

# SEPTEMBER MESSENGER-ISSUE 9

First Lutheran Church—Fergus Falls, MN

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER ROSE

Dear Friends,  
*"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

These words are read to every person who is baptized at our church. What does it mean to "let your light shine?"

This year's Sunday School will be exploring this question with our theme for 2015-2016 "Shine."

We will be utilizing brand-new curriculum this year that is based on an entirely different model of Sunday school. The Sunday School will focus on a single story for a stretch of 5 weeks, and rotate to different stations for 5 weeks to learn the story through all 5 senses – touch, taste, smell, sight, hearing. These stations will include drama, games, cooking/science, video, and art.

"Let your light shine before others." Jesus speaks these words to

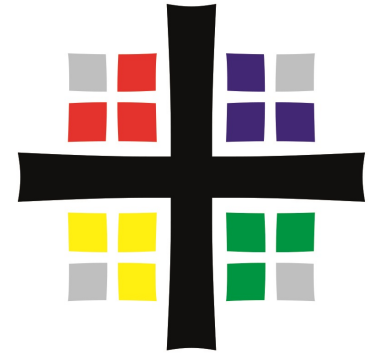
us as individuals whose wicks sometimes burn low and the light within grows dim because of the activity, worries and responsibilities of daily life. When we come together in worship and support and encourage each other, hear His Word, and raise our voices in song our wicks get trimmed so that the light within each of us can burn brightly again. Our focus moves from ourselves to the True Light of the World who passed the torch of truth on to us, and who promises to be with us as we share it. Here, we can find rest and renewal and regain the strength and courage to live as his people each day. I love this aspect of church life. The church has always been a place where I have found comfort, hope and inspiration, and the Lord who has

called us to be light for the world wants us to offer that sense of belonging and consolation to the community around us.

Let us work in hope and trust that the God who stirs our hearts with love and light will guide us in sharing it. Let us worship and pray and dream together with this song in our hearts -

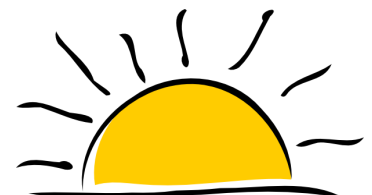
*This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine,  
Let it shine,  
Let it shine.*

In Christ's light and love,  
Pastor Jennifer



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## "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS" SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2015

GWOH Sunday is coming, September 20th, 2015! Join the wider church (ELCA) Members from Fergus Falls in a joint, large scale service project, the afternoon of September 20th! More details will come soon about service project possibilities. Service options will be given for people of

all ages and physical abilities.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is a chance for the 4 million members, nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and the church wide expression to come together for a dedicated day of service. Across the

country, thousands of ELCA members are engaging in service work to make a positive change in their communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love.

- See more at: <http://www.elca.org>



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

## AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

Thanks to a generous donation by Barret and Harriet Wicklund, you may have noticed the new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) sitting in a white metal case in the Narthex. Although we hope that this gift never has to be used, an AED is intended to treat someone for Sudden Cardiac Arrest by monitoring their heart rhythm and administering an electrical shock if needed to restore a normal rhythm. It may sound complicated and intimidating to use, but it is actually quite easy

as the unit is designed to provide step-by-step instructions once it is activated. Even though it is easy to use, a little training on how to use one never hurts. For those of you who are interested in learning how to use an AED or just want a refresher, a training is being offered on **Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 am.** Bob Griffith from Ringdahl EMS will be here to provide the training and answer questions. The training should last between 45 minutes to an hour, de-

pending on how many questions there are. We would again like to extend a very grateful Thank You to Barret and Harriet for this gift to the Church.

Our new AED is located in the New Narthex, where it is easily visible and accessible to all.



## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE



**American  
Red Cross**

Giving blood is a selfless donation that touches families every day. These families are located both in our local area as well as around the world. The Blood Drive is scheduled for **September 16, 17, and 18**, and will be located at the **Fergus Falls National Guard Amory.** We would

like to remind you the 16 years olds may donate blood with a signed 'Official Red Cross Parental Consent Form' which can be found online. You are positively impacting our community and we thank you for becoming Red Cross Ready!

Appointments can be made by calling:

**Dolly Johnson**

**218-739-3772**

**Phyllis Knutson**

**218-736-7480.**

# SEPTEMBER MESSENGER-

SEPTEMBER 2015



## GOD'S INCREDIBLE, INDESCRIBABLE LOVE!

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." (Romans 5:5)

God does so much for us. It's really amazing. God loves us so much—not because He has to, but because He wants to. God has installed His love in our hearts, inside of us. It's not just an external "I love you," it's an inter-

nal "my love lives in you." I don't get it, fully, but it suggests that He is closer to us than we can imagine.

