

Faith Trek

A Guide to our Christian Journey for
Children, Youth and Adults

2012-2013



Trekker's Guide

*First Lutheran Church, ELCA
"God's Work, Our Hands"*

"You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly.

You have
One Leader,
One faith,
One baptism,
One God and Parent of all,
Who rules all,
Works through all,
And is present in all.

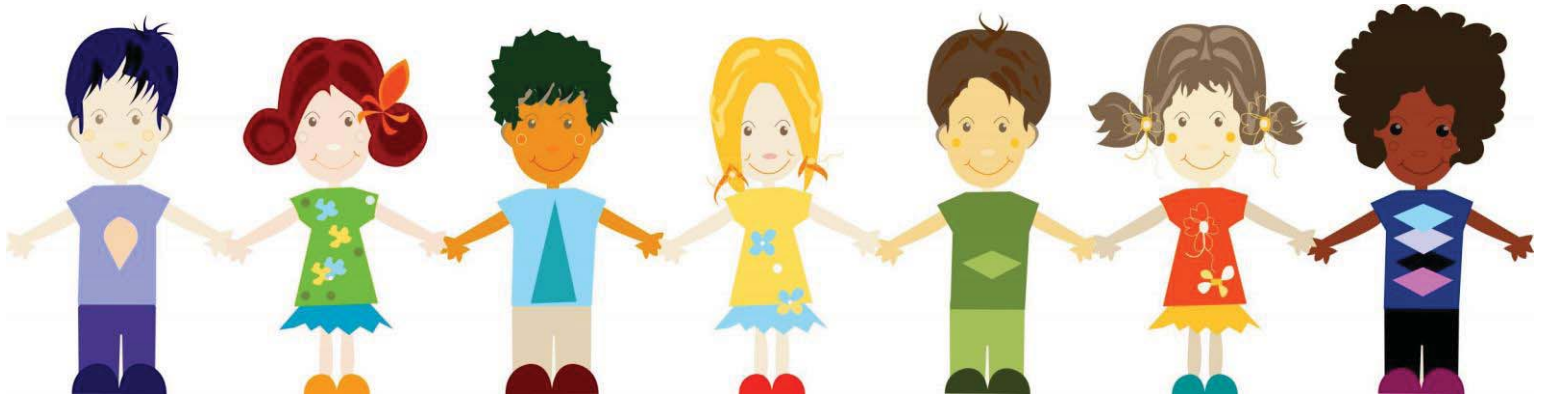
Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.
But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same.

Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given our own gift...
... God handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with these gifts,
filled earth with these gifts. God handed out gifts of apostle, prophet,
evangelist, and pastor-teacher

To train Christians in skilled servant work,
Working within Christ's body, the church,
Until we're moving rhythmically and easily with each other,
Efficient and graceful in response to God's Son,
Fully mature adults,
Fully developed within and without,
FULLY ALIVE IN CHRIST."

(Ephesians 4:4-6; 11-13, The Message)





Children's Ministry

Children are naturally full of curiosity and wonder, allowing them to absorb massive amounts of information at an amazing rate. During the first several years of life, a child's brain goes through a series of incredible changes, with every experience making a lasting impression. Each exposure to a concept, skill, or idea begins to build a child's learning foundation. Given today's fast paced, multi-sensory, media filled world, and the fact that learning is so critical during these early years, we want to seize every opportunity to give children a good foundation by providing opportunities for children to grow in faith while connecting with other children and families of faith, as well as to offer the support, you as parents need to raise faith-filled families. We are proud to provide exciting ways for children to play in the Bible stories and concepts, allowing them to come alive while nurturing and developing the skills to apply them to life. Parenting and family topic forums, family events and mission opportunities, as well as support and celebration of milestone moments, both in worship and in the home, are ways we equip you to connect your family's everyday life with God and their personal faith journey.

