



FIRST NEWS

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

DECEMBER 2019

December 2019

Time with Tom

Advent is a time of year when we are lamenting in a long wait for the return of our God. Jesus said he would be back and yet here we are 2000 years later still waiting. No wonder we lament! God told the prophets to go to the people and give them instructions like, love your neighbor, share your food, when someone asks, give not only your shirt but your coat as well. God said do this while you wait for my return. Do we do this every day? Can we keep giving and giving? When will God return? How long do we have to put up with all this violence and hatred? I do not think I can take it any longer! That was probably the same sentiment of Gods people in exile. The ones the Assyrians and Babylonians drove out of the land God had given them. Those people had something to complain about, do we?

The reason God allowed the enemy victory over his people is that God's people forgot whom God was. They began living life without the God who gave them everything. They began worshiping other gods and began building idols with their own hands. They began thinking they were gods themselves. Their God the true God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob is the same God who took on skin to become man and give his life for all creation, is also our God. This time of lament, this advent season is our time to long for the God who loves us.

We are waiting for God's return in the same way the Israelites waited for God to bring them back to Jerusalem. We have little to complain about living in Litchfield, but we complain. Most of us have not had family or friends taken from us. We have not been driven into a foreign country or forced to start life over. We have chosen to leave God and worship the works of our own hands. We choose to live without our God or our family. We may not know what it is like to live in the fear of losing everything. It is a minority of people in this country who have felt that loss or that fear. There are many people who have come to this country in fear, trying to escape the tyranny and abuse of the culture in which they had lived. Let us remember Jesus told us to love the foreigner and our enemy as our neighbor in the same way we would love ourselves.

God is coming again, according to the Gospel of John chapter 14, Christ will come again he told us. He is preparing a place for us and he will come and take us to himself. The place is with the father. Lament yes but look forward and do not give up on the life we have yet to come, the life with Christ in his father's house. Christmas is coming and we know what to expect, but the true day of Jesus return will be a day of extreme celebration. Christ is coming so for today, love your God and love your neighbor Amen.

Together we can live in Peace and the God of love and peace will be with you, 2nd Cor 13:11

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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For the monthly calendar, birthdays, serving groups, ushers, and altar guild information, see insert

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 11

Council Highlights

“GOD’S WORK.
OUR HANDS.”

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 7:00 PM

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.

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

Stewardship & Finance:

Betty Allen

Bob Gilberts

Karla Hyberger

Social Ministry/Evangelism:

Dawn Doty

Meredith Elj

Betty Allen

Vonnie Escen

Endowment/Memorial:

Dennis Gartner

Corey Cervin

Tanna Stucky

Beth Fruetel

Property:

Andy Hoffman

Dennis Gartner

Bob Gilberts

Worship & Music:

Vonnie Escen

Meredith Elj

Beth Fruetel

Personnel:

Bob Blomberg

Council Membership:

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

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

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

Devotions: Pastor Tom

Pastor’s Report:

Pastor Tom reported that holiday schedules are beginning to keep the staff busy. Coordination of all activities needs to be on one master calendar that Judy coordinates in the office. All events need to be put on this master calendar as soon as they are scheduled so there isn’t a conflict with another event on the same date.

A memorial was received from the Judy Groskreutz estate. Thank you to the family for this donation in her memory. Pastor Tom met with representatives from the Cub Scouts to tour the First Lutheran facility to see if there is a place and time that would work for their regular meetings. More information to follow in the future.

Pastor Tom requested that the council discuss a type of ongoing travel budget for Pastoral travels for upcoming mission trips. He explained the importance of Pastoral involvement on these trips and the council agreed with his assessment. We will include this line item into the 2020 budget and hopefully future council members will continue this practice for this important mission.

***Secretary report** was discussed and a motion was made and passed to accept as submitted.

***Treasurers report** was discussed and a motion was made and passed to accept as submitted.

-Karla Hyberger will present Temple talks in the coming months.

*Team Reports:

*Christian Ed / Youth and Family:

The team reported the Confirmation banquet in October went well. Youth training in October also went well and new ideas are being implemented. During Sunday school, a few changes to the format are being adjusted as the leaders realize the benefit of these small tweaks to the schedule. They also discussed having small groups join the coffee hour to keep them engaged in the First Family. Regarding Confirmation, there will be a Jr. High Youth gathering November 23rd-24th in Willmar. Christmas youth led service will be December 8th at the 10:45 service. They are also planning a family day in January, more on this after the December Team meeting. They also discussed the 2020 budget proposal for their team.

