



# FIRST NEWS

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

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**February 2020**

**Time with Tom**

As we dig deeper into the gospel of Matthew we will find out that Matthew's message for us is more about Jesus and less about us than what we may have first thought. Matthew tells us from the beginning Jesus is the messiah and people are trying to kill him. From his birth the life of Emmanuel is threatened by the authority of the day (Matthew 1:23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us). The threat comes first from the king in Jerusalem. When Herod hears about the new king born in Bethlehem he fears for his reign and his kingdom. (Matthew 2:13b Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him). Even after Herod dies his son is a threat to Jesus so Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Nazareth instead of Jerusalem to keep Jesus safe.

In chapter 3 & 4 we hear now that Jesus is grown and is baptized by John the Baptist. This is the changing point for Jesus and for all God's creation. Jesus ministry begins at his baptism. Matthew tells this story so we hear the story pointing Jesus to the cross where his ministry will take him to finish what he was sent to fulfill. Matthew tells us Jesus is always teaching us about his father the creator of all. Jesus teaches us how to live a perfect life, knowing we are not perfect and cannot live perfectly. Jesus shows us how life is with God, where love never fails and there is no more hate or death because of the cross and resurrection. Matthews's gospel shows us in Jesus, God is with us. Our life is not simply about us but about God and God with us in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. When we live for others we come as close to living like Jesus as we possibly could. When we trust in his grace, where he is willing to die for an undeserving people, we are doing what God hopes for us. God sent Jesus to us to save us and to build a relationship with God's creation in the way he first intended. God wants to be with us, to be in our lives as a father to his children. Emmanuel is "God with us" and in Christ we can know it is about God not us when Jesus comes to us. It is about how God will fight the battle against evil for us.

Do you believe it? Read Matthews gospel and come to worship as we enter the Lenten season beginning Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> to see how God is with us in Christ. Walk with us this year and begin again the relationship God is longing to be in, with you. Find the love of Jesus as you rebuild your relationship with God and with your neighbor, this is what God has come to bring, a loving relationship with all creation in the Christ, Jesus our Emmanuel "God with us" Amen.

Live in Peace and the God of Love and Peace will be with you! 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

What's Inside:

- Pastor's Article, Pg. 1
- Church Council, Pg. 2
- Finance Pg. 3
- Church-wide Info, Pg. 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16
- Stewardship Pg. 5, 6
- Youth Pages Pg. 7, 8, 9
- Mission Newsletter, Pg. 13
- MST Pg. 11, 16
- WELCA - no meeting in January

*For the monthly calendar, birthdays, serving groups, ushers, and altar guild*

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

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

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.firstlitchfield.org](http://www.firstlitchfield.org)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**See Page 15**

# Council Highlights

**“GOD’S WORK.  
OUR HANDS.”**

**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

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Notes

Tuesday January 21st 2019 7p

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, 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: Dawn Doty

Secretary Report: Motion made to accept by Cory Cervin and seconded by bob gilberts

Treasure Report: Motion made to accept by Andy Hoffman seconded by Dennis Gartner

Agenda: Crow River Conference

Pastors Report: proud and grateful of the way our church and congregation are moving in a powerful positive way.

Team Reports:

Evangelism/Social Ministry: no report

Christian Ed: Moving forward with VBS. Dates will be June 7-9. Curriculum is well liked by 5th-7th grade. Gather some of the kids to participate in the Annual mtg.

Church Property: New office chairs will be bought. Gary Smith is checking into a water softener. Discussions about cleaning storage areas.

Personnel: no report

Endowment: Went over year end items.

Stewardship and Finance: February is practice your faith watch the newsletter for info.

Worship and Music: Went over Lenten schedule. We will be doing round robin with other area Pastors.

Old Business: Nothing new with Kingdom Company. Council members approved the budget.

Chili cook off is coming up. Proceeds will go to LAMP and GWOH.

New Business: Crow River Conference is February 23rd in Darwin at 2p.

