

# First Lutheran *Visitor*

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church of Crystal

October 2009 vol. 56 • No. 10



## We're Open Sundays!

*(It's Mondays that I'm worried about.)*

I sat down at the table at the assigned place, where my name appeared on a lovely hand-lettered card just next to the folded linen napkin. Being the outgoing type, I extended my hand to those sitting next to me, introduced myself and then nodded as those around the rest of the table also offered their names.

*"If I can get Jesus to stretch from Sunday into Monday, I'm happy."*

Soon, some grew weary of the speaker, even putting some to sleep, so a few of us took a moment to stand up and leave the room for a stretch. There I met one of my table companions. He was a retirement-aged man with a full head of white hair and a friendly smile.

I re-introduced myself and he did the same, but then we both fell into silence for a moment, looking at the ground. He had seen my name tag and the title 'Pastor' by my name and asked, "So, where's your church?" I told him.

"How's it going there?" he asked. I told him it was going fine. "Is it really fine or are you just saying that?" he pressed on. Though a bit stunned, I reassured him. "Funny," he said, "nobody I know goes to church any more. I just assumed nobody showed up on Sundays." And he went back to staring at the ground.

"It isn't Sundays I worry about," I told him, "It's whether or not they show up on Mondays that worries me." "Mondays?" he said as he looked up. "You have church on Mondays?" "Sometimes," I told him, "but, it's not about sermons. It's about living." He went back to staring at the ground. More silence.

I took a step to head back to my seat but he looked up again and spoke. "So, you don't care the churches are mostly empty?" "Sure I do, but I care about us being 'present' on Monday as much as Sunday. If I can get Jesus to stretch from Sunday into Monday, I'm happy."

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*A Community of Faith in Action*



[www.firstlcc.org](http://www.firstlcc.org)

## Worship in October



### Worship Schedule

The annual autumn worship schedule returns with

education and fellowship opportunities.

Two worship services are held Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

After the 8:00 a.m. service enjoy coffee and fellowship beginning in the courtyard or the community room.



### The 'Worship ala Africa'

service begins one Sunday a month in October.

### Education Hour

Held Sundays from 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Sunday School students are encouraged to attend the 10:00 a.m. worship service **through the children's** message and then return to their parent(s) or to one of our new Sunday morning day care rooms.



*Pastor Dave*

*Continued from page 1*

Sundays are a gift to us from God for the sake of some good purpose: for the sake of Mondays. The Sabbath in its many forms and customs is given to humanity so that the week that follows it also becomes a gift. Monday means less if it **doesn't follow Sunday's lead.**

**So, if you haven't been here on a Sunday for a while, I would remind you that Monday belongs to God, too. It also is a day worthy of your 'Sunday best'. And so are Tuesdays, Wednesdays....■**

*—Pastor Dave*

## Special Worship Service:

*Healing and Reconciliation offered on November 1.*

**T**he Rite for Healing and Reconciliation is an ancient and valued service in the church. It seeks to promote prayer and the laying on of hands as the agents for the healing of soul and body. First Lutheran will offer this special service on All Saints Sunday, November 1 at 11:30 a.m.

**We encourage you to invite people you know who are currently living "wounded lives." The rite deals with the pains our hearts feel over broken relationships and broken promises as well as the aches of broken bodies. Call the First Lutheran office if you're planning to attend. ■**

## October Adult Forums

*Held Sundays from 9:00-9:50 a.m.*

October 4: Bridging. Our presenter will be Bridging Director, Fran Heitzman. Beginning with a donation of a crib, Fran thought that he should be able to find a home for that crib and other furniture items to bridge the gap between those "who have and those who have not." Since 1987 Bridging has served over 36,000 families by providing furniture and household goods.

October 11, 9:00 a.m. (and Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.):

**"Sprucing Up" our church building and a vision to serve the community.** The Congregation Executive Committee and Property Team will be presenting the vision for facility repairs and renewing projects to the church. Presentations will include a listing of our current project needs and some ideas on how we might fund these repairs. Please plan to attend.

October 18: How do we finance building repairs and our vision to serve the community? Presented by the Congregation Executive Committee and Property Team presenting.