*Church Property:

Most of the meeting involved going over the 2020 budget proposal. Snow removal was also discussed in greater detail.

*Worship & Music:

The team reported that they want to start training more people on the new sound system. They will train on an individual basis instead of trying to train larger groups. There will not be a Jubilation event by the Bell Choir this year. The team budget was discussed and approved. A discussion took place regarding when the “announcements” to the congregation should be presented during the services on Sunday mornings.

***Note: After this report was presented at the council meeting, the council members also discussed the timing as to when the “announcements” are presented to the congregation. After a lengthy discussion, the council unanimously agreed that the announcements should remain at the same time as they are now being presented. The council believes that the announcements are still during the Prelude portion of the service. There is no reason to change from this format since you have a captive audience during this time frame to share important news of our Church and our Church Family.

*Stewardship & Finance:

Karla Hyberger gave a verbal report; This team is planning a very engaging format for 2020. They will be bringing a format that will focus on “Practicing Your Faith” based around “Serventship” which could have a different meaning to each individual person. Stay tuned...

Old Business:

No change in the status of a replacement for the Kingdom Company director.

Update on the wall and roof project. Due to the earlier inclement weather a few weeks ago, the contractor has elected to do the roof in the spring. He plans to do the wall as the weather and his schedule permit.

Dates to remember:

~Thanksgiving Eve service at Zion – Pastor Tom will be preaching

~Team meetings – Tuesday December 3rd, 7:00 PM

~Executive Team meeting – Tuesday December 3rd, 6:30 PM

~Team reports for the Annual Report due - Friday December 13th / Submit to Judy in the office

~Council meeting – Tuesday December 17th, 7:00 PM

~Chili cookoff – February 23rd, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Gartner for Dawn Doty

Stewardship and Finance

General Fund:

Total Income for the month of Oct. 2019: \$44,003
Expenses for the month of October 2019: \$33,607

Year to Date:

Income as of October 2019: \$283,017
Expenses as of Oct. 2019: \$305,392

Intentional and Specific Prayer Service

Matthew 7:7 Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened on to you.

We are inviting you to join our Intentional and Specific Prayer Service. We want to provide an opportunity for you to gather and pray together. Intentional Prayer is done on purpose. It is taking aim at a target and hitting it. It is purposeful. Specific Prayer is precise, clear-cut and explicit. It is not vague or undefined. It is clearly stated.

As followers of Christ, we are called to embrace our need for a deeper faith and trust, through Prayer we can have a greater connection with God. Jesus says: "All things you ask in my name will be given to you." We are intentionally gathering to say specific prayers for our church. We will be praying from prayer cards.

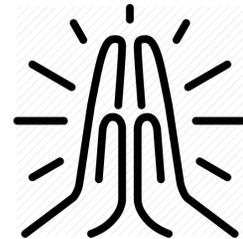
I encourage you to think seriously about making attendance to our Prayer service. I realize that sometimes there are things that prevent us from attending, but let us seek to be faithful. God is the listener of all conversations.

Will you join us as we gather in prayer?

When: December 8, 2019

Time: 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Where: Fireside Chapel



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Christmas Eve at First Lutheran

**Join us for worship on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24.
Worship times are:**

4:00 p.m., Candlelight worship with Holy Communion

6:00 p.m., Candlelight worship with Holy Communion

10:00 p.m. (Wear your PJs) Candlelight worship w/Holy Communion

Special Worship Times

Please note the following special changes in worship times:

Sunday, December 15 9:30 a.m. — Christmas Musical Worship Service

Sunday, December 22 9:30 a.m. — 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service

Sunday, December 29 9:30 a.m. — Healing Service

Please Note: Coffee and Fellowship for above Sundays is at 8:30 a.m.