First Lutheran Nursery

Milepost 10:13 (based on Mark 10:13-16)

Children (infants through age 5) are welcomed in our nursery. Parents find it helpful to have a safe and welcoming environment for the children to play and learn while they worship, learn, or attend a meeting or event. The nursery is professionally staffed by first aid and CPR trained sitters and offers a caring, nurturing environment where your child can experience God's love. Parents will find a baby care center in the nursery equipped with comfortable rockers, cribs, changing area complete with extra supplies and a nursing area. The nursery also has a child-sized bathroom that toddlers will love.

Nurseries open 15 minutes prior to services and other scheduled events.

Crib Nursery & Toddlers

Room C27

Sunday Mornings

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sunday Evenings

6:15 - 7:45 pm



Other Scheduled Events

If you need nursery care for any church event (such as choir rehearsals, enrichment classes, etc.), please call or email Denise Riley, 292-9125; denise@firstlutheran.com.

Check-In

- There is a sign-in sheet at the door which must be filled out for each visit to our nursery.
- Please be sure all personal items are labeled.
- Please make sure a nametag has been filled out for your child before leaving.
- Silent pagers are available upon request if you feel you may need to be contacted.

Check-Out

- Please respect our nursery workers' and volunteers' time by picking your child up promptly at the close of worship services and other events.

Nursery Coordinator: Denise Riley, Director of Children's Ministry, 292-9125,
denise@firstlutheran.com

Faith Talk Time for Children

10:00 am Sunday

Milepost 2:52 (based on Luke 2:51-52)



*Note to parents of small children. We would like to give you the option to place your child where they will best succeed this year. We understand that with an August 31 cutoff date for school many children may miss being in the grade or age group listed to start with. We recommend using this date as a guideline when placing your child in class.

Ages 2 & 3* (Rooms C24 & C25)

Children ages 2 and 3 will work with the Musikgarten curriculum, which uses songs, stories, playing instruments, movement activities, and moments of worship in each lesson, to both explore and express their faith through music and movement as they grow in their awareness of God's love for them and for all creation. With this class, we ask that parents stay and experience the lessons with their child so learning can continue at home. We are glad to provide the supplies and CD's with the music we use in class for your family; please let our teachers know if you need a copy.

Ages 4 & 5* (Room C23) - Kindergarten (Room C16)

Children ages 4 and 5 as well as those in kindergarten will use the Godly Play curriculum. Godly play is an approach based on Montessori principles - we respond to the child's request to 'help me do it by myself.' This puts the leaders in the role of spiritual supporter or guides who fully accept that each child has his or her own relationship with God already. The teaching takes place in different ways at the same time: it is multi-modal and multi-sensory, using the Montessori tradition of education as a method of spiritual direction to help children become more fully aware of God's presence around them and in their lives, in what happens at home, at school and in the larger world

Grades 1-4 (Community Center)

Children in grades 1-4 will be using the Rotation Workshop Model. This Bible-centered curriculum encourages children to explore God's Word through a variety of activities engaging children in different ways of learning. Children spend four to five weeks on a Bible story or theme, each week visiting a different hands-on Bible-learning workshop experiencing the same story from different perspectives. Workshop rotations will include a combination of the following: Art, Bible Skills and Games, Computer Lab, Cooking, Creative Drama, Music, Science, and Video.

Grade 5 (Room C15)

Our Explorers, in grade 5, will cover key faith development elements as well as skills needed to live together in Christian fellowship and community. Topics will include exploring prayer, worship, friendship and personal skills and the Bible all while discovering how to apply what they learn in order to live out their faith.

