



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2019  
NEWSLETTER

## A Congregation's Resolution

As the new year begins, we close the book on the year that is past. What has happened in the past, stays in the past and we turn our sights toward the future and what is coming up. Realizing this, about this time many people will make resolutions for the new year. In a way they are setting goals for what they would like to do. When setting those goals sometimes people aim really high with resolutions that are near impossible to keep. Others when setting their goals aim lower with resolutions they know they can easily accomplish in some way.

The Apostle Paul spoke of a resolution. When he came to the city of Corinth, you might even say he had a personal goal, a God-given goal. He writes to these believers later on reflecting on that goal. "As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-2) Paul's resolution and personal ministry goal was to faithfully proclaim Jesus and his saving work. As a pastor, I would say that is my resolution too. If I do nothing else, this year, I want to be able to look back and say, "Yes, I have proclaimed Jesus."

Congregations are really no different. We make plans for the future too. We set goals for ourselves. If I asked you to set a New Year's resolution or a goal for our congregation in 2019, what would you say? Would it be that our congregation grows in number? Would it be that more people come to worship and Bible studies regularly? Would it be that our school grows? Would it be that we have financial stability? All those are wonderful if they happen (and we certainly pray that they do), but those are all things that we don't necessarily have any control over. Besides those really aren't goals, those are desires. It would be fantastic and give us reason to praise the Lord if all those things happen in 2019 and beyond, but if we say they are our goals, our resolutions, what if those they don't happen? What if only two, one, or even none of that happens, how would you feel?

Perhaps the resolution needs to be something we can measure and have some control over whether it has been done. How about something like this? "Continue to faithfully proclaim Christ's love together." In the front of our church, we have the passage from 1 John, "We love him because he first loved us." I guess you might say it's our motto. We love Jesus because he first loved us. Our love for him and growing in that love, we are led as Christians, as a church, to share it with the people we know, with our community, and the world. Christ Jesus loved us so much that he would die on the cross for us and we have been given the opportunity to proclaim his love. Our love for him leads us to love others by sharing his love. It sounds simple, but it's true. It's a perfect resolution for our congregation as we begin 2019 looking into the future. Christ's love is ours to share.

How will we know if we have accomplished that resolution? How will we know if the goal for the year is met? It's not by the numbers. It's not in how many people worship every week. It's not in how much our school grows. It's not in how much money we have in the bank. It's measurable by the simple question: Have we been faithful to that resolution? Have we been faithful to his Word in our own personal life and in how we proclaim it to others? Has our faithfulness been evident by the desire to continue sharing Christ's love here in Elkhorn and beyond? Only when the answer to those questions is "yes" can we say that we have accomplished our resolution as a congregation and as individual Christians. In 2019, may "Christ's Love, Ours to Share" be our resolution.

It seems like a difficult resolution to keep especially in light of our world's attitude and our own sinful nature, but that's where we need God to help us. That's where we need to begin the year and continue to pray throughout the year that he keep us faithful to that goal. We pray that he would give us the desire to share Christ's love. We pray that the Lord would bless the work every one of us does to share his love, that he would work in the hearts of those who hear the message of Christ's crucified. As Moses closed out Psalm 90, so we say to begin the year: "May the kindness of the Lord our God rest upon us. Establish the work of our hands for us. Yes, establish the work of our hands."

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

## Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.  
Christian Book Club – 6:00 p.m. ~New Book–“*More Prepared to Answer*”  
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Classes and Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Men’s Breakfast Bible Study – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – 8-9 a.m. – *note date change!*  
Women’s Bible Study – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

## Quarterly Voters’ Meeting

We will hold our quarterly voters’ meeting on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. All members of First are encouraged to attend – approval of the 2019 budget is the main topic on the agenda.

## What’s in our future?

All members are asked to help set the course for the future of our congregation. We have important decisions to make. What does God want us to do and be? What does he want us to value and prioritize as we proceed? What purpose does he have for us here, in this place, at this time? A review of our Diagnostic Analysis and the “Preparing for the Future” seminar (conducted by Crossroads Consulting Ministry) on Saturday, January 12 from 9:00-12:30 will explore these and other issues of critical importance as our congregation goes forward with our mission to share the love of Christ. Rolls, fruit, coffee, and juice will be provided as well as child care. If you are coming and need child care, please let Pastor Heuer know so we can make better plans for staffing.

## What Does It Mean to be Spiritual?

“I’m spiritual, but I’m not religious.” What do people mean when they say that? Often it means that they don’t follow a set system of religious teaching, but they allow for the existence of a spiritual realm and attempt to interact with it. We know that Christianity is so much better than a system of rules to follow or teachings to memorize. Christianity is true spirituality. God himself, through the Holy Spirit, tells us what it means to really be spiritual. God, who is spirit, became a person to live for us, die for us, and save us! Now he gives us a new relationship with him that changes who we are, where we are going, and how we interact with each other. The spiritual truths of Christianity have life changing implications for our spiritual and physical lives here on earth. So what does it mean to be spiritual? Beginning January 17, looking at selected portions from 1 Corinthians, we will see what it means to be spiritual. We’ll especially see how the Holy Spirit works among a whole community of believers to build us up, so that we can encourage others.

