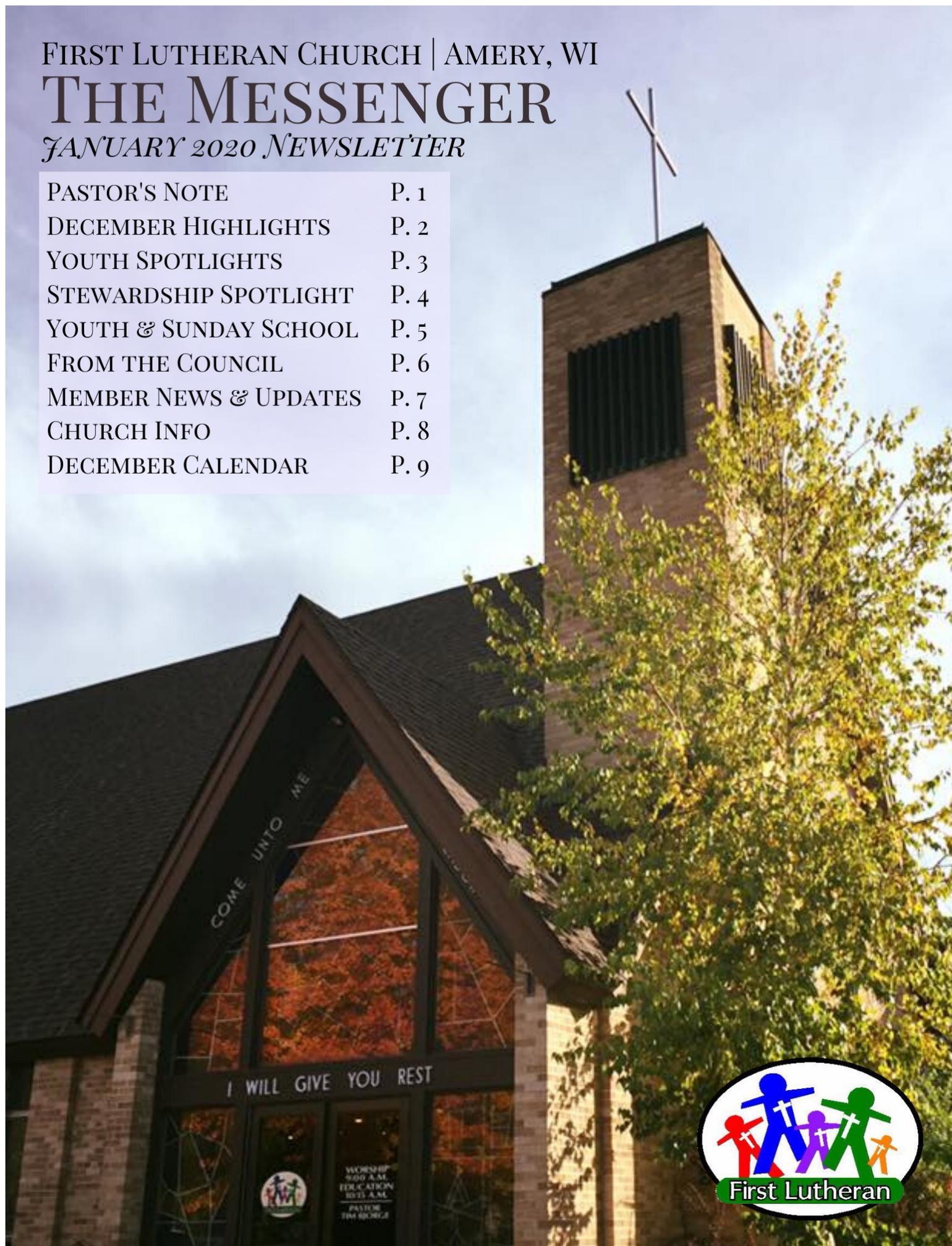


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH | AMERY, WI

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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A MESSAGE From Pastor Tim

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13

I need to get my eyes checked out at Christopherson's Clinic. My aging eyes cannot see my computer screen as well as I used to. It was nice to have 20/20 vision in my youth and to not have to wear glasses, but for about 30 years I have had to have help to see things clearly. I also yearn to have help to see and understand why there are so many bad things going on in people's lives and in God's world. I have many unanswered questions and frustrations and a lot of sadness. As we enter 2020, my view of the world is very blurred and I cry out to God for help and understanding. I know that I am not alone. Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth, did not have 20/20 vision:

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known."

