

The *First* Word

Volume 15, Issue 8

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

June, 2014

Seek **FIRST** His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Special June/July Dates

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| FLS Day at MacKenzie River..... | June 2 |
| Pizza | |
| FLS Celebration Ceremony..... | June 6 |
| & Picnic—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! | |
| The Day of Pentecost..... | June 8 |
| Flag Day..... | June 14 |
| Trinity Sunday..... | June 15 |
| Father's Day | |
| First Day of Summer..... | June 21 |
| Presentation of the Augsburg.... | June 25 |
| Confession (1530) | |
| Independence Day..... | July 4 |

*A wise son brings
JOY to his father.*

Proverbs 15:20



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A reflection of the Father

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." If you're blessed with a dad you admire and respect, how would it affect your life to make such a decision? Would you be inspired to set sound priorities, live with integrity, be a positive role

model to the young people you influence? For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may our prayer and intent

be:

God, while earthly fathers are a mix of strengths and flaws, You give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and passionate about our best interests. May we, in turn, seek to reflect positively on You. May my life spread far and wide Your love, kindness and passion for the best interests of all, and may others see You in me. Amen.

Spending plan and elections main focus of May 18 congregational voters' meeting

A total of 56 eligible voters from First Lutheran Church attended the voters' meeting held on May 18, 2014, and approved a spending plan for the coming fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2014. The spending plan, as presented and approved, estimates receipts of \$582,320 for First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School combined, and estimates disbursements of \$615,492 for First Lutheran Church and School combined.

In his Spending Plan Observations, as presented to the voters in written form, MMC Treasurer Steven Johnson noted:

The plan has a net income of negative \$3,100 for the church and a net income of negative \$30,072 for the school. It includes a 2 percent raise for church and school staff and a 2 percent increase in envelopes and loose plate offerings. The church's financial contribution to the school is in-kind services and items such as utilities, accounting, etc. The church will not make a separate cash contribution to the school. The plan makes a \$44,000 draw on the church's savings to supplement expenses, and this will be the first of

two draws to fund congregational outreach.

John Stelter was elected to a 2-year term as Mission and Ministry Council (MMC) president, and Steve Longworth was elected to a 2-year term as MMC vice president. Both terms will expire on June 30, 2016.

MMC Secretary Linda Fromm and MMC Treasurer Steven Johnson have one year remaining on their 2-year terms, which will expire on June 30, 2015.

Duane Westerbuhr was elected to his first 2-year term as an at-large member of the MMC, and at-large members Matt Elvbakken and Peggy Trenk were re-elected to new 2-year terms. Terms of all three will expire on June 30, 2016.

MMC at-large members Shannon Walker and Bruce Duenkler have one year remaining on their 2-year terms. Both terms will expire on June 30, 2015.

Brian Buhr, Marty Baumann, Rick Northrup, Dale Young and John Underwood were elected to serve 2-year terms on the Board of Elders. All terms to expire on June 30, 2016.

Thank You!



Thanks to all participants in **HIS Kids!** this year. You did an awesome job and we really appreciate it!

A special thank you to Betty Brewer, Tara Mercer and Mark Walker for their assistance to the director and the choir throughout the year!

A BIG thanks to the parents of the **Kids!** who made it possible for them to practice and to sing!

To GOD be all glory – great things He has done!



Shari

Shari Miller, **HIS Kids!** Director

Eternally Refreshed

First Lutheran women to serve LWML MT District



*John 4:14
LWML Montana District*

During the LWML Montana District convention held in Miles City in early May, the following women from First Lutheran were elected/appointed to positions on the LWML Montana District Board: Bridget Michel, Recording Secretary; Deborah Knudsen, Vice President of Human Care and Shari Miller, Structure Committee Chairman.

We pray God's richest blessings on their service for the Lord in the LWML!



MT District LCMS

Red Lodge Camp

Going into 9th-12th grade
June 15-19

Going into 7th or 8th grade
June 19-23

Going into 5th or 6th grade
June 23-27

Please watch your Sunday bulletin for more detailed information.

There will be no *First Word* issue in July. The July and August issues will be combined, and members and friends of First Lutheran Church & School will receive the combined issue about July 18.

