

Visitor

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church of Crystal

September 2009 Vol. 56 • No. 9



Rally Sunday
September 13

Following after Jesus closely, even to the Cross *by Kebede Boru*

Christians who remain faithful and follow after Jesus closely are a blessing indeed.



Kebede Boru

It was Christians like these in the 1970's who brought the "Good News" of Christ to me. I received a call of salvation and the Holy Spirit inspired me to receive Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Life was so good. I was fervent to follow after Him closely, and serve Him by involving myself in church activities.

Unfortunately a time came where the world around me began to drag me far behind my Lord and Savior, and I distanced myself from church activities.

Praise the Lord for His patience. He waited a decade and a half for me to return closely to Him again. If Jesus had counted all that wasted time on me, indeed I would have been lost, but His grace is greater than my weakness.

Today by His mercy, I am able to participate in the good work of His kingdom and have recently returned from Ethiopia where I helped launch an orphanage.

Lagging behind Christ is no longer an option as I take seriously what He says in His Holy Word, **"he that take not his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me"** (Luke 10: 38).

It is rewarding to follow after the Lord closely, even to the cross. Thank God for His mercy, His grace, and His patience. ■



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A Community of Faith in Action



www.firstlcc.org

Worship in September



Fall Worship Schedule

The annual
autumn
worship
schedule

returns with education and
fellowship opportunities.

Two worship services will be
held beginning Sunday,
September 13 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

Autumn also brings the
return of Adult Education
and Sunday School that will
be held 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.

For details, see the Sunday
School registration desk on
September 13.

The Fourth Commandment: "Honor thy Father and Mother"

No matter your age, you're still one of the kids! "The Fourth Ah Hah!"



Pastor Dave

I got a retirement announcement in the mail the other day from one of my cousins. He is not 10 years my senior, but he has taken an early 'buyout' from his company. I stared at the professionally printed card for a moment and then said (possibly out loud), "Wait a second, we're supposed to be the kids!"

There are old pictures of this cousin and me standing before the cedar tree in our grandmother's yard. Two handsome boys dressed in their Sunday-best, him the taller and oldest, me the younger, smaller one. The years took us down

different paths in life, and we saw little of each other and spoke sparingly when we did. Some how we both gained weight, lost most of our hair, created families, financed mortgages, and inherited bodies that gave us problems now and then. Our fathers both died young and our mothers have grown tinier with time. But we still saw ourselves as the kids.

This could be denial of age, I suppose, but I choose to see something more valuable: **the sacred responsibility of being "the kid."** Being the kid means we get to see the joy in the day even when there is little to warrant it. Being the kid means we believe there is more to our future than our past. Being the kid means we retain the right to cry over unfairness, the right to get angry over injustice, and the right to give away half of our lunch money to the kid who had had his stolen. It means believing in **being good as it's own reward.**

Being one of the kids also has its responsibilities. It means we never put more on our **plate than we're prepared to eat. It means we clean our own room (or neighborhood, or town, or planet).** And most important of all, it means we respect our elders, not just because they are older, but because they were once kids, too.

The secret mission to remaining one of 'the kids,' is that we see in each other someone who sees wonder in the day and friendship in the newest face on the block. **What it means to be 'the kid' is that, while we may be naïve of danger, we are driven** by the stronger urge to love; while we are wounded by our failures, we are healed by **God's promise. In the end, we honor our fathers and mothers by never losing sight** of being the kids for whom they sacrificed for, prodded along, and loved.

So, honor your parents. No matter your age. You are still one of the kids whose **actions, amid the neighborhood, are still observed. You are still one of the kids who's** repute still shines on those who came before you. You are still one of the kids capable of something wonderful. ■

—Pastor Dave

Welcome Ellie McAllister New Office Manager/Secretary

I am excited to begin my new position as secretary and to become better acquainted with the wonderful members here at First Lutheran.

I am originally from Hudson, WI and currently live in Becker, MN. I earned my bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in Indiana and attended graduate school at Saint John's School of Theology* Seminary in Collegeville, MN. I absolutely love learning about Scripture, especially the early narratives in Genesis and the complex personalities and histories of the prophets. I hope to continue my education in an Mdiv program in the Cities. One of my favorite places to be is a classroom, soaking up lectures and student dialogue.



Ellie McAllister
Office Manager/
Secretary

My husband Paul is a pastor at a church in Saint Cloud. We have been married for three years and love to explore the great outdoors together. We can be highly competitive sports players as well. We also love to travel.