In our blurry world Paul tells us that God knows us and knows what we are going through. Our Lord is with us we hold on to the promise that someday we will see God face to face. Until that time, we live in faith, hope and love. **"And the greatest of these is love."**

In difficult times when we have questions and doubts, we are called to continue to love God and to love our neighbor. We go out into our community to be a blessing and to lovingly work for justice and peace.

Have a blessed 2020 New Year! Pastor Tim

The collage features six photographs: top-left shows three men in red shirts serving food outdoors; top-middle shows three women talking indoors; top-right shows a large group of children and adults in front of a Christmas tree; bottom-left shows two women smiling with floral arrangements; bottom-middle shows a group of people in winter gear outdoors; bottom-right shows a young boy watering a plant while a girl watches. In the center is a circular logo with colorful stick figures holding hands and a banner that reads "First Lutheran".

Our Mission is to know Jesus and make Jesus known. John 17

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



(left, top) The Sunday School Youth put on the Christmas Program, "His Name is Jesus", based off the book of the same title. Our Youth handbell ringers also prepared wonderful music for us to enjoy. If you missed this awesome program (seriously, the kids were great!), you can watch on our church app or on our website.



(left, middle) The hi leaguers had their annual Christmas gift exchange; much merriment was enjoyed!



(below) The Property Committee has torn out the wall between the Pre School classroom and play room, making for a more spacious and comfortable area!



(left) The kids came after school for Cookies & Craft! They learned about and read a book about the Scandinavian "Tomte" (we might call him a gnome), and then made our own with socks, beans, yarn, and felt!



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram

We are active on social media! Be sure to follow us:
Search on **Facebook**: First Lutheran Church of Amery, WI
& on **Instagram**: @flcamery

YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS: Lila & Vivian

Lila

Parents: Justin & Carrie Schuh Grade: 3rd

Favorite School Subject: Math

Favorite Hobbies & Activities:

Reading, Drawing, Writing & Math

Best Part of Being at Church and Sunday School: Getting candy and playing games.

Favorite Bible Story or Verse: Jacob and Esau—"I always remember it"

Favorite Movie: The Chronicles of Narnia

Favorite Color: Aquamarine Favorite Food: Fruit

Thanks for sharing with us, Lila!



Vivian

Parents: Justin & Carrie Schuh Grade: 1st

Favorite School Subject: Music

Favorite Hobbies & Activities:

Pogo stick, playing with friends, swinging, painting her nails.

Best Part of Being at Church and Sunday School: "Getting a busy bag so I can color while people are talking."

Favorite Bible Story or Verse: "When Jesus gets born in Bethlehem."

Favorite Movie: Trolls

Favorite Color: Hot Pink

Favorite Food: Ice Cream

Thanks for sharing with us, Vivian!

Just for Fun

Lila said her favorite food is fruit! Do you know which of the following fruits are mentioned in the Bible?

(Hint: there are only six)

Apple	Pomegranate
Cherry	Date
Banana	Apricot
Fig	Strawberry
Mango	Lemon
Grape	Olive
Pineapple	Orange

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Liz Bowman

How many years have you been a member of FLC?

I've been serving as Youth Director here since the fall 2012.

What's the best part about being a part of our church family?

I love that this church family has a willingness to serve each other and the community. My first memories of this place is how I was welcomed; the Men in Mission helped me make my fixer upper house a home, to which I am still incredibly thankful for. And the women threw me a welcome party, too! I'm blessed to work with other incredible people on a daily basis, as well (yes, even Pr. Tim!). I'd encourage anyone to stop by some weekday morning and join in on the casual and fun conversation in the office, participate in a Bible study, learn to quilt, or help with projects around the church.

What are some ways you are a steward to our church and/or our community?

Here at church I'm involved with most of the youth programs from 4k through high school, and one of my goals is create an inviting and home away from home environment so youth feel welcome here anytime. I also try to go to sporting, theater and arts events to support our amazing youth! Outside of church I serve on the Program Committee for Luther Point Bible Camp, as well as the theme planning committee for summer 2020 also at Luther Point. I am adult representative on the Synod Youth Board, working with passionate high school youth from all over Northwestern Wisconsin to plan synod-wide youth gatherings for middle and high schoolers.

What are some of your favorite activities and hobbies?