Dates to Remember

Team Meetings: February 4th 2020 7pm

Executive Meeting: February 4th 2020 630pm Council Meeting: February 18th 2020 7pm MST

Valentines Dinner: February 9th 2020 5-8pm Chili Cook off/Silent Auction: February 23 1030-1

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted

Dawn Doty, Secretary

**General Fund:**

Total Income for the month of Dec. 2019: \$73,105  
Expenses for the month of December 2019: \$33,607

**Year to Date:**

Income as of December 2019: \$397,395  
Expenses as of Dec. 2019: \$367,824

**CHILI  
COOK OFF  
FEB 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10:30 – 1:00  
Come & eat  
Come & compete!!!**

*Try to beat our last year's winner "Dennis & Renee Gartner"*

*Some of the recipes don't even taste like chili*

*This was a fun event.  
We will have hot dogs too.  
Plain or with chili*

*One worship service at 9:30\*  
Please join us in worship.  
We would love to see you in church and then share a meal together.*

*Church Council sponsored!  
We will be hosting a silent auction to support:  
God's Work Our Hands*

## **MEMORIALS, GIFTS & THANKS**

**Gifts have been given** to the Library Fund and the MST - 2020 International Fund in memory of Pat Smith by the VFW of Litchfield, Admiral Benson Post 2818.

**A gift has been given** to the general fund in memory of Herbert Chilstrom, by Bob and Sharon Johnson.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

**Dear Members of First Lutheran Church:** Thank you! That word hardly seems enough for your generous support of Meeker Area Ministries. Your contribution will greatly serve the homeless of Meeker County. Blessings, M.A.M. Board

**Dear Friends,** I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate your recent gift to Samaritan's Purse. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this ministry. Please pray for our staff and volunteers working to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and bring relief to hurting people here at home and around the world. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17). Your support means more than you know. May God richly bless you in this new year.  
Sincerely, Franklin Graham

**Thank you to** everyone that has directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to First Lutheran in the last year. A total of \$3,500 Choice Dollars were directed to First Lutheran Church in 2019.

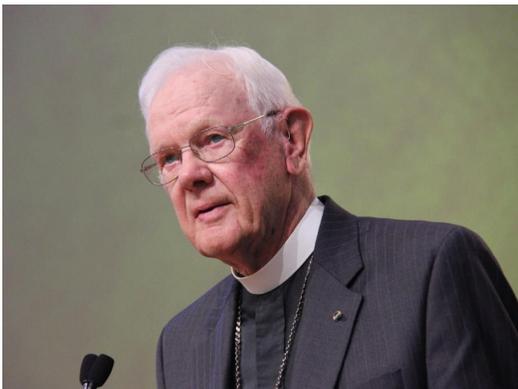
Thrivent members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Members are then able to designate Choice Dollars to an enrolled charity of their choice.

In recent years First Lutheran has used these funds within our church to fund parking lot repair, window, boiler and air conditioning upgrades, new Christmas decorations for the sanctuary, God's Work - Our Hands, mission work through MST, MST-USA and MST Costa Rica. This is just to name a few!

**THANK YOU** for selecting First Lutheran Church for your Thrivent Choice dollars - we hope you continue to do so in the future. Thrivent Choice dollars for 2019 need to be designated by March 31. Directing your Thrivent Choice dollars is easy - it can be done on-line at Thrivent.com, or by calling the Thrivent office in Litchfield at (320) 593-2846. To find out if you are eligible for Thrivent Choice dollars contact your Thrivent representative today.

First Lutheran's Thrivent Choice committee members are:

Martha Christensen, Dave Meidal, Vern Madson, Duane Henkelman, Valda Thomas and Jo Ann Lindstrom.



