



FIRST NEWS

A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

AUGUST 2019

August 2019

Time with Tom

What are we doing working so hard trying to fill our bins or our bank accounts for tomorrow when you don't know if you will even be here after today? We are missing the message of Jesus. James is talking to people about the message Jesus has for all generations; from *chapter 4: Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.* James is not saying we cannot save up for another day, like a retirement account. What he is saying is fear the Lord and know God is in charge of our life. Remember the fear of God is to acknowledge the power of the God who created all things. Knowing God created each and everyone of us as a small part of his creation. But knowing God revels in the humans he created.

It is hard to believe we give God great joy when we do so many things wrong. God loves the world so much including the humans who rejected him in the garden, he sent his son to take on the sins of the world and let him die for us because we could not save ourselves. He loves us so much he came to reconcile the wrong we had committed; by taking on death and the evil in the world just so we could again be with him for eternity.

James is telling us in this lesson to put less faith in our own ability to make and save money, and put our faith into practice by asking God what God's will is for us as we work and save. Working and saving is nothing without the God who gave us the ability to work and save. Having the things of this world for a short while is like a mist that appears and is gone. But having a life now and forever with the God who created us is never ending. The love God has for us is big enough, so we can share and enjoy the life we have here, (short as it is) with God and our neighbor. ***Hosea 13:3 like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window.***

Our life is fleeting and we will pass away and all we have worked for will be left behind, but our love for our neighbor and the love from our God will be with us. Patrick Swayze from the movie "Ghost" at the end of the movie as he is ascending to what appears to be heaven says; "its amazing Molly, the love inside, you take it with you." Our time here is so short and we spend so much time not loving our God or our neighbor. God wants us to be fruitful and multiply, God wants us to enjoy the fruits of our labor, but God gave us his commandments and all the laws and the prophets hang on these according to Matthew 22:40. ***John 15: My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Luke 10:27-28. Love the Lord our God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself, do this and you will live.*** Remember your neighbor and your God this summer as you live and love and save.

Live in Peace and the God of Love and Peace will be with you! 2nd Cor. 13:11b
Pastor Tom Evenson

Our mission: First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to **welcome people to faith in Jesus Christ;** **equip persons with a faith that works in real life; and** **send us in service into the world in Jesus' name.**

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WEBSITE:
www.firstlitchfield.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
See Page 9

Council Highlights

**“GOD’S WORK.
OUR HANDS.”**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Notes
July 2019 - No council meeting held

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council 2019

PRESIDENT:

Bob Blomberg

VICE PRESIDENT:

Corey Cervin

SECRETARY:

Dawn Doty

TREASURER:

Karla Hyberger

TEAM

REPRESENTATIVES:

Christian Education/ Youth & Family:

Tanna Stucky
Beth Fruetel

Stewardship & Finance:

Betty Allen
Bob Gilberts
Karla Hyberger

Social Ministry/Evangelism:

Dawn Doty
Meredith Elj
Betty Allen
Vonnice Escen

Endowment/Memorial:

Dennis Gartner
Corey Cervin
Tanna Stucky

Property:

Andy Hoffman
Dennis Gartner
Bob Gilberts

Worship & Music:

Vonnice Escen
Meredith Elj

Personnel:

Bob Blomberg
Will Dolan
Karla Rick

Our Mission:

“FLC exists to WELCOME people to faith in Jesus Christ; EQUIP persons with a faith that works in real life; and SEND us in service into the world in Jesus’ name.”

Council Membership:

2020: Betty Allen, Vonnice Escen, Robert Gilberts, Bob Blomberg

2021: Dawn Doty, Meredith Elj, Dennis Gartner, Tanna Stucky

2022: Andrew Hoffman, Beth Fruetel, Karla Hyberger, Corey Cervin

MST - 2020 would like to thank everyone that either donated food or your time to the pie in the park, our French toast breakfast, and our food stand at the Meeker County Fair.

God Bless You All!!

Ruby, Miles, Mason, Terek, Kate, Emily, Bonnie, Pastor Tom

Dates to Remember:

Oct. 5th MST Fall Garage Sale

Nov. 23rd Lutefisk Supper

Nov. 30th Santa Breakfast/Cookie Walk

Dec. 28th Lutefisk Supper

JOB OPENING: Kingdom Company Director, First Lutheran Church, part-time, starting Fall 2019. Please send letter of application and resume to the church office. Please call the church office for more information. Thank you!