My favorite outings are attending live theater and music—from local community theater to Broadway shows in the Twin Cities, from school band concerts to the Minnesota Orchestra. I also love playing board games with friends and family...I never get tired of them! Cooking is a favorite pastime of mine, too. I'm always looking for new recipes to try! And fun fact: I put cayenne pepper in nearly everything I cook, despite my Swedish heritage! Lastly I love traveling. One of my goals is to visit at least one National Park every summer. Being in God's vast and diverse creation never gets old, even in familiar places (like York Park, a place a tromp around on the regular). I try to travel internationally at least every other year, too!

What's your favorite Bible verse or story and why?

If you've ever received an email from me, you may have noticed my favorite Bible verse at the bottom. 1 John 4:11 reads, "Dear friends, since God loves us that much, we surely ought to love one another." Jesus came into this world bringing a message of peace, hope, and love. He taught us that love is the fulfillment of the law, and in love we can do no harm. Love is so much more powerful than anger, hopelessness, fear, tradition, money, hate...and the list goes on. In this world where we are perpetually drawn into negativity, it's important to re-center, rise above, and lead with love.

Thanks for sharing with us, Liz!



YOUTH

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 20: No School Day Activity (TBD), 9-4:30
 - Jan. 22: ~~FUEL @ Wape~~ - Cancelled
 - Jan. 26: Faith in Action w/ SS "Winter Camp"
- We'll also plan to have a 17th-12th grade lock in sometime in January; pay attention to weekly updates for a date.
- *Sign up for special events in the app under the Youth>Hi League & Confirmation tabs
- **All upcoming events can be found on the app

WHAT DO THOSE COLORS MEAN?

- ☐ Sunday Confirmation, 10:30-11:00
- ☐ Hi League Special Event/Outing
- ☐ FUEL, 6:00-8:00
- ★ Mentor or Parent Event
- ☐ Wednesday Confirmation, 6:00-7:00
- ☺ Service Opportunity
- ☐ Confirmation & Hi League Event/Outing
- ☐ Hi League, 7:00-9:00

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 5: Lesson—The Lord is My Shepherd
TEACHER NEEDED; CONTACT LIZ
 - Jan. 12: Lesson—The Lord is My Shepherd
 - Jan. 19: Family Faith 5
 - Jan. 26: Faith in Action—"Winter Camp"
- *Sign up for special events in the app under the Sunday School Tab
- **All upcoming events found on the app

WHAT DO THOSE COLORS MEAN?

- ☐ Sunday School, 10:15-11:00
- ☐ Faith in Action Sunday School, 10:15-11:00
- ★ Kids involved in Worship, 9:00
- ☐ Family Faith 5 Sunday School, 10:15-11:00
- ☐ Friday Night Party! 5:30-7:30
- ☐ Other Special Event

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Thank You

Council thanks all who helped with the Christmas program, to everyone who donated to the six families receiving Thanksgiving baskets, and to all who purchased ornaments from Jim's Barnyard tree. Thanks, too, to everyone who took tags and purchased those gifts!

Thank you for serving in December:

-Altar Committee: Claudia & Larry Behne, Mary Chelberg-Polfus, Jean Mattakat, Elaine Root

-Communion Bread: Doug & Shari Johnson

-Ushers: Marlin & Judy Swanson, Diane & Al Amans, and Doug & Shari Johnson

-Lector: Susan Johnson

-Communion Assistants: Steve Osero, Gregg Olson, Linda Tempel and Kathy Rasmussen, Gwen Wold, Jeff Chelberg, Jean Mattakat

-Work Group #1 (Fellowship Servers): Joe & Tanisha Cook, Doug & Shari Johnson

-Nursing Home/Homebound Communion: Julie Riemenschneider, Elaine Meyer, Mary Chelberg-Polfus

-Acolytes Will Clark, Seth Waalen, Summer Carlson, Addie Amans, Reagan Thompson

Financial as of 11/30/19

Offering Received: \$19,540.76

Cash Balance: \$127,363.77

Refurbishing/Furnace Fund:

This month: \$1,455.00

Year-to-date: \$19,758.50

ELCA Contributions:

This month: \$566.00

Year-to-date: \$8,914.06

Scholarship Contributions:

This month: \$333.00

Year-to-date: \$1,842.50

"Somebody Needs a Sabbath"