October 25: How do we handle stress when life is uncertain? Presenter: Sue Wolfe, Counselor/Therapist, on topics such as Financial Security.

## Welcome our new ESL Instructor

**H**ello FLCC Congregation. My name is Cheryl Hayden and I'd like to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about what I will be doing here at the church.

I am an ESL (English as a Second Language) Instructor. I work for The Adult Academic Program, located in Winnetka Learning Center. The AAP is a branch of the Community Education Department of Robbinsdale Area Schools. I live in Minnetonka with my husband and three daughters.

I have a B.S. in English: Writing and a M.A. in English: TESL from Minnesota State University – Mankato. I have more than 12 years experience working with English Language Learners from other countries and cultures.

I enjoy my work with these learners very, very much and am passionate about doing what I can to improve the quality of their

lives and that of their families. Lack of English language skills can be a barrier to employment opportunities, as well as community involvement. My joy comes with knowing that by helping to remove this barrier, these community members, our neighbors, can continue to move toward realizing their highest potential.

ELS classes meet Monday and Wednesday, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. I will be assisting students as a large group, small groups, and individually. Volunteers are needed for 1-2 hours on Monday mornings between

9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to spend independent or group time with students. No prior experience is needed, just basic English skills. We will use a variety of different books and teaching materials to help students practice and improve skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. If you are interested in helping, contact Jamey Spencer at the church office (763) 537-4576.

Thank you so much for this exciting opportunity and please **let Jamey know if you're willing to partner with me in this great ministry!** ■

—Cheryl Hayden



*Cheryl Hayden  
ESL Instructor*

### 2010 Pledge Drive

As we approach the time of year that involves our pledge drive, please begin praying and considering what you would like to do for 2010. We will have two forums in October 11 and 18, to discuss **First's Future Focus. Plan to attend for a chance to give your input** on what and how. ■



## First Lutheran Church of Crystal

7708 62nd Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-2883

www.firstlcc.org

763-537-4576

Fax: 763-537-0372

### Staff

Pastor: David Folkerts  
Worship & Music Director/  
Financial Officer: Mariana Duffney  
Organist: Judy Bakke  
Program Assistant: Jamey Spencer Jr.  
Handbells: Sheryl Larsen  
Office Manager/Secretary:  
Ellie McAllister  
Sunday School Superintendents:  
Jennifer Hernandez and  
Carrie Adams  
Wedding and Event Coordinator:  
Carol Johnson  
Custodian: Mark McAlpin  
Security: Lyn Sanderson  
Worship AV Tech: Angie Brannick

### Office hours

Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



## Children

### Vacation Bible School

Kids at First Lutheran of Crystal enjoyed a fun day of Vacation Bible School on Sunday, August 16. Our theme was Jonah and the Whale. We made crafts, including beaded necklaces or key chains; we shared a yummy lunch; we had story time with a really big fish (and a lot of little pirates); we played outside with a big red ball; and we watched the Veggie Tales movie about Jonah.

We also learned some things, like: God wants us to listen and obey; You can't hide from God; God always gives second chances. Thanks to all the helpers who worked to make this day such a good one!

## Youth

Confirmation Classes begin new format with House of Hope Lutheran Wednesday confirmation classes now have doubled in size with the collaboration of House of Hope Lutheran in New Hope. These combined classes of 6th through 8th graders will meet on Wednesdays at First Lutheran for the remainder of the fall. IN addition to our regular class schedule, each first Wednesday of the month will be a special night for a combined confirmation **learning or service event with four other ELCA churches in the area. October's event will take us to NEAR food shelf in Crystal.**

### Rite of Confirmation for 9th and 10th Graders

Reformation Sunday, October 25, will also be celebrated as Confirmation Sunday for twelve of our students. This Rite of affirming their baptism will be held at the 10:00 a.m. service only.

Rehearsal for the students and a formal picture session will be held Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m. Afterwards a rehearsal brunch will be held for the students and their families.

