



AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS! JANUARY 2010

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All of this and more on the web
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

PASSING ON FAITH



Happy New Year! I hope that your new year's celebrations were all happy and safe. We have officially arrived at the time of year when companies big and small will try to convince you that their product is the thing you need to change your life. They all know how uniquely motivated we are in January to start new habits, build new relationships or even just clean our houses out! I must admit that I am one of the people they are targeting. I find new hope in January and am filled with energy for things I previously ignored. I offer all of this as an explanation for why you will be seeing me around more often and why I will be excitedly telling you about new things. The biggest thing to share with you in January is the beginning of Peer Ministry. The Bible tells us:

"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and purity."
Timothy 4:12

Last year our congregation commissioned 11 high school students to go out into the world and minister to others wherever they might be. They were equipped with skills to welcome a stranger, recognize their value systems

**In a nutshell
their motto is that
"we aren't doing
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**This statement
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and the values of others, help themselves and others make difficult decisions and to see God in their daily lives. Those young people have shared with me that they have felt more confident on interviews, and when starting college, or a new sport because of the skills they learned. The leaders of these students were deeply touched by our time with these peer

ministers and we look forward to seeing what God will continue to do in their lives.

I could write pages and pages about what the Peer Ministry program is all about. In a nutshell their motto is that "we aren't doing youth ministry until our youth are doing ministry." This statement acknowledges that youth do not come to adults when they are making decisions or in crisis, they go to their peers. The verse from Timothy reminds us that the faith of a

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**Do you have more
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**We are looking for 12
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young person is in NO way lesser than the faith of an adult. In fact in many ways we should be looking to these Peer ministers to guide us in our faith journeys. Believing that this is true we want to equip our young people to faithfully and responsibly handle themselves when they are out with their peers. We know we won't be able to give them the answers to every situation they encounter but we strive to give them a toolbox from which to draw from at any time or place.

This January 10th will be the first session of our second Peer Ministry class. We will meet on Sunday after the 10:30 service until commissioning Sunday on May 2nd. We are planning an overnight retreat to Sugar Creek with this training and many other fun experiences for the group. Do you know a student in 9-12 grade who would benefit from this training? Do you have more questions about the training? We are looking for 12 high school students to form this group. Bring a friend and learn together. Our leaders will be Wendy Clements, Leah Bemis and Carla Stanton. I hope your family will prayerfully consider this opportunity and contact us before January 10th if you are interested.

Carla

Carla Stanton
Passing On Faith Coordinator
carla@flonalaska.org

NEW BEGINNINGS...

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23



I love the opportunities in life that enable us to begin again. God gives us each morning God's new mercies. New years are larger moments in time

that remind me of new beginnings. And as we approach 2010, (doesn't that sound different?) this beginning of a new year is a opportunity for fresh beginnings.

It will be a time of new beginnings for our Senior Choir. Our long time director Paul Gulsvig has moved to new

contemporary group, as you sing anthems, and as you inspire us to begin anew our lives each week.

January can be a time of new beginnings for parents. Parents will have the opportunity to take advantage of an outstanding video based parenting course,

Parents will have the opportunity to take advantage of an outstanding video based parenting course, Value Packed Parenting.

gatherings. Otherwise, tell your children you are heading to church so that you can become the best you can be at what is the most important job you have—parenting. Please join us.

There can be new beginnings for young people also this January as our second Peer Ministry class will launch. What exciting training this is! What

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Perhaps this is the time to step up and step in.

Perhaps now is the time to let your gifts be used.

Perhaps this is the time for new beginnings in your life.

Value Packed Parenting. These sessions, led by Dr. Kevin Leman, begin Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. They run from 7:00-8:15 p.m.—sharp! Childcare is provided with advanced reservation. There is an article on page 8 of this newsletter outlining this course.

Parents, I need to ask you, is it time to start fresh with your parenting? So many times Kathy and I wished we could just start over—and thankfully our children gave us the grace to do so. We

valuable training this is! What faith-filled training this is! Thanks to the team who is putting this together. Check our Carla Stanton's article on the front page of the newsletter. Teens—perhaps now is the time to start fresh for your sake—and for the sake of your classmates. Blessings to you as you choose to do so!

