



the Spire

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018 SPIRE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE SPIRE

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN 55066
Phone: (651)388-9311
office@firstlutheranrw.com
www.firstlutheranrw.com

FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

Arthur Sharot: Senior Pastor
ext. 15 / arte42@gmail.com

Marilee Anderson: Director of Music
ext. 19 / marilee.a.anderson@gmail.com

Tina Goeman: Director of Children, Youth & Family
ext. 14 / tina@firstlutheranrw.com

Bookkeeper, PT
ext. 11/ bookkeeper@firstlutheranrw.com

Laurel Stinson: Administrative Assistant
ext. 10 / office@firstlutheranrw.com

Syl Andersen: Custodian, PT
H: 651/388-7453 C: 651-380-8663

Brian Fladhammer: Maintenance, PT
H: 651/388-2675

2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kathy Emery - President/Personnel
Alyson Kloeckner - Secretary/Youth & Family/
Education/Finance/Personel
Joe Rice - Vice President/Finance/Personel
Roy Harley - Treasurer
Wendy Erickson - Life and Growth
John Laidlaw - Stewardship/Education
Cyd Mark- Education/ Worship
Tom Sasse - Worship
Matt Stinson -Stewardship
Mary Weberg - Christian Action
Mark Jaeger - Property

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
10:45 a.m. Sunday School (*Sept- May*)

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Reset Wednesday
5:00 p.m. Dinner served in fellowship hall
5:30 p.m. Worship in the fellowship hall
6:00 p.m. Church School

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Worship in the Norelius Chapel

Congregational meeting December 2 following worship to vote on roof contract and discuss the budget for the upcoming year.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Call the church office at 651.388.9311 or e-mail your prayer requests to office@firstlutheranrw.com. If you want a pastoral visit or would like to be included on the prayer list or prayer chain, please call the church office or Pat Swanson, 651-388-7032.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Kaitlynn Kukuska, Mike Charbonneau, Crystal Swanson, Marcia Krause, Jenny Edmonds, Donna Prescher, Theresa Nash, Bob Swanson, Lorrie Anderson, Joann Hosking, Dick, Janet Larson, Patrick Ostrowski, Gerald Lein, Beverly Lein, Horst Radtke, Sheryl Jablonski Krause, Carol Peterson, John Bonde, Carol Merckling, John Heinsch, Kandis Mendez, Juventino Mendez, Adair Palmatier, DJ and Dennis Johnson, Eleanor Peterson, Abby Ritter, Bob Weir, Lois Ziller, Dave Erickson, Arlan Johnson, Melinda Helmer, Carl Meyer

FROM THE PASTOR

FIRST THOUGHTS

Luke 1:26-56

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

Luke 1:30-34 NRSV

The Advent season is upon us and we are preparing to celebrate Christmas. As we look at this reading called “the Annunciation” we see that as Mary is told of the birth of her son she is confused first of all because this messenger of God is telling her that she is going to have a baby when she hasn’t been with a man in that way; plus, this baby is going to be a king sitting on David’s throne. Not only must she be wondering how can this happen but what exactly does it mean?

We have a lot in common with Mary in that respect. Advent tells us Christmas is coming. Ok. We will celebrate Jesus’ birth and we will look forward to him coming again. Alright. But what exactly does it mean?

We know that Jesus, God coming to earth to be with us in human form shows us God’s love and care for us and the whole world. Ok. Like Mary we know of the great things God has done not only in the Bible but in our lives. Alright. But what does it mean exactly in 2018, in the United States, in Red Wing, in our lives today?

In our reading vs 46-55 Mary sings a song of praise lifting up great things God had done for her and her people. We will sing songs and hymns and carols doing the same. But as the song says, “Mary did you know?” Mary did you know all the things Jesus would do, everything that would happen to him and all that it would mean for her and the world? I think not. Do we? I think not.

Even though we don’t know everything and understand even less, let us keep faith and celebrate the wonderful gift of Christmas. And let us not forget to ponder what it could mean and put that into action.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Arte