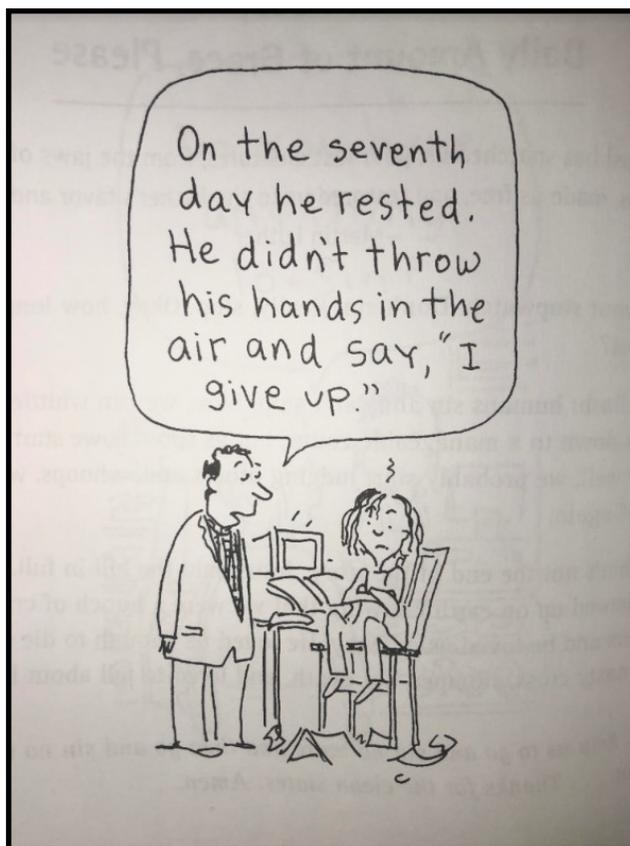
We keep holy days so that people may have time and opportunity, which otherwise would not be available, to participate in public worship, that is, that they may assemble to hear and discuss God's Word and then praise God with song and prayer. —Martin Luther

Given a choice between plowing a field behind a couple of oxen or going to church, which would you select? Right, that's an easy question. But what if the choice was going to church or hanging out at the mall, surfing the Web, and text messaging the day away? Whatever your thing, your brain needs a break.

Sabbath doesn't mean sitting in a chair all day staring at the walls, but it is taking leave from the everyday. Think of Sabbath as the holiday for your soul that keeps God from being choked out by all the other stuff. Give it up for God—and for you.

God, slow me down and teach me to keep a Sabbath. Amen.

Devotion from: "The Funny Shape of Faith: Devotions for the Rest of Us"



MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES

If you would like to share news in The Messenger, please send it to us by the 20th of the month. We'd love to share celebratory news of new grandkids, major anniversaries, graduations, etc., as well as news about deaths of loved ones, prayers, etc.

We are a family at First Lutheran and we want to share in your joys and sorrows!

THANK YOU

This is the time of year when all of us should be thinking of all that we have to be thankful for. I am thankful for SO much, especially my church family. Through my surgery and recovery time I have received many acts of kindness; prayers, phone calls, cards, food, home visits and concern. Words cannot express how much I appreciate all of it. Also thank you for the prayers for my son. His recovery will be long and slow but he is doing quite well. -Jean Mattakat

SYMPATHIES

Our thoughts and prayers are with Del & Collette Earley-Schalz at the death of his mother, Mary; and with Kyle & Anna Steen and their family at the death of his father, Asa.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Happy
Anniversaries

- Jan. 4 Linda and Jim Kuchenmeister
- Jan. 8 Kathryn and Ed Rasmussen
- Jan. 15 Gretchen and Roger Johnson
- Jan. 21 Sherry and Scott Peters

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Camden Smith	8 Gary Ganje	19 Arlen Burke	29 Karen Krupa
1 Maddison Johnson	8 Rachel Hansen	21 Allyson Fox	30 Daniel Carlson
2 Diane Crawley	10 Karen Christopherson	21 Jaxson Facchinni	30 Kal Waalen
3 Ted Miller	11 Rylee Thompson	21 Ruby Christian	
3 Tom Boe	12 Tony Aizpurua	22 Larry Kresl	
4 Zachary Osero	15 Kerrie Clark	24 Sherry Peters	
5 Elin Williamson	15 Maverick Ziemer	25 Paul Elbing	
7 Jane Johnson	18 Travis Bauermeister	29 Dick Scholz	





COMMITTEE & GROUP MEETING TIMES

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

240 Elm Street West/PO Box 153
Amery, WI 54001 (715) 268-7135
flcamery.org
flchurchamery@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to know Jesus and to make Jesus known. *John 15*