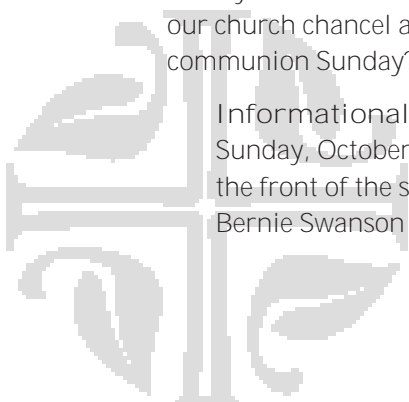
## Ministry

### Altar Guild Training

Have you wondered what an Altar Guild Member does? Are you interested in making sure that our church chancel area is always neat and in order? Would you be willing to help serve wine on communion Sunday?

#### Informational and training meeting

Sunday, October 18 after the second service or Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the front of the sanctuary. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, contact Bernie Swanson 763-535-4133 or Pat Hamm 763-566-7814.



## Quilt Squares

Another year has begun and our quilt room is full of fabric, filler, quilt tops, and backs—ready and waiting for caring hands to tie, pin, and sew quilts for many different missions. Because of sad circumstances, we have lost a few of our dedicated quilters. Carol Dick and Mayme Bale are busy quilting in heaven now—we'll surely miss them here. And some won't be quilting because of health issues. We're hoping some of you will come and join us. Your commitment would be about four to five hours a month (first and third Mondays at 9:30 a.m.). We are trying to keep our 'world' warm in God's love! So please consider joining us!



## FLC Women

### Women's Retreat

*Save the date!* House of Hope Lutheran Church is planning a **Women's Retreat and WE WANT YOU!** The retreat will be from November 13-15. It will be held at YMCA Camp Pepin in Stockholm, WI. Women from all six churches are invited (Elim Lutheran, First Lutheran Church of Crystal, Faith-Lilac Way, Holy Nativity, House of Hope, and St. James). In past years, activities included Bible studies, manicures, yoga, bead jewelry, and shopping. It's a wonderful mixture of religion and relaxation. Cost: \$90/person. Contact Karen Brehmer, 763-535-3828, brehmer@comcast.net.

## Seniors

Bus trip to St. Peter on October 14  
We will have a riding tour of St. Peter, lunch at Whiskey River Emporium, and tour and talk about Gustavus Adolphus Chapel. Bus will leave at 8:15 a.m. and will return around 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35/person (lunch and tips included).  
A bag breakfast will be provided on the bus by Chad Boeddecker, manager at Calibre Chase.  
Sign-up with payment by September 28.



## Men

### Study and Buddy

Over the years, this men's Bible study has studied Biblical themes and issues of importance to Lutheran men, as well as books of the Bible. Men gather every Tuesday at 10:00 a. m. in the conference room for great conversation (although we admit that we get off the subject once in a while!) We welcome newcomers because of their contribution in experience and knowledge enriches our get-togethers. Keep in mind, there are always treats and coffee!



### Area ELCA Men's ministry begins November 8


First Lutheran will host a gathering of men from area ELCA churches on Sunday, November 8. The dinner will feature music, discussion on the state of ministry to and by men in our congregations, and a keynote presentation from Dr. Bob Albers, Distinguished Professor of Pastoral Care at United Theological Seminary, on *Stress and the Male Faith*. Register at the church narthex or by calling the church office.

# October 2009 Calendar

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday						
							Sep 2009							Nov 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18		
27	28	29	30				20	21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25		