60 ESSENTIAL READINGS

12/1	Judges 2	Israel’s Disobedience
12/2	Sunday	
12/3	Judges 3	Othniel / Ehud
12/4	Judges 4	Deborah & Barak
12/5	Judges 5	Song of Deborah
12/6	Judges 6	Midianites & Gideon
12/7	Judges 7	Gideon
12/8	Judges 8	Gideon
12/9	Sunday	
12/10	Judges 9	Abimelech
12/11	Judges 10	Tola and Jair
12/12	Judges 11	Jephthah
12/13	Judges 12	Intertribal Dissension
12/14	Judges 13	Birth of Samson
12/15	Judges 14	Samson’s marriage
12/16	Sunday	
12/17	Judges 15	Samson Defeats Philistines
12/18	Judges 16	Samson and Dehilah
12/19	Judges 17	Micah and the Levite
12/20	Judges 18	Migration of Dan
12/21	Luke 1:26-56	The Annunciation
12/22	Matthew 2:1-12	The Magi
12/23	Sunday	
12/24	Luke 2:1-20	Birth of Jesus
12/25	Christmas	
12/26	Judges 19	The Levite’s Concubine
12/27	Judges 20	Other Tribes Attack Benjamin
12/28	Judges 21	Benjamin saved from extinction
12/29	Ruth 1	Naomi and her daughters-in-law
12/30	Sunday	
12/31	Ruth 2	Ruth meets Boaz

FUNERALS

Our sympathy and prayers go out to those mourning the loss of a loved one.

Ruth Jung, who died November 11, 2018.

A funeral service was held at First Lutheran Church, November 15th.

Thank you to Judie Bowes for Lighting the Spire in November and Janice Larson for Lighting the Spire in December

Before the Annual Meeting in January, we need two more Council Members (to join the best ever council - in the President's opinion), an Auditing Committee of three members, six volunteers for our Nominating Committee and three people willing to attend the Synod Convention on May 31 and June 1. Please consider prayerfully which of these might be a good fit for your service to First Lutheran Church.

Christmas Craft Night Dec 19th.

We are looking for volunteers to lead a craft or activity for our annual Craft Night Family Fun night this year. You can bring your own idea or activity, or we can supply something for you to lead. Contact Tina to volunteer to be part of this fun night! tina@firstlutheranrw.com

Joy in Doing

Volunteers are needed to serve communion at all three christmas services. Speak to Cheri Roberts to sign up.

Buy your holiday Lefse from the cooking club!
Available now for \$5.00!

Christmas Project Volunteers Wanted

Tuesday 12-18 4:30pm check in gifts
Saturday 12-22 9:00am organize family pick up
If you would like to help, or have questions please call Mary Weberg at 651-380-8332

Cookies Needed for Christmas project. 10 people to bring 2 dozen cookies each. Contact Yo Baby if you can help. 388-3204.

Life can get crazy. We can lose our way very quickly when we leave the building after worship. Why not reset and refocus yourself on Jesus and his mission in the middle of the week. Starting in October we are going to meet on Wednesday's at noon. We will start with some "Mindful movements". These are slow stretching movements, easily adaptable for anyone. The idea is to be mindful of your body. Next we will spend some time in silent prayer followed by a pray walk around the block, praying for our community and the world. Again you can adapt to your own situation. This will take @ 30 minutes. People can remain after if they wish to discuss the experience or anything else. This will be non political, very ecumenical and welcoming since we won't be talking about any doctrine. We won't be talking. The hope is that this will help us to focus on Jesus and his mission.



Thank you to all who participated in the Crop Walk this year

-Crop Walk recieved 7,000 donations from 7 participating churches

- more than \$815 was donated by members of our congregation, making us number 3 in giving

- 15 people participated in the walk on behalf of First Lutheran, making us number 2 in walkers

Congratulations Confirmands!

November 4 2018

Carl Meyer, Emily Ahdunko, Gage Knutson, Joshua Kolby, Ian Nibbe, Briana Novak, Sarah Wiederich

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18TH

Please welcome our new members Rick and Dorothy Jacobson



New Members Are Joining

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

First Lutheran Church Minutes 11/13/18

Members Present: Matt Stinson, Tom Sasse, Roy Harley, Kathy Emery, Mary Weberg, Joe Rice, Cyd Mark, Wendy Erickson John Laidlaw

Staff Present: Pastor Arte, Tina Goeman

Call to order by President Kathy Emery at: 6:35

Devotions – Cyd Mark

Approval of Agenda – Matt moved to approve agenda, Wendy Erickson Seconded, Motion carries.

Secretary's Report – Cyd Mark moved to approve the secretary's report, John Laidlaw seconded, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report –

- o Insurance check is in the bank
- o Staff retirement funds are not up to date
- o IRS is all paid off.
- o Finance Team recommends changes to clean up Revolving Accounts: Move \$411 from Other Lunches/Supper account to Wed Night Meals account to zero it out and remove this line item. Move \$317 from Hospitalization ins. Account and \$74 from Parish Nurse account to cover the Flowers Christmas/Easter account, to zero it out and remove the Hospitalization account and Flowers Christmas/Easter account line items. Then take the remaining Parish Nurse accounts \$676 and the Special Gift accounts \$5,739 and move the money to Thrivent Reserve which removes the Parish Nurse account and the Special Gift account line items.

o John Laidlaw moved to accept the finance teams recommendation. Seconded by Tom Sasse, motion carries

Please fill out the Reimbursement form that's in the Church office for all bills and refunds for church related expenses.

