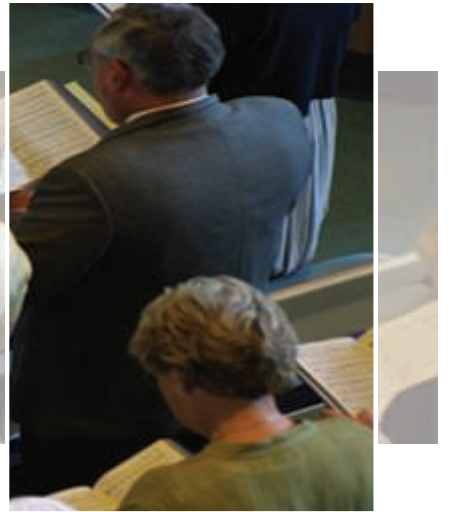


FIRST LUTHERAN

# Visitor

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## From the Pastor

**“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” John 1: 5**

In the evenings I used to walk out into the prairies from my home on the edge of another city many miles and a lifetime away from here. It was my time to reflect, exercise, and ‘pray with my feet’ as one colleague used to say. There was a regular route that took me out through the fields, past the ‘light pollution’ of the city, and over a hill to where I could see only two things; land and sky. The sun would set over the mountains to my back and the deep purple of the night would rise like a vapor in the east until it covered me.

We don’t much know ‘darkness’ in the cities anymore. From street lights to head lights we live well-lighted lives. Comforting though it certainly is, it can be a bit deceiving. For all the things this kind of light allows us to see, we can miss the light that matters. John the Gospel writer knew real darkness. He knew it in the form of human greed and hunger for power at any cost. And he knew the deepest dark of all; darkness made of the deception that tells you that the future is only a darker version of the past; that the next step you take will be worse than the last. Such darkness freezes the human heart and convinces us that we can neither go forward or retreat, only stand and shiver and weep.

But in that deep dark John saw a light. The coming of Jesus came at the worst of times so it could become the best of times.

In an odd irony, it was the darkness itself that gave the light of Jesus its shine. John looked beyond the ‘man-made’ lights of politics and economics, through the artificial shine of finance and power, and realized they merely covered the darkness. It would take a special light to shine through.

In these darker times, when promises of ever-expanding wealth lose their luster, we can become too familiar with darkness. It can seep into our souls and dominate our energies. But Jesus shines through. His light may seem small, and dimmer than the garish lights we’ve become used to, but it shines with a deeper light that comes from a great distance. It is the light that endures when other lights fail.

On my walks in the dusk, so long ago, I would lie in the fields on my back and watch stars appear in the fields above. Light appearing in darkness was no metaphor to me then. I would allow the darkness it’s due, but I marveled at the light and made an effort to appreciate each small point of it as a hope waiting for it’s time.

As Jesus is revealed to you this Epiphany season, may the darkest skies of your lives be filled with fields of stars.

*Pastor Dave*

## Our Mission Statement

**We are called to awaken the Spirit of Christ...**

*In ourselves, through a commitment to a life of learning, worship, and prayer.*

*In our community, by dedication to the renewal of our family, our neighbors, and the disenfranchised, by the practice of our faith through acts of justice, mercy, and kindness.*

*In our world, by nurture of compassionate partnership with diverse cultures to strengthen our common faith, for the enrichment of all people in Christ Jesus.*

# SOUPER MUSIC SUNDAY IS JANUARY 25TH

Musical guests will be the terrific Barbary Coast Dixieland Band!

This year, we want to return to the original emphasis of caring for the hungry in our neighborhood and in the world on this Souper Sunday. At this time rising food costs are affecting us all, but the greatest effect is on the poorest people.

Worldwide, a child dies every 5 seconds because of not enough to eat. Getting nutritious food, most important for children under 2 years old, is even more difficult as prices rise for basic foods like rice. Many families in poor countries spend as much as 50 to 70 percent of their income on food.