New beginnings. Thank God!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Breck".

Pastor Breck McHan
breck@flonlaska.org

Tell your children you are heading to church so that you can become the best you can be at what is the most important job you have—parenting.

beginnings for himself, using his gifts in building the talents of young people in choral singing around the nation. Todd Saner, our Contemporary Music Coordinator, who has filled in for Paul admirably in the past, is our interim Senior Choir Director. Perhaps this is the time to step up and step in. Perhaps now is the time to let your gifts be used. Perhaps this is the time for new beginnings in your life.

The choir itself will be undergoing a new beginning—a new chapter in its life. It is always fun to get in on the ground floor. I urge you to join this group on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.—or any Wednesday for that matter. You will get to know a great group of people and you will provide leadership in worship Sunday mornings as you lead our liturgy, our hymns, our songs, as you back up our

taught Active Christian Parenting together for many years. I think we gained the most from this course in terms of our parenting skills. And to be sure, parenting is a skill. It can be improved upon—parenting must be improved upon.

If things are great in your household most, if not all times, then celebrate and use these evenings to have family

PS: Please join us for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 24th at 11:30 AM or the conclusion of the 10:30 AM worship service.

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

WANT TO BE ADVENTUROUS?

Check out the servant opportunities on the kiosk in the narthex!

Here are ways to volunteer nationally, through the ELCA. Each opportunity has a website to learn more about volunteering at the specific places. Take the information cards with you and learn the different ways to help others. If you do have any questions contact Kathryn at 783-2236 or kathryn@flonalaska.org.

PUPPETEERS

Do you have a desire to let your inner child out? Want to go back to your days of imagination and play? Why not help with our Children's Time Puppet Shows during the sermon on Sundays! We are looking for several volunteers to help us perform our weekly puppet shows. You can participate weekly, monthly, or just help fill in every now and then. If you are interested please sign up at the Connecting Point and we will get in touch with you with more information! If you have questions please contact the church office.

DONATIONS FOR KIDS IN THE KITCHEN:

Donation requests for January's cooking class will also be posted at the Connecting Point. Please take some time to check out the list. All donations are greatly appreciated!

YOUTH NIGHT OUT

Youth Night Out is in need of people to provide dinner for the group on Wednesday nights. Dinners are served in the Fireside Room. If you are interested in donating a meal or sponsoring a catered meal please contact Leah Bemis for more details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

To volunteer and help in several ways with God's children in our church, read more on page 5.

CHILDREN'S TIME SHEPHERDS

Our Children's Time has gotten off with great success, with our weekly puppet show during the sermon time in worship. Because we have had such wonderful participation we are looking for a few extra adults to be on hand during this time to help "shepherd" the youth to and from the choir room and just be in attendance to keep a watchful eye out! You do not have to be a parent of a young one to participate! If you are interested in helping a Sunday or two, please sign up at the Connecting Point! If you have any questions please contact Pastor Breck or the church office.



NOW'S THE TIME TO JOIN CHOIR!

If you've been waiting for just the right time to join choir, perhaps it is now! Todd Saner, Contemporary Music Coordinator at First Lutheran will be stepping in as interim Senior Choir director to the end of the choir year. The core of the choir will be the same, but new singers are welcome. This is a great time to consider stepping in and using the gifts of music you have by being a part of this great group. The choir will continue to provide solid leadership for worship and will also join the contemporary band from time to time to provide exciting choral backup to the fresh songs of the day. If you are looking to meet new people, this is one great opportunity to take advantage of. Simply come Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. to begin a new venture in your life. Call the church office with any questions. We look forward to what God has in store for our choir in 2010!

GROCERY RECEIPTS

Just a friendly reminder: get your **CURRENT** receipts in this month! Grocery receipts are submitted every quarter, so starting this month we will be accepting receipts for **January, February, and March** and that's it! October, November and December receipts are no longer accepted!

PRAYER SHAWL



The adult prayer shawl group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge. All are welcome. Newcomers are invited and encouraged to come!!

STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES



As baptized members of the body of Christ, we gratefully confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We boldly proclaim the gospel as the Word of God. We clearly recognize the gifts that God has first given us through grace, and we joyfully accept our role and responsibility as stewards.

Over these several months we have been reviewing the principles that provide a foundation for the life of a faithful and generous steward.

10. ACCEPT A CHALLENGE means recognizing the dynamic nature of our faith. As our faith grows so will our blessings, and our responsibilities. Paul writes:

"...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

2 Corinthians 9:6

BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS IS THE SKY



On December 21st the earth got to that point in its orbit around the sun where the northern half of the planet receives its least amount of light. This time of year is cold, dark, and for many of us lonely. For even more of us, we at some point feel mournful as we think of days gone by, and people we miss. And yet after our twelve day celebration of Christmas, the Church remembers the story of the Magi coming from afar to pay homage to the King of the Jews. And as we remember this story we sing...

*"Bright and Glorious is the Sky...
radiant are the heavens high."*

The Church does this kind of thing all the time. We claim the throne of Jesus is the cross. His crown is made of *thorns*. Death, the most scary thing, has '*lost its sting*' because of resurrection. So, it should come as no surprise that when it gets dark around here, we'd sing about how "bright and glorious is the sky."

Christians are in an ongoing process of noticing the world as God loves it rather than getting caught up in its darkness and despair. I'm not telling you to 'turn that frown upside down'. But Christians are called this month through the ways we worship and the readings we consider to

be renewed and refreshed. On January 6th, the Church celebrates the Epiphany of Our Lord. In some parts of the Christian world, they celebrate January 6th with

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much more gusto than December 25th because of the message of Epiphany. It's not just that Jesus is born (Christmas) but that Jesus is born for *all* (Epiphany). The Magi follow a star through much darkness

to arrive at the unlikely birthplace of the Lord of all. These Kings are not Jewish, and yet they pay homage to a Jew. We follow in their footsteps more than 2,000 years later paying homage to Jesus, claiming him as Our Lord. What does it mean to you—living in 21st century Wisconsin—that Jesus, a lower class Jewish boy, was born for your sake? How would your life be different had he never been born?

If you really stop to think where you'd be without the birth of Jesus, then you'll understand much more easily why we sing, "Bright and Glorious is the Sky" even when it's the darkest time of year. We too easily take the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus for granted. Now is the time to renew our awe for what God has done, is doing and promises to do for us and through us. May God bless every Epiphany you are called to throughout 2010.

In Christ,

Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@flonalaska.org

UPDATE FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

THIS CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas! Amidst a crazy semester at Seminary, despite our daily chapel, I almost forgot that Christmas was upon us. But then I sang Joy to the World for the first time this season last Sunday, and all of the 'joyful' memories came flooding in. And now, here I am, curled up at home with my cat in my lap drinking eggnog, and marveling once more as the reality of God's presence among us is proclaimed anew.

But it's a different Christmas, too, as "the process" continues on. It's the last Christmas I will be "home" with my parents. It's the last Christmas I will sit in the pew and not worry about a thing. It's the last Christmas I'll be here with you all at First. And it's the last Christmas I will be able to scoot home before anyone else and sort out the presents under the tree and pour the eggnog so that when Mom

and Dad FINALLY get home from saying goodbye to EVERYONE, we can open presents! (at least, that's how it always ended up in our household growing up).

And it's also one of my last times to be able to thank you all at First for the wonderful gifts you bestow upon me each and every day! For the prayers that I know surround me. For the joyous welcome when I am home. For the cards and emails when I am away. And for your amazing and unexpected gifts of scholarship funds that suddenly appeared in my account this month. It was the most amazing Christmas gift: a gift of "Church History", and "Renewing Worship in the Parish", and "Romans", and "The Trinity". A gift that brings peace and joy to my world this Christmas.

Thank you all for your unending support. I wish you all a blessed Christmas season, and will send along

some pictures next month from my J-term in Cairo, Egypt!