2019 preliminary Budget is being reviewed and will be presented at the Dec 2 Congregational Meeting

Staff Reports

- Pastor Arte
- Tina
- Marilee

Ministry Team Reports

Worship and Music

- o Could use more ushers.
- o Christmas Decorations will be going up sometime after Thanksgiving and before Dec. 2. More volunteers are needed to help.
- o There was discussion about holding a fund raiser next fall (a turkey dinner – possibly) for the Music Department and the roof.
- o There was discussion of the possibility of a Country-Western Worship Service

Property

- o Talked about the Roof, repairing the wall by the stairs for the old Food Shelf entrance, new handicap bathroom door is installed, Red Wing Lawncare will shovel and salt church property
- Life and Growth
- o Everything has been turned in for the Church Directories, so now we are just waiting for them to be printed and delivered.
 - o The committee is looking toward putting together a welcome bag for new members.

Education/Youth

- o The Christmas Program will be “A Mouse's Tale
- o The three Lutheran Churches are looking forward to planning a Christmas Party for the Youth Christian Action
- o On November 3, 23 members of FLC worked at “Feed My Starving Children” and with others, put together 56,000 meals in 2 hours.
- o We are looking into a program called “Rejoining Spirit” which provides a worship service for handicapped people.
- o The Christmas Project will kick off on Nov. 17. On the 27 the “Toys for Tots” gifts will be wrapped and December 18 will be the day when all gifts for families will be returned to the church. There are fewer families this year, so some ornaments may be hung on the trees for donations for “Feed My Starving Children,” and December 22 will be pick up and delivery day.

Stewardship

- o 78 pledges are in, so far for a total of 207,402.00. We are hoping to get at least 100,000.00 more in as the deadline approaches.
- o New electronic pledges are working well.

o Laurel has placed the QR code cards in the pews so people can give right there in church.

Personnel

o New Employee Guidelines were approved and will be given to all employees.

Old Business

Emergency Preparedness Committee

o Joe is trying to get some dates set. Concerns that this might have to be pushed back because of scheduling.

o It was suggested that we try to put together something even if we can't have the Assistant Fire Marshall present and have him do his part at a later date.

o We have a copy of the Childcare Emergency Plan for the Daycare in our Building. Perhaps we can use that as a guideline for our plans.

Audit Committee

o Still no volunteers

New Business

Bookkeeper Update

o There were interviews last week and we had two very good candidates. One was selected and her references were checked and were very good. We will now do a background check and hire her contingent on the results.

Any other business?

Office Table and Chairs

o Laurel would like to have a table and chairs in the office area for people who need a space to work when other areas of the church are busy. It also would be helpful for her when doing mailings. She found a table and chairs in the church, but it was discussed that the "retro look" did not fit in well with the rest of the decor. Mary Weberg said she had an old drop-leaf table that might fit in better. She will do some measuring and send a picture to see what we think. We still need to address the issue of chairs.

The Daycare lease needs to be updated

o Kathy has asked Mark Jaeger to take this on and suggested he contact Al Smith who has worked on this in the past.

Adjourned at 7:58

Minutes compiled by Kathy Emery and Joe Rice in absence of secretary. Minutes combined and submitted by Secretary Aly Kloeckner

October 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2018

Thank you for your tithes and offerings

OPERATING INCOME	Oct Actual	Budgeted Oct	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Fund Pledges	28,952	31,833	316,910	318,330
Mission Support	25	42	320	420
Other Income	2,288	3,818	46,308	44,224
Total Income	31,265	35,693	363,538	362,974
OPERATING EXPENSES	Oct Actual	Budgeted Oct	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted
General Operating Expenses	28,492	36,543	355,295	370,125
ELCA Benevolence	3,250	2,167	16,501	21,670
Other Outside Giving	1,436	1,324	11,682	13,243
Total Expenses	33,178	40,034	383,478	405,038
Income vs. Expenses	-\$1,913.00	-\$4,341.00	-\$19,940.00	-\$42,064.00
Beginning Cash Balance (1/1/18)	\$ 113,723.84			
Ending Cash Balance (10/31/18)	\$ 111,842.55			

December "JOY IN DOING"

COMMUNION

2 Kay Carlson, Peggy Crownhart, Wendy Ehlers
9 Janet Erickson, Wendy Erickson, Jean Fjelsted
16 Jill Fauchald, Nils and Ellis Fauchald
24 TBD
30 Colin and Karen Graves, Maureen Kees