The *First Word*

Published monthly by:

First Lutheran Church
2231 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
(406)442-5367



Rev. Larry A. Miller.....*Pastor*
Linda Fromm.....*Editor*
Susan McCormack.....*Calendar/Servant Schedule*
Volunteer Staff.....*Collation*

Deadline for the July/August *First Word* is Wednesday, July 9. Place articles in the *First Word* box in the church office or e-mail them to: fizziehoot1917@bresnan.net.

A LOOK At Our Budget

A report from your Board of Finance

| | April, 2014 | FY 2014 Y-T-D |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Income | \$43,135.05 | \$425,275.12 |
| Expense | \$44,251.68 | \$417,766.91 |
| Gain/Loss | (\$1,116.63) | \$ 7,508.21 |



Meet the New Pastor . . .

Well, not in person . . . yet! But this we do know:

God, according to His good will and plan for our congregation, has given us the gift of a new Associate Pastor to bless us and help lead us

in mission and ministry to His people and to His glory! We have great reason to praise our mighty, loving God!

On Wednesday, April 30, many members of First Lutheran watched (via the internet) as Seminarian **Jason Toombs**, a student at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was given his assignment to serve our congregation! As many watched in the Fellowship Centre before our Midweek Worship, there was a hush followed by a cheer and lots of conversation.

Jason hails from Tomball, Texas (near Houston). He is 31 years old and worked for a few years as an accountant. As of May 23, he has finished his studies for his Masters of Divinity degree and graduated from CTS.

He is engaged to be married to Samantha Zon, an elementary school teacher who is working on a degree in special education. Their wedding date, in Fort Wayne, is early in August. They plan to take a week for a honeymoon and then move to Helena. My guess is that he will officially begin his work among us at the beginning of September.



“What can we do in the meantime?” some have asked. Good question! Here are a few suggestions to prepare our hearts and minds and our congregation and school for this leap forward in our mission and ministry:

- **Encourage . . .** those who are anxious or unsure about this change in our staff and ministry. God has big and good plans for us and will bless the preaching and teaching of His Word!
- **Wear Your Name-Tag . . .** beginning as soon as you receive it in your mailbox so that we get used to using them again and so that our newer members will know you (and you know them) by name before we all learn the name (and other details) of the new pastor and family.
- **Pray . . .** for our new pastor and his fiancé as they pack, and are married, and head for their new home in Montana and for the rest of our staff as we prepare for this change!
- **Rejoice . . .** that God has been so good to us and that His mercy and goodness endures forever!



God has blessings in mind for us all with this big change coming our way! Like all change, it will not always be easy, but He has good in mind for us and He is able to make even the difficult parts of our live together into good for us and all His people!

We give small gifts because ... — from your Board of Stewardship

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She . . . put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. We give small gifts precisely because we don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God

will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant, who must give a tithe. We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that was done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). And what proportion is that? We are free, for we are not slaves, but sons. Nevertheless, ten percent, the amount demanded for those under the Old Covenant, is a good starting point, unless there is a reason not to. For we have received more from God in Christ, and we are free now to give more also. So use ten percent unless there is a reason to use five percent or fifteen percent.

But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)! We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without

generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy—in short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your ten fingers spread apart. You catch with your hands God's gifts for what you need so that the rest may fall through your fingers to your neighbors—your family, your friends, your community, your church.

— *LCMS website*

Dinners for Eight

The **Dinners for Eight** group is trying to organize a September get-together for all participants and substitutes, to be held at Matt and Anita Elvbakken's home in lieu of the regular September dinner. Check your calendars to see if Friday, Sept. 12, or Saturday, Sept. 13, will work and let Matt or Anita or Lori Stelter know. Good food and great fellowship can be expected!

Grayson William Weber

Confirmed February 23, 2014

Josbua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.



2014

Cole Lawrence Koenig

Confirmed May 18, 2014

Micah 6:8

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Gangway to Galilee VBS promises learning, fun!

Gangway to Galilee Vacation Bible School will take us on and around the Sea of Galilee with five accounts of Jesus' ministry there. By grace, through faith, Jesus, God's own Son, our Savior, call us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us and provides all we need now and forever. That's amazing grace!

VBS is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 4 through Friday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Registration is open now for ages 4 through 6th grade. You may register your child(ren) online at firstlutheranhelena.org; complete the registration form below (one form per each child, please) and return to the church office, or mail to: First Lutheran

Church, 2231 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601.

Don't let your children miss the boat! Set sail with us to sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games and much, much more! Children will learn all about Jesus, our Savior, and His amazing grace!