Peace,

Elly McHan, Seminarian
Our shoeless seminary student at
Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 24th at 11:30 AM or the conclusion of the 10:30 AM worship service.

NEW MEMBER SESSIONS

First Lutheran welcomes all people to participate in Christ's mission through our ministries, worship and programs, whether you are a member or not. Membership does, however, benefit our congregation. By being a member we know your contact information, can more easily provide you with ministry opportunities and invite you to offer your gifts to the rest of this family of faith. To acquaint new members with First Lutheran and a small group of other newcomers, we offer 3 four-week-long New Member sessions a year: one in the Fall, one in Winter and one in Spring. These gatherings last an hour between worship services from 9:15 - 10:15. The nursery is available, but children are welcome. Our next session will be January 10, 17 and 24 with New Member Sunday January 31. If you have any questions, concerns or are interested in joining a session, call 783-2236.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be held Saturday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the narthex for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism.

Please call the church office, 783-2236, to register or if you have any questions.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



There will not be blood pressure screening in January.

Please join us on Feb. 7th.

WE CELEBRATE NEW BIRTHS

- **Kennedy Zitzner**, daughter of Kyle & Melanie Zitzner

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- **Kaden John Betz**, son of Jason & Sheri Betz
- **Luke Daniel Olson**, son of Timothy & Heather Olson
- **Cailyn Michelle Holter**, daughter of Carsten & Janet Holter
- **Jackson Edward Treanor**, son of Billy & Lindsey Treanor

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- **Lydia Everson**, daughter of Russell & Julie Everson
- **Georgia Schreiner**, mother of Larry (Marilyn) Schreiner
- **John Ours**, father of Terry (Jean) Ours
- **Norma L. Johnson**, wife of Rod Johnson

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In Memory Of: **Mark Handahl**

- Designated for Fireside Remodeling: Sheila Handahl

In Memory Of: **Debbie Christianson**

- Undesignated: Pete & Annette Sherry

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The Sunday School Students have been very busy rehearsing for the Christmas Program as well as shopping for those less fortunate. Each class chose a name off the Giving Tree, bought the gift, wrapped it and placed it under the tree. It was a great opportunity to discuss wants and needs in the classroom. Some classes chose to purchase food, socks and mittens.

The money that is used 3 times a year is from the students offering. This year, we gave Christmas gifts at Christmas time, food for the food pantry last fall and money for trees and shrubs for the members who went on the Mission trip to New Orleans this past summer. The students are looking forward to the members who went on the mission trip to tell of their work.

We are still in need of volunteers in 2 of our Sunday School Classes:

- **We need an extra set of hands to help out in the Kindergarten class. The assistant would help with the hands on activities in the classroom.**
- **We also need a team teacher in one of our 1st/2nd grade classrooms. This would entail leading a lesson every other week from January thru May. Please contact Melissa Erdman if you are able to help in any way.**

Melissa Erdman, Sunday School Superintendent
sundayschool@flonalaska.org

The Lutheran

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

This month in The Lutheran:

- January cover story: The international food crisis and how you can help.
- Find out how congregations and synods are living out the Book of Faith initiative.
- Ask, "What is ecclesiastical behavior?"
- Discover how to stay healthy when anxiety in your life, in your congregation surrounds you.
- Get a reading on our frigid spiritual temperature.
- See if you're missing an unfulfilled opportunity in what's been left unsaid or unlearned.

Reading the Lutheran magazine helps you grow in faith. Read it at home in addition to/instead of attending organized classes, as not all find it convenient or possible to attend classes.

To subscribe to The Lutheran talk with First Lutheran member Barbara Davidson or visit www.thelutheran.org

EVENTS

DINNER WITH FRIENDS



How might we meet each other in this place? Moved to town and want to connect? Been here forever and yet want to make deeper friendships?

Dinner with Friends is an answer! Here's how it works: Sign up at the Connecting Point—whether you are a single person or a family. We will match you up with 2–3 other individual or family groupings of which one will be asked to serve as the first host. Your group of new friends share a meal together, conversation (we supply a simple conversation starter card with a devotional prayer for the meal) and simply get to know each other. Over the course of the next several months you move from house to house on a schedule you choose. The result? New friends you never would have met—and connections in Christ!