**Please pray for the family of** Herbert Chilstrom, who passed away Sunday, January 19, 2020.

#### **Herbert Chilstrom information:**

**Cards and/or personal notes may be sent to:**

**Corinne Chilstrom**

**635 South Park Centre Ave., #2121,**

**Green Valley, AZ 85614**

**and/or to son Chris, [c.p.holt@msn.com](mailto:c.p.holt@msn.com)**

**Services:**

**Thursday, February 13, 2:00 p.m.**

Desert Hills Lutheran Church

2150 S. Camino del Sol

**Green Valley, Arizona**

**Saturday, February 15, 1:00 p.m.**

Christ Chapel—Gustavus Adolphus College

800 W College Ave, St Peter, MN

**St. Peter, Minnesota (with be lived-streamed at FLC)**

The Stewardship Team is going to sponsor topics of the month during some of 2020. The month of February will be “PRACTICE YOUR FAITH”. I look at all the talented members of our church, those who sing, play piano, garden, wood-working, car mechanics, artsy, crafty, animal lovers, and I know that in-order for these people to become great at their craft! They needed to practice. I believe that that is true for Christians, we need to practice our faith.

I know I get compliant in my faith... not practicing every day, not taking time to pray, not making it a priority but, if I did! Wow, my days and weeks would be easier and happier! My relationship with Christ would be healthier and stronger.

We hope you take the information provided as an encouragement to up your “faith” game each day and practice your faith!

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## PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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### WORSHIP

We have three opportunities for you! Wednesday night @ 7:00 and two on Sunday 8:30 & 10:45

Pick one and come! We would like to see you! for sermons, communion and songs.

Why come?

Being in church calms you

It increases your self confidence

It reinforces God’s presence in your life

It reaffirms your personal purpose

Being surrounded by other Christians feels good

The sight of the cross is powerful to your faith.

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## PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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### PRAYER

There is no right or wrong way to pray. Just talk to God like you talk to a good friend.

Pray every single day...try it for the month of February.

On Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> we will be having a prayer service from 12:00 to 1:00.

The world is so noisy, take time to be in silence and quiet, it refreshes you.

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## PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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### READ

There are so many devotionals printed and available to you. Find one that works for you and use it daily. Check out our church library for copies of devotionals. Daily devotions will be a good way for you to practice your faith.

The Bible can be intimidating but start with a short chapter in the new testament and commit to reading a little bit each day in February. Being in the word is powerful! You become enlightened in ways you can not imagine.

I use “Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy“. It’s a 365-day devotional and I start over every New Year’s Day.

There is a table set up in the narthex with free books. Grab one and start reading for the month of February and practice your faith.

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## PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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### BE ACTIVE

It’s like going to the gym! Do your work-out with God. We want you to be active and present in your faith. Carry prayer beads in your pocket, use your holding cross, wear a cross necklace or cross bracelet, sit quiet with your morning coffee, watch either the sunrise or sunset, listen to Christian radio and don’t forget to say grace.

Haven’t done a daily faith building? Then, do the 5-minute faith workout! Just find five minutes in your day and devote the whole five minutes to talking or listening to the Lord. Don’t go to bed until the 5 minutes have been given to the Lord.

# Stewardship

## PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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### SERVE

Every act of love and compassion has eternal value.

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## PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

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### JOIN & DO

You are part of a faith community. JOIN IN. Do what you enjoy.  
Come and be a part of your church. BELONG AND BE STRONG

Join a bible study:

BREW

Men's group

Women's Bible Study

Martha Circle

Rachel Circle

Priscilla Circle

Hannah Circle

Do quilting: You don't have to sew, come and cut & pin!

Serve communion

Join the choir or praise band... don't be shy

Find out what WELCA is all about, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 1:30

Council Chili Feed is February 23<sup>rd</sup>... don't like chili? Doesn't matter, hot dogs served, just come and have fellowship...  
bring your whole family and invite friends, fill your own table with your group. Mark your calendar and show up for free food and judge  
the competition.

You don't have to have a sweetheart in the traditional way...bring anyone you love dearly and support MST for their "love" dinner...

February 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. ...