If you can help full or part time, we have many ways in which you can be involved, and which will suit your interests and your schedule. Please call the church office (442-5367) to volunteer!

Please ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

Vacation Bible School Registration

Please complete a separate form for each child being registered.

Child's name: _____

Grade completed: _____ Birthday: _____ Age: _____

Parents' names: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Emergency contact person: _____ Relationship to student: _____

Home phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Food allergies: Yes ___ No ___ (List:) _____

Medical concerns: Yes ___ No ___ (Explain:) _____

Family doctor: _____ Doctor's phone: _____

Siblings attending VBS (names and ages):

Church affiliation: _____ Church membership at: _____

People who may pick up the child: _____

Transportation needed? Yes ___ No ___ Attendance: 1 2 3 4 5

VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor(s) designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

Parent's signature: _____



Thank you to all the members of the Chancel Choir for sharing their time, talent and efforts this past season. All are greatly appreciated by the members and visitors at First Lutheran. A special thank you to Shari for taking over when Norma and I headed south to do the “snowbird thing,” and to Mark for adding his special talent.

Choir practice will resume in September. Please watch for the start date in your Sunday bulletin in late summer, and, if singing in one of your gifts, please consider joining the group. We would love to have you!

Gary Walker



June 1
Neal Petz
June 3
Pam Dye
June 4
Kelli Maxwell
June 5
Thomas Basinger
Nancy Westerbuhr
June 7
Dan O'Malley
June 8
Claire Longsworth
Elly Schmeltzer
Cliff Ulmer
June 9
Irving Boettger
June 11
Abbey Barnhart
Nathan Nachtsheim
Randy Williams
June 12
Merrill Alling
Charles McNeil

June 13
Hans Martin
June 14
Shirley Clearman
Skip Nicholls
June 17
Wanda Person
Daniel Warsinski
June 20
Michael Bridegroom
Janet Tompkins
June 21
Rick Northrup
June 22
Ava Ellwein
Caryn Johnson
Nora Keim
Kathy Rucker
Dale Wagner
June 23
Jenna Blair
June 25
Louisa LaForge
June 27
Pat Hartman
June 28
Herb Bauer
Verna Leitzke
Barbara McNeil
June 29
Mary Laible
Vickie Stefanik

June 30
Mykel O'Malley
Nathaniel Romkema
Alexander Rose



July 1
Duane Westerbuhr
July 4
Nancy Jenkins
July 5
Crystal Nachtsheim
Kelley Shields
July 6
Sam Schmeltzer
July 7
Helen Bjerke
CoraLee Kuehne
July 8
Brittney Nicholls
July 9
Garett Bacon
Craig Hyypa
July 10
Joleigh Mandera

July 12
LeAnn Ferron
July 13
Lorrie Bridegroom
Ryan Clinch
July 15
Dean Belcourt
Traeton Duty
Kyle Sternberg
July 16
Betty Brewer
July 18
Laurie Hanson
July 21
Lowell Bartels
Dennis Giulio
Cheryl Summerer
July 22
Tiffani Eccleston
July 23
Jerry Michel
July 24
Dez Brown
Bruce Nachtsheim
July 26
Laurie Stelter
Debbie Sternberg
July 27
Nancy Kraft
Pam Worthy
July 28
Thomas Leitzke
July 29
Amber Boucher

A different look at the Holy Spirit

There are two ways of traveling on the Continent. In the first, you do everything for yourself. You obtain your ticket, look after your luggage, get your seat in the carriage, ask at least three porters whether you are right, and, if you have an imperfect knowledge of the language, you have perpetually an uneasy sense that perhaps you are wrong.

There is another method of foreign travel. You employ a Tourist Agency, which obtains your tickets, sees to your

comfort, gives you precise directions, provides you, where necessary, with a conductor, and at every terminus waits to greet you.

In this we have an apt illustration of the easier way of traveling to heaven. Be at rest in the indwelling and in-working of the Holy Spirit. Only see that He is not grieved, and He will see to all else.

—F.B. Meyer (1847-1929)



Happenings at First Lutheran School

Pastor
Reverend Larry Miller
Director
Denise Underwood



Teachers
Heather McIntosh,
Heidi Westerbuhr, Stacy Smith,
Donna Fischer & Melissa Mousel

“Eating Out is Fun!”

This year, we were able to have First Lutheran School Day at Taco John's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Panda Express and MacKenzie River Pizza. Through these easy, fun, tasty fundraisers, we earned almost \$1,000!