MEMORIALS, GIFTS & THANKS

GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN: to the general fund, FLC library fund, the sound system, and WELCA in memory of Jean Hoyer by Richard and Carol Heath, Florence Roeszler, Mark and Julie Bredeson, Jean Wieland, Einar Lundin, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, Bud and Darla Johnson, Corey and Kris Cervin, Vern and Lil Madson, Paul and Sue Lemmer, Ellery and Jeanette Erickson, Gary and Loureen Larson, Bob and Sharon Johnson, Richard and Betty Allen, Kirk and Dorothy Lundin, Steve and Jackie Kraushaar, Gary Smith, Gary and Carolyn Vollmer, Doris Birkmeyer, Marlys Elam, Lisa Hoyer, and Rand and Dianne Thorp.

GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN: to the general fund and Sr. Choir fund in memory of Vivian Graff by Florence Roeszler, Jerry and Lana Johnson, Mark and Julie Bredeson, Ardis Thorp, Helen Madden, Roger and Elaine Stensrud, Gibert and Cathleen Idso, Geraldine Moen, John and Shirley Lekander, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Everett and Kathy Hantge, Ray and Darlene Groskreutz, Sylvia Baumgartner, Dan and Brenda Johnson, Duane and Darlene Henkelman, Karl and Darlene Lundin, Russ and Shirley Kronbeck, Mike and Kris Nelson, Mike and Deb Langmo, Bud and Darla Johnson, Corey and Kris Cervin, DeWayne and Iona Albright, Ellery and Jeanette Erickson, John and Jo Carlson, Richard and Betty Allen, Gary Smith, Rand and Dianne Thorp, and Gary and Loureen Larson.

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN: to the general fund in memory of Martin Hoekstra by Bud and Darla Johnson.

GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN: to the general fund in memory Tom Costigan by Jean Wieland, Bud and Darla Johnson, Karl and Darlene Lundin, and Ellery and Jeanette Erickson. Rand and Dianne Thorp, and Jerry and Lana Johnson, Gary and Loureen Larson, John and Jo Carlson, Gary and Lexi Cumings, Barb Nelson, and Terri Draxton and family.

GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN: to the general fund and FLC library in memory of Pat Smith by Gary and Kathy Cervin, Russ and Shirley Kronbeck, and Ellery and Jeanette Erickson, and Chuck and Sue Fenton.

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN: to the Handbell Choir in memory of Robert Devereaux by Dee Findley, Nancy Vang, Bruce Vang, and Marcia Vang.

GIFTS WERE GIVEN: to the general fund in memory of Kathy Braaten, Vonnie Escen's sister, by Kirk and Dorothy Lundin, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, Rand and Dianne Thorp, and Bob and Sharon Johnson.

SPECIAL THANKS

TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH: Thank you so much for the Prayer Shawl, Cross and Prayers. Special thanks to Pastor Tom for visits and prayers. Thank you to Pastor Cumings for communion while at Meeker Manor. Thank you to those that visited in the hospital and nursing home. I am doing well with my new hip. Hazel Wittenberg

THANK YOU TO: the serving group for the luncheon at Jean's funeral. Thank you to Pastor Tom for your time and prayers. Thank you to Carol Dragt and the Stringers, and Bea Deveraux for all of the beautiful music. Thank you to all for all your prayers, cards, and memorials.

It is all very much appreciated. Reuben Hoyer and family

THANK YOU TO: all the parishioners who prayed for Russ when he had his heart operation at St. Cloud. Thank you Pastor Tom for visiting Russ. Thank you for all the Get Well cards. They were much appreciated. Thank you to Linda Larson for driving us around to the doctor and to the grocery store. It was much appreciated. Russ and Shirley Kronbeck

THANK YOU TO: the serving group for the wonderful meal at Vivian's funeral. Thank you to Pastor Tom for your time and prayers. Thank you to Bea, Nate and the Sr. Choir for their wonderful music. To everyone, thank you all for your prayers and memorials. It is all very much appreciated. Harvey Graff and family

DEAR FIRST LUTHERAN MISSIONARIES!

Thank you for stepping up to my Christmas Gift Box Challenge - take a box/fill a box/return a box! We collected 93 boxes and \$1,355.00! This Christmas Day, 93 little children will receive a gift from a loving Minnesota Christian.

I am so Proud to know each and every one of you!

These boxes may very well be the first gift a child has ever received. Each child will be welcomed into a Christian Education Program, be introduced to scripture, see and feel the Love of Jesus Christ, all because of your gifts.