Love kids! Who doesn't... don't wait to be asked, help in the noisy part of the church and spread your love of God  
with our young people

Sponsor our missionary

...look around there are endless possibilities within the walls of our church

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## PRAYER SERVICE

We will be offering a prayer service on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 -1:00. FLC church sanctuary.

If you haven't ever. attended a prayer service, this would be the time to try it.

I suggest you put your prayer requests on 3 x 5 cards. This will keep you focused.

Please arrive on time as we want to pray without interruptions.

Thank you.

## 2020 Camp Information is here!



Bible Camp - Retreat Center - Chapel



### EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!!!

Registrations received  
**before February 14, 2019**

will receive **\$40.00 off** of each registered program.

**\*\*Register campers by the grade they were in during the 2019-2020 school year**

There are multiple weeks to register your children for camp, and please choose the week that best suits your family. We invite and encourage you to sign your children up for the following week (we will be camping at the same time as Zion, Ostmark & Beckville);

### Week 7: July 26 - 31

Grades 1-4: Half Blast @ Shores of St. Andrew

Grades 2-5: Andy's Gang @ Shores of St. Andrew

Grades 5-7: Trailblazers @ Shores of St. Andrew

This is information for just week 7, check out the many other fun options for various grades! Want a brochure? Contact Sarah Jones or visit [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org) for more information.

What is Half Blast? Half Blast allows you to experience all of the fun of camp in a time frame that works for you! If you are not quite ready to leave home for a full week, this camp is a perfect option. Half Blast runs Sunday afternoon through Tuesday evening. Just like our full week campers, you will experience swimming, singing, worships, Bible studies, and lots of exploring and time to hang out!

# Youth Pages

## Pricing Information

Camp Program	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Half Blast	\$240	\$340	\$430
Andy's Gang Trailblazers Stargazers M.O.B.	\$480	\$675	\$865

### What does the pricing mean?

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries prioritizes making the camp experience affordable for families. Each year, through our camper ship program, we provide approximately \$30,000.00 in scholarship money. However, as the cost of camp has increased over time, our fees have not increased at the same rate. To help bridge the gap between the true value of camp and our actual fees, we are introducing a concept called "tiered" pricing.

### How does First Lutheran Help?

To help bridge the gap and cover the true cost of camping, First Lutheran will help offset the cost. More information to follow in upcoming newsletters

## Registration

Step 1: [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org)

**Sidenote: Not sure which camp is for you?** (on main page, select SUMMER CAMP)

Details regarding each camp per each grade range, read on! **Then** register for camp.

Step 2: Click on REGISTER FOR CAMP [fill each page as prompted]

**Sidenote:** You will be able to request a roommate, fill in appropriate screen.

Step 3: When you get to the PAYMENT SCREEN

Do **NOT** pay the entire balance at the time of registration

First Lutheran will be able to pay our portion as long as full payment has **not** been made

It is very important to select one of the options about the DEPOSIT ONLY final payment.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact Sarah Jones at 320.221.0055, sarahcejones@hotmail.com, or stop in and visit!





## LEAP Participation

Leap into participation this leap year

### Equipping Congregations Day

#### ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Congregation Members
- Council Officers
- Christian Educators
- Worship & Youth Leaders
- Pastors... Everyone!

#### Childcare Available!

Saturday, February 29, 2020

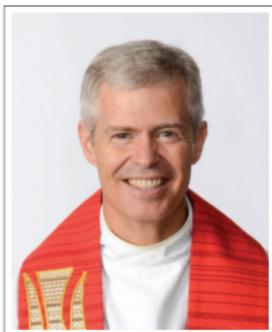
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Vinje Lutheran & Bethel Lutheran  
Willmar, MN

We will be using the buildings of both Vinje and Bethel Lutheran Churches in Willmar to accommodate up to 1000 registrants. Both locations will have the same program elements, the schedules will just be in a different order. The keynote speaker and workshop leaders will move between the two church buildings. Your congregation's event location will be confirmed after registering online.

