in five choral ensembles and a 72-piece symphony orchestra to present the Christmas story through song, narration and artwork—professionally staged to illuminate the birth of Jesus. Theme this year is “Let Every Heart Awake and Sing.”

We’ll travel with OtterTail Coaches to the 2 p.m. concert on **Sunday, December 6**. Coach will load in lower level parking lot at 12:05 and leave **promptly at 12:15**.

Sign-up sheet is on the Info Counter. Please pay \$15 (group rate) by check when you sign up. Payable to First Lutheran Church—Concordia Concert on the Memo line. Deadline to sign up and pay is Wednesday, Nov 25. Individual tickets are \$19 this year. First Lutheran Foundation is again sponsoring the coach. Thank Foundation Board Members when you see them.

If you’ve never attended or haven’t for a long time, join us—we know you’ll be impressed!

**All ages and guests are welcome—this is not strictly an OWL event!**

Leave First Lutheran parking lot --	<b>12:15 Sunday, Dec. 6</b>
Concert	2 p.m.
Supper (on your own)	Village Inn, Moorhead
Christmas lights tour in Lindenwood Park	
Return to Fergus Falls	7:30 p.m.

## THANKOFFERING—2015

Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thankofferings for more than 100 years. Last year, Thankofferings totaled over \$900,000 to support Women of the ELCA church- wide ministries, with offerings coming from 2,450 congregations. We’d be happy to reach a goal of \$900 from First Lutheran in 2015.

Thankofferings are sent in full to the church-wide women’s organization and help do mission and address concerns of women and children in crisis—especially the crisis related to poverty, health, AIDS and domestic violence.

The blue offering envelope you received in the Nov Messenger may be placed in the Sunday offering plate anytime in November or bring it to the office. If you receive your Messenger e-mail, there are envelopes on the Info counter for your use. Questions? Call Margaret Kratzke