

FIRST EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2018
NEWSLETTER



WALKING THE WALK in '18

“Enoch walked with God...” (Genesis 5:24)

Doctors encourage walking as a form of exercise to maintain good health. It relieves tensions, builds muscles tone, aids – weight loss, stimulates the mind and adds color to our cheeks.

The Bible tells us that walking is also spiritually beneficial, that is, if we “walk with God” as Enoch did. How do you and I “walk with God”? Walking implies nearness, intimacy and trust. How is this closeness possible? We are sinners and God is holy. “I have called you friends,” Jesus said, “for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15). By His grace God made us “friends” of Jesus so that we could walk with Him, because Jesus has laid down His life for His “friends” (John 15:13). Jesus Himself calls us to walk with Him and makes it possible.

We have the privilege of walking side by side with our heavenly Friend so that He can speak to us and reveal everything that He learned from His Father (John 15:15). As we listen to the words of Jesus, He draws us closer and closer to Him and deepens our trust in Him. His Word establishes the bond of love and deepens it as we continue to listen.

The fellowship we have with Jesus is an ongoing one. The Old Testament teaches that we are to walk “in the name of the LORD” (Micah 4:5), by “holding fast to Him and serving Him with all (our) heart and soul” (Joshua 22:5) and we are to do it “together” (Amos 3:3). The New Testament adds that we are to walk by “faith” (Romans 4:12), “in the light” (1 John 1:7), “in obedience [and]...love” (2 John 6) and “in the truth” (3 John 3). This continual walking with Jesus is so tremendously important because we are travelers on the way to eternity. We dare not walk alone. We need a Guide. The road is strange and unknown to us. There are valleys of pain and sorrow to cross. There are streams of pleasure and happiness that need Jesus’s sanctifying presence. There are forks in the road that demand moral choices. There are new heights of involvement in our church, school and community which need Jesus’ encouragement and blessing. There are the winding and twisting roads of the future which require the steady hand of our new spiritual leader, Pastor Preston T. Heuer.

Perhaps you are thinking that it is pretty hard to walk “with God” where you work, relax or live. Well, our day is not so different from Enoch’s days. The book of Genesis tells us that there was extreme violence among the people, that lust was the main reason for marriage, that longevity only offered men and women more time for sinning. Yet Enoch, according to the writer of Hebrews, “pleased God” (11:5). We too can “please God” if we “walk with Jesus... all the way” (CW 431:5). What a meaningful way to begin, continue and conclude another year of God’s grace.

We pray, “Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be dear Lord, let it be.” Amen.

Wayne A. Meier, family member & former Vacancy Pastor

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes

- **Thursday:** Bible Class – 9:30 a.m.
Bible Class – 6:00 p.m.
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Bible Information Hour – 9:15 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

New Pastor

Pastor Preston Heuer's installation will be held on Sunday, January 14th at 4:00 p.m. RSVP's for the catered meal to follow the service need to be turned in by December 31st. Reservations **MUST** be made to attend the meal. Contributions to the congregational gift for Pastor Heuer and his family can be turned in to the office by December 31st as well.

Vacancy Pastor

We thank Pastor Meier for all of the blessings he has bestowed on our congregation during his time as vacancy pastor. Pastor's last sermon as vacancy pastor will be on Sunday, January 14th's morning services. Pastor Meier will continue to serve us during Pastor Heuer's time of transition.

Toddler Open Gym

This program is intended for children ages 0-5 along with their parent/caregiver and will be held from 9:30-10:30 am in the school gym on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, October through May. The program will be open to our members as well as our community. We will have open play in the gym with various toys, as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies and more! We will also have a devotion and a snack. Share this information with others – by word of mouth or sharing/liking our Toddler Open Gym posts on our Facebook page.

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. Designated Gift Envelopes are 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.

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. Gifts can be given at any time. *We have a number of families who have requested aid this year. Contributions to the Assistance Fund are needed and appreciated! If you are able to help provide a quality Christian Education, please see Mr. Schramm or Mrs. Papenfus.*

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.

Meals on Wheels

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

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.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. *The pantry is also in need of grocery bags - paper and/or plastic.* 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 Nömmensen 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!

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. As always, personal contributions are kept in the strictest confidence. 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.