Souper Sunday Bean Soup mix will be available for purchase. All proceeds will be split evenly between ELCA World Hunger Appeal and NEAR food shelf. Extra donations are also gladly accepted! So enjoy a delicious, nutritious, economical meal and share generously with the hungry from our relative abundance!

**Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the music of Barbary Coast Dixieland Band and help care for the hungry on Souper Music Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>!**



BARBARY COAST DIXIELAND SHOW BAND



## Worship In January

Jan. 4 Second Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am Worship—Holy Communion  
9:30 am Worship—Holy Communion

Jan. 11 Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 am Worship  
9:30 am Worship  
11:00 am W. African Worship

Jan. 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 am Worship—Holy Communion  
9:30 am Worship—Holy Communion

Jan. 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Souper Music Sunday with the Barbary Coast Dixieland Band  
8:00 am Worship  
9:30 am Worship

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 25

The meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. (immediately following the 9:30 Souper Music Sunday worship).

All First Lutheran members are urged to attend this important meeting. We will vote on the Mission and Ministry Budget for 2009.

See page 4 for details.



## WHAT'S ON THE ALTAR?

- a continuing series on the parts of worship by the Altar Guild

### CROSS/CRUCIFIX

A single large cross or crucifix is usually placed near or on the altar for worship services, though its design and placement may take various forms. The most historic and traditional form in liturgical usage is the **processional cross, which has been used since the fourth century; "fixed" altar crosses date only from the seventeenth century and are not suited to flexible usage. Because the cross or crucifix symbolizes Christ's death and resurrection for our redemption, it should be prominent in size and of quality design and construction. A fixed cross may also be suspended from the ceiling above the altar or placed on the wall behind the altar.**

### ALTAR CANDLES

Lighted candles are among the oldest ornaments of worship, as fire has **long been seen as a sign of God's presence. In ancient times candles provided light for reading, but today they usually have only symbolic value. In their most basic sense, candles are a visual reminder of Christ as the light of the world (John 8:12; 12:46).**

At least two white candles are usually placed on the altar. Electric or battery-powered "**candles**" are not authentic and should never be used in the chancel. Oil lamps are also not appropriate, and can be dangerous. Neither of these latter options burns down like a candle and thus does not mark the passage of time.

When small hand candles are to be held by the congregation for candlelight services, it is useful that the candles be inserted in the small plastic candle drip protectors which are also known as bobeches. They prevent hot wax from dripping on and possible burning the skin, and from dripping on carpet, pews or chairs, clothing and so forth.

We wish you a Blessed New Year.

Pat Hamm & Bernie Swanson  
Altar Guild Co-coordinators



January 6 is the Epiphany of our Lord.

**The word 'Epiphany' is derived from the Greek word, *epiphaneia*, and means "an appearance." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6th, the 12th day after Christmas, and called that day Epiphany, intending for it to refer to the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Wise men who were Gentiles. The very first followers of Jesus were Jewish. The story of the revelation of Christ to the Wise Men, who were not Jewish, is a reminder that God meant for Christ to be the Savior of the world. As an old hymn says: "The light of the world is Jesus."**

The whole world! Have a blessed Epiphany.

— Charles Ferrell

## FROM THE CONGREGATION PRESIDENT



George Selby-Hele  
Congregation  
President

### I'm Losing My Vision

I'm losing my vision for what this congregation could be.

I'm down in the weeds worrying about our financial situation. I've got the month end financial report for November on one side of my desk and the list of urgent major maintenance items on the other side of my desk. By the time you read this, our financial picture will have improved or it will be the same or worse. This congregation **is almost \$30,000 "in the hole" year to date. The interesting**

thing is that the ministry teams and council have done a wonderful job at controlling our expenses; we have spent approximately \$8,000 less than we had planned of our expense budget. On the other hand our offerings and other income are about \$35,000 behind our income budget plus we had planned to be \$3,000 behind in our expenses so you can see why we are about \$30,000 "in the hole".

