



Where faith and life meet

822 Douglas Street | Alexandria, MN 56308

Join us for worship!

Saturday Evening:
5:00pm Worship

Sunday Morning:
8:30/9:45am Traditional/Blended Worship
11:00am Praise Worship

Wednesday Evening:
6:15pm Worship

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
P A I D
Permit No. 89
Alexandria, MN

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

BUILDING FUND:

In memory of Mitchell Brazel, given by Kathryn Nyland, Ruth Amundson, Junnell Widmark, Marie Stellner, Joan Suckow, Stan & Mary Norlien, Greg & Val Trumm, Carol Feldmann, Dan & Linda Zismer

In memory of Arlene Bosek, given by Norman & Audriene Kvitek, Orin & Lois Lundberg

In memory of "Corky" Allan Cornell, given by John & Margaret Schroeder, Glee Domschot

In memory of Betty Berry, given by Bruce & Jodi Belseth, Dennis & Bonnie Miller, Stan & Mary Norlien, John & Margaret Schroeder, Joan Suckow

In memory of Harold Olson, given by Sharon Heinrich, Ralph Hornberger, Junnell Widmark, Katherine Dahl

In memory of Pearl Hoiu, given by Leroy & Wanda Karrow

In memory of Orville Botner, given by Mrs. G.A. Beito

In memory of Mary Lundstrom, given by DiAnn Ness, Dave & Teri Henrichs

RADIO FUND:

In memory of Doris Winger, given by Forrest & Fern Krogh

In memory of Irene Sprouls, given by Jan Kalina & Family

In memory of Arlene Bosek, given by the Bosek Family

In memory of Harold Olson, given by Gordon & Sharon Kalland

In memory of Mitchell Brazel, given by Chuck & Glory Tillmann, Ruth Nelson, Robert & Denise Steffenson

In memory of Robert & Doris Feldmann, given by Carol Feldmann

In honor of George Dyrstad's 91st Birthday, given by Sharon & Rick Olson

In honor of their 68th Wedding Anniversary, given by Ken & Audrey Tessmer

CHRISTMAS GIFT STORE:

In memory of Mitchell Brazel, given by Lisa Colen, Robert & Joanne Kensinger, Sharon Platto, Jola Amundsen

BIBLES:

In memory of Ruebin Olson, given by Eldon & Linda Pierce

PARISH HEALTH:

In memory of Betty Berry, given by John & Jan Lervick

FEED MY SHEEP:

In memory of Arlene Bosek, given by Carol Feldmann

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

In memory of Mitchell Brazel, given by Minton & Diane Larson

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS:

In memory of Arlene Bosek, given by John & Jan Lervick

In memory of Betty Berry, given by Rodney & Lee Helgensen

FOCUS



november

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2017

2017 LIVING NATIVITY

Come, journey to the manger. Volunteers are needed for this great community event.

The 2017 Living Nativity is just around the corner and we need your help! Join us on Saturday, December 2 from 4:30-7:30pm along Douglas Street. Walk through is from 4:30-5:00pm. Drive through is 5:00-7:30pm.

- Sign up sheets for actors/actresses and helpers will be available November 1 by the stairs going up to the office. Roles are available for any age and families are encouraged to sign up. Baked items are also needed

for lunch - please sign up.

- Can you help us out by sewing a few costumes? Patterns and fabric are available.
- Set-up begins Saturday morning at 9:00am. Sign up or just show up and we'll put you to work. New for 2017: Roman Soldiers will be directing traffic! The Camel Scene will be ready at 3:00pm for photos. Come early for this fun photo opportunity!

Calendar Spotlight

- Oct 30 through Nov 20 — By Heart Adult Study
- Nov 2 — Rick Steves' Film: *Luther at the Reformation*
- Nov 1 — Living Nativity Sign Up Begins
- Nov 4 & 5 — All Saints Weekend
- Nov 11 — Service Saturday
- Nov 12 — Hymn Festival
- Nov 11-15 — Mission Week
- Nov 22 — Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship (St. Mary's Catholic Church)
- Dec 2 — Living Nativity
- Dec 11 — Children's Christmas Store

PASTOR'S PEN

Reformation 500th Anniversary

This year is an important one for us as Lutherans. On October 31st, 500 years ago, a monk and professor by the name of Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's rediscovery of the gift of Grace that God gives freely and abundantly through Christ Jesus sparked a reformation of the Church. As we Lutherans look back at our rich heritage and celebrate 500 years of reformation, we remember also, that the Church continues to be reformed and renewed. We are constantly reminded that God is still reforming and reshaping us through his abundant Grace. There are many ways that you are invited to join us in celebration this month. There are opportunities to dive deeper into God's word and our tradition, to lift our voices together in song, and to learn more about our Lutheran history and heritage. Please join us as we celebrate God's reforming Grace!