Thank you for your generous support of the Christmas Gift Box Program.

God Bless First Lutheran, and Merry Christmas, Julie Bredeson



Puzzle!

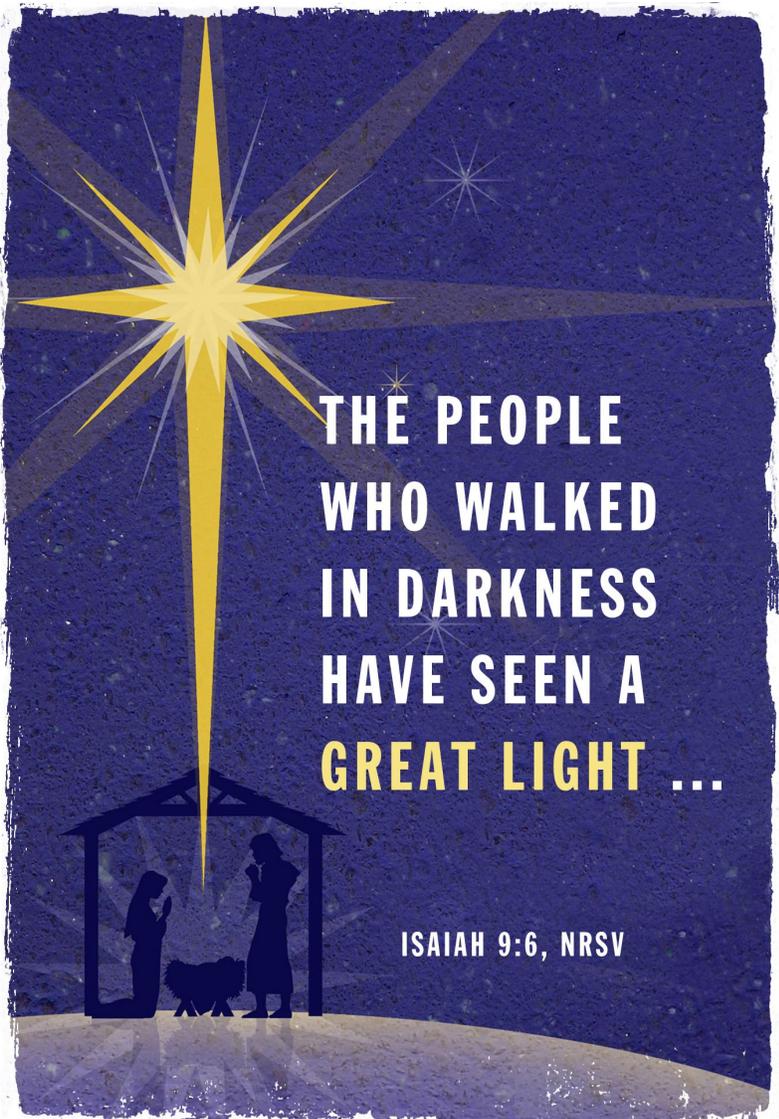
Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYZ _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUUS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E); God's gift of love



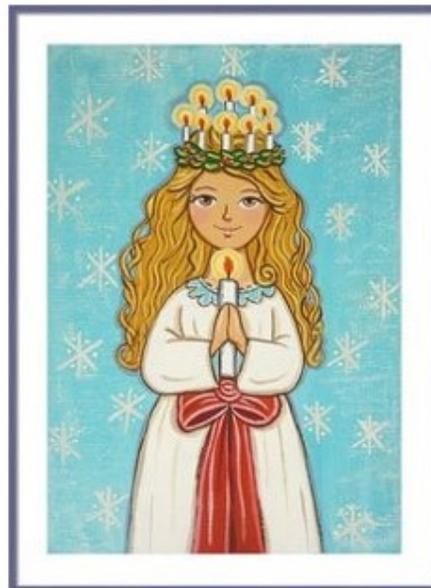
ISAIAH 9:6, NRSV

“Be born in us today”

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn’s final stanza addresses the town’s most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Come Celebrate
The 68th Annual
Saint Lucia Breakfast
First Lutheran Church
Litchfield, MN



December 14, 2019
6:00 - 9:30 A.M.