STAFF

Tim Bjorge, Pastor
Karen Christopherson, Secretary
Liz Bowman, Youth Director
Ellen Forrest, Financial Coordinator
Debbie Vincelli & Gwen Wold,
Financial Secretaries
Beth Ray, Music
Julie Hanlon-Johnson, Music
Mick Larsen, Custodian

COUNCIL

Jeff Chelberg, President
Jason Gouker, Vice President
Jean Mattakat, Secretary,
Church in Society
Diane Amans, Youth/Parish Edu.
Joe Cook, Youth/Parish Edu.
Gail Mickelson, Worship/Life, Long-
Range Planning
Matt Johnson, Evangelism
Kathy Rasmussen, Evangelism
Gregg Olson, Property
Linda Tempel, Stewardship
Gwen Wold, Worship/Life/LRP
Steve Osero, Life Endowment,
Stewardship

PROPERTY

The Property Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 8:30am to dream, brainstorm, and organize church improvements and maintenance.
Council Representative:
Gregg Olson

EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Committee meets as needed to find creative ways to reach out and serve our local community.
Council Representative:
Matt Johnson,
Kathy Rasmussen

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee meets as needed to find creative methods to maintain and bolster giving to the church, be it financially or other.
Council Representatives:
Linda Tempel,
Steve Osero

YOUTH & PARISH EDU.

The YPEC Committee meets as needed to brainstorm and develop our K-12 education and guide our Youth Director in implementing programming for all ages.
Council Representatives:
Diane Amans,
Joe Cook

WORSHIP LIFE

The Worship Life Committee meets as needed to discuss various ways to enhance our worship experience and to guide Pastor to help fulfill congregational needs.
Council Representative:
Gwen Wold,
Gail Mickelson

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

The Church in Society Committee meets monthly to identify ways in which the church can serve our global community, and to bring awareness to parishioners regarding outreach opportunities.
Council Representative:
Jean Mattakat

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The Long-Range Planning committee meets as needed to consider and direct the future of our congregation.
Council Representative:
Gail Mickelson,
Gwen Wold

NOMINATING

Past council members nominate parishioners to serve on church council. New council members are elected in October at the Annual Meeting. *Current Members:* Terry Forrest, Lee Jones, Shari Johnson, Mary Lou Wold, Orrin Arneson, Sally Pickard

TASK FORCES

Task Forces are created by a committee for the purpose of researching, planning, and realizing larger projects within the church.
Current Task Forces:
None

RUTH CIRCLE

Meets at 9:30 in the North Classroom every third Thursday. All women welcome!

QUILTERS

Meet every Thursday morning from 8:00-11:00. All are welcome!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets every Tuesday at 7:30 in the North Classroom. All women welcome!

BIBLE STUDY

Meets every Thursday at 8:00 in the North Classroom. All are welcome!

MEN IN MISSION

Meets for a steak dinner and meeting in the Fellowship hall the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00. All men welcome!



First Lutheran Church, Amery - January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 8am Bible Study 7pm AI Anon	3	4
5 Christmas 2 <u>9am Worship</u> <u>10:15a Sunday School, Choir</u>	6 Epiphany 	7 7:30am Women's Bible Study	8 10am Church in Society 6pm Men in Mission 7pm Church Council	9 8am Bible Study 8:30am Quilters 7pm AI Anon	10	11
12 Baptism of our Lord <u>9am Worship</u> <u>10:15a Sunday School, Choir</u>	13	14 7:30am Women's Bible Study 8:30am Property 9a-6p WIC Clinic 6:30p Worship/ Life/Long Range	15 Hi League 6pm Confirmation 8th Graders meet with Pastor to <i>work on sermons</i>	16 8am Bible Study 8:30am Quilters 9:30a Ruth Circle 7pm AI Anon	17	18
19 Epiphany 2 <u>9am Worship</u> <u>10:15a Sunday School, Choir</u>	20 9am-4pm Hi League No School Day Activity 6-10pm ARQG 	21 7:30am Women's Bible Study	22 Hi League 6pm Confirmation	23 8am Bible Study 8:30am Quilters 7pm AI Anon	24	25
26 Epiphany 3 <u>9am Worship</u> <u>10:15a Sunday School, Choir</u>	27	28 7:30am Women's Bible Study	29 Hi League 6pm Confirmation MENTOR NIGHT	30 8am Bible Study 8:30am Quilters 7pm AI Anon	31	