LECTOR

2 David Olson
9 Bill Raw
16 Karen Strusz
23 Christmas Pajeant/Kathy Emery
24 TBD
30 Jill Fauchald

GREETERS

2 Bob and Bonnie Kubik
9 John and Julie Laidlaw
16 Larry and Linda Larson
23 Terry and Cindy Lohman
24 TBD
30 Dale and Lynn Lund

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

2 Colin and Karen Graves
9 Paula Jilk, Phylis Kullberg
16 Ken and Margaret Johnson
23 Linda Lindell, Diane Ringeisen
30 Ed and Rae Santelman

SATURDAY ASSISTANT

1 Cheri Roberts, Sandy Sharot
8 Mike and Sue Heller
15 Barry and Jean Dosdall
22 Larry and Jean Wiederich
29 Tricia Harris

ACOLYTE AND CLEAN-UP

2 Eli Caves and family
9 Bryley Miller and family
16 Luke Kinneman and family
23 Scott Langhans and family
24 3pm TBD
24 4:30pm Mary Ellen Robertson
24 10:00pm TBD
30 Courtney Roberts and family

TREATS

2 Tammy Dodge, Colin and Karen Graves, Gary and Kay Erickson, Janet Erickson
9 Paula Jilk, Terry Evenson, Nils and Ellis Fauchald, Clark and Jean Fjelsted
16 Candy Fleck, Bernadette Galvin, Carol Graske, Cheryl Guthrie
23 Linda Lindell, Diane Ringeisen, Jim and Kay Halvorsen, Roy and Karol Harley
30 Ed and Rae Santelman, Mike and Sue Heller, Barb Jablonski, Mark and Mary Jaeger

BREW CREW

2 Charles and Carol Charbonneau
9 Bill and Barb Raw
16 Dick and Nancy Houghton
23 Murph and Lois Berg
30 Clark and Jean Fjelsted

WEDNESDAY SERVERS AND CLEAN-UP

5 Zach Taylor and family
12 Hayden Benson and family
19 Brook Strusz and family

USHERS

Keith Larson (Chair)
Clark & Jean Fjelsted
Terry & Cindy Lohman
Dale Lund
Darrell & Barb Nelson
Nancy Paasch
Norm Wille

IMAGINE HAVING YOU

...as a member
of First Lutheran's
Music Program
and how AWESOME
that would be!!!
Come and Join us

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:30 pm Worship Music – Jean Fjelsted
2 9:30am Worship Eucharistic Ministers 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School	3 3:30pm Piano lessons 5:00pm Learning Circle Board 6:00pm Cub Scouts - Lions 7:00pm Grief Share 7:00pm Boy Scouts troop 32	4 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 3:30pm Piano lessons 4:00pm Property team 4:30pm Praise team 5:00pm Executive 7:00pm Team Meetings	5 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset 4:15pm Kid's Rock 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Joy Ringers 6pm Church School 7:00pm Choir	6 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs	7 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs	8 5:30 pm Worship Music – Sue Heller
9 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School 7:00pm Women and Wine - Wendy Ehlers	10 3:30pm Piano lessons 7:00pm Boy Scouts troop 32 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	11 10:00am Hospice 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 3:30pm Piano lessons 4:00pm Finance 6:30pm Council Meeting	12 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Reset 1:00pm Quilting 4:15pm Kid's Rock 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Joy Ringers 6pm Church School 7:00pm Choir	13 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs 6:00pm Learning Circle Christmas Program	14 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	15 2:00 pm Wedding 5:30 pm Worship Music – Marilee Anderson
16 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Church School	17 3:30pm Piano lessons 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts troop 32 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	18 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Text Study 2:00pm Mindfulness 3:30pm Piano lessons 4:30pm Christmas project 7:00pm Eve	19 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Martha 10:00am Mary 12:00pm Reset 4:15pm Kid's Rock 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm Worship 5:45pm Joy Ringers 6pm Craft Night 7:00pm Choir	20	21	22 9:00 am Christmas Pageant practice 9:00 am Christmas project pick up 5:30 pm Worship Music – Becky Swanson
23 9:30am Worship Christmas Pageant 10:30am Fellowship	24 3:00pm Worship 4:30pm Worship 10:00pm Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 5:00pm Bells of the Bluffs	28	29 5:30 pm Worship Music – Marilee Anderson

First Lutheran Church

615 West 5th Street
Red Wing MN 55066
651.388.9311

Address Service Requested

December 2018

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 311
Red Wing MN
55066

THANK YOU

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, tis the season



to count your blessings. I am counting my blessings and all of you of First Lutheran are a huge part of it.

Thank you so much for all of your affirmation on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. It was heart warming. I hope you know that

Sandy and I appreciate you as well. We also hope you had a thankful thanksgiving and have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

God bless you all,

Pastor Arte