## Daddy/Daughter Dance

Dads, do you have a difficult time finding something to do with your daughters? Daughters, are you wanting some special time with your dad or grandpas? On the evening of Saturday, Jan. 26 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., our church will be hosting its first ever Daddy/Daughter Dance. All preschool age girls up to grade 6 along with their dads (or grandpas) are invited to enjoy an evening of refreshments, dancing, and, of course, time together. Look for more information after Christmas. In the meantime, mark the date on your calendars and tell your friends, family, and neighbors about it. If you would be interested in helping to plan or volunteer in some way, please talk with Pastor Heuer or Amy Schneider. Your help is greatly appreciated.

### **Toddler Open Gym**

This program is for children age 0 – 5, along with the parent/caregiver and will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the school gym in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from October through May. The program is open to our members as well as the community. Please invite friends! There is open play in the gym with various toys as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies, and more! During the hour, we will also have a devotion and snack. As this outreach program is a non-budgeted expense, monetary donations are appreciated!

### **Prayer Chain**

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If you have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the “church” box near the tract rack. *“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”* James 5:16

### **Christian Assistance Fund**

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ’s directive to “love one another”. Contributions to this account are appreciated – please use the Designated Gift Envelopes, available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, application forms are available from pastor. Any requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

### **Church Library News**

The church/school library has been cleaned out and updated. Feel free to check out items you’d like to read. Just fill in the clipboard sheet that is on top of the card catalog with your name, the date, and book title. When you return the books just put them in the crate provided for returned books, and someone will re-shelve the books in their proper place. Parents – feel free to take books from the specially marked children’s book shelves to use with your children during church services. Just put them back on that same shelf after the church service. Feel free to enjoy the materials that are in that room!

### **Christian Education Assistance Fund**

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please see Mr. Schramm.

### **WELS Radio and TV Ministry**

**Music for The Master** followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM “JOY 1340” WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRN – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider’s channel listing for more information.

### **Meals on Wheels**

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

### **Helping Institutional Ministries**

WELS Institutional Ministries accepts Meditations booklets that are no more than one year old, along with hotel/travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These hygiene supplies are given out to returning citizens after incarceration. Please place these donated items in the box marked "Institutional Ministries" in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

### **Thrivent Members**

A benefit available to Thrivent members is being able to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you for this program. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. You may go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization with this member benefit.

### **ACH Offerings**

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

### **Food Pantry**

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street. Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

# FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

## Schedule of Events

Thurs., Jan 3	School resumes
Fri., Jan. 4	Breakfast & Bible bites – 7:15 a.m.
Sun., Jan. 6	Grades 7-8 sing in 10:30 service
Tues., Jan. 8	Basketball @ Elkhorn – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 11	Basketball @ Elkhorn – 6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 13	Grades 5-6 sing in 8:00 service
Fri., Jan. 18	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter Basketball @ Trinity – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 21	No Bus Service
Mon., Jan. 21 – Fri., Jan 15	MAP Testing
Fri., Jan. 25	Basketball @ St. John's Burlington – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 27	Grades 1-2 sing in 10:30 Sunday service/Hand bell performance during the offering

*Be sure to check out our website - [www.firstelkhorn.com](http://www.firstelkhorn.com). – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.*

*Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.*

## Winter Sports Season

Our winter sports season is underway. The Girls' B-Team is coached by Steve Adamson, Ben Schramm, and Jess Newlin. The Boys' A-Team is coached by Chad Greving and Jarod Sulik. The cheerleaders are coached by Kristi Stueber. Thank you to our coaches for sharing their time and talents. The athletes continue to work hard at practices and games. The schedule is posted in the *Wednesday News*, on the school calendar, in this newsletter, and on the school's Google (athletic) calendar. The Google calendar is also accessible by going to our website – [www.firstelkhorn.com](http://www.firstelkhorn.com). There are home games in Elkhorn on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – girls play at 5:30 p.m. and boys play at 6:30 p.m. and on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> – girls' play at 6:00 p.m. and the boys play at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to come for an evening of fun and to cheer on our Badger athletes!

## Student Teachers from MLC

First Lutheran will be getting 2 student teachers beginning on January 17 through March 22. Miss Jennifer Addickes will be serving with Miss Stueber and Mr. Connor Ragner will be serving with Mr. Schramm. They will be observing at the beginning of the term and then they will slowly take on more teaching responsibilities. Please make them feel welcome as you see them around church and school!

## Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school's non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in Kwik Trip milk caps and bag tops, General Mills Boxtops, and Frank's Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also are a part of SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchasing. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact Mr. Schramm or the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*

# January 2019

## Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Jan. 6	M. Schwark	J. Sulik
Jan. 13	T. Stech	B. Holtz
Jan. 20	M. Schwark	M. Dorn
Jan. 27	B. Brugger	M. Papenfus

## Ushers:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
D. Mangold	S. Beaver
R. Smith	C. Collins
D. Hintz	P. Rote
C. Greving	M. Yunker

## Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Jan. 6	Jim & Vickie Mueller	Bill Holtz
Jan. 13	Chester & Linda Kreft	Doreen Grams
Jan. 20	Doris Salem	Steve & Linda Godfrey
Jan. 27	Marlene Schoenbeck	Gordon & Nancy Haak

## Birthdays: shut in members are in **bold print**

2- Kristine Thomas	15- Ruby Recknagel
3- Michael Bulow	Sherry Aranda
5- Emma Helfvogt	Chad Greving
6- Doreen Grams	Charles Kunzer
Kimberly Coletti	16- Erica Garcia
Samantha Thomas	Erik Papenfus
7- Brandon Gepford	19- <b>Bonnie Ihnen</b>
Jennifer Sharp	Ernie Meinen Jr.
9- <b>Gerald August</b>	Jason Kuehl
10- Jarred Gepford	21- Patricia Bladow
11- <b>Elaine Becker</b>	Donna Duwe
<b>Christine Drake</b>	Amanda Papenfus
Leah Bongard	Morgan Peterson
12- Chester Kreft	23- Suzanne Manthe
13- Trent Voisin	24- Rebecca Greving
Todd Thompson	Mary Cucchi
14- Daniel Jacobi	Hallie Schramm
Allison Voss	28- Pastor Wayne Meier
	29- Marilyn Susina
	Bonnie Nommensen
	Katie Sweeney

30- Shandon Olson  
Liliana Lambert

## Anniversaries:

Shandon & Ann Olson,  
January 2, 1999  
Robert & Cassandra Helfvogt,  
January 3, 2004  
William & Marlene Liner,  
January 8, 1951  
Quentin & Rebecca Kayser,  
January 23, 1993  
Al & Barbara Wood,  
January 24, 1970

# January

# First Ev. Lutheran Church

415 South Devendorf Street  
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Phone: 262-723-4191-church

262-723-1091-school

E-mail:

pastorheuer@firststatthecross.com;

principal@firststatthecross.com;

secretary@firststatthecross.com

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8:00 M. Schwark  
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10:30

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M. Yunker

[www.firstelkhorn.com](http://www.firstelkhorn.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> CBC - Christian Book Club TOG - Toddler Open Gym SS - Sunday School BC - Bible Class	<b>2</b> ---NO SCHOOL--- Ladies Aid - 1:30 pm	<b>3</b> Bible Class - 9 am Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Breakfast & Bible bites - 7:15 am	<b>5</b> Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m.		
<b>6</b> Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 am ~gr. 7-8 sing 10:30 SS/BC - 9:15 am	<b>7</b> MOM - 9:30 a.m.	<b>8</b> Basketball @ Elkhorn - 5:30/6:30 p.m.	<b>9</b> Sparks & Flames - 6:00 pm	<b>10</b> Bible Class - 9 am TOG - 9:30 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Basketball @ Elkhorn - 6 & 7 pm	<b>12</b> "Preparing for the Future" Seminar - 9 am - 12:30 pm
<b>13</b> Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 am ~gr. 5-6 sing 8:00 Voters' Mtg- 9:15 am SS - 9:15 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Ladies Book Club - 7:00 p.m. @ K. Stech's	<b>17</b> Bible Class - 9 am CBC - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Women's Bible Study - 8-9 a.m.
<b>20</b> Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 am BC/SS - 9:15 am	<b>21</b> Board of Education - 6 pm Council Meetings - 6:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Bible Class - 9 am TOG - 9:30 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Daddy/Daughter Dance - 6:30-9 p.m.
<b>27</b> Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 am ~gr. 1-2 sing 10:30 BC/SS - 9:15 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Bible Class - 9 am CBC - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.		 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



## The Ladies Aid Christmas Dinner 2018

Pastor Heuer gave a prayer and everyone prayed the table prayer. Carla Baudais decorated the tables and served with others helping. There were 14 members, 6 husbands, and Pastor Heuer present.

Everyone brought a dish to pass with an excellent assortment of food. These days most activities in church have been using paper plates. But, not for the Ladies Aid Christmas dinner. We ate using the churches REAL DISHES!!!

Carla Baudais had everyone sign a Christmas card to be sent to our Befriend A Missionary and family, Peter Janke who has been serving in the Asian Lutheran Seminary, Hong Kong. Starting January 2019, we will have a new missionary, Mark Marquart serving in India.

Before our meeting everyone put the things they brought for the Elkhorn food pantry in boxes supplied by Carla, and goodies into the Christmas boxes for those on the visitation list.

Beverly Freitag handed out the 2019 Ladies Aid Handbook. She said she had sent out 2 cards this last month. She also requested members to help deliver the Christmas wrapped boxes to those on our Visitation List. Beverly explained the wooden crosses on the table were from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church, which was in 1971. No one could remember for sure who had made them.

Carla Baudais handed out a list of the words to Christmas carols, and accompanied us on the piano. We also sang Happy Birthday to Beverly Freitag who has a December birthday. Our last song was "We Wish You A Merry Christmas!!" We wish everyone reading this a "Merry Christmas too!!" And, invite ladies of our congregation to join us in The Ladies Aid next year.

We ended our Ladies Aid Christmas Dinner with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Willms, Secretary