<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship (Holy Comm.) (5)</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Forum (2)</p> <p>9:00 AM Education Hour (9)(4)(6)</p> <p>9:40 AM Choir (3)</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship (Holy Comm.)(5)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">5</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9)</p> <p>9:30 AM Quilters (2)</p> <p>11:30 AM Shut-in Mtg. (1)</p> <p>1:00 PM FLCC Women's Min. Team (2)</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS (10)</p> <p>7:00 PM Confirmation (9th &amp; 10th) (1) or (6)</p> <p>7:00 PM Ladies Ensemble at FLW</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">6</p> <p>9:30 AM Deborah's Circle (Bible Study) (2)</p> <p>10:00 AM Study &amp; Buddy (1)</p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg (9)</p> <p>6:30 PM Team Chair Mtg. (4)</p> <p>7:00 PM Ministry Teams Mtgs. (4)</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">11</p> <p>7:30 AM Ladies Ensemble @ FLW</p> <p>7:30 AM Mens Ens. @ FLCC &amp; Ft. Snelling</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship (5)</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Forum (2)</p> <p>9:00 AM Education Hour (9) (4) (6)</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">12</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9)</p> <p>1:00 PM Bible Study (2)</p> <p>2:00 PM Global Missions (3)</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS (10)</p> <p>7:00 PM Confirmation (9th &amp; 10th) (1) or (6)</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">13</p> <p>9:30 AM Recyclers (2)</p> <p>10:00 AM Study &amp; Buddy (1)</p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg (9)</p> <p>1:00 PM Rebecca's Circle (1)</p> <p>7:00 PM Mens Ensemble (3)</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">18</p> <p>7:30 AM Jubilate Ringers at HOH</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship (Holy Comm.) (5)</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Forum (2)</p> <p>9:00 AM Education Hour (9) (4) (6)</p> <p>9:40 AM Choir (3)</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship (Holy Comm.) (5)</p> <p>11:15 AM Altar Guild Training (5) (12)</p> <p>MEA Get Away (9th - 12th)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">19</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9)</p> <p>9:30 AM Quilters (2)</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS (10)</p> <p>7:00 PM Confirmation (9th &amp; 10th) (1) or (6)</p> <p>7:00 PM Grief Support (1)</p> <p>7:00 PM Ladies Ensemble at FLW</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">20</p> <p>9:30 AM Deborah's Circle (Crafts) (2)</p> <p>10:00 AM Study &amp; Buddy (1)</p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg (9)</p> <p>2:00 PM Rachel's Circle (2)</p> <p>6:00 PM Executive Mtg. (1)</p> <p>7:00 PM Altar Guild Training (5) (12)</p> <p>7:00 PM Mary Magdalene Circle (2)</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">25</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship (5)</p> <p>9:00 AM Adult Forum (2)</p> <p>9:00 AM Education Hour (9) (4) (6)</p> <p>9:40 AM Choir (3)</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship (5)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">26</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9)</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS (10)</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">27</p> <p>10:00 AM Study &amp; Buddy (1)</p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg (9)</p> <p>11:00 AM Mission Trip Mtg (6)</p> <p>6:00 PM Council Mtg (2)</p>

(1) Conf. Rm. (2) Comm. Rm. (3) Music Rm. (4) Fellow. Hall (5) Sanctuary (6) Youth Rm. (7) Kitchen (8) Chapel (9) S

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 7 14 21 28</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Thumbs (2) 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers at HOH Wedding Rehearsal in PM (5)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study (2) 6:00 PM Wedding (5) 7:00 PM SDA (8) <b>DAYD</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>SDA Here All Day (3) (4) (9) (5)</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9) 1:00 PM O.A. (2) 6:30 PM Confirmation Joint Service Project w/Near 7:00 PM Choir (3)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Thumbs (2) 12:30 PM Loose Threads Guild (2) 7:00 PM Joyful Ringers at FLCC (3) <b>DAYD</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study (2) 7:00 PM SDA (8)</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Crafters (2) SDA Here All Day (3) (4) (9) (5)</p> 
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:15 AM Senior Min. Bus Trip to St. Peter 9:30 AM ESL (6)(9) 1:00 PM O.A. (2) 6:30 PM Confirmation Dinner (8th-8th) (4) (7) 7:00 PM Choir (3) 7:00 PM Confirmation (6th-8th) 8:00 PM Open Youth Rm.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Thumbs (2) 7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers at HOH MEA Get Away (9th - 12th)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study (2) 7:00 PM SDA (8) MEA Get Away (9th - 12th)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>MEA Get Away (9th - 12th) SDA Here All Day (3) (4) (9) (5)</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9) 1:00 PM O.A. (2) 7:00 PM Choir (3) <b>DAYD</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Thumbs (2) 12:30 PM Loose Threads Guild (2) 7:00 PM Joyful Ringers @ FLCC (3)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study (2) 7:00 PM SDA (8) <b>DAYD</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Confirmation Pictures (9th - 10th) 10:45 AM Confirmation Rehearsal 11:15 AM Confirmation Brunch 4:30 PM Confirmation Hayride (car pool) SDA Here All Day (3) (4) (9) (5)</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6)(9) 9:30 AM Senior Steering Com (1) 1:00 PM O.A. (2) 6:30 PM Confirmation Dinner (8th-8th) (4) (7) 7:00 PM Choir (3) 8:00 PM Open Youth Rm.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Thumbs (2) 7:00 PM Joyful Ringers @ FLCC (3)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study (2) 7:00 PM SDA (8)</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Fall Festival (4) (6) (7) <b>HALLOWEEN</b> SDA Here All Day (3) (4) (9) (5)</p>