CLUTTER

Does too much stuff affect how we feel and function? How much stuff do we need in our homes and our lives? Let's look at how we might get our homes uncluttered and use our space and resources in other ways. Our minds can also become cluttered so we will consider meditation and its benefits.

Sunday, January 10th, 9:15 a.m. at First Lutheran in room 201.
Presented by Barbara Manthei,
Specialist with Lutheran Social Services

DISCOVERING THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Feb. 26-27, 2010
English Lutheran Church
Keynote Speaker:
Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

How do we recognize the voice of the Spirit in the cacophony of our lives, and how can we nurture an on-going relationship with this most personal companion, guide and counselor?

Details, registration and scholarship applications at www.englishlutheran.org



*January 1
(or as soon as you get your flyer)*

Registration for all summer programming opens!

This includes River Boats, Family Camps, Grandparent/Grandchild camp, Mother/Daughter and Father/Son retreats, Parent/Child Horse Ranch; all very popular programs, and all fill up quickly.

Register today!

*Jan. 17, Jan. 31 and Feb. 14
Winter Fun Days*

*February 11–14
Crafters Retreat*

*February 26–28
High School Retreat*

*July–August 2010
Norway Trip*

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd
Ferryville, WI 54628

608-734-3113

camp@sgrcreek.org
www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

NEEDS LIST

Maintenance: Tractor, 4x4 pickup truck, mower/brush cutter, manure spreader, log splitter, chain saw, lumber for construction, washing machine

Games: 4' earth ball (\$300), parachute (\$150), disc golf course (\$1000)

Outdoor Gear: New tents (4+ person), canoes, canoe paddles, new life jackets, snow shoes

Horse Care: Hay, tack: saddles, bridles

Food Service: Commercial oven (6 burner), convection oven, cooking/eating utensils

Landscaping: Trees, shrubs, fencing materials

imagine

YOUNG
YOUTH
GROUP



Young Youth Group has started for kids in 2nd–5th Grade!

God bless my eyes, and let them see
the beauty of the world around me.
God bless my mind to know what's
true, and my lips to tell others
about you.

God bless my heart with love and
care, and help me to share God's
love everywhere.

God give me strength, and bless my
hands to do good works for others
across this land.

Happy New Year! The Young Youth Group at First Lutheran has had a great first year in 2009, and is excitedly anticipating the possibilities of 2010. Our group is growing in our faith through time spent together, stories told, games played, people served, and relationships

built. We will continue to meet each month and hope that you will come and be a part of us. We've had anywhere from 14 to 30 kids at our events. We've swum, hiked, raked, pumpkin carved, ate pizza in our pajamas, and cookie baked! It's been awesome, and what I would sometimes describe as a "whirlwind" of excitement! This being said, if you are an adult or older teen who enjoys being surrounded by the energy of young youth, please don't hesitate to sign up at the Connecting Point for our monthly event. We promise to welcome you, entertain you, and keep you busy. Our next gathering will be Monday, January 25th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall. We'll share games, activities, and a snack. We'll also be planning for the next year. Watch for more details to come in the weekly announcements and at the Connecting Point. Also, for any families just a reminder that Sugar Creek Bible Camp is having their annual Winter Fun Days January 17th and January 31st from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Activities include: snow tubing, broomball, hiking, cross country skiing (bring your own skis), and hiking. There will be a bonfire outside to warm-up by, and a hotdog and chili meal is included! Contact Sugar Creek to sign up 608-734-3113.

November 2009

If you are in 2nd through 5th grade then this is your club and we'd love to have you be involved in our Young Youth Group. Please contact Renee Thies at renee@flonalaska.org, 519-0174 or simply check out the Connecting Point in the narthex to see our scheduled events. All are welcome!

Value Packed Parenting

Seven Sessions starting
Thursday, January 14

7:00-8:15 p.m.

Recommended for parents with
children ages 1 month to 18 years old

**Are your kids worth seven
hours of your time?**

Dr. Kevin Leman has finished producing
this exciting new video based resource,
titled Value Packed Parenting.