How? For one thing, He himself is with us, personally, right now, in the form of His Spirit. It's the Comforter Jesus promised to His lonely disciples. It's the ultra-high self-powered broadband connection to the God of the universe which empowers us

both to understand His Word and obey it. And it – God – is the guarantee that one day this spiritual connection will become the face-to-face, wiping-our-tears, sharing-our-space relationship we were always built for.

God, thanks for your love. We know we don't deserve it, but are grateful for this incredible gift!

See you in church!

*Pastor Jim*

## CHURCHES UNITED: TRUDGE THROUGH THE SLUDGE 2015



Join us for MUD RUN 2015! Sunday, September 13, 2015, at the Viking Challenge Course in Fergus Falls. 12:00 PM-5:00 PM. Cost: \$10. Grades 5-12 invited to participate (and younger grades can participate with an adult!) Sign up at church by September 5. Join us for this fun, muddy adventure!



### Upcoming Events & Activities

September 2—Back to FLY night 5:00 PM

Grades K-7

September 13—Trudge through the Sludge 2015

September 20—God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

September 27 SuperFLY Skyzone & Supper

### Regular Fly Schedule:

**September 9 Fly K4 4:30-5:15**

**September 16 Fly 57 4:30-5:15**

**Senior Fly 7:30-8:30**

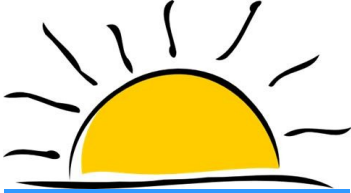
**September 23 Fly K4 4:30-5:15**

**Senior Fly 7:30-8:30**

**September 30 Fly 57 4:30-5:15**

**Senior Fly 7:30-8:30**

September  
2015



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# September Messenger- Issue 9

# SHINE



## Rally Day Sunday

### Sunday, September 13, 2015

Our theme for Rally Day and our new school year is Shine! "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven" Matthew 5:16

### Milestone Classes and Blessings in Worship

...A way of life that marks special growth in faith. We honor students during worship as they complete a new class with their parents. At First Lutheran, we are passing on biblical information through Sunday School and Milestone classes. Another goal is to bring awareness of the presence of God in everyday life. On Rally Day, the **3 year olds** will be introduced to the congregation to mark the beginning of their faith journey in Sunday School. All children are invited to the Rally Day Worship services at 8:30 or 11:00 for a special gift and blessing as they head out into the new school year.

#### Faith Milestone Classes

Introduced to Congregation	3 years old	First Communion	5th grade
God is Everywhere!	4 years old	Guardian Angels Class	6th grade
God is With Me	Kdgn..	In the Image of God	7th grade
Ten Commandments	1st Grade	Confirmation Class	8th grade
Explore the Bible	2nd grade	Affirmation of Faith	9th grade
Devotions/Catechism	3rd grade	Drivers' License Milestone	10th grade
Bible Adventure	4th grade	Senior Recognition	12th grade

## WORSHIP THEMES

### SEPTEMBER 6: "Be Opened"

**Text:** Mark 7:24-37

It is sometimes easy to go into our own little bubble, to hide from the world's problems, to refuse to look outside of what is happening in our own world. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus gives the invitation "Be Opened" as he heals a deaf man. How can we, like him, be opened to hearing and seeing with the eyes of Jesus?

### SEPTEMBER 13: "Shine"

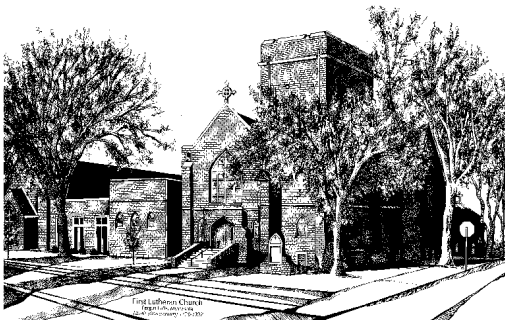
**Text:**

As we welcome our Sunday School students back to Sunday School, we celebrate this year's Sunday School theme: "Shine." At our baptism we heard the words "Let your light Shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." What do these words mean? And how do we let our light shine?

### SEPTEMBER 27: "Howdy Duty"

**Text:**

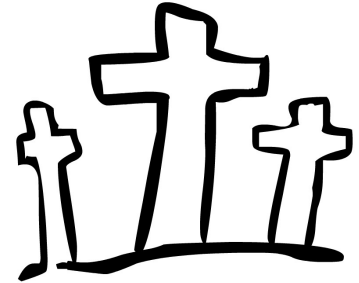
We may think we are a welcoming congregation to visitors. But, I wonder? Greeting shouldn't just be the job of our official greeters, those who are on "Howdy Duty" for the day. Rather, to paraphrase Moses' words in our Old Testament lesson: "Would that all the LORD'S people were greeters, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"



### SEPTEMBER 20: "Childlike – not Childish"

**Text:**

The children in our midst on Sunday morning are a sign of the welcome that God offers to all persons regardless of their status in the world.



