

**We remember in our prayers the men and women serving in the military and this week's hospitalized members:** Kathy Koester, Betty Gunness, Milo Widmark, Bonnie Turner

**We express sympathy and God's love to** Nancy and Gary Ekdahl and family on the death of Nancy's father, Frank Steen, and to the friends of Lillian Miller - a memorial service is being planned for spring.

**The Radio Broadcast** is in memory of Bryan Garmon in recognition of his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday given by Alfred and Pauleen Garmon.

**Baptism:** Logan Mitchel Dehne, son of Joel and Melissa Dehne, is brought to the Lord in Holy Baptism during the 5:30 service this weekend. Logan's sponsors are Toby and Lisa Perkins, Jennifer Myers, and Jason and Danelle Dehne.

**MANY volunteers are needed for the Easter morning worship services on April 4<sup>th</sup>.** A sign up sheet is available at the Welcome Center. Please sign up as soon as possible if you can usher, greet, serve communion, read scripture, drive the mini bus, provide childcare in the nursery, or help at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Order forms for Honorariums or Memorials for the **Easter Garden** can be picked up at the Welcome Center or in the office. Orders must be received by Wednesday, March 31, to be published in the Easter bulletin. All plants are \$15.00.

**MARCH is First Lutheran's designated month to help support the Douglas County Food Shelf.** Monetary donations are the "best value." Checks should be made out to First Lutheran, with "food shelf" in the memo line, and can be dropped in the offering plate or at the Welcome Center, or you may use a pew envelope in the same way. Grocery carts will be near the East and West entries for dry, non-perishable donations. Thanks for helping feed the hungry and struggling people in our county!

Join us for **Lent Worship** each Wednesday at 12:10 and 6:30 PM, our theme: Facing Our Fears. **March 03: "If it's not one thing, it's another!"** Fear of violence, terror, war, natural disaster, storms, environmental security.

**A few helpers are still needed for Lenten Suppers.** Set up (3:30-5:00) – 3/10 two people needed, 3/24 two people needed. Clean up (5:00 until done) – 3/10 two people needed. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call Terri, Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

**Lent Suppers served** each Wednesday from 4:45-6:10 PM in the Fellowship Hall. A free will offering is appreciated. **Wild Rice Hotdish** is on the menu for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. **NEW DURING SUPPER: "Fear Factor" Games at 5:30 PM:** Three teams of 2 volunteers will construct a house built of mystery supplies. Will your house be built on sand and the walls come tumbling down OR will it be built on a rock as we face our fears of violence, terror, and storms? Join us on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.

My apologies to the people of the JACOB service group ... I didn't select the correct names on the computer for the LUKE service group and ended up mailing JACOB out to you a second time. Thanks to all of you who filled me in on this error so I could correct it and send the correct list out to the LUKE group. Karen

**Baby Sweaters Needed:** When a child is baptized we give a gift bag of "goodies" for the baby and resources for the parents to support the faith formation of their child. One of the gifts is a handmade sweater. At this time **we are out of sweaters.** If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and would be able to make baby sweaters we would greatly appreciate it. Sweaters can be from size 3 months to 1 year, in any color or style. If you need yarn or buttons please contact the office. Sweaters can be dropped off at the Welcome Center or the church office. Thank you for helping with this special ministry!

Something new we're trying... In an effort to reduce congestion around the coffee, cookies and donuts we've moved the cookies, donuts and lemonade to inside the Family Room. Coffee will still be outside the family Room. A trash and cup rack will be near both Family Room doorways as you exit. If you have any thoughts on how this move is working give them to any of the custodians, Tim, Bob, or Dianna. Thanks!

Would the owner(s) of a **gray Buick Lacrosse** check their back seat for a green insulated lunch bag with 2 beverage containers inside. It was accidentally placed in your car on Wednesday, February 24. Contact the church office or drop it off at the Welcome Center so we can get it back to the owners. Thank You!



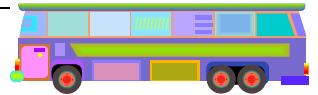
**BUCKET MINISTRY:** Each month we will support a different local nonprofit agency through prayer, promoting community awareness, and giving parishioners an opportunity to donate items to the agency. In **March** we will be supporting **“LifeRight OUTREACH.”** LifeRight serves the needs of those who are committed to making a possible life change, teaching them “to do the next right thing” using Christ-centered principles. For more information on this agency go to <http://liferightoutreach.org> ***The following items are needed and may be new or gently used, in good condition...*** Bibles, toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry soap, paper towels, garbage bags, dish soap, bowl cleaner, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, socks, white t-shirts, bedding for twin/single, and tools for on the job—hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, tool belts, etc. Simply drop your donations off in (or next to) the “bucket” located in the West narthex near the women’s restroom at church. Additional information about the agency can be found in the gold envelope above the bucket. Thank you for your support!

**Bridge:** Kay Rhodes won high bridge in February. We play again on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM. If interested in playing please call Linda Meyer t 763-3130 prior to the dates.

**Bookseekers** invites you to join the book discussion on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Family Room. The discussion will be on the book “Edgar Sawtelle” by David Wroblewski.

**Concordia Handbell Choir** “Tintinnabula” will perform a **Concert at First Lutheran on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.** All are welcome to come for an enjoyable evening of music from this advanced handbell choir. A free will offering will be received to help cover the choir’s travel expenses.