Also, this congregation's home is an aging facility. The list of major maintenance items I'm looking at I'm sure will run more than \$100,000.

How then are we going to grow and prosper when we face such significant challenges? Are we just going to try and maintain and probably decline by just doing the same stuff or are we going to seize this opportunity and plan our move forward?

People say we need more new members. Let's explore that suggestion and let me provide some context to frame that discussion around. It should be no surprise to you that membership in ELCA congregations is declining as are ELCA congregations disappearing. ELCA membership declined by 80,000 in 2005, 75,000 in 2006, and 64,000 in 2007. This congregation's change in membership reflects the same trend – in 2006, our net change in membership was a loss of 15 members, in 2007, a net loss of 53 members, and in 2008 (up through November), a net loss of 28 members. For the ELCA, this decline began to steepen noticeable in 1998 and continues up through 2007.

**This discussion begs the question, "Why do people join a congregation?".** There are many tools and models that provide answers to that question. The best I have seen (and been part of) are the ones developed by Christian Schwarz. This gentleman is a German theologian who has researched for many years and in many countries why some congregations continue to grow and prosper while others just maintain and decline. Many of the Lutheran churches that grow and prosper rather than just maintain have implemented his theories and models. His program is called Natural Church Development and it focuses on the health and quality of a congregation rather than necessarily on acquiring new members. Successfully utilizing this model has assisted many congregations in continuing the implementation of their vision and mission and in their growth and prosperity. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to entice people to join a congregation without first understanding if you have something that will appeal to them. If you believe that you might have a passion around understanding what Natural Church Development is about, please see me.

And now, I think it's time to go back and read again Jeremiah and seek inspiration from his struggle with vision.

George

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Thank you all for your commitment to the mission of First Lutheran for 2009. If you have not committed as yet, you may still do so by picking up an estimate of giving card and filling it out. We are looking forward to a great year at First because of your help.

We will hold two forums dealing with the funding of our mission and ministry (the budget), one on Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 and the second on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:45. It is important that you attend one or both of the forums since this is the time for communication about the formulation of our funding plan. This is the time to figure out how we will help people through our mission and ministry most effectively.

There will be no discussion at the annual meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The plan will be presented for acceptance or rejection. If rejected, there will have to be more **meetings. Let's get the job done on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Please take time each day between now and January 25<sup>th</sup> to pray that we as a congregation move closer to accomplishing our mission as stated in our Mission Statement.

The Stewardship Ministry Team

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*Thought for the day:*

*The greatest joy there is  
–is the joy of giving.*



*Be a cheerful giver*



## ORDER 2009 ALTAR FLOWERS

Commemorate  
a special occasion with flowers  
in the sanctuary

You can sign up on the flower chart located on the wall across from **Mariana's office to give sanctuary** flowers for a special occasion. The cost is \$30 for two bouquets. You may take the flowers home after the last service of the day.

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## Creative Crafters

Stop in and Check Us Out

We meet the second Saturday of each month for Christian Fellowship as we work on our projects – everything from scrapbooking and rubber stamping to needle craft and painting. What you work on is up to you. There is great space, big tables and a nice chunk of time to work and socialize. Come and go as you are able between 10:00 and 3:00 in the Community Room. Our next gathering is Saturday, Jan. 10.

If you are especially passionate about a craft, you may arrange a time to come and teach it to the **rest of the group. Or, if there's a** craft you want to learn more about, come and connect with others who can help you along.

**We'd love to have you join us—no** registration is required.



## FLCWOMEN'S NEWS

Grace and peace to you all.

As you put away your Christmas decorations, set aside any that you no longer want for the white elephant sale in November.



Thank you to all who made the Advent Dinner a special occasion. The Armstrong High School Chamber Singers helped make it a very enjoyable event. Our Thankoffering was \$415 and the Lutheran World Relief offering was \$302. You gals are awesome!