Pastor Ben

REFORMATION CELEBRATIONS

Please join us for the following events as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation....

- By Heart Adult Study: Join us for an Adult Study centered on conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism. We will meet Monday mornings in the Family Room at 10:00am from October 30 through November 20.
- Hymn Festival: Join us on Sunday, November 12 at 4:00pm as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with the Festival of Hymns titled, "To God I Give My Melody – Hymns of Martin Luther." This free event will be led by David Cherwien and Susan Palo Cherwien and all are welcome to attend.
- Rick Steves' Film, *Luther and the Reformation*: We will watch his well received and very interesting film that tells the story of Martin Luther on Thursday, November 2 at 6:30pm in the Family Room. Rick Steves is a well known travel author and television personality who is also a Lutheran.
- Reformation Conversations with FLY/Confirmation on Wednesday, November 8.



HYMN FESTIVAL

Led by David Cherwien and Susan Palo Cherwien, this hymn festival will be Sunday, November 12 at 4:00pm at First Lutheran.

Join us as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with the Festival of Hymns titled, "To God I Give My Melody – Hymns of Martin Luther." All are welcome to attend this free event.

The Hymn Festival will be led by David Cherwien and Susan Palo Cherwien. David Cherwien is the Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir and a nationally known conductor, composer, and organist. He also serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for traditional liturgy and creative, high-quality music.

Susan Palo Cherwien is a free-lance writer and musician. She has written the text for 8 hymns in the Evangelical Book of Worship. The event will also feature the combined choirs from First Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, Shalom Lutheran, and Bethesda Lutheran churches. The program will consist of many of the hymns of Martin Luther, with reflections by Susan Palo Cherwien interspersed throughout.

If you are a musician and are interested in singing in the choir, please contact Mary Morken at 320.491.6234.

PARISH HEALTH

Look in the Parish Health section of the church library for the following new books...
When Your Soulmate Dies...a Guide to Healing Through Heroic Mourning by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. (To learn more about grief and loss visit www.centerforloss.com.)

Events...

Getting Through the Holidays: If you or someone you love is grieving the death of a loved one, you are encouraged to attend this evening of support. Insights and strategies from area professionals as well as other "holiday survivors" will be offered that can help ease the anxiety that the holidays can bring. Thursday, November 16 from 6:00-8:00pm at First Lutheran Church (lower level in Fellowship Hall - there is elevator access). There is no charge to attend and no pre-registration needed.

Support Groups in and Around the Alexandria Area...

•**Caregiver Support Group:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (November 14) at 2:00pm at First Lutheran Church.

•**Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group:** Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30pm at the Douglas County Public Works meeting room, 526 Willow Drive, Alexandria. **November meeting will be on the 30th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.** For info call Mary at 320.762.3047.

•**Alexandria Area Parkinson's Support Group:** Because of the holidays, this group will not meet again until January 24 (4th Wednesday). For more info contact Val Trumm, Parish Nurse at 320.762.2196.

•**NAMI (Nat'l Assoc of Mental Illness) Online Support Groups:** These "NAMI TeleConnection groups," are designed to support people who are underserved due to barriers, including geography. To participate you need a computer with a microphone (webcam optional), a tablet, or smart phone. One group is for young adults age 18-30 living with a mental illness, and the other is for parents who are living with a mental illness who have school-age children. For more info, contact Val Trumm, Parish Nurse at 320.762.2196. You may also contact Morgan at NAMI at 651.645.2948 x121 or mcaldwell@namimn.org.

Frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and remember to get your flu shot!