#### Keynote Speaker:

**Pastor David J. Lose**, *Senior Pastor serving Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis*



#### Entering the Bible with Heart, Mind, and Soul

Lutherans eagerly affirm that Scripture is the Word of God. But what do we mean when we say that? Given the gamut of ways of reading Scripture — running from “it’s a collection of human wisdom” to “it’s inerrant and inspired” — what do Lutherans really believe? In what ways, that is, do we believe Scripture is true? How does it function as a useful guide and norm for our faith and life? What do we do with “difficult passages” that seems violent or exclusionary? Answering these questions is crucial if we are to allow our lives to be shaped by God’s Word and invite others into our faith communities anchored in the preaching and teaching of the Scriptures. **Join us for a day of learning, practical exercises, and discussion as we immerse ourselves in God’s living and dynamic word.**

#### Registration

##### The ECD registration looks a little different this year.

There will be no late registration fee. Fees will be calculated per person until you reach your congregation/parish cap fee. We are trying to be mindful of the amount of food we order for lunch. We always have an abundance of food left over. Getting an accurate count for registration will help.

Congregations or Parishes with total **average worship attendance of 100 or less**

- \$30 per person or a congregation/parish cap of \$90

Congregations or Parishes with total **average worship attendance of 101 or more**

- \$30 per person or a congregation/parish cap of \$180



**When you pay the congregation/parish cap fee  
you can bring as many people as you wish!**

*Just be sure to let us know how many!*

Register online at [swmnelca.org/event/2020-eed](http://swmnelca.org/event/2020-eed)

#### Workshops

##### Finalized workshops will be available online.

- The synod’s e-newsletter will be highlighting workshop descriptions!
- Attend **your choice of 3** out of 24 workshops.
- Just a few workshop titles:
  - The Rules of Improv Comedy for Everyday Ministry
  - From Candidacy to Call Committee: A Journey of Discernment
  - ELCA Youth Gathering
  - The Living, Breathing, Ever-changing Document: The Church Constitution
  - Hearing Voices: Creative Uses of Memory and Story in the Congregation
  - Farm and Rural Stress: Origins and Ways to Help
  - Elders Rising : “Ministry with Older Adults on the New Frontier of Aging”
  - Church Treasurer Alert! – Your job just became more difficult!



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God’s work. Our hands.

**Please let the church office know if you plan to attend.**

## MST & CHURCHWIDE

**MST USA 2021** will be selling Papa Murhpy's pizzas from Jan. 19 - Feb. 12. Pizzas will be delivered on Sunday, February 23 during coffee hour. Orders can be placed with any MST USA youth, or through the church office.

Thank you for your support of MST USA!



MST USA 2021 will be selling Butter Braids from Feb. 26 - March 18. Orders can be placed with any MST USA youth, or through the church office.

Thank you for your support of MST USA



**GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN**  
**ministries**  
9916 Lake Avenue South  
Spicer, Minnesota 56288

## 2019 Annual Meeting

February 11, 2020

Chrysalis House at Green Lake Bible Camp

- A noon meal will be followed by the business meeting. Please notify Kirsten of any food allergies or dietary needs at 320-796-2181 or [kpalan@gllm.org](mailto:kpalan@gllm.org)
- Each congregation is encouraged to send two voting delegates.
- The congregational report will be emailed to congregations in early January. You can find this at [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org) as well!
- Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be sent to congregations in late January.
- Exciting things are happening at camp! You won't want to miss this meeting!

# CHURCHWIDE



## 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 !**

### Part 1

5th graders - First Communion Class will be held Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel. They will be working on a project and parents are encouraged to attend.



### ***IN THE NEWS....***

Our young member Liam Kraushaar will be featured on WCCO news on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m. about awareness for Moebius Syndrome. This was also recently a feature article in the Independent Review

The Lost and Found box is getting full.

(There are a lot of winter coats on hangers also).

Please check the Narthex.  
Maybe you will find something you recognize. Thanks!!