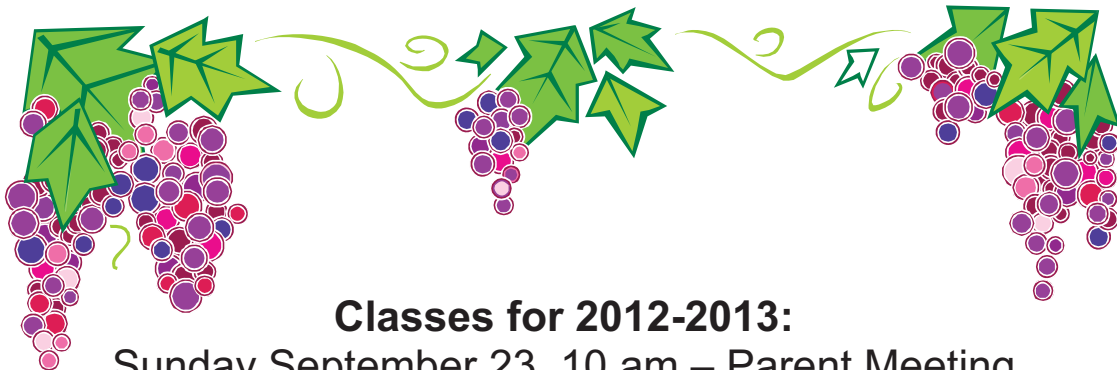
Exploring the Sacraments

Milepost 11:23 (based on 1st Corinthians 11:23-26)

Exploring the Sacraments provides families the tools and time to understand and experience the richness of Baptism and Holy Communion. These two sacraments are at the core of discipleship for Lutherans; therefore, growing in our understanding is key to living out faith.

Children (ages 4 to 5th grade) and their families remember and celebrate God's promise in Baptism, and explore God's invitation to receive bread and wine during communion. Hands-on, experiential and active learning make this an enriching experience for children of all ages. If a child is asking questions about Holy Communion, or if a parent is wondering if their child should commune fully, (rather than receive a spoken blessing) then it's time to take advantage of this course. This class is only offered once a year and is the way we welcome our children to the table.

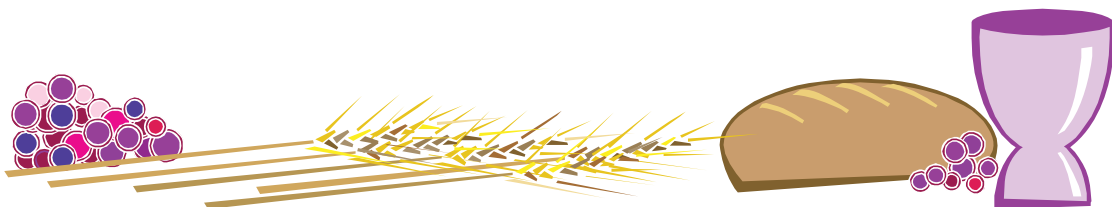
This course understands that home and congregation work together to form faith. A parent or other significant adult participate together with the child in each learning session, with guided readings and discussions to enrich understanding and communication at home. The course includes one parent meeting and two, 2½ hour classes, dates and times will be determined at the parent meetings, as well as the work to be completed at home as a family.



Classes for 2012-2013:

Sunday September 23, 10 am – Parent Meeting

Sunday, October 28 – Commune



Parenting and Family Events

Milepost 6:4 (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Research tells us that the most powerful shapers of a child's faith are the child's parents. Deuteronomy identifies that faith is to be nurtured everywhere - at home and away from home - in homes and congregations, at work, at school, in the parks, on the bus or train or in the car, in play groups, at fast food restaurants, on a hospital visit, in nursing homes... and so on. But none of us is born knowing how to parent this child of God. Many of us no longer live near extended family or in neighborhoods with people we know well, who share our values, and will help us know how to raise our child. Many of us struggle to find the time and the means to get the job done. Where do you start? What do you say? How much time will it take?

Let us help you with classes and groups to enhance your parenting skills, give you support, and nurture faith in your children. Here are some things going on this year that can do just that.

Parent Topic Forums

These forums will be held throughout the year. Topics will range from general parenting to how to talk to your child about sex to how to pray with your child and more. Childcare will be provided. Check for more information on the children's ministry page at www.firstlutheran.com.