## AUGUST SERVICE UNITS

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

Paulette Anderson

Richard Baker

Brian & Patty Becker

Rod & Marilyn Berg

Brad & Cheryl Buck

John & Suzanne Demuth

Rod Ebersviller

Dina Erickson

Wayne Estenson

Duane & Bonnie Gran

Steve Guttormson & Nancy Swenson

Jon Gunderson & Teresa Shannon

John & Angela Haarstad

Nancy Harlow

Dean & Iris Jacobson

Evelyn Horton Kenyon

Mathew Korby

Tony & Andrea Loomer

Roger Lillemon

James & Tracy Morstad

Josh & Jill Nelson

Eunice Peterson

Stanley & Donna Quam

Steve & Mary Sampson

Dustin & McKenzie Stoen

Art & Kathryn Stortroen

Carolyn Sund

LouAnn Wanek

## SEPTEMBER MESSENGER-ISSUE 9

## WOMEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN—OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

**The WELCA Board Meeting will be help 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!**

**CIRCLES  
Wed, Sept 23.**

**Sarah at 9:30 am  
Pioneer Pointe**

**Hannah at 1:00 pm  
First Lutheran Church**

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Thanks to the support of the Foundation, the Library Committee ordered a number of new selections. They are now catalogued and on the shelves. Included are:

- Three new adult fiction series, set in Minnesota, ND, and Oregon
- Several new DVDs

and books for children

- A number of nonfiction books including the Ragamuffin Gospel, Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancy, Pocket Prayers, and Jesus Calling, a book of devotions

Come and check out these selections as well

as others already on the shelves. The library is open whenever the church office is open. Sunday mornings during Sunday School the Library Committee staffs the library and can help you find what you are looking for.



## FIRST LUTHERAN OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS)—UPCOMING EVENT

**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](http://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."*



<b>First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minnesota</b> <b>Sunday School Info Update Form</b>
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Due to changing phone numbers, we want to make sure we have current records for you. We ask that you please update us when changes occur by filling out this form and returning to the church office.

Youth Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Street*

*Town State*

*ZIP*

Parent Cell Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

*(name)*

*(number)*

*(name)*

*(number)*

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFORMATION THAT MIGHT ALLOW FOR US TO BETTER CARE FOR YOUR CHILD, ESPECIALLY PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS, ALLERGIES, OR SPECIAL NEEDS:

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### Photo Release

*(please select one)*

\_\_\_\_ I understand my photo or my child's photo may be taken for use in First Lutheran Church website, display, and other promotional information.

\_\_\_\_ I would prefer my child's photo not be displayed at church or in promotional materials.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



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Fax: 218-739-0916  
E-mail: [firstlc@live.com](mailto:firstlc@live.com)

## *Come Share the Spirit*

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

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

### **TANZANIA TEAM TESTIMONY FROM OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN AUGUST, 2014**



Way back in December, our newly-formed team had the chance to meet with Eunie Simonson here in Fergus Falls. While most members of the team had heard the name "Simonson" in church growing up, we did not know much about the family. However, in just a few short minutes last December, a connection and adoration developed between Eunie and the team. She shared encouraging words with us as a group before coming to greet us each individually. As she smiled and gently shook each of our hands, we all

realized that we were in the presence of someone great.

*"I could see that she got each member of the group to think a bit differently."*

I think I speak for all of us when I say that before Tanzania, we had no idea what an amazing and inspiring story lies behind Eunie and David. We met with Eunie and her daughter Naomi on one of our last days in Africa. By this point in the trip, we were all worn out and ready to come home. However, meeting with these two amazing women gave us a new burst of energy and excitement. In her home atop a hill, Eunie shared incredible stories with us from her life in Tanzania. She shared about being

called by Christ to do mission work, and both the good times and the bad times of raising a family in Tanzania. She gave us advice about our lives as young women, and reminded us to pay close attention to what God is calling us to do now and in the future. There are many ways for us to be servants of Christ both in our lives and in our careers. We should think of our careers as a calling from God, rather than just a job. This advice was perfect for a group of young women getting ready to start the next part of their lives.

*"There are many ways for us to be servants of Christ both in our lives and in our careers."*

As we walked back down the hill that day, I was very quiet. My mind was full of the thoughts that Eunie had sparked inside me. She inspired me to want to make a difference with my life, whether through mission work or not. That night, as we reflected on the day at our guest house and shared our highs and lows, almost every person's "high" was our visit with Eunie. I could see that she got each member of the group to think a bit differently. I am certain the advice, stories, and company we received that afternoon atop the hill at the Simonson house will stay with the team members forever.

Sarah Taylor