



**FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**January 2020
Newsletter**

Are You Putting Too Much Away?

Christmas Day has past. The fun of getting your home ready will soon be turned into the not-so-fun task of taking all of that down. The lights outside will be taken down and put in the garage. The trees and other decorations which went up in our homes will be taken down. Ornaments will be carefully packed in totes and boxes. Artificial trees are placed in storage. Real trees will be taken out of the house and placed on the side of the road as garbage or cut up for firewood. Perhaps some of that work has already begun in your home. Even if you haven't yet, it will happen soon. Yet the tendency while we put away ornaments, trees, and lights is to put too much away.

Along with all the external things which beautify and enhance our celebrations of Christmas, it is all too easy when January comes to put the baby Jesus away too. Of course, when you are packing up those nativity scenes in your homes you will take the baby Jesus away, but that isn't what I mean. We have just gathered together for worship on some of the most joyous days in the Christian year. We heard the news of how God kept his promise of love to save the world. We rejoiced with those who saw Jesus' coming singing his praises. Now those days are past. Life in the world is returning to what it was before. Like the ornaments in boxes and placed in closets on shelves, the tendency is to put the desire to grow in your faith together in a box and regular worship with fellow Christians on a shelf in the closet of our hearts. In other words, when January comes Jesus has a tendency to get put away too at least until the next big holiday celebration.

You can put everything in your homes away. You can even put Jesus away, but what you can't put away are the realities of everyday life. You and I are still sinners living in a sinful world. When Jesus gets put away after Christmas that peace he gives, the peace the angels sang about, its grasp on our hearts and lives can be weakened. Jesus is God's gift to you that isn't just opened on Christmas. He is the gift that keeps on giving. Whenever God's people gather around his Word and sacraments, the gift of Jesus is unwrapped again for us each time so that the peace of forgiveness and salvation we have through him is continually filling, controlling, ruling our hearts as his Word continually dwells in us.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians, **"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God."** (3:15-16) As his peace controls our hearts and his Word dwells in our lives, what fills us is a desire not to put Jesus away. Instead our hearts are filled with thankfulness. Twice in those two verses, Paul speaks of this. "And be thankful...with gratitude in your hearts to God." The peace of Christ that comes through his Word is the reason for us to be thankful and why gratitude fills our hearts every day.

Trees, ornaments, and lights may be put away until next Christmas. Yet when Jesus is kept out all year, it affects every day of the year. When our heart's desire is to grow together in our trust of what Jesus gives to us through regular worship, we in turn are continually filled with his peace that controls our hearts every day. Then that peace filling and ruling our hearts gives us a renewed desire to live lives of praise and gratitude every day for the gift we have in Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, be with me and direct me. Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire. Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me. Jesus, be all my heart's desire. Jesus, be in my thoughts all day and never let me fall away. Amen (CW 70 vs. 4)

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Wed., Jan. 1 – Fri., Jan. 3	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
Mon. Jan. 6	School Resumes
Sat., Jan 11	Robotics Tournament – Madison
Sun., Jan. 12	4K – 2 nd grade sing in 10:30 service
Mon., Jan. 13	Basketball @ Lake Geneva – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Fri., Jan 17	Basketball @ Lake Geneva – Boys' only – 5:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 18	Robotics Tournament – SLHS
Mon., Jan. 20	No Bus Service
Fri., Jan. 24	Basketball @ Elkhorn – 5:30/6:30 p.m. – Parents' Night
Sun., Jan. 26	Grades 3-8 sing in 8:00 service
Fri., Jan. 31	Basketball @ Faith – 5:30/6:30 p.m.

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstelkhorn.com/school – 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

Our winter sports season is underway. The Girls' B-Team is coached by Steve Adamson. The Boys' B-Team is coached by Chad Greving. The cheerleaders are coached by Rachel Nolte. Thank you to all our coaches for sharing their time and talents! The athletes continue to work hard at practices and games. The schedule is posted here, in the *Wednesday News*, on the school calendar and on the school's Google Athletic calendar. The Google calendar has the most up to date information regarding games. Or, feel free to call the office to verify times or if a game is being held (weather-related issues). We welcome you to come and cheer on our Badger athletes!

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school's non-budgeted expenses; Spanish class, classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, special programming, and more:

- \$ Please save and turn in **Frank's Piggly Wiggly receipts** (*look for the quarter listed on the bottom of the receipt and please turn them in on a timely basis!*)
- \$ The **BoxTops** program is changing – a few products will still have the BoxTops attached, but there is a new app where you scan your receipt and upload it for BoxTops credit.
- \$ **SCRIP** – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchases. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets.
- \$ **Amazon**, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school.
- \$ **NEW! - Shutterfly** – go to our “store” site – FirstLutheran.ShutterflyStorefront.com – log in as you would. First Lutheran get 8% back on purchases!