PRAYERS FOR THOSE RECENTLY BAPTIZED
Miles Ryan Carlson

PRAYERS FOR THOSE RECENTLY MARRIED
Christopher Koudela and Jill Cihlar

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN
We express sympathy and God's love to the family and friends of:
Mitchell Brazel
Olive Leland

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

THANK YOU First Lutheran Church from the bottom of our little (but huge) Community Preschool hearts. On Wednesday, October 11th, with the help of a Thrivent Action Plan, Community Preschool was able to host a Wednesday night meal. We raised over \$500 to help purchase the fencing needed to completely fence in the outdoor playground. We are excited that our preschoolers, the church children and the neighborhood kids will have a safe place to play outside without fears of the traffic in the parking lot. By fencing in the playground, our preschool will meet the requirements from the MN Department of Human Services and will give us the opportunity to provide after school care for our afternoon preschool class. We have found that transportation is a difficult issue and keeps families from registering for private preschool and we would like to alleviate the problem.

Thank you so much for your support,
Melisa Schueler, Kelli Risnes, Helen Maier, Angie Carstensen



DEEP AND WIDE CELEBRATIONS

Cambodia Big Build

Over the past 20 years members of First Lutheran have partnered with Habitat for Humanity to make home ownership a possibility for families in Douglas County. Keeping with that tradition Greg Tvrdik, Steve Heseltine, and Mark Bergerson, and Nancy Doebbert feel called to expand the reach of First Lutheran Church globally by joining

Habitat for Humanity on an international build in Battambang Province, Cambodia. This build is happening as a partnership with Habitat, Thrivent, and the Cambodian government. On Tuesday, November 7 the nine members of the Douglas County team will depart. Please keep them in your prayers as they adventure Deep and Wide into the world.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dessert and coffee will be served Thursday, November 2 at 1:00pm for the WELCA meeting. Jen Jabas will present "Making a Local Impact". Bring your annual "thank-offering" and a friend.
- Feed My Sheep is a ministry support for individuals and families and continues to evolve through the volunteer work of our FLC congregation. Past projects include; meals to those experiencing food insecurity, district 206 Elementary Back Pack Attack Project, bag Lunches for United Way Mobile Food Drop, raised bed gardens, Cooking Matters classes, House Keys Welcome Baskets, and Nurtured Heart training meals. We invite you to join us for our planning meeting on Monday, November 13 at 9:00am. For more information call Kathy at 320.762.2140.
- Bookseekers: We just finished reading Can't Wait to Get to Heaven by Fannie Flagg, author of Fried Green Tomatoes. This is a light, funny and entertaining book about life in her small southern town of Elmwood Springs. Eighty-something Elner Shimfissle falls off a ladder and lands in an emergency room, vacillating between this world and the next. The story focuses around the next several days where we meet and get to know her various quirky friends. Meanwhile, Elner herself embarks on a most unusual journey - to heaven! Or did she? The book is described as much a mystery as a comedy; it's left up to the reader to decide. The next book we'll be reading is Cover of Snow by Jenny Milchman and we will meet on November 13 at Carolyn Aarsvold's home.
- St John's Christmas Choir Concert: December 2 at 2:00 pm. This event includes St John's Men's Choir, St John's Boys Choir, and St Ben's Women Choir. Sign up and pay at Welcome Center. Bus leaves the church parking lot at 12:30 pm (come early to fill out emergency form). Ticket Cost is \$50 (NO REFUNDS) and includes bus transportation, concert ticket, and meal after concert (in Melrose). The deadline for sign up is November 9th (limited seating). Please contact Helen Johnsrud at shjohnsr@runestone.net with questions.
- The Christmas Store will take place from 8am to 11am on Sunday, December 10th.
- The Christmas Store is an opportunity for the children of FLC to purchase gifts for their family for Christmas. Wrapping is included! The Children's Christmas store is accepting your new or gently used donations through December 9th. Please leave donations in the bins located in the East Narthex or by the Welcome Center. (We can no longer accept stuffed animals.)

Building Update

Over the last few months the Building Committee, staff and various committees and boards made up of members have met with our architect to define the functionality and design of the building plans.

On Monday, October 16 the Alexandria Planning Commission met and unanimously approved First Lutheran's Conditional Use application requesting to allow construction of the first phase of our new church home. On Monday, October 23 our approval plan was presented to the City Council who also gave us the green light by unanimous vote.

On October 23 the Building Committee interviewed three construction companies to work on our behalf. Two local companies and one regional company took part in the interview process. The next step is to bring a recommendation to the Vision Team and the congregation.