Stewardship and Finance

General Fund:

Total **Income** for the month of June 2019: \$42,404
Less total **Expenses** for the month of June 2019: \$33,607

Year to Date:

Income as of June, 2019: \$166,865
Expenses as of June, 2019: \$188,239

Many ways to give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of “Ham and Eggs!”

“That’s nice,” said the hen. “A chance for us to serve the congregation.”

“Easy for you to say,” replied the pig. “For you, it’s a contribution; for me, it’s a sacrifice!”

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being involved in breakfast, while the pig is committed. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn’t all-in.

“People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon” are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in The Jesus-Centered Life (Group). That total, “without reservation” commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus – as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others’ stewardship because we all give differently.

A day away in a quiet place

Maya Angelou said, “Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us.” Similarly, when Jesus’ disciples were consumed with ministry, he urged them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31, NIV).

The late days of summer might be just the time to seek “a day away” not only from problems but even from ministry. While serving God and others can be energizing, we must balance work with rest. God set that example, resting after creating the world; Jesus set that example, calling his disciples away – not just alone, but *with him* – to be refreshed.

Spend a relaxing day at a lake. Go on a scrapbooking retreat or a leisurely hike with a friend. Find a monastery that welcomes guests, and experience 48 hours of prayer and silence there. Invite Jesus into that time and space. And remember another message he shared: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NIV).

GARDEN PRODUCE SHARING

The Social Ministry Team invites you to drop off or pick up fresh garden veggies and fruit during the summer and fall growing season. Let us once again share our produce with one another!

*A table is located in the southeast
(Sunday School) entrance.*

Thanks to all who participated last season.
Enjoy the harvest!



2019 MEEKER COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 1-4

The Meeker County Fair here!
Can you taste those delicious burgers?!?!
Please be thinking of how you would like to help by donating a food item or your time at the **MST Food Stand**.
Please call Jason Stucky at 320-221-7999



Community
CAMPFIRE
at
Lake Ripley Campground

Wednesdays in August
7:00 p.m.

Brought to you by
Beckville Lutheran ~ 1st Lutheran of Cosmos
1st Lutheran of Litchfield ~ Zion Lutheran

Join us for Fellowship



Camp Songs
Snacks

Serve Your Community



Volunteer through Lutheran Social Service And AmeriCorps*

We are seeking volunteers 17 years of age and older to serve as respite volunteers

Benefits to others:

Volunteers provide safety and companionship for older adults who have chronic health conditions. This important service also gives family caregivers a chance for a much-needed break.

Benefits for volunteers:

Volunteers are eligible for:

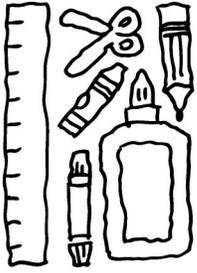
- A \$200 monthly living allowance
- A \$1,600 education grant (after 450 hours of service)
- If the volunteer is 55+, the grant can be transferred to a child or grandchild

Interested? Call today! Contact: Regional Manager Barbara Alsleben at 320-221-3747 or Barbara.Alsleben@lssmn.org

You can also contact Statewide Program Director Tara Giese at 1-800-488-4146 or 218-233-7521; tara.giese@lssmn.org

*The Legacy Corps for Veterans and Military Families is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) as an AmeriCorps project and is administered through Arizona State University College of Public Service and Community Solutions—Center for Urban Innovation.





SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Lutheran world relief school kit project

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.

With school supplies on sale this time of year at great savings, it is a perfect time to help the Sunday School children collect supplies for the LWR School Kits.

- Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.



×1

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



×1

One pencil sharpener



×4

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper



×1

One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



×5

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



×1

One 2½" eraser



×5

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



×1

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

MST- USA

MST USA 2019 traveled to Brooklyn, NY from July 14-19. Through YouthWorks, our group of 20 youth and 4 adult leaders volunteered our time at multiple community gardens, food pantries, soup kitchens and senior centers. The work was often hard and the weather was pretty hot - but the relationships that we formed with Brooklynites at our service sites made the trip an overwhelming success. During the evening we also had the opportunity to visit several iconic New York sites including the Brooklyn Bridge, Coney Island and Times Square. The theme for our week was "Storyline." We were challenged to think about our storyline the same way you think of the plot to a good book or movie. God is moving in and through our storyline. His goodness and unfailing love will stick with us through every page, every sentence, every word. Because we were meant to tell a story that is anything but ordinary. "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life" Psalm 23:6A



MST - USA



Mission

Dear friends,

Equality and equity – do you know the difference? That was the challenging question posed by the facilitator at a recent LUCSA Gender Justice workshop for representatives of various Lutheran churches in the Southern Africa region.