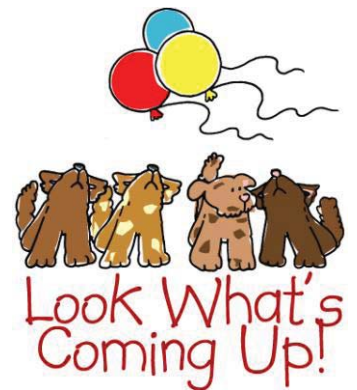
Family Events

In addition to helping parents form faith it is important to have families build fellowship and community as well as serving together. It is vital for children to see and know other people of faith, and to have their experiences be positive. Here are some of the opportunities we have for the upcoming year, keep an eye out for more to come!

Trunk-or-Treat – October 28, 2012 12:30 pm
Breakfast in Bethlehem – December 16, 2012 10 am
Mardi Gras Celebration – February 10, 2013 12:30 pm
Egg Hunt – March 24, 2013 12:30 am

Other Children's Ministry Opportunities...

Youth Quake – a synod event for grades 3-5 - October 20, 2012
BYG – a weekend retreat for our 4th graders, February 22-24, 2013,
and for our 5th graders, March 1-3, 2013.
Vacation Bible School – July 22-26, 2013
Day Camp – June 17-21, 2013



Check the Children's Ministry page at www.firstlutheran.com for registration and information about these and other new and exciting events!



2012-2013 Youth & Family Ministry

The formative middle school through high school years are filled with incredible and exciting changes. At First Lutheran, we take seriously the partnership with each six through twelfth grade family. During these 'growing into adulthood' years the bible stories of childhood come alive and get applied to everyday life. Mentors, parents, staff and pastors help nurture youth in the skills needed to become successful adult disciples in church

and society. Using intentional group building experiences, service/mission adventures and devotion-sharing sessions, youth strengthen their relationship with God and with the World. Milestone moments that connect their everyday life with God and their personal faith journey are also celebrated with families and in worship. Know It – Live It – Grow It – Claim It – Radically Evolve!

RELATE -- Grades 6 & 7 - Milepost 22:37 (Room 30) This school year is the beginning of a four-year journey of connecting personal faith with the bible and with our Lutheran faith (confirmation). We will spend time getting to share our own story, connecting to God's story with the story of the world. Engaging service projects and faith-based group-building experiences will be a major emphasis. *(based on Matthew 22:37-39)*

AFFIRM -- Grades 8 & 9* - Milepost 3:17 (Room 31) With the support of parents and caring adults, we ask all 8th –9th graders to consider the 2012-2013 year before confirmation (affirmation of baptism) as an opportunity to make an educated commitment to their faith. This is a time to ask questions, review and connect the stories of the Bible, and understand the history of our Lutheran faith. The FLC confirmation process focuses on developing an integrated, holistic faith. Youth will delve into spirituality, sexuality, gifts, talents, and discipleship. Pastors, staff and mentors emphasize our grace-based faith trek as a never ending, always growing, learning and sharing journey with Christ. *(based on Ephesians 3:17-19)*

* Youth in 10th & 11th grade who have not been through the confirmation process are welcome to participate in the AFFIRM process.

DEPLOY – Grades 10-12 – Milepost 12:4 (Room 32) Youth are ready to step out into the world and share God's Promise with the world. This high school group will continue to share their God-given gifts while providing their own leadership for their Sunday morning time together. Adult mentors support these youth as they share their faith and are challenged to step out, cross borders and be God's work in the world. *(based on Romans 12:4-5)*

R.A.D. ical Youth Gather – Grades 6-12 – (Youth Faith Center & out in the world!) – Come get to know friends in a 'rooted in faith.' – a.k.a. Create, Play, Share, and Serve several times a month on Sundays through the school year *(see schedule in newsletter, bulletin and website)*. These events occur with parent and mentor volunteer involvement. Youth are encouraged to share their interests and talents by joining inter-generational groups for worship leadership and service events. This Fall, youth events include Cropwalk (Oct 14), Lutheran Youth North Central Cluster Rally and Unto Us A Child. Each grade group along with their families is asked to support, prepare and serve a dinner at Greensboro Urban Ministry (G.U.M.) January 24, February 28, and March 28, 2013 from 5:45 pm – 8 pm.