**ENCOUNTERING DIVERSE FAITH COMMUNITIES BUS TOUR...** You won’t want to miss this upcoming bus tour. On **Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** our group will immerse ourselves into three distinct faith communities. Our first stop will be the **Hindu Temple** of Minnesota in Maple Grove. It is the largest Hindu Temple in the state, and one of the largest in the whole country. Next we will go to **Beth El Synagogue** where we will have a tour and also enjoy a delicious **Kiddish Luncheon** that will be catered especially for our group. Our last stop will be the **Basilica of St. Mary** in Minneapolis, where we will have a tour and enjoy a brief organ recital.



The cost for the tour, lunch, and of course a coffee break is \$50.00. You can sign up at the Welcome Center or the church office. We ask that you pay for the trip when you sign up. The trip will depart at 7 AM and return about 5 PM. We hope you and your friends can join us!

An added bonus with this trip is an optional pre-trip discussion, Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. We will do a quick overview of each of these faith communities in preparation for the trip.

**Focus Book Club meets March 16 at 6:30 PM.** We will be discussing “When Morning Comes” by Cindy Woodsmall. All adults welcome to participate, we meet in the church Family Room:

**Faithfully Fit Forever Spring session begins on March 23** at 10:30 AM and runs thru May 11. All adults are welcome to this time of warm-up exercises, light aerobics,, cool down, weight training, and devotions. Persons of all fitness levels are welcome. These classes are led by our parish nurses, Arlyn and Val.

**Grief Support Group:** sponsored by Anderson Funeral Home at First Lutheran Tuesday afternoons March 23- April 27, 2010, 12:30-2:00 PM in the Family Room. There is no charge, please pre-register by calling AFH @ 763-5900.

Do you love kids? First Lutheran's Vacation Bible School is coming soon! We are looking for fun energetic adults to bring VBS to life for the kids! We have two separate weeks of VBS that you can be a part of: **Preschool VBS** June 7-11 from 9:00-11:30: Contact Sarah Overland or Jen Jabas to find out how you can help! **K-6 VBS** June 14-18 from 8:45-12:00: Contact Lisa Colen or Jen Jabas to find out how you can help! We can't wait to hear from you!



### **AREA EVENTS:**

**Care Packages for Our Troops ...** Blue Star Mothers welcomes donations that they will ship to our troops for Easter. The following **donations are suggested:** Easter Cards and Letters, money for postage, wet wipes (travel size) hand sanitizer, powdered drink mix packets (kool-aid, tea, crystal light, Gatorade) dry foods (jerky, granola bars, energy bars, slim jims, dried fruit, nuts, trail mix, M & M's, gum, cheese and cracker packs), travel size personal hygiene items (toothbrush and soap cases, toothbrushes, chap stick, eye drops, foot powder, lotion, shampoo, q-tips, Kleenex, cotton balls, toothpaste, floss, liquid and bar soap) sunblock (especially lip protection), CD's and DVD's, pudding packs, fruit packs, microwave popcorn. Donations can be dropped off at the National Guard Armory on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Broadway between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday thru Friday. The donation **DEADLINE** is: Wednesday, March 17. **If you know someone in the military overseas that would appreciate receiving a letter or package send their address to: BLUE STAR MOTHERS, PO BOX 1205, ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308**

A team from United Methodist Church of Alexandria is planning their annual trip to the **Rose Bud Indian Reservation** in South Dakota. They have **invited people from First Lutheran to join them**. The dates are July 11-16. The cost is \$250.00 per person. They have room for 5 more people. Students age 14 and up are welcome. There are many opportunities to help: cooking, sewing, yard work, carpentry, to name a few. You may contact Jocelyn Olson at [jocelyn@alexumc](mailto:jocelyn@alexumc) or Jenny Trumm at [jctrumm@charter.net](mailto:jctrumm@charter.net) for more information.

**LUTHER CREST**, for more info on any events at LC contact them at the following:

8231 Co. Road 11 NE, Alexandria, MN 56308 [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org) [lcabc@luthercrest.org](mailto:lcabc@luthercrest.org) 320-846-2431.

**(3-5 grade) TAKE'N'EAT RETREAT, April 9-10, 2010.** Holy Communion! Experience a Seder Meal and stay overnight with counselors into Saturday afternoon. Crafts and games will continue as you learn about the Feast of Victory we share with all Christians! Campers stay in a heated cabin with bunk beds and a bathroom. Pastors and youth workers are welcome at little or no charge. For more information, contact Luther Crest at 320-846-2431, or visit [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org).

**WE LOVE THE EARTH DAY, April 18, 2010.** In recognition of Earth Day, from 1:00-4:00 pm, this is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of spring and get your hands dirty at Luther Crest! Activities may include: Bird Count, Art Contest, Vendors, Know Your Farmer, Earth Movie Projected, Project Flying Wild and Project Wild Activities, Service Projects (Put up Bird Houses, Camp Sweep, Clean out Birdhouses, Buckthorn Removal), Master Gardeners, Plant a Pumpkin, Patch, Find Local Organic Food Providers. We are also hoping UMM will present on the value of prairie grasses, and to burn the camp's restored prairie. For more information, contact Luther Crest at 320-846-2431, or visit [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org).

6<sup>th</sup> graders will attend worship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month as part of Kingdom Kids "*Kids On The FLY*" which also enables them to receive Communion. 6<sup>th</sup> graders should meet back in the classroom after worship if the bell has not rung to discuss their experience, what they liked best, took away from the sermon, etc.?

- Please welcome them to worship when you see them, we are excited about their experience!