Thank you to all those who supported our school this year by eating out or carrying out meals from these restaurants.

Please remember to thank them for sponsoring First Lutheran School Day when you go again!



The last day of school is Friday, June 6. God truly blessed us with another wonderful school year!

Teachers will be busy in their classrooms in June cleaning and taking down things. Then, they will enjoy a nice break.

We'll hold an Open House at school on Thursday, August 21, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Classes will begin again on Wednesday, August 27.



On Friday, June 6, we will hold our Celebration Ceremony. All First Lutheran School students will be



recognized for achievements they have made throughout the year.

A drawing will be held to determine who will win the Spirit Sprint bicycle.

We will thank our many volunteers for their faithful service to our school throughout the year. They help make our school GREAT because of their willingness to help and work with our teachers and students!



Keep saving your **BOX TOPS** for **EDUCATION!** Another mailing will go out this summer. Because of all your cutting and saving, the school received a check for over \$480 from Box Tops.



Ask your family members and friends to participate in this simple way to earn money for our school!

DON'T FORGET to return your child's registration packet and information for the 2014-2015 school year to the school office as soon as possible.

We have a few openings left in some of our classrooms.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for Monday, August 4, through Friday, August 8, from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Plan now to have your child(ren) SET SAIL ON THIS AMAZING GRACE ADVENTURE. Kids will enjoy great Bible lessons, fun crafts, lots of songs and delicious snacks!

The **NEW PHONE NUMBER** for First Lutheran School is **442-6913**. Our school now has its own telephone number. Please call the new number when you need to contact the school. We are hoping the new number will make it easier and more convenient for parents to contact Principal Denise Underwood and/or our teachers. Thank you for your cooperation.



God blessed us with two beautiful days for our **Spirit Sprint**. The kids (and some teachers) were sponsored by family and friends for each lap they ran around the parking lot. We raised over \$5,000, and were blessed to have Albertsons donate water; Bullman's donate pizza and Wal-Mart donate a bicycle. Please thank these businesses when you visit next.

First Lutheran Church & School
2231 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406)442-5367
Fax: (406)442-5285
Web site: www.firstlutheranhelena.org
E-mail: firstlutheranchurch@bresnan.net

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a
Congregation of The Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod

**THE MISSION of First Lutheran
Church is "Sharing God's Word
with Everyone, Everywhere!"**

Tune in to—*The Lutheran Hour*—KAWZ 90.9 FM—Sundays at 8 a.m.; KCAP 1340 AM—Sundays at 9 a.m.
"Woman to Woman"—105.3 KMTX FM—Sundays at 9:30 p.m.
"Making a World of Difference"—Channel 11—Fridays at 5 p.m.

When God Created Fathers

When the good Lord was creating Fathers, he started with a tall frame. And a female angel nearby said, "What kind of Father is that? If you're going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put Fathers up so high? He won't be able to shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without a lot of stooping." And God smiled and said, "Yes, but if I make him child-size, who would children have to look up to?"

And when God made a Father's hands, they were large and sinewy. And the angel shook her head sadly and said, "Do you know what you're doing? Large hands are clumsy. They can't manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on pony tails or even remove splinters caused by baseball bats." And God smiled and said, "I know, but they're large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets at the end of a day...yet small enough to cup a child's face in his hands."

And then God molded long, slim legs and broad shoulders. And the angel nearly had a heart attack. "Boy, this is the end of the week, all right," she clucked. "Do you realize you just made a Father without a lap? How is he going to pull a child close to him without the kid falling between his legs?" And God smiled and said, "A mother needs a lap. A father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, balance a boy on a bicycle, and hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus."

God was in the middle of creating two of the largest feet anyone had every seen when the angel could contain herself no longer. "That's not fair. Do you honestly think those large boats are going to dig out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries? Or walk through a small birthday party without crushing at least three of the guests?" And God smiled and said, "They'll work. You'll see. They'll support a small child who wants to ride a horse to Banbury Cross, or scare off mice at the summer cabin, or display shoes that will be a challenge to fill."

God worked throughout the night, giving the Father few words, but a firm authoritative voice; eyes that saw everything, but remained calm and tolerant. Finally, almost as an afterthought, he added tears. Then he turned to the angel and said, "Now, are you satisfied that he can love as much as a Mother?" The angel shuteth up.