Pastoral Acts: *Confirmation* – Joseph & Erica Garcia – November 26, 2017

Memorials: In memory of Leon and Linda Lauderdale
 – Children's Christmas Treat Bags, from Harry & Kris Romie

Please note:

The online version of the church newsletter will not include minutes from Voters' Meetings, Council Meetings, and/or special meetings.

Only the hard copies of the church newsletter, available at church, will include all meeting minutes.

If a member who reads the church newsletter online would like a copy of meeting minutes, please contact the office and they can be sent to you.

Thank you!

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Mon.-Tues., Jan. 1-2	No School
Wed., Jan. 3	School Resumes
Fri., Jan. 5	Basketball @ LG 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 12	Basketball @ Friedens – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 14	Grades 7-8 sing in 10:30 service
Mon., Jan. 15	Board of Education – 6:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17	4K Open House – 5-6 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 19	Basketball @ Elkhorn – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 26	No Bus Service Basketball @ LG – 5:30/6:30 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 22 – Fri., Jan. 26	Winter MAP testing
Sun., Jan. 28	Grades 1-2 sing in 10:30 service

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstatthecross.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 Boys' B-Team is coached by Chad Greving, and assisted by Jarod Sulik. The Boys' A-Team is coached by Pastor Karl Schultz, and assisted by Robert Babiak and Tyler Schuler. The cheerleaders are coached by Kristi Stueber. Thank you to our coaches for giving of their time and talents. The athletes continue to work hard at practices and do their best at the games. The schedule is posted in the Wednesday News, on the school calendar, in this newsletter, and on the school's Google calendar, which you can sync to your calendar. In January, we have home game in Elkhorn on Friday, Jan. 19th at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. We invite you to come for an evening of fun and to cheer on our Badger athletes!

Call Received

I have received a call to serve as principal and 5th grade teacher at Risen Savior in Pooler, GA. The school is 4 years old, and they are looking for their first principal. Please keep me and my family in your prayers as we consider where the Lord would best have me serve. I value your input and advice, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me and my family. ~Mr. Schramm

4K Open House

First Lutheran School will be hosting a 4K Open House on Wednesday, January 17th from 5-6 p.m. Please spread the word to the community! Flyers are available on the cart under the stairs. Please see Mr. Schramm if you have any questions about the event.

Toddler Open Gym

Toddler Open Gym is held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 9:30-10:30. It is for children ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers to come and enjoy activities, devotion and a snack. It is open to the community, so help spread the word! Share our Facebook posts to help get the word out about this fun activity for parents/caregivers and their children.

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, Scholastic magazine, etc.; 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 School 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!*

**First Ev.
Lutheran
Church**

January 2018

www.firstatthecross.com

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Council Hosts:
8:00 M. Schwark
10:30 T. Brelenthin
J. Mueller
4:00 p.m. Installation Service: B. Brugger & M. Hoyord
J. Voigt M. Dorn
B. Brugger M. Papenfus

Ushers:
8:00 M. Hoyord/J. Schwark
R. Milton/W. & M. Holder
D. Hintz
C. Greving

10:30 S. Beaver
C. & R. Collins
P. & T. Rote
M. Yunker

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HAPPY New Year	2 No School	3 Ladies Aid-9:30 a.m.	4 Toddler Open Gym— 9:30 a.m. Bible Study—9:30 am Bible Class—6:00 pm Communion Service—7:00 p.m.	5	6	
7 Communion Services 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Voters' meeting - 9:15 SS/Youth—9:15 a.m.	8 MOM Meeting —9:30 a.m. Christmas Decoration Take- down—6:30 p.m.	9 Choir—6:30 p.m.	10	11 Bible Study—9:30 am Bible Class—6:00 pm Worship Service— 7:00 p.m.	12	13 Men's Breakfast Bible Study—8-9 a.m.
14 Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 am ~gr. 7-8 sing-10:30 BIH—9:15 a.m. Pastor Heuer Installation Service - 4:00 pm	15 Board of Ed. —6:00 p.m. Board Meetings— 6:30 pm.	16	17 4K Open House — 5—6 p.m. Sparks/Flames- 6 pm Ladies Book Club— 7 pm @ S. Manthe's	18 Toddler Open Gym— 9:30 a.m. Bible Study—9:30 am Bible Class—6:00 pm Communion Service—7:00 p.m.	19 FLS Basketball games at Elkhorn— 5:30/6:30 p.m.	20 Women's Bible Study—8-9 a.m. Youth Group Outing Comedy Sportz/ Chipotle
21 Communion Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. BIH—9:15 a.m.	22	23 Choir—6:30 p.m.	24	25 Bible Study—9:30 am Bible Class—6:00 pm Communion Service—7:00 p.m.	26	27
28 Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. ~gr. 1-2 sing-10:30 BIH—9:15 a.m.	29 Altar Committee Meeting—6:30 p.m.	30 Choir—6:30 p.m.	31			