**Our Women's Ministry Team meeting is Monday, January 19, at 1 p.m.** in the Community Room. We will have a final report on the money raised at for Festival and will decide how to distribute the funds. Visitors are welcome.

Remember to bring in your bars of soap and health kits.

The Winter Breakaway will be Saturday, February 28.

In His Service,  
Jackie Mortenson, Coordinator

*I cannot discover that anyone knows enough to say definitely what is and what is not possible.*

- Henry Ford

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## Don't Throw it away—RECYCLE IT

**Recycling isn't just good for the environment—** it helps people too. First Lutheran collects and recycles many items that are refurbished and distributed to people in need. We will take old eyeglasses, hearing aids and fresh hearing aid batteries, watches, and cell phones to go directly to people who need those items.



We also collect Kemps milk caps, Campbell soup labels (and all Campbell products associated with the label program), General Mills box top points, and cancelled postage stamps. These are turned in for cash and credit to be used by other non profit organizations.

So before you throw away any of the above items, consider bringing them to church and help someone in need.



## YOUTH NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR WINTER FUN!

Open youth room starts Jan. 4 after Sunday morning Bible study (10:30 to 11:30) and after confirmation on Wed 7:30 to 8:30. The Fly Shack will also be open at those times!!

Jan 11 ICE SKATING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  
Fresh air, exercise and fun! This event is for all ages.  
**We'll meet at church on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. and carpool to Centennial Lakes in Edina. We'll skate until 4:30, then head back to church for a hot supper at 5:00.** This is a family event co-ordinated with education. Be at church to car pool by 2:00. Skate rental and snacks are available for a fee.



Jan 14 **Pastor Dave's dinner at Benihanas for the 2008** confirmands. **Be at church by 6:00PM to car pool there. Don't forget to come prepared to discuss your passion in life!!** We should be back at church by 8:30p.m.

Jan 27 Feed My Starving Children from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Coming in February:

A ski trip to Buck Hill on Sunday Feb 15<sup>th</sup> is being planned.

## MISSION TRIP INFORMATION

**A Mission trip "team building" meeting is being planned for all those going on the summer trip for sometime in January at Rebecka Rakow's.** The date will be announced later.

### Mission Trip Ongoing Fundraiser

Kathy Larson will be calling everyone soon to set up the new schedule for paper stuffing that starts in January. All mission trippers must sign up for two Saturdays per month (the 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 4th, etc.). When you sign up, you are signing up for two people. You can bring a parent, sibling, friend, etc. If kids need rides, we can certainly arrange for that, just give one of us a call.



This is a very profitable fundraiser for the group, so we need everyone who is going on the trip to participate.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

All children are invited to an Epiphany Party



Come celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 11. We will welcome children back with a party.

Please remember there is no Sunday School on Jan. 4.

## ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY

Adult Forums are held in the Community Room immediately following the 9:30 service. All are encouraged to come! The next forum date is January 11.

January 4 - No Forum

January 11 - "Presenting the 2009 Budget for discussion to prepare the final draft for the Annual Meeting on January 25."

January 18 - Same as above, except time to be at 8:45. 8:00 worshippers are invited to stay for this event.

January 25 - Annual Meeting will be held after the 9:30 service



## NEWS FROM OUR URBAN MISSION PARTNER

Greetings from St. Olaf, your urban partnership church

Thank you to all involved in the joint Christmas Concerts this year. This annual collaboration has become a model of how inner city and suburban churches can partner effectively. But, even better is how the collaboration can effectively present in music the awe, wonder, joy, and excitement of the birth of our Savior.

Peace,

Pastor Dale  
Hulme



## GLOBAL MISSION MINUTE

News Update on Nigerian violence

OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN NIGERIA: Marybeth and Bayo Oyebade, leaders of the Mashiah Foundation for PEOPLE WITH HIV/Aids, and the people of Jos, Nigeria, are recovering from recent violence in Jos and surrounding areas.