Traditional Swedish Breakfast with the option of scrambles eggs

Suggested donations

Adults \$8.00

Children 6-10 years \$5.00 / Under 6 years free

Tickets available at the First Lutheran Church or at the door

CHURCHWIDE



FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

**Jean Hoyer
November 1, 2019**

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Baptisms at First

These baptisms are the start to a wonderful and long lasting faith. Congratulations on this milestone!!

Donovan Harland Slinden III
Baptized: November 10, 2019

Parents: Donovan Jr. and Jaime Slinden
Sponsors: Robert and Sabrina Sackett,
Andrew Feucht and Shelby Neujahr,
And Alexys Nichols

It's not too late to return your Harvest Offering Envelopes

All women of FELC are members of WELCA. The Harvest Festival envelopes (found in the September newsletter) are the major way WELCA funds our giving. These offerings have been used for donations to Local charity groups.

*Please return these envelopes (or one labeled Harvest Festival) to the church office so that we can continue our outreach.

Thank you !

Become a Wish Granter!

Make-A-Wish® Minnesota has a volunteer opportunity to create hope, strength, and joy for a child with a critical illness.
Are you interested?



As a Wish Granter, you will:

- Sign up to work with a child in your area
- Meet the child and family
- Help determine the child's heartfelt wish
- Work in teams of two or three
- Act as a liaison between the Foundation and the family
- Help make the wish come true!

Please email VolunteerServices@mn.wish.org or call 612-767-2765 for more information or questions about volunteering with Make-A-Wish.



Did you know?

Make-A-Wish Minnesota grants a wish, on average, every 27 hours!



Please watch for the article about our 68th Annual Saint Lucia Breakfast which will be featured in the Independent Review Newspaper the week of December 4th.

SAVE THE DATE:

Equipping Congregations Day

February 29, 2019
Willmar, Minnesota

WELCA MINUTES, November 21, 2019

The WELCA joint meeting with Zion was held at First Lutheran on November 21, 2019. Betty Allen called the meeting to order and we recited our Purpose statement. Pastor Tom gave our devotions. We sang *For the Fruit of All Creation* accompanied by Marge Hellzen.

Our speaker was Julie Holmgren from the Natural Food Co-op. In 1977 six people started a buying club which then led to the formation of the Natural Food Co-op in 1980. Next year they will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. Their membership has grown to 450. Anyone can join for \$30 for the first year and \$10 per year thereafter.

The Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer were given and we enjoyed a delicious dessert.

The First WELCA business meeting followed. The secretary and treasurer's reports were given and approved. Bills for shipping the quilts, baby layettes, personal care kits and school kits will be coming due. The total expense is expected to be \$597. A volunteer brings the donations to Minneapolis three different times a year. Lana Johnson made a motion to give the driver a gift of \$25 per trip. Kris Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on food that is left in the refrigerator or freezers after various events. Most of the items are left way too long and then have to be thrown out. It was decided that food should be dispersed immediately after each event and NOT be left in the refrigerator/freezer. Each group serving is to follow this directive.

Our December meeting is a potluck. Betty Allen and Dianne Thorpe will provide the hotdish and bread and A-M will bring a salad and N-Z will bring a dessert. Norma will be bringing her teapots.

First is scheduled to serve at Ecumen on February 11, 2020. Entertainment is needed.

Meeting adjourned.

Thank you to Marge Hellzen, JoAnn Lindstrom, Marilyn Swanson and Lillie Oeltjenbruns for serving and to Marge Hellzen for music.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Lemmer
Secretary

Coming Events:

December 14th Lucia Breakfast
December 19th WELCA Potluck

December 19th WELCA
Potluck - Noon Luncheon

Hotdishes will be provided.
See below for other items to bring
A-M bring salads
N-Z bring desserts

Program:
Norma Hall's tea pot collection

Dear friends,

Yesterday was Reformation Sunday. At St. Thomas Lutheran congregation in inner city Johannesburg twelve confirmands took turns answering questions put to them regarding Luther's Small Catechism, the Bible and Christian faith. I think the parents were even more nervous than the confirmands. The confirmation teachers did well to calm their nerves and even had the confirmands ask questions of the congregation which brought laughter and smiles to everyone.



The preacher for the day, a member of the Women's Prayer League, recounted the history of the Reformation starting with Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses in Wittenburg in 1517.