**Offering Envelopes** are in Chilstrom Hall, please pick up your pack for 2020. Thank you

**Reminder: Lucia Breakfast Tea-Ring Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Thanks to those who have already donated.**

Please return items you have used back to the place that it came from. Lots of items in church are used or moved but returning it would be the best thing for the next person that needs it.  
Thank you!!

Dear friends,

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18*

In early November a five-day training of trainers (TOT) workshop in conflict resolution and peace building was held at the Lutheran Center in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop was a joint venture between the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) with 15 member churches in ten countries and expert trainers from the Ecumenical Church Leaders' Forum (ECLF) based in Zimbabwe.

Member churches were invited to each send two representatives. Interactive sessions included demystifying conflict, tools for analysing the manifestations and root causes of conflict, active listening and effective communication skills, understanding power, dialogue, mediation, the importance of inner healing and the nexus between peace and development. Daily sessions opened and closed with devotions. The LUCSA / ECLF training manual *Paths to Peace* was officially launched on Friday Nov. 8.



Many participants indicated that the “healing” session was one of the most important and transforming experiences at the workshop and acknowledged that further training would be helpful for them to be effective trainers of trainers.

As the ELCA we are seeking to be a visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in our communities and around the world. (*Goal Four of the ELCA's Strategic Directions 2025 document CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST*).

ELCA - Global Mission through Diakonia/World Hunger Funding is therefore supporting the collaborative work of LUCSA and ECLF in providing training and the sharing of resources in the region and on the African continent to promote conflict resolution and peacebuilding programs.

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

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson  
ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative - Southern Africa  
Johannesburg, November 4, 2019  
My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/>

# Churchwide

**Please keep our shut-in members  
in your prayers:**  
**Meeker Manor:**

Betty Jorgensen, Mary Klosner,  
Eleanor Worden

**Emmaus Place:**

Arlene Poirier

**Bethany Home:**

Stan Mortenson

**Gloria Dei:**

Mae Wertz, Willard Maahs, Lois Rusch,  
Janet Lundin

**Litchfield, in own home:**

Ardella Voigt, Viola Lenhard, Jutta Goodrich,  
Mae Brehmer

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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!!

## February Worship Schedule

### Sunday, February 2, 2020

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. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

### Wednesday February 5, 2020

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

### Sunday, February 9, 2020

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. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

### Wednesday February 12, 2020

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

### Sunday, February 16, 2020

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. Non-Traditional Worship w/Comm.

### Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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

### Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:30 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour  
9:30 a.m. Youth Lead Worship w/Stringers and  
w/Communion  
9:45 a.m. *NO Sunday School*  
10:30 a.m. Chili Cook-off/Silent Auction

### Wednesday, February 26, 2020 \*Ash Wednesday\*

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

## GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

On the **First** Sunday of the month,  
February 2020  
a second offering will be taken,  
where a globe will be passed.  
This month, the second  
offering will go to:  
**Feeding Children International**

## MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, February 18, 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.

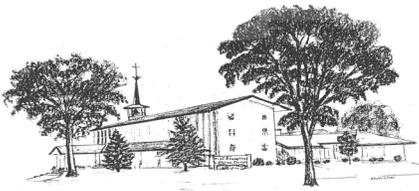
meets every **Tuesday morning at  
7:00 a.m.** with Pastor Tom for  
coffee and fellowship. Join us!!

To Receive the Newsletter by Email only - email your information to the church office at [firstoffice@hutchtel.net](mailto: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 **February 15th**

For the NEXT ISSUE: March 2020



# FIRST NEWS

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

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Organization  
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- 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**

LIKE us on Facebook!



**MST 2020 Valentine's Supper**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 5 p.m.**  
**\$12**

**Meal Includes: Chicken Kiev, Rice Pilaf,  
Salad, and Dessert**

**\*\*Entertainment provided\*\***

**Tickets available between  
church services  
starting January 19th,  
also available in the church office  
or from any MST 2020 member.**

**Come enjoy an evening of  
relaxation and fellowship**