If you have interest in or know of anyone that would like to be part of the building or bid process, please contact Brian Berg at Zerr/Berg Architects (bberg@zbarch.com).

Building Finances Update:
Pledged to, "From the Ground Up Campaign": \$3,555,302
Number of Households Pledged: 324
Received to date: \$761,653
Total Campaign Funds and investments to date: \$3,409,549

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 11 from 9:00-11:30am *Service Saturday*

Service Saturday is a day for all of us at First to grow deeper in relationship with one another, share our gifts, or learn a new skill. You are invited to fill out registration form (found in your weekly bulletins) and return it ahead of time to reserve a spot in a particular class. Or, you may also just come on Saturday, November 11 and choose a session to attend that morning. Please see weekly bulletin insert for class offering information.

Wednesday, November 22 at 6:00pm *Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship*

Once again we join the members of Calvary and St. Mary's for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Worship. We come together to set aside this time to celebrate what we have in common, to sing praise, and to give thanks to God. The service will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 22 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Free will offering will be given to the Douglas County Food Shelf. All designated offerings will be directed back to their church. Coffee and refreshments will be served following the service. Blessing and safe travels to you this thanksgiving.

Mondays, October 30 — November 20 at 6:00pm *By Heart Adult Study*

Join us for an Adult Study centered on conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism. We will meet Monday mornings in the family room at 10:00am from October 30 through November 20.

Saturday, Nov 11 — Wednesday, Nov 15 *Mission Week*

We as a church are always about God's mission in the world. That is reflected in our individual, as well as our collective lives at First Lutheran. It is who we are, and it is lived out in so many different ways.

As we lift up our shared mission the week of November 11th, 12th, and 15th, we will focus on God's calling in each of our lives to be salt and light, and to have an influence on those around us.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

HOUSTON 2018 (SR FLY 9TH - 12TH GRADES)
When: June 25-July 3, 2018
Where: Houston, TX
Cost: \$450/person
*Registration closed. Wait list available.

SR FLY CHRISTMAS PARTY
When: December 10
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Where: Kim's House

NO PROGRAMMING:
*Sunday, November 19 for SR FLY only
*Wednesday, November 22
*Sunday, November 26

- KICK JR and FLY packed college care kits on October 25. Members helped fill up our kits with all kinds of yummy treats for the students. Our kids and youth put their special touch on the packages by making cards, stuffing uplifting scripture and fun little trinkets. We're living out our theme, Deep and Wide, in Childrens and Youth Ministry!
- On November 1 our kids and youth will be having a Reformation party! We'll celebrate the 500th year anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation with a fun video and crazy games like a knight relay, mighty fortress tower building and a diet of worms! Here we stand!
- Our youth will be attending Nadia Bolz-Weber on Wednesday, November 1 at 6:00pm at AAHS.

ATTENTION 3RD-5TH GRADE PARENTS
Does your child want a part in the Christmas program? Let us know if you are interested!

- 6-8 Lead Roles
- Singing
- Speaking Parts
- Visual Aids
- Rhythm

IMPORTANT! If you sign up to receive a part attendance is required on both Saturday rehearsals on December 2 and 9.

Randi Rach:
randi.rach@firstlutheranalexandria.com

Paula Odland: 320.760.5917
paula.odland@firstlutheranalexandria.com

Church: 320.762.2196

REHEARSALS
Every Sunday and Wednesday during Kingdom Kids, KICK, and KICK JR.

When: Saturday, December 2
Time: 8:30-10:00am
Who: 3rd through 5th grades
***Speaking lines only

When: Saturday, December 9
Time: 8:30-10:00am
Who: 1st through 5th grades

PROGRAMS
Color of Christmas
When: Sunday, December 10
Time: During the 11:00am worship service
Who: 3 year olds through kindergarten

No Strings Christmas
When: Sunday, December 10
Time: 2:00pm
Who: 1st through 5th grades

Wednesday Night Worship: If your weekend is busy or you are out of town, this is a great alternative for worship. Feel free to join us for supper at 4:45-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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|-------|----------------------------|-------|------------------|
| 11/1 | Pancakes and Eggs | 11/22 | NO MEAL |
| 11/8 | Spaghetti | 11/29 | Baked Potato Bar |
| 11/15 | Taco in a Bag / Taco Salad | | |