One of my favorite Scripture passages is Jeremiah 20.7: *“O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.”* While this passage (and much of Jeremiah overall) may sound a little intimidating at first reading, it is a passage of great comfort and peace. My relationship with God is constantly enticing; God leads me in new, adventurous, and often challenging directions every day. ■

Global Mission Support

Equal Exchange products benefit farmers and handcraft workers in developing countries. Equal Exchange coffee, tea, cocoa and baking chocolate are available at First Lutheran.



First Lutheran Church of Crystal

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

www.firstlccoc.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 Superintendent:

Jennifer Hernandez

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.



Music Notes

Thank you to the faithful folks who enhance our worship throughout the year. You are the backbone of our musical worship!

No recession here! Additional musicians wanted: Modest compensation and outstanding benefits...

In addition to the regular, faithful folks who share their gifts year round in the Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers and Ensembles, job descriptions for temporary/short-term positions are available in our music program. If you are interested in learning more about musical opportunities, contact Mariana at 763-537-4576, ext. 16 or e-mail mduffney@firstlcc.org.

Singing positions for grown-ups

Do you sing in tune with your neighbors? Music reading is NOT required.

Christmas Concert Choir: Rehearsals will be held Wednesdays, Sept. 1—Dec. 6 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays from 9:40-11:00 a.m. The Christmas Concert performance will be held Dec. 6.

Festival Choir: Rehearsals will be held Wednesdays, Jan. 1—Feb. 14 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays from 9:40-11:00 a.m. The Choir Festival performs with six other church choirs on Feb. 14, 2010.

Easter Choir: Rehearsals are held Wednesdays from 7:45-8:45 p.m. and the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays from 9:40-11:00 a.m. from Feb. 17 —Apr. 4. The music event will be singing Easter Sunday.

Instrumentalist

Do you play musical instrument? Soloists, ensembles or simple choir accompaniment are needed. Participation requires two rehearsals with choir/accompanist prior to performance.



FLC Women

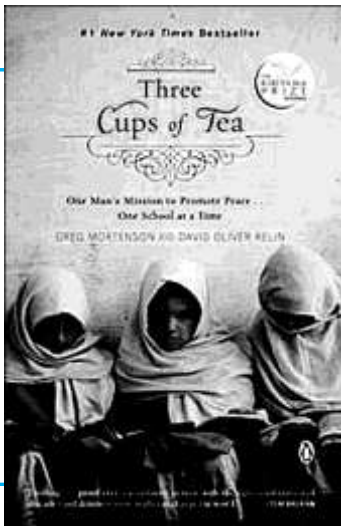
Fall Fun Brunch

Women will enjoy great food, a video or two, and a panel of women who are on our ministry teams will answer your questions.

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.-noon.

Cost: \$10.

Sign-up by September 15 in the Narthex.



Minneapolis Area Synod Women's Gathering

The keynote speaker is Jerene Mortenson who is the mother of Greg Mortenson and author of *Three Cups of Tea*. There will be workshops, Bible study and good food. Sign up at the kiosk by the Community Room.

Saturday, September 26 from from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Held at Transfiguration Lutheran in Bloomington.

To carpool, call Jackie Mortenson at 763-535-2797.

School Kits

It is time to collect items for school kits:

- ◆ Spiral notebooks, 8" x 10" totaling 150-200 sheets (three 70 sheet)
- ◆ **One child's blunt scissors**
- ◆ One 12" ruler with centimeters
- ◆ One pencil sharpener
- ◆ Six #2 pencils, with eraser, unsharpened, rubber-banded together
- ◆ One eraser, approx. 2 ½" long
- ◆ One box of 16 or 24 crayons. (No Rose Art.)



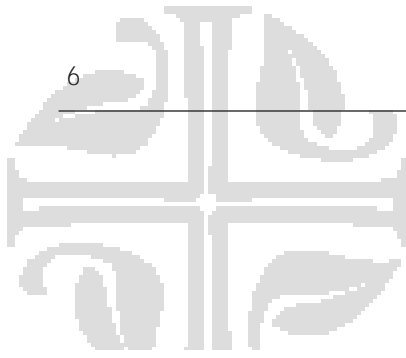
Remove excess packaging. Items will be collect through November 1. The collection box is located in the Community Room. Postage for shipping is \$1.40 (donations are appreciated). Make your check out to FLCW and mark it LWR postage.