**"POINT YOUR KIDS IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION - WHEN
THEY'RE OLD THEY WON'T
BE LOST." -PROVERBS 22:6**

Value Packed Parenting is Dr. Leman's
newest resource to help parents raise
rock-solid children in today's pleasure-
driven world.

1. THE TEN BEST GIFTS YOU'LL EVER GIVE YOUR KIDS

It's never too late to become
a better parent

2. HOW TO LISTEN SO KIDS WILL TALK & HOW TO TALK SO KIDS WILL LISTEN

Staying tuned in so they don't
tune you out

3. DISCIPLINE ISN'T SPELLED P-U-N-I-S-H-M-E-N-T

Why teaching and learning are better
than punishment and penalties

4. TEN WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S SELF- CONFIDENCE

A step-by-step plan that works
wonders!

5. CAUTION: ANGER AHEAD!

Observing the warning signs before
tempers flare

6. BIRTH ORDER - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT

Recognize your children's differences
and turn them into advantages

7. STANDING UP TO THE NEW GOLIATH

Helping kids overcome the
negative influence

Babysitting Provided—Call by
Tuesday 4 p.m. of each week to
reserve babysitting for each Thursday.

Suggested Donation—\$15 per
individual or \$20 per couple. This
covers the cost of the Value-Packed
Parenting Workbook and
presentation materials. Scholarships
are available.

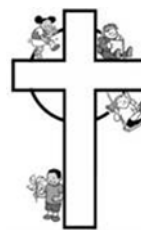
Connect with other parents—we're
walking this journey together!

**If possible, please call
783-2236 to register.** You are
welcome, however, to simply come
on the 14th to the first session.
**Preregistration for childcare
is mandatory.** We want to be
prepared! **Thank you.**

**Want to watch a bit of Dr. Kevin Leman presenting Value
Packed Parenting?** Simply "google" "value packed parenting kevin leman"
and then click on the ten minute youtube.com presentation Dr. Leman has. This
should appear in "Video Results" of your internet search. Blessings to you as
you prepare for this adventure with other parents! Any other questions, please
call 783-2236.



PRESCHOOL



First Lutheran Preschool
is a site for the Onalaska
public 4-year-old
preschool (PreK).
Working with the
Onalaska School District
we will be able to provide
education for the 4 year
olds through state
funding. We are offering

PreK Monday through Friday afternoons.
There is no tuition or registration fees with
the PreK program.

Classes meet:

- Tuesday/Thursday class, held from
8:30am–11:00am for \$84 per month
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday class,
held from 8:30am–11:00am for \$124
per month
- Onalaska PreK,
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/
Thursday/Friday class, held from
12:10pm–2:45pm
- Lunch Bunch, Monday through
Friday, held 11:00am–12:10pm for \$5
a day

**Come take a tour at our OPEN HOUSE
on February 25th from 6:00–7:00 pm.**

Registration starts March 1st.

Please contact the FLP Director, Melissa
Rolbiecki, at 779-4504 to register your
child or to ask any questions.

*Thank you to everyone who supports the
preschool and supports our mission of
teaching God's love to the children.*

Melissa Rolbiecki

Melissa Rolbiecki
Director and Teacher, First Lutheran Preschool
608-779-4504 flp@flonalaska.org
410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 0

HIGH SCHOOL *Highlights*

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Youth Night Out is in need of help providing dinner for 8-12 people on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in helping please contact Leah in the church office or sign up on the youth bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you for your support!