## First Lutheran promotes Fair Trade during Habitat House/Thrivent Builds Project

**F**irst Lutheran's commitment to promoting Fair Trade while making a difference in their community was highlighted in an article in the electronic magazine *A Taste of Justice*. The E-Zine is a production of Equal Exchange, the company that distributes the Fair Trade coffee, tea and snack products available at First Lutheran. The products are raised using environmentally sustainable practices, processed by farmer-owned cooperatives and distributed through Equal Exchange with cooperation from various faith-related groups, including Lutheran World Relief. Farmers earn a fair wage to support their families and communities.

The article titled "**Building Community with First Lutheran Church of Crystal**" tells the story in the words of Al Anderson, project coordinator, of First Lutheran's involvement in providing and promoting Equal Exchange coffee and products during the building and celebration of the Thrivent Builds/Habitat House project. The article notes that about 5,000 cups of coffee were served

during the building project. A grant from Lutheran World Relief helped to pay for the coffee and celebrations. In return, LWR and Equal Exchange literature was displayed. A lot of interest in Equal Exchange was generated in the volunteers from First Lutheran and other churches working on the building project. The article also notes the year-round availability of Equal Exchange products at First Lutheran of Crystal, including the sale last year of "an amazing \$1,700.00 worth!"

The last paragraph says, "A hearty 'thank you!' to First Lutheran Church of Crystal for their diligent and impactful work as they find creative ways to connect their community to small farmer communities around the world."

To read the article online, visit [www.equalexchange.coop/media/atasteofjustice/Summer2009.html](http://www.equalexchange.coop/media/atasteofjustice/Summer2009.html)

Scroll down to the article near the end with the pictures of familiar faces. ■

—Sheryl Larsen, Global Missions Task Force

## Outreach

### Change for the Good: *Emergency Fund needs your help in October*

**Our monthly 'Drop in the Bucket' campaign normally asks for the change in your pocket to help fund our emergency assistance fund. Due to increased activity over the summer months that fund is now nearly depleted. So, in the month of October we will be asking you to donate your loose change every week. As we head into the fall and winter months we anticipate the number of requests from the Fund to increase sharply. Your small contribution this month could make a world of difference for someone you know. Thanks for your generosity! ■**

## Fall Festival

*Saturday, October 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*

**Join us for a fun day! We will have Don Bakke and his band, children's games, cake walks, food, fresh lefse, crafts, raffles, books, videos, CDs and DVDs and Christmas items for sale.**

Bring your books, CDs, DVDs, videos, and Christmas items that you no longer use to the Youth room between 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30. Crafts and baked goods may be brought to the Fellowship Hall during the same hours. Baked goods may be brought before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Informational packets have been mailed to members this year. Please donate to the expenses for the Festival as well as our mission projects. Thrivent Financial will be matching \$1,200 this year instead of \$1,600. The net proceeds will be divided three ways: local missions, world missions and church projects. ■



## Pray the Devil Back to Hell

**T**he recently-released film, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, documents the grassroots women's movement in Liberia that brought an end to that country's long civil war. These past events are still very close to many members of River of Life Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis, who will offer a public screening of the film on October 3.

To share such traumatic yet hope-filled memories was a challenge and a gift the congregation offered to the metro area, for greater understanding of a country half-way around the world. Several of the activists featured in the film are Lutheran, but it became a truly interfaith effort as Christian and Muslim women stood up together for their families and for their country.

