

*First Lutheran Church*

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### Christopher Williams Concert

Christian singer, songwriter, and percussionist Christopher Williams will be in concert on Sunday, October 18, at 7:15 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church (2500 Kimball Avenue). Tickets are \$5 for student of all ages and military personnel, \$10 for all others if purchased prior to the event, and \$12 at the door. Tickets can be purchased from the Peace church office (785-539-7371). Come see this one-man phenomenon offer hope and faith with humility and awfully good music.



**Bible Verse:** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." **Psalm 119:105**

# The Messenger

## First Lutheran Church

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### Confirmation

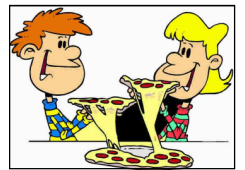
On Sunday, October 25, four young people will participate in the Rite of Confirmation at the 11:00 a.m. service of worship. These youth have completed study of the Old and New Testaments and Luther's Small Catechism and are ready to publicly commit their lives to Christ. Please join us for this service as we celebrate with Brandon Baker, Briona Busch, Mariah Messmer, and Kaitlin Wichmann. The Rite of Confirmation will be part of the Service of Holy Communion commemorating Reformation Sunday.

### Connections!

Come to a new worship experience which is offered each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. This new service, called *Connections*, seeks to offer people a place to connect with God and with others in a more relaxed, informal setting. The service offers upbeat music in a contemporary style, a message from one of our pastors, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Come, let us worship the Lord!

### Pizza Supper

Each Wednesday evening pizza is served at 6:00 p.m. A free will donation covers the expense of the pizza. All are welcome to come and enjoy a meal together. This is a great way to connect with people!



### Membership Sunday Coming Soon

Are you interested in becoming a member or an associate member of First Lutheran? The first orientation session preparing people for meaningful membership at First Lutheran will be held on Sunday morning, November 8. The sessions are from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. and continue on November 15 and 22. All orientation sessions will be held in the parlor. You may talk to Pastor Keith if you would like more information.



### **Interim Inklings:** Never Alone

Have you ever felt terribly alone, abandoned by others and without hope? Although loneliness is a part of our shared human condition, it is precisely in those times when we feel most on our own, with no one else to share our plight. The story of a distressed prophet comes to my mind, one who feels completely abandoned by others at a critical time.

This week I have been meditating on a story in I Kings (chapters 17 to 19) of great challenges and conflicts between King Ahab and Queen Jezebel on the one hand, and the Prophet Elijah, on the other. A long drought looms in the background, and Jezebel has been killing off the prophets of God. There is much at stake for those on both sides of the great fight. In a dramatic contest between God and a Caananite god named Baal, a large crowd witnesses how God accepts Elijah's sacrifice by sending down flames of fire on a water soaked sacrifice. Baal, however, seems to be asleep or away and the sacrifice offered on his altar is left untouched. At the conclusion of the drama, Elijah orders that all prophets of Baal be seized and brought to a certain place. There he kills them. Then he announces to Ahab the end of the drought, which is tied to God's victory over Caananite gods. After delivering his message, Elijah flees for his life.

In the next part of Elijah's story, perhaps

the passage that sounds most familiar to us, the prophet finds himself very much alone, and asks God that he might die. But God isn't finished with the prophet and speaks to him in a still, small voice at the mouth of a cave on Mount Horeb. God gives Elijah a new commission, including the anointing of Elisha to become prophet in his place, and the zealous but tired prophet learns that there are thousands of others who have remained faithful to God. Elijah is not alone. Eventually he will also learn of one hundred prophets of God who had not been killed by Jezebel who were hidden in caves.

It is quite a story, one that reminds us we are never alone. God is with us, and there are always those in God's family who are not too far away in our times of need. In times of peace and in times of turmoil, look up and reach out. May we care for one another even during - or especially during - times of loneliness and times of challenge.

In God's Deep Peace,  
*Pastor Patty*

### **Congregational Meeting**

The council has called a special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 15, 2009, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service to address a congregational response to the Ministry Policies adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August.

### **Caring and Sharing**

**Home:** We rejoice with Dustin and Laura Cackley who have returned home from deployment in Iraq.

**Wedding:** We rejoice with Shukeyla Terry and Mark Harrison who were married on October 10.

**Ill/Injured:** We pray for Duncan O'Brate, Wes Flynn and Mark Brown-Barnett who have been hospitalized recently.

**Sympathy:** We sorrow with Judy and Bill Lundberg on the death of Judy's step-mother, Helen Downie.



*Thanks! Thanks! Thanks to all those who attended the Ice Cream Frolics and to all those who helped with the preparations to make it a fun afternoon.*

*David and Douglas Russell would like to thank everyone who sent cards and or attended their parents' 25th anniversary. A very special thanks to their aunts, Janelle Russell and Debra Holle, and their mom's friend Jane Goff for doing all the work to make this a very special occasion.*

*THANK YOU, First Lutheran Members, for your generous support of our church's food booth at Pumpkin Patch last week! You brought mounds of food, worked at the booth, donated money, etc. Over \$800 was raised which will be used to pay for our church's participation in the Point Three lunch program for Manhattan High School students. THANK YOU AGAIN!!*