Seniors

A new season for the Senior Ministry begins with a pot luck on Wednesday, September 9 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share. Buns, pickles, and beverages will be provided.

Special entertainment guest will be the Plymouth Rockers Senior Chorus, a group of 30-40 singing seniors. Come join in the fun!






September 2009 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>(1) Conference Room (2) Community Room (3) Music Room (4) Fellowship Hall (5) Sanctuary (6) Youth Room</p>	<p>(7) Kitchen (8) Chapel (9) Sunday School Roo (10) Sunday School Of (11) Courtyard</p>	<p><i>1</i> 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1)</p>
<p><i>6</i> 9:30 AM Woship (Holy Communion)</p>	<p><i>7</i> LABOR DAY (Office Closed)</p>	<p><i>8</i> 9:30 AM Recyclers (2) 6:30 PM Chair Mtg. (4) 7:00 PM Men's Ensemble 7:00 PM Ministry Teams Mtg.</p>
<p><i>13</i> 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship (Olson Baptism) (5) RALLY SUNDAY</p>	<p><i>14</i> 9:30 AM ESL Class (6,9) 1:00 PM Bible Study (2) 6:00 PM -9:00 PM SDA At Church (5) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM SOS (10) 7:00 PM Global Missions (3) 7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p><i>15</i> 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1)</p>
<p><i>20</i> 8:00 AM Worship (5) 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship (Holy Communion) (Goyah Baptism) (5)</p>	<p><i>21</i> 9:30 AM ESL Class (6, 9) 9:30 AM Quilters (2) 6:00 PM -9:00 PM SDA At Church(5) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM S.O.S. (10) 7:00 PM Grief Support Grp. (1) 7:00 PM Ladies Ensemble at FLW 7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p><i>22</i> 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1) 6:00 PM Executive Committee Mtg. (1)</p>
<p><i>27</i> 7:30 AM Jubilate Ringers at FLCC 8:00 AM Worship (5) 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:40 AM Choir (3) 10:00 AM Worship With Alleluia Ringers (5)</p>	<p><i>28</i> 9:30 AM ESL Class (6, 9) 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4) 6:30 PM S.O.S. (10) 7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>	<p><i>29</i> 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1) 6:00 PM Council Mtg. (2)</p>

Rally Day, Sunday, September 13

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM All Music Makers Kickoff (3)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Jubilee Ringers at HOH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>SDA At Church All Day (3) (4) (9) (5)</p>																																																																																																									
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL Class (6, 9)</p> <p>11:30 AM Sr. Rockers Chorus & Pot Luck (5, 4)</p> <p>1:00 PM O.A. (2)</p> <p>5:30 PM Joint Confirmation Event @ Elim (meets at FLCC 1st)</p> <p>6:00 PM -9:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir (3)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study (2)</p> <p>12:30 PM Loose Threads Guild (2)</p> <p>5:00 PM Alleluia Ringers</p> <p>6:00 PM -9:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p> <p>7:00 PM Joyful Ringers</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 PM SDA At Church All Evening (5)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Crafters (2)</p> <p>SDA At Church All Day (3, 4, 9, 5)</p>																																																																																																									
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL (6,9)</p> <p>1:00 PM O.A. (2)</p> <p>6:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir (3)</p> <p>Joint Confirmation Orientation at HOH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study (2)</p> <p>5:00 PM Alleluia Ringers (3)</p> <p>6:00 PM -9:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p> <p>7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers @ HOH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 PM Bible Study (2)</p> <p>6:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Fall Brunch (4) (7)</p> <p>SDA At Church All Day (3, 4, 9, 5)</p>																																																																																																									
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL Class (6, 9)</p> <p>9:30 AM Senior Steering Min. (1)</p> <p>1:00 PM O.A. (2)</p> <p>6:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir (3)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study (2)</p> <p>12:30 PM Loose Threads Guild (2)</p> <p>5:00 PM Alleluia Ringers (3)</p> <p>6:00 PM -9:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p> <p>7:00 PM Jubilate Ringers at HOH</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 PM SDA At Church (5)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>SDA At Church All Day (3, 4, 9, 5)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>																																																																																																									
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 AM ESL Class (6, 9)</p> <p>1:00 PM O.A. (2)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir (3)</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Aug 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Aug 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Oct 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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Youth

Confirmation education enters a new era

First Lutheran of Crystal will begin a new approach to confirmation education this fall. This innovative, multi-faceted program is the result of months of planning and visionary thinking on the part of pastors and lay leaders from many ELCA congregations in the near northwestern suburbs. This new Confirmation ministry will include the following...