Rather than simply screening the film, River of Life members and friends from Liberia will host morning discussion workshops, telling their own personal stories. A keynote speaker and lunch will give ample time to personally connect with each other, and to browse information tables from advocacy organizations and others addressing global or immigrant issues. The film screening will be followed by a choice of several closing workshops, addressing the question, "What do we do now?" Liberians are a vibrant part of many of our metro congregations.

This is an opportunity to hear firsthand their unique witness to faith and peace-making. Liberians and Americans are equally encouraged to come and add voices to the mix. Come for the full day, half or just the film on Saturday, October 3, 9:30 to 3:30 p.m.; film at 12:45 p.m. For more information about the film, see [www.praythediabacktohell.com](http://www.praythediabacktohell.com). For advanced registration forms see [www.riveroflifelutheran.org](http://www.riveroflifelutheran.org) or call 612-521-7655. ■



## Bonfire: A Collaborative Mission of First Lutheran, House of Hope, and St. James!

***The following article is the first in a series of reports about a new ministry organization named "Bonfire."***

*This group exists to promote the sharing of ideas and enhance collaboration between ELCA congregations in our area of the metro. This month's article is offered by Pastor David Lechelt of St. James Lutheran in Crystal.*

I do believe it is a new season of the Holy Spirit for all of us. It certainly has been for me as I **accepted the call to St. James in 2009 with the invitation to Catch the Spirit!** Truly, I've been caught and the fire that I first experienced with the people of St. James has grown to a Bonfire of collaboration with you.

Collaborative meetings of presidents, vice-presidents, and pastors of House of Hope, First, and St. James happen monthly with brainstorming and action plans for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ together! We recognize that we share a changing mission field and that together we **have incredible assets and capacity to answer God's call to us today. Our collaborative meetings have** already produced wonderful fruit of monthly youth summits (growing to a six church participation with the youth of Holy Nativity, Elim, and Faith Lilac-Way). We look forward to more.

On October 7 our youth will gather for shared outreach and support of our local food shelf, NEAR. On November 8, 6:00 p.m., the men of our congregations will gather for a dinner and speaker at First Lutheran. And on Thanksgiving Eve, November 25, we worship together at St. James with Holy Communion. We will sing together! More communion follows worship with St. James **providing the coffee and HOH and First bringing the pie! And there's more....on Thanksgiving Day,** anyone is welcome to join the cooking and serving of a Thanksgiving Dinner at First Lutheran.

Good collaboration includes many opportunities for all of us to come together.

If you are reading this article now, know that your leaders are dedicated to getting the word out to you. Even more, we are dedicated to listening to you. Thank you for your support, your input, and the kindling you provide for one magnificent fire! New winds of the Holy Spirit are blowing and I give thanks for you. ■

—Pr. David C. Lechelt, St. James

### Items collected and put to good use

Eyeglasses and sunglasses, cases, lens; used stamps with a small border left around them; travel size soap, shampoo, conditioner for Sharing and Caring Hands; bath-size bars of soap for LWR; layette items: onesies, blankets, sleepers, sweaters, cloth diapers; new-born size hats, pattern **available; Kemps' milk bottle caps; pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House; box tops for** Education; hearing aids; cell phones (box is next to NEAR food bin); clothing for Sharing and Caring Hands; school kit items (list on the kiosk); health kit items; food and money for NEAR. Most of these items can be put in the labeled boxes opposite the office. ■



First Lutheran  
Church of Crystal

A Member of the ELCA

Non-Profit Org.  
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Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 1689

7708 62nd Avenue North  
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[www.firstlcc.org](http://www.firstlcc.org)

*Return Service Requested*



## Our Mission:

*We are called to awaken  
the Spirit of Christ...*

*In ourselves, through a commitment to  
a life of learning, worship, and prayer.*

*In our community, by dedication to the  
renewal of our family, our neighbors, and  
the disenfranchised, by the practice of  
our faith through acts of justice, mercy,  
and kindness.*



*In our world,  
by nurture of  
compassionate  
partnership with  
diverse cultures to*

*strengthen our common faith, for the  
enrichment of all people in Christ Jesus.*



## Fall Festival

*Saturday, October 31  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

**Don Bakke and his band, children's games,**  
cake walks, food, fresh lefse, crafts,  
raffles, books, videos, CDs and DVDs  
and Christmas items for sale.

*See page 9*