**For a personal look at how it has affected them, you can read Maybeth's personal story at [www.marybetho.blogspot.com](http://www.marybetho.blogspot.com)**

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### COFFEE PURCHASES HELP FARMERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Thanks for your extra purchases of Fair Trade coffee, tea and snacks during November and December. You can purchase Equal Exchange products the second Sunday of each month, or during the week in the church office.



Looking ahead:

Mubi Partnership Celebration Sunday will be February 22. Details will be in the February newsletter.

### An excerpt from Mary Beth Oyebado's daily blog (December 2):

Today was the 3rd day of calm. However, we are still very alert and watchful. The kids and I have not left the compound for 6 days now. That doesn't bother me at all at this point. I have plenty of things to do in the house.

I heard that people fled to 13 areas within Jos which have become refugee camps. An estimated 30,000 people are at those camps. This is mind-boggling to me. The places they ran to do not have bags of rice, toilets, running water, blankets, etc. No one was expecting them. I have not heard how they are faring, but I can only imagine it's pretty rough.

There is a group of organizations in place to handle relief measures. They appear to be well-organized.

If a refugee could at least make it to a friend's home, he had a greater chance of eating something. Even if the supply were meager, it would certainly be shared.

I can't stress enough that the little bit of mental stress we have gone through is nothing compared to what thousands of Nigerians have experienced.

So far, we know of four of our women in the sewing program whose homes were torched.

One of our HIV+ widows is trying to raise four children by herself, and now her house and belongings are gone. Think of the hardships she has gone through: HIV diagnosis, widowhood, and now total destruction of all personal property. How do you pick yourself up after that?

For the most part, I have found the Nigerian population to be very resilient when faced with near impossible obstacles. Nigerians are also extremely generous. I have learned so much from watching how easily they give to one another. Many, many people will give sacrificially during this time.

## SENIOR MINISTRY GOES TO THE DOGS



Well, Actually . . . The Police Canine Handlers are coming to Senior Ministry!

All seniors are invited to the January 14 luncheon in Fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m. for food, fun, and fellowship.

The Senior steering committee will prepare and serve the lunch. The Brooklyn Park Police Canine Handlers will provide an informational program. Come see how these specially trained dogs help the police solve crimes in our area.

## HOME DEVOTIONS AND OTHER READING MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE

**“Christ In Our Home” Devotional Guides for January – March** are in the narthex. These free home study guides are a wonderful way to spend time daily in conversation and prayer with God.

Davey and Goliath Devotional Guides for children are also available in the narthex. These family guides are for busy families who want to spend some quality time in worship together.

The Metro Lutheran newspaper is a free publication that showcases activities within the Minneapolis/ St. Paul faith community. Pick up your January issue in the narthex.

THE LUTHERAN magazine is a subscription based monthly periodical that focuses on issues of local and global interest to Lutherans. A limited number of copies is in the narthex each month. After you are done reading your copy, please return it to the narthex so others can share the news.

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More about our Local Lutheran community: The Minneapolis Area Synod consists of 168 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America **located in and around the “City of Lakes.”** The synod (a word which means **“meeting together”**) includes urban, suburban, and rural communities in the greater metropolitan Minneapolis area. It is the largest of the ELCA’s synods and home to some of the largest Lutheran congregations in the world.

### FAST FACTS:

baptized membership of the Mpls Area Synod—221,269  
Weekly average attendance—60,379  
Average congregation size—1,300 members  
Number of rostered leaders—740 pastors, associates in ministry  
deaconesses, and diaconal ministers

## BOY SCOUT LIAISON

Were you a Boy Scout as a young man?

Pastor Dave needs an adult liaison from the church to work with our local Boy Scout troop #3405. Call the office if you are interested or want more information.