If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Class – 9:00 a.m.
Christian Book Club – 6:00 p.m.
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Family Bible Hour – 9:15 a.m.
 - **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
NEW! "Foundations" Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. – *beginning January 11th*
 - **Saturday:** Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

We will hold our quarterly voters' meeting on Sunday, Jan. 12th at 9:15 a.m. All members of First are encouraged to attend. Approval of the 2020 budget is the main topic on the agenda. Please watch for a preliminary budget to be available for review prior to the meeting.

Foundations

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19) That Bible passage is on the front wall of our church with the cross of Jesus in the middle. It on God's love through Christ, his grace, that our church is built. The love of God for the world is Christ's love that led him to save the world from sin. It is this love that drives us and leads us to want others to build on it too. Christ's love is ours to share with the world around us! We want to share it with you so that you also may build on his love. We do this regularly through worship together. Everyone is welcome to worship with us, but to help you better understand his love and who we are, we are beginning a *new informal study called, "Foundations"*. This study takes its participants back to the foundation of Christian truth found in the Bible, exploring why we need God's love, what Jesus' love gives to us, how this love brings us together, and how it changes our lives. Join us on *Saturday mornings beginning January 11 from 9:30-10:30!* Childcare and refreshments will be provided. If you are able to help with child care or refreshments, please sign up on the brown door. Your help is appreciated.

New Year New You

The new year is typically a time that we stop and resolve to become a better version of ourselves. We make resolutions to get back to the gym, we add more healthy foods to our plates, or maybe we plan to open the Bible more often. In our worship services, beginning January 9 and 12, this resolve is our focus in a series called "New Year, New You." But instead of looking at ourselves and our own inadequacies, we are going to look at Jesus to see how he makes us completely new. He gives us a new identity and even empowers us to live a different way. Thankfully, our success has nothing to do with our resolve to be better, and everything to do with Jesus' resolve to live a perfect life as our substitute. Join us and see how God has made you new, through Christ.

Toddler Open Gym

This program is intended for children age 0 – 5, along with their parent/caregiver and will take place from 9 – 10:30 in the school gym on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from September through May. This month's TOG date is January 15th. This 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, and area just for babies, and more! We will also have a devotion and snack during the playtime. Please contact Trista Heuer with any questions- 1-920-222-1510.

Toddler Open Gym's current wish list is:

6 foot crawl through play tunnel
Individually packaged snacks (nut free)

MOM (Moms of Might)

All moms with preschool age or younger are welcome to join our mom's group. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month through May. If school is not in session on a first Tuesday, the meeting will be held the second Tuesday. Other activities are also planned during the year.

Volunteers are needed to help with childcare during the meetings. A sign-up sheet is on the brown door. We would like to have at least 2 volunteers to help for each meeting, with a 3rd signed up as a backup if needed. Please contact Trista Heuer tsheuer@gmail.com or call/text 1-920-222-1510 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your time and support!

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, applications are available from pastor. Requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

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 contact the office.

Church Library News

The church/school library has been updated. Feel free to check out items you'd like to read. On the clipboard sheet that is on top of the card catalog, write 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 bookshelves to use with your children during church services. Please put them back on that same shelf after the church service. Feel free to enjoy the materials that are in that room!

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.

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.; WWRS – 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.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is designating Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you to participate. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. 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.

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 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

CHURCH

415 S. Devendorf St.
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www.firstelkhorn.com

January 2020

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<u>Council Hosts:</u>		<u>Ushers:</u>	
8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30
Jan. 5 M. Schwark	M. Dorn	D. Mangold	S. Beaver
Jan. 12 T. Stech	B. Holtz	R. Smith	C. Collins
Jan. 19 M. Hoyord	M. Dorn	D. Hintz	M. Yunker
Jan. 26 J. Kuehl	P. Rote	C. Greving	M. Papenfus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Epiphany Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Class - 9:15 a.m.		7 MOM - 9:30 a.m.	1 -----No School - Christmas Break-----	2 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	3	4 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. Foundations Study 9:30-10:30 am
12 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. ~4K-2nd sing -10:30 Voters' Meeting/SS - 9:15 a.m.	6 Board of Elders - 6:30 p.m.	8 Ladies Aid - 1:30 pm Sparks/Flames- 6 pm	15 Toddler Open Gym - 9-10:30 a.m. Ladies Book Club - 7:00 pm @ K. Stech's	9 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Women's Bible Study - 8-9 a.m. Foundations Study 9:30-10:30 am
19 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. ~Shoreland Choir Family Bible Class - 9:15 a.m.	13 Board of Ed. - 6 pm Board Meetings - 6:30 p.m.	14	22 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	16 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Foundations Study 9:30-10:30 am
26 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. ~Gr. 3-8 sing-8:00 Family Bible Class - 9:15 a.m.	20 Board of Ed. - 6 pm Board Meetings - 6:30 p.m.	21	29	23 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	24 FLS Home Basketball Game - 5:30/6:30 pm	25 Foundations Study 9:30-10:30 am
	27	28	31 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	30 Bible Class - 9 a.m. CBC - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.		