❖ Youth Day Out ❖

Life is hard. No doubt about it. And sometimes you don't always know what way is up or who you can turn to. Peer ministry is all about giving you skills to better understand how you feel, act, and cope with the stress of life and how you can assist those around you. It isn't always easy to be a Christian Friend in our world today! Starting January 10th peer ministry will be lead by Carla Stanton, Wendy Clements, and Leah Bemis. 9th- 12th graders are welcome to join this group. We will meet from 11:30- 1:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons for 4 months. We will go through the 16 session course of Peer Ministry. After completing the course youth are commissioned and become nationally recognized peer ministers! If you have questions feel free to ask, or talk to one of our current Peer Ministers! These high school and college students would LOVE to answer any questions you have about the program! Erich Berg, Clara Davidson, Madeline Davidson, Jackie Groshek, Sam Kinderman, Paige Lofald, Morgan Ludington, Ellie Meyer, Justin Roach, Kaija Sysimaki, and Kevin Vilim

YOUTH DAY OUT SIGN UPS ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON THE YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX! PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST AND PICK UP YOUR PERMISSION SLIPS NOW! DUE TO PREVIOUS LACK OF SNOW, AND THE START OF PEER MINISTRY, WE ARE GOING SLEDDING AT FORT MCCOY ON JANUARY 10TH. WE WILL BE LEAVING FOR THE HILL AT 1:30 P.M. AND COMING HOME ABOUT 6:00 P.M. COST IS \$15.00 PER PERSON PLUS ANY SNACKS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE.

IT MAY BE WINTER, BUT WHO SAYS WE CAN'T GO TO THE WATERPARK! JOIN US JANUARY 21ST AND 22ND FOR AN OVERNIGHT AT THE BEST WESTERN RESORT IN LACROSSE! WE WILL SWIM, HAVE PIZZA, WATCH MOVIES, AND JUST HAVE A GOOD TIME! COST IS \$45, DUE AT SIGN UP. AT LEAST 3 PEOPLE OF EACH GENDER ARE NEEDED TO STAY OVERNIGHT.

SHOPPING, RIDES, AND MORE! MALL OF AMERICA, HERE WE COME! FEBRUARY 23RD JOIN US FOR A TRIP TO THE MOA! THE BUS LEAVES AT 9:00 A.M. AND WILL ARRIVE HOME ABOUT 6:00 P.M. COST IS \$10.00 PER PERSON PLUS MONEY FOR SHOPPING, RIDES, FOOD, AND ANY OTHER EXPENDITURES YOU MIGHT HAVE AT THE MALL! SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP QUICKLY!

YOUTH
DAY
OUT!

Contact Information:

Leah Bemis

High School & Careers Youth Coordinator

Cell: 608-792-5293

Email: leah@flonalaska.org

January 2010

EXTREME

Contact Information:

Tina Antony

Middle School Youth Coordinator

608 386-6683

tina@flonakaska.org

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN...

Not only can you get dirty in the kitchen, but you can also make a yummy dish AND donate your time and gifts to a great charity.

January's cooking adventure:

I must confess. I have been so busy with December big events that I have not yet given much thought to just what we will try to tackle in January's class. Be assured however, it will be great fun. January's class will be held Sunday, January 17th starting at 1:00 p.m. in the First Lutheran Kitchen. When signing up, please indicate the number of people you think may be attending. As always, friends and family members are welcome to join in the fun!

Remember...Food brings family and friends together.

Adults Needed!

Any adults interested in leading a cooking class, sharing recipe ideas or simply help out during a class are most definitely welcome. Please contact Tina for more information.

Donations for Kids in the Kitchen:

Donation requests for January's cooking class will also be posted at the Connecting Point. Please take some time to check out the list. All donations are greatly appreciated.



Join our Souper Bowl Team!

During the Super Bowl this year, how many of us will have the opportunity to feast on any variety of treats and beverages? Most of us take this sort of thing for granted, right? Do we ever stop throughout this American ritual, and think about those who are not just without those similar treats, but without food to eat at all?

This winter, our Middle School Youth will be working diligently to raise awareness of the hunger problem in and around our local area, and raising donations to offer relief. This event, The Souper Bowl of Caring, will officially occur on Sunday February 7th 2010, however it will require some planning ahead of time.

If you are interested in participating in this fulfilling experience, please sign up at the bulletin board outside the office. For more information on this fundraiser, please go to www.souperbowl.org, or Call Tina at 608 386-6683.