## SCOUT PUPPET MINISTRY

Boy Scout troop 3405 guides a puppet ministry program for interested youth, both boys and girls. These young people perform for schools, nursing homes, and other organizations. If you know a young person who would like to be involved with puppet ministry, call the church office for contact information.

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Boy Scout slogan:

‘Do a good turn daily.’”

## JUST FOR LAUGHS

Kids Say the darndest things!

> While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

> A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

> Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

> A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."



## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Start Thinking Valentines

**Say "I Love You" with a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. Get away from the everyday demands of the world so the two of you can really focus on each other. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room.**

There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who **you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and** want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster through years of child rearing and work obligations.

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 13-15 and April 24-26 in Brooklyn Center or March 27-29 in Duluth. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-651-1575 or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).



# January 2009

Number in parentheses behind meetings indicate which rooms are used for each group: 1. Conference Room • 2. Community Room • 3. Music Room • 4. Fellowship Hall • 5. Sanctuary • 6. Youth Room • 7. Computer Room • 8. Chapel • 9. Sunday School Room

Abbreviations: HC-Holy Communion • DAYD-Dinner At Your Door Deliveries • AA-Alcoholics Anonymous • SOS-Slim or Sorry Weight Loss • OA-Overeaters' Anonymous • RCCers-Recycling Card Club