### **Women's Breakfast on October 17 Open to All**

This month's Women's Breakfast will be on October 17th at 9:00 a.m. and is open to anyone, men included, who would like to come. Chris Beemer will be speaking on Publishing Your Book. He is a former Junction City math teacher turned author. His book *A Whack In the Head* is a Christian novel about a girl who grows up without a dad and how she comes to know Christ. If you would like to read the first three chapters of his book you can go to [www.ChrisEBeemer.com](http://www.ChrisEBeemer.com) This meeting is not to sell his book, although he will have them there if you want to buy one. It's to hear about his experiences with how to publish and gain the inspiration to write your book. Everyone is welcome to come!!! Everyone has a story that needs to be written down. If you have any questions call Joyce at 776-5912.



## OUR NEXT CLASS IS UNDER WAY

On September 13th five members of our congregation—Susan Drach, Claudia Gordon, Riley Gordon, Rhonda Lund, and Carolyn Wells—began their training to become Stephen Ministers, along with four trainees from First United Methodist Church. This training for caring ministry was developed by Stephen Ministries of St. Louis. Using this training, congregations all over the world have implemented lasting programs of lay caring ministry.

When they complete their training next April they will be commissioned to serve with our current Stephen Ministers to provide distinctly Christian care for two years to our congregation and the Manhattan/Ft. Riley community. Throughout the course of instruction, training emphasizes the theology of caring for the whole person.

Between now and the end of next April our Stephen Minister trainees will continue to receive extensive instruction in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas covered during the training sequence deal with topics that address the skills needed to build a helping relationship—listening effectively, dealing with feelings, maintaining trust and confidentiality, and being assertive. Other topics will deal with how to help someone in need deal with specific life crises—for example, ministering to someone dealing with grief or depression.

Working under the guidance and supervision of our Stephen Leaders, our new

Stephen Ministers will extend the capacity of our congregation to provide tangible care. Please keep these five people in your thoughts and prayers as they train for this important ministry.

If you have any questions about Stephen Ministry training and care giving, please contact Carol Oukrop (539-8034), Pastor Keith, or Pastor Patty.

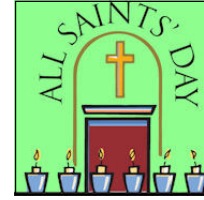
## Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Two classes are offered for adults on Sunday mornings. The “Gospel of Mark” is led by Pat Snyder in room 30. The “Book of Romans” is led by Eric Martens and Larry Erickson in room 28. A mid-week “Book of Faith” class is led by Karen Jerabek on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor. The Prayer and Study group meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the parlor.

## Boundary Workshop



There will be an opportunity for those who teach our children and young adults to attend an important, mandated training. If you have not attended the previous Sexual Boundary Workshop training offered by First Lutheran, please come to this one. It will be held on October 19th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please sign up for the training by contacting Becky at the church office.



## We Celebrate With The Saints

Who are you remembering this year? Each year on the first weekend in November we observe the Festival of All Saints. On this weekend we remember and give thanks to God for the faith and witness of those who have gone before us. Between now and the end of October, we invite you to submit names of people who have died that you want to specially remember this year. Worshipers the next two weekends will be given the opportunity to submit names of people to remember on November 1. You may also send these names to the church office. The names of these people will be attached to the processional cross and remembered in prayer.

## Designated Offering for October

The recipients of the designated offering during October are Camp Tomah Shinga and Seminary Scholarships. Each year children and youth from First Lutheran take part in this camping ministry. The camp is a valuable way to reach young people with the message of Christ. Money given to Seminary Scholarships supports those from our congregation who are attending seminary. This year, Jennifer Beckman is attending Wartburg Seminary and Katie Jerabek is attending Luther Seminary. You may contribute by earmarking your check for “Camp Tomah Shinga” or “Seminary Scholarships.” All

undesignated offerings go to the general fund.

## Junior Youth News

Junior Youth (grades 6-8) are encouraged to attend the Christopher Williams concert at 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, at Peace Lutheran Church, 2500 Kimball Ave. Please contact Pastor Patty by calling 537-8532 or by emailing [prpatty@firstlutheranmanhattan.org](mailto:prpatty@firstlutheranmanhattan.org) if you would like to sit with other youth from First Lutheran Church.

There will be no meeting for Junior Youth on October 25. Our activities in November are planned for two Sundays, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. and November 22 at 6:00 p.m. Please watch bulletins and the next *Messenger* for details.

## Senior Youth News

For our next meeting, scheduled on Sunday, October 18, all of our youth are encouraged to come to Peace Lutheran Church for a concert given by Christopher Williams at 7:15 p.m. If you would like to sit together, please contact Pastor Patty by calling the church office at 537-8532 or emailing [prpatty@firstlutheranmanhattan.org](mailto:prpatty@firstlutheranmanhattan.org).

There will be no meeting for Senior Youth on October 25. Our activities in November are planned for Sunday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. Please watch bulletins and the next *Messenger* for details.