The facilitator helped us out with a cartoon-diagram illustrating the difference between equality and equity. In the first illustration three people of different heights are trying to look over a wooden fence to watch a baseball game. The tallest of the three can easily see over the fence but the other two cannot. In the second illustration all three are standing on boxes of equal height. Now the tallest person who could already see well is standing on a box, the second person now can see but the third shortest person still can't see even while standing on a box. In the third illustration all three can see the game. The tall person does not need any box, the second needs only one box and the shortest person needs two boxes. Now all can see the game. That is equity. In the fourth illustration the fence has been removed and all three are standing on the ground watching the game. The caption reads "liberation!"

In 2013 the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) adopted a Gender Justice Policy declaring: *"The biblical call to uphold justice is at the very heart of the communion's self-understanding. God's grace liberates us, brings us together in Christ and enables us to live and work together for justice, peace and reconciliation. The LWF is committed to being inclusive and enabling the full and equitable participation of women and men in church life and society, and in its decision-making processes, activities and programs."*

The Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) is the sub-regional expression of the LWF with 15 member churches in ten different countries across southern Africa. LUCSA member churches are committed to working together, to pray, learn, advocate, build awareness and transform policies, structures, language and behaviours to support and incorporate Gender Justice. Members of the workshop also expressed interest in the *Social Statement on Women and Justice* to be presented for adoption at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2019.

Thank you for your prayers and support and your participation in God's mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative - Southern Africa, Johannesburg, June 28, 2019



My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/> Please note the link to my online giving page on www.elca.org: community.elca.org/SouthAfrica

August Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 4, 2019

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:15 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday August 7, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship, Lake Ripley Campground

Sunday, August 11, 2019

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:15 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday August 14, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship, Lake Ripley Campground

Sunday, August 18, 2019

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:15 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday August 21, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship, Lake Ripley Campground

Sunday, August 25, 2019

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:15 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship, Lake Ripley Campground



PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls are available in the church office when needed for yourself or someone in need of comfort and prayers. Please help—if you know of someone who is in need of prayers and a shawl, stop by the office and pick one up!



Be still, Receive God's Love, Embrace
God's Word, Welcome the Day.

B.R.E.W.

meets every **Tuesday morning at
7:00 a.m.** with Pastor Tom for
coffee and fellowship. Join us!!

PLEASE KEEP OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Meeker Manor: Betty Jorgensen,
Stan Mortenson, Mary Klosner
Emmaus Place: Arlene Poirier
Gloria Dei: Mae Wertz, Willard Maahs,
Lois Rusch, Janet Lundin, Tom Costigan
Litchfield, in own home: Ardella Voigt
Viola Lenhard, Jutta Goodrich
Hutchinson: Lynette Peterson
Folkestone, Wayzata: Jean Schnell

To Receive the Newsletter by Email only - Please send your email address to:
Firstoffice@hutchtel.net - then let us know you no longer want the paper copy mailed to you.

FIRST NEWS is a monthly publication of First Evangelical Lutheran Church,
703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by August 15th

For the NEXT ISSUE: September 2019

Churchwide

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

On the **First** Sunday of the month, August, 2019
 a second offering will be taken, where a globe will be passed.
 This month, the second offering will go to:
God's Work, Our Hands



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:

*Our members known to be in the military are:
Cmdr. Joseph Vandelac, Foreign Engagement at the Pentagon, son-in-law of Janice and Cecil Fawcett;
Sgt. US Army, Zachary Olimb, Fort Hood, TX, grandson of Edna and Martin Oldenburg and Vern and Lil Madson;
Staff Sergeant Austin Kleinschmidt, Great Falls, MT, son of Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt;
Staff Sgt. Matthew Wiechmann, stationed at Fort Drum, NY; son of Virgil and Jamie Wiechmann,
Major Troy Thomas, Severance, CO, nephew of Valda Thomas and Mike and Gaylene Thomas
Eric Kammermeier, active duty United States Navy, son-in-law of Mike and Beth Boyle;
Senior Airman, Jonathan Negron, Vacaville, CA, son of Margaret Schlisner;
Staff Sgt. Seth Erickson, stationed in Richfield, MN, nephew of Margaret Schlisner.