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	NO 8:00 service 9:30 AM No Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship- Lessons and Credo 10:30 AM No Adult Education	9:00 PM Graduates Dinner (4) 6:30 PM SOS weight loss (10) 7:30 PM AA (2)	10:00 AM Staff meeting (10)	New Year's Eve	Church office closed New Year's Day	Church office closed 10:30 AM DAYD 7:00 PM SDA Church (8)	SDA Church (3, 5, 9 all day) 3:00 PM SDA paper assembly 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting (2)
4	8:00 AM Workshop- Holy Communion 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal (3) 9:30 AM No Confirmation 9:30 AM No Sunday School 9:30 AM Workshop- Holy Communion 10:30 AM No Adult Education 4:00 PM Council- full/members party	9:40 AM Quizzes (2) 9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM ESL (9) 6:30 PM SOS weight loss (10) 7:30 PM AA (2)	8:30 AM Staff meeting (10) 10:00 AM Staff meeting (10) 10:30 AM Study & Study (1) 6:30 PM Teen choir meeting (1) 7:00 PM Military Teams	9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 1:30 PM OA (2) 6:30 PM Choir (3) 6:30 PM Confirmation (1, 2) 6:30 PM ESL (9)	9:30 AM THURSDAYS Study (2) 12:30 PM Loose Threads Guild (2) 6:30 PM Soup- undercoast Church	Church office closed 10:30 AM Friday Bible Study (2) 7:00 PM SDA Church (8)	SDA Church (3, 5, 9 all day) 10:00 AM Confm (2) 3:00 PM SDA paper assembly 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting (2)
11	Cable Site Sunday 8:00 AM Workshop 9:30 AM Confirmation (9) 9:30 AM Sunday School Epiphany Party 9:30 AM Workshop 10:30 AM Adult Education (2) 11:00 AM W. African Worship 2:00 PM Youth Ice Skating	9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 1:00 PM Small Group Study (2) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM ESL (9) 6:30 PM Global Mission (1) 6:30 PM SOS weight loss (10) 7:00 PM Men's Endowment (7) 7:30 PM AA (2)	9:30 AM RCCers (2) 10:00 AM Staff meeting (10) 10:30 AM Study & Study (1) 1:00 PM Rebecca Circle (1) 7:00 PM Elder's Circle 7:00 PM Girl Scouts (9)	9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 11:30 AM Senior Ministry Project (4) 1:00 PM OA (2) 6:30 PM Confirmation (1, 2) 6:30 PM ESL (9) 6:30 PM Ladies Ensemble (7) 7:30 PM Men's Ensemble (7)	9:30 AM THURSDAYS Study (2) 6:30 PM Teen Chorus (3) 6:30 PM Hand Bell (7)	Church office closed 10:30 AM Friday Bible Study (2) 6:00 PM Food My Burning Children 7:00 PM SDA Church (8)	SDA Church (3, 5, 9 all day) 3:00 PM SDA paper assembly 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting (2)
18	Excelsior Card Sales 8:00 AM Workshop- Holy Communion 8:45 AM Adult Education (2) 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal (2) 9:30 AM Confirmation (8) 9:30 AM Sunday School (4, 9) 9:30 AM Workshop- Holy Communion	Martin Luther King Jr Day 9:30 AM Quizzes (2) 9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 1:00 PM FLTCV Team Mtg (2) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM ESL (9) 6:30 PM SOS weight loss (10) 7:00 PM Chd Support Group (1) 7:30 PM AA (2)	9:30 AM Deborah Circle (2) 10:00 AM Staff meeting (10) 10:30 AM Study & Study (1) 1:30 PM Rachel Circle (2) 7:00 PM Eker Team (1) 7:00 PM Mary Magdalene Circle	9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 10:30 AM DAYD 1:00 PM OA (2) 6:30 PM Choir (3) 6:30 PM Confirmation (1, 2) 6:30 PM ESL (9)	9:30 AM THURSDAYS Study (2) 12:30 PM Loose Threads Guild (2) 6:30 PM Hand Bell (7)	Church office closed 10:30 AM Friday Bible Study (2) 10:30 AM DAYD 7:00 PM SDA Church (8) 10:00 PM Janitor H. Locks	SDA Church (3, 5, 9 all day) 3:00 PM SDA paper assembly 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting (2)
25	Super Music Sunday 8:00 AM Workshop 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal (2) 9:30 AM Confirmation (9) 9:30 AM Sunday School (4, 9) 9:30 AM Workshop 10:30 AM Cong. Annual Meeting (4) 10:30 AM No Adult Education	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM ESL (9) 6:30 PM SOS weight loss (10) 7:30 PM AA (2)	10:00 AM Staff meeting (10) 10:30 AM Study & Study (1) 7:00 PM Council (2) 7:00 PM Girl Scouts (9)	9:30 AM ESL (3, 9) 9:30 AM Sr Ministry Sharing (1) 1:00 PM OA (2) 6:30 PM Confirmation (1, 2) 6:30 PM ESL (9) 6:30 PM Ladies Ensemble (7) 7:30 PM Men's Ensemble (7)	9:30 AM THURSDAYS Study (2) 6:30 PM Teen Chorus (3) 6:30 PM Hand Bell (7)	Church office closed 10:30 AM Friday Bible Study (2) 7:00 PM SDA Church (8)	SDA Church (3, 5, 9 all day) 3:00 PM SDA paper assembly 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting (2)

First Lutheran Church of Crystal  
7708 62nd Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-2883

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## Welcome to First Lutheran Church of Crystal

### Staff

Interim Pastor.....David Folkerts  
Worship & Music Director / Financial Officer  
.....Mariana Duffney  
Organist.....Judy Bakke  
Secretary.....Linda Rasmussen  
Sunday School Superintendent.....  
Kristin Reilly  
Wedding Coordinators.....Ken & Paula Retzlaff  
Custodian.....Mark McAlpin  
Security.....Lyn Sanderson  
Worship AV Tech.....Angie Brannick

### Church Office

Hours..... Mon.-Thurs. 10:00 am- 4:00 pm  
Phone.....763-537-4576  
Fax.....763-537-0372  
Website.....[www.firstlcc.org](http://www.firstlcc.org)

### Worship Times

Sunday ..... 8:00 9:30  
W. African Liturgy (bi-monthly)..... 11:00  
Saturday Prayer ..... 6:00 pm



A BLESSED NEW YEAR FROM  
THE STAFF AND COUNCIL OF  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF CRYSTAL