A note from Tina

In December, First Kids were faced with an amazing opportunity. We rolled out, baked and decorated cookies for the annual Christmas Caroling Event. I want to thank everyone that joined the Middle School Youth and Young Youth in making this experience one to remember. Hundreds of cookies were produced, bringing holiday cheer to so very many. Once again, the participation and enthusiasm of all involved was both amazing and humbling to me.

Thank you everyone! God Bless



AT FIRST LUTHERAN

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www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org



www.flonalaska.org/facebook

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am
10:30 am

DEADLINE

Deadline to submit content
for next month's newsletter is
always the 15th of the month

First Lutheran
is a congregation of the
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M, T, TH 5:30 PM • SAT 8:00 AM
Contact Becky Brudos 792-2735

Valid only on January 25, 2010 for customers who have not attended Jazzercise in the last 6 months. Regular monthly EFT price applies after 10 months. At participating locations. No refunds or cash value. Other restrictions may apply.

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GET FIT THIS NEW YEAR WITH JAZZERCISE! BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN THE FUN!

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Elly McHan	Seminarianelly@flonalaska.org

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Gabriel Hicks	Organist
Jim Knutson	Bell Choir Director
Todd Saner	Contemporary Music Coordinator
Dick Daleki	Youth Praise Band Director

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Melissa Rolbiecki	Preschool Director779-4504 flp@flonalaska.org
Courtney Kautzer	Preschool Teacher
Tracy Stoll	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Marci Leppert	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Ashley Giese	Lunch Bunch Teacher



AT FIRST LUTHERAN

410 Main Street
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608.783.2236

www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM
10:30 AM

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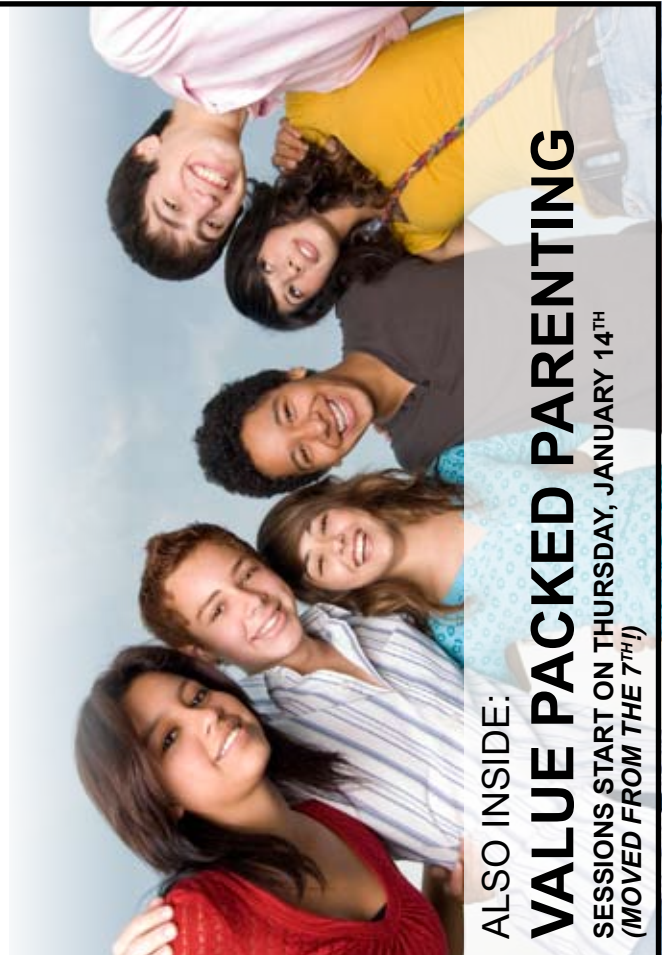
VALUE PACKED PARENTING

SESSIONS START ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH (MOVED FROM THE 7TH!)

GOOD NEWS!
JANUARY 2010



PASSING ON FAITH PEER MINISTRY



ALSO INSIDE:

VALUE PACKED PARENTING

SESSIONS START ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH
(MOVED FROM THE 7TH!)

YOU CAN FIND ALL OF THIS AND MORE AT WWW.FIRSTLUTHERANONALASKA.ORG