*Welcome Home! to those of you who now have returned to the States.
 Thank you all for your service.*

***Please let the office know if titles, locations, and/or addresses have changed for any of the above.**

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, August 17, 2019

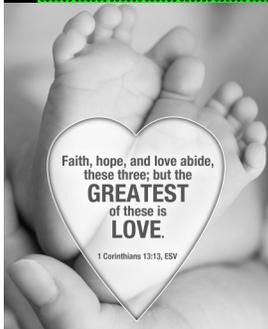
5:00 P.M.

Holy Word Theater

Featuring:

To be determined..

If you or someone you know is interested in being our Projectionist, please let the church office know.



Scott and Carol Nelson would like to announce the births of their two grandsons.
 Ashton John, 8 lbs. 2 oz. 19 in. long, born June 20th in Buffalo to Zachary and Karah.
 Wesley Scott, 7 lbs. 10 oz. 20 1/2 in. long, born July 8th to Nathaniel and Amanda.
 Congratulations to all!!

- ⇒ **Save your Greeting Cards** - they can be recycled! You can drop these off in the church office. Thank you!!
- ⇒ **Family Fare Receipts** - Please bring in your receipts to the church office. These receipts are added together and helps our education program earn \$1000 per \$150,000 worth of receipts. Please note we need the entire receipt. Thank you for all the receipts that have been turned in!!
 *receipts for prescriptions purchased are **not** eligible for the program.
- ⇒ **Food Shelf Donations** can be placed in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Please bring non-perishable donations (can not bring expired items)
 The needs are great within our community and our contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!
- ⇒ **SAVE THE DATE—Gods Work, Our Hand's**
 SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8th. Let the church office know if you are interested in planning, have project ideas or would like to purchase a T-Shirt for \$12.00. Any questions, call Dawn Doty 320-444-2222.

WELCA MINUTES, July 18, 2019

WELCA met on July 18, 2019, at 1:30 pm in Chilstrom Hall.

Betty Allen called the meeting to order and we recited the Purpose Statement. Devotions were given by Minister Sarah.

There were no corrections to the Secretary's report and Sue Lemmer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as printed. Karen Eberhard said that she brought up to the Crow River Conference WELCA board that First Lutheran WELCA made a suggestion that it is not necessary to have such a big meal at the Gatherings. They took it under advisement.

August Funday has been changed to August 8th because of the availability of two pontoons. Sign up in the office and pay a \$5 fee.

10 am – carpool from First to Spicer

11 am – lunch at Westwinds Café

1 pm – pontoon ride

We sang "*Lord Whose Love in Humble Service*" accompanied by Marge Hellzen.

Barb Alsleben from Lutheran Social Services, Respite Care was our speaker. There was an item posted in the church bulletin at First about 10 1/2 years ago asking for volunteers for respite care. After volunteering, she became a full-time employee coordinating all the respite care needs in the area. They are always looking for volunteers to do respite care. She said that she gives the gift of time by giving caregivers a break. She also hosts a support group each month for caregivers and another one for dementia caregivers. Group respite is held in Hutchinson for 4 hours where the caregivers bring those in their care for respite. New volunteers are always needed.

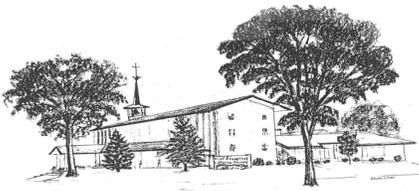
The Lord's Prayer was recited and the Table Prayer was sung.

Thank you to the hostesses—Marlys Elam, Karen Eberhard, and Valda Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Lemmer, Secretary





FIRST NEWS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
703 South Sibley Avenue • Litchfield, MN 55355

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Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Litchfield, MN
55355

Address Service Requested



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Sarah Jones, Christian Education Director, Assisting Minister
sarahcejones@hotmail.com, Cell: 320-221-0055

Judy Berglund, Office Manager
firstoffice@hutchtel.net

Tonia Beavers, Bookkeeper
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Carol Heath, Financial Secretary
firsttr@hutchtel.net

Bea Devereaux, Organist, Senior Choir, and Bell Choir Director

Carol Dragt—Director of Music Non-Traditional Service

Greta Hulterstrum, Pianist, Wednesday Evening Service

Scott Nelson, Custodian

Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487

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Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NRSV