January 2018

Council Hosts:

8:00

10:30

Jan. 7 M. Schwark T. Brellenthin
Jan. 14 T. Stech J. Mueller

Ushers:

8:00

10:30

M. Hoyord/J. Schwark S. Beaver
R. Mitton/W. & M. Holder C. & R. Collins

4:00 p.m. Installation Service: B. Brugger & M. Hoyord

Jan. 21 J. Voigt M. Dorn D. Hintz P. & T. Rote
Jan. 28 B. Brugger M. Papenfus C. Greving M. Yunker

Greeters:

8:00

10:30

Jan. 7 Dennis & Terri Carnes Gene & Patty Lauderdale
Jan. 14 Barbara Schinke Scott & Amy Beaver
Jan. 21 Frank & Dorothy Klein Gordon & Nancy Haak
Jan. 28 Doris Salem & Rosemary Strand Roger & Jean Klemp

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

2- Kristine Thomas	16- Erica Garcia
3- Michael Bulow	Erik Papenfus
5- Andrew Coletti	19- Bonnie Ihnen
Emma Helfvogt	Ernie Meinen Jr.
6- Doreen Grams	Jason Kuehl
Kimberly Coletti	21- Patricia Bladow
Samantha Thomas	Donna Duwe
7- Brandon Gepford	Amanda Papenfus
Jennifer Sharp	Morgan Peterson
Jordan Belanus	23- Suzanne Manthe
9- Gerald August	24- Rebecca Greving
10- Jarred Gepford	Mary Cucchi
11- Elaine Becker	Hallie Schramm
Christine Drake	28- Pastor Wayne Meier
Leah Bongard	29- Marilyn Susina
12- Chester Kreft	Bonnie Nommensen
13- Trent Voisin	Katie Sweeney
Todd Thompson	30- Shandon Olson
14- Daniel Jacobi	Liliana Lambert
Allison Voss	31- Nicholas Hapka
15- Ruby Recknagel	
Sherry Aranda	
Chad Greving	
Charles Kunzer	

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
John & Tracy Hauerwas, January 28, 2002

The Ladies Aid Christmas, December 6, 2017

After much preparation with the tables decorated for Christmas and the food set out, Pastor Meier lead us in the table prayer. Eighteen members had brought their dishes or desserts and dinner was served. We had five husbands as guests. The food was scrumptious as always with a good variety, just as if it had all been planned. Beverly Freitag had fixed the ham and Carla Baudais had decorated the tables.

After we were done eating, Pastor Meier gave us each a sheet of paper with twenty-four pictures that were to be deciphered as to what Christmas Carol they depicted. It was a fun activity, which I'm sure most of us had never done before.

After eating, Carla Baudais accompanied us on the piano while we sang Christmas carols. Everyone enjoyed singing, plus we also sang Happy Birthday to Beverly Freitag as it was her birthday.

Carla Baudais had us each sign a Christmas card to be sent to our Befriend a Missionary, Rev. Jonathan Quinn who is in Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

Each member had brought items for the food pantry, and also items that filled 20 shoe boxes decorated for Christmas for our shut-ins of the congregation.

Carla Baudais also told us that she and Nancy Haak had written on 9 Christmas cards and sent them to college students of our congregation putting in a \$10 gift card from the Aid. One student already responded, surprised to get mail and then even a gift.

Vickie Mueller encouraged us to bring mittens, scarves, and hats to be placed on the Giving Tree in the church narthex. They will be given to the homeless and the food pantry. This was also done last year. There had been a good response to this project.

Our next meeting, known as our breakfast meeting, will be held at 9:30a.m. January 3. It will also be time to pay our \$12 dues for the year 2018.

We closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Willms, Secretary