What does it mean to be Lutheran today? With this question in mind, representatives of member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) gathered recently for a consultation with the theme *"We Believe in the Holy Spirit: Global Perspectives on Lutheran Identities."* The conference was hosted by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The gathering marks the start of a three-year study-process aimed at listening for creative ways in which we express our shared Lutheran heritage within the contemporary contexts of LWF member churches.

One of the presenters at the consultation, Rev. Kenneth Mtata from Zimbabwe, made the following observation:

"When Martin Luther posted his 95 theses in Wittenberg in 1517, he would not have anticipated that 500 years later, a movement bearing his name and its offshoots would have spread around the whole world and indeed across Africa. Martin Luther would never have dreamt that by 2017, the largest and the fastest growing Lutheran church would not be in Germany or Europe but in Africa: the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) with a membership of 8.6 million compared to 25,000 in 1959!"

We live in challenging times and places. As ELCA Global Mission regional representative it is a great privilege to be able to hear and learn from the voices, testimonies, questions and faith perspectives of young people, women and men in companion churches and companion synods as we accompany one another in God's mission in Southern Africa and around the world.

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, October 28, 2019

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>

Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers:



Meeker Manor:

Betty Jorgensen,

Mary Klosner

Emmaus Place:

Arlene Poirier

Gloria Dei:

Mae Wertz, Willard Maahs, Lois Rusch,

Janet Lundin, Stan Mortenson

Litchfield, in own home:

Ardella Voigt, Viola Lenhard, Jutta Goodrich,

Mae Brehmer, Roselyn Luff

Hutchinson:

Lynette Peterson

Folkestone, Wayzata:

Jean Schnell

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.



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**, Afghanistan, grandson of Edna and Martin Oldenburg, 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.**

Save your Greeting Cards - they can be recycled! You can drop these off in the church office.
(We are **not** able to accept Christmas Cards.)

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!!



Churchwide

December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 1, 2019 1st Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

No Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion, Chapel

Sunday, December 8, 2019 2nd Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Sunday School Program w/Comm.

Wednesday December 11, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion, Chapel

Sunday, December 15, 2019 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

9:30 a.m. Christmas Musical Service w/Comm.

No Sunday School

Wednesday December 18, 2019

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion, Chapel

Sunday, December 22, 2019 4th Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

9:30 a.m. Worship Service w/Comm.

No Sunday School

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve.

4:00 p.m. Candle lite Worship w/Communion

6:00 p.m. Candle lite Worship w/Communion

10:00 p.m. PJ Candle lite Worship w/Communion

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 Christmas Day

No Worship

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour

9:30 a.m. Non-Trad. Worship Healing Service w/comm

No Sunday School

To Receive the Newsletter by Email only - email your information to the church office at firstoffice@hutchtel.net - then let us know you no longer want the paper copy mailed to you. Thank 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 **December 15th**
For the NEXT ISSUE: January 2020

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

On the **First** Sunday of the month,
December 2019

a second offering will be taken,
where a globe will be passed.

This month, the second
offering will go to:

Southwest Minnesota Synod Ministries

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, December 21, 2019

5:00 P.M.

Holy Word Theater

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.**

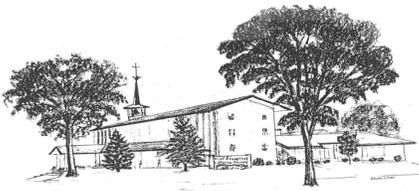


B.R.E.W.

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

The Lost and Found box is getting full.
Please check the box in the Narthex.
Maybe you will find something you





FIRST NEWS

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

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Organization
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Permit NO. 1
Litchfield, MN
55355



Program Staff:

Tom Evenson, Pastor
firstsr@hutchtel.net, Cell: 320-266-5366

Gary Cumings, Visitation Pastor

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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Holiday Lutefisk



Dinner

First Lutheran Church Litchfield

Saturday: December 28th

4-7 PM

Traditional Meal:

Lutefisk, mashed potatoes, gravy, lefse,
cranberry, corn, Swedish meatballs, white
sauce, melted butter, dessert and coffee
(While quantities last)

Prepared by "The Lutefisk King" Gary Smith

\$15 Per Person

\$10 for Children under 12

Proceeds go to help fund the MST 2020 mission trip