Beginning Wednesday, September 9, our Confirmation students will be part of a six-congregation large youth event. It will feature a mixture of Christian music and thematic teachings, or service events and featured speakers hosted each month by one of the participating congregations.

The first event is a concert held at Elim Lutheran in Robbinsdale on September 9. The students will gather at First Lutheran for pizza at 5:30 p.m., travel to Elim at 6:00 p.m. and the concert will run from 6:30-8:00 p.m. All future events will held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Beginning this Fall, Confirmation students from First Lutheran and House of Hope Lutheran Church in New Hope will share Wednesday evening Confirmation classes. Classes will combine teachers and pastors around a common curriculum and common site. This will double our class sizes, double the number of teachers, and further promote synergy and cooperation between our congregations. Both congregational pastors and lay-teachers will participate in this education.

Fall Confirmation kicks off Wednesday, September 2, with our parent-student-teacher orientation and classes will be held on Wednesdays through December at First Lutheran.

Confirmation classes begin with students entering 6th grade. This change is made to coordinate **with the grade levels now comprising 'Middle School'. Those entering the program this fall as**

sixth through eighth graders will be confirmed in the fall of their 9th grade year. Other students will be confirmed under the agreements made at the time of their entry.

While we will be holding classes together, Confirmation ceremonies **will be held at each congregation's church for it's students. ■**





Welcome back breakfast and Sunday School orientation

September 13, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

A welcome back breakfast and Sunday School orientation will be held for Sunday School children ages 3 through 5th grade and their families. See friends, meet your teachers, tour the new Sunday School rooms, sign up for Sunday School, and get excited about a new year!

Families are invited to attend the 10:00 a.m. worship service as a family.

Children's Music

Alleluia Ringers: open to students in grades 3-6. Make music as a group by ringing the chimes and playing rhythm instruments. There is lots of good **music is planned! Check out a rehearsal to see what it's about. Come join the fun!**

Rehearsal Schedule

Thursdays from 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Sep. 10, 17, 24; Nov. 5, 12, 19; Dec. 3; Jan 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 4; April 15, 22, 29

Play in Church

Sundays at the 10:00 a.m.

Sep. 27, Dec. 6 (Christmas Concert), Feb. 7, Mar. 7, May 2 (Music Sunday).

For more information, contact Sheryl Larson at 763-537-4110 or e-mail davesh.larsen@gmail.com. Sign up at church by **Mariana's box**.



Alleluia Ringers

Fall Festival

Get your crafts ready and plan to join on Saturday, October 31.

Lutheran World Relief

Soap is the best defense against disease!

Over 200 bath-size bars of soap were collected for **Lutheran World Relief last year and that's our goal this year.** Bars of soap may be dropped off in the Community Room.

Stewardship

From the Stewardship Ministry Team

I asked for strength that I might achieve;

I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things;

I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy;

I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;

I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I had asked for,

but everything that I had hoped for.

*Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers
were answered;*

I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

—Prayer of an unknown Confederate soldier

Thank you!

The Stewardship Ministry Team is grateful for your faithful financial giving. As a result, we have been in the black this summer. (But not so much that we can get big-headed!)

Your generous contribution of time has been phenomenal. The amount of work that you have accomplished, and the projects that you have completed are a tremendous blessing to the church and the community.

God bless you in your endeavors,

Dave Bakke, Mark Hanson,

Bob Johnson, Dave Larsen,

Jackie Mortenson



St. Olaf, your inner-city partnership church

Greetings! We have been hard hit by the recession. Many of our members are out of work and more are losing their jobs every week. That is the backdrop to the gratitude I feel when I see the monthly check from First Lutheran.

Without you friends in Christ, we wouldn't have a prayer. But, we're managing, thanks to friends like you. Also, you are really to be commended for your gift of property to Habitat and the work you did on the house. Unfortunately, with our ongoing commitments to the nursing home, we were not able to join you, but nevertheless we felt a connection to the project through our partnership connection.

I will talk with you directly when I visit this fall for my annual preaching at First Lutheran, and the choir looks forward to sharing Advent and with you again this year.

*Peace,
Pastor Dale*



First Lutheran
Church of Crystal

A Member of the ELCA

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

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.*



Welcome back breakfast
and Sunday School
orientation

September 13, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
See page 5

**Rally Sunday
September 13**