Don't miss the AFFIRM Retreat at Camp Agape with Pastor Charlie & Carol – 5 pm November 9 – 4 pm November 11. (*Open to all youth, Grades 8-9. Pre-registration begins in September. This retreat is mandatory for youth interested in 2014 Confirmation.*)

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Adult Sunday Morning Groups at 10:00 am

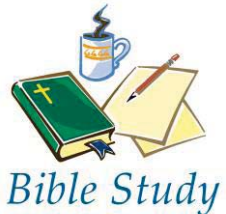
Milepost 2:42 (based on Acts 2:42)

Adult Trekkers: *This trail doesn't get any easier for us "older and wiser" ones. In fact, this is when we have the chance to really scale some heights, venture into some valleys, and spend time looking with more detail at the surroundings. Though we feel like we've passed this way before and seen all this trail has to offer, if we look closely (and use our Trail Guidebook to help us) we'll notice there are still plenty of new insights and more for us to explore along the way. Below are our Sunday Morning Groups for adults. Each has something special to offer you along the trail, including some great people to share the journey. Check them out and see which one is just your speed. New Trekkers are always welcome.*

NOTE: All Adult Groups are located on the EAST Wing... the hallway of classrooms closest to Friendly Shopping Center.

Trail Head 7 (A7) -- SINGLES BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Lloyd Bostian leads this class of lecture and discussion, using the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies series. For September through November, we'll be studying selections from the New Testament books of Acts and Hebrews under the theme, "A Living Faith". Come explore something beyond our beliefs, and use these ancient texts to imagine and discuss "what faith looks like" as we live it every day. All are welcome.



Bible Study

Trail Head 8 (A8) -- CORNERSTONE CLASS



The Cornerstone Class is a unique blend of about 50 FLC disciples who meet with several goals in mind; (1) To learn how we can become better disciples in our Walk with Jesus. We do this by studying a variety of subjects -- including Bible study, various Christian authors, and various subjects that will help us deal with the challenges of life. (2) We join together in fellowship as a "small group" to support each other. We share fellowship by sharing prayer concerns, joys, and life's issues. (3) We have fun by holding several social events each year away from the church -- to get to know each other better. We also like to laugh together in class. (4) We share our spiritual gifts, by having different people teach and facilitate during the year. This year our topics will include: Studies of Mormonism, Judaism and the Quaker faith; The New Testament book of Revelation; Special guest speakers on the topics of "Living Your Faith," and "Missionary Ministry in China." Please come and join our lively discussions any Sunday, starting September 9 at 10:00 a.m. If you have questions, call our class leaders -- Lyman Newton (274-6477) or George Burfeind (294-9850).

Trail Head 9 (A9) -- ECLECTIC CLASS

Men, women, couples of all ages are invited to join the ECLECTIC Sunday School class. For September through November, we'll be studying selections from the New Testament books of Acts and Hebrews under the theme, "A Living Faith". Come explore something beyond our beliefs, and use these ancient texts to imagine and discuss "what faith looks like" as we live it every day. All are welcome. We would love to have you join us. Leaders: Gwen Bader, Kai Franz and Kim Harms



Bible Study

Trail Head 12 (A12) -- THORBURN BIBLE STUDY CLASS

The Thorburn Bible Study Class enjoys thorough Bible study, really digging and exploring the Bible one book at a time, studying both Old and New Testament books. Beginning in September, Pastor Bill Mims will lead a series on Old Testament studies. We rotate teachers, currently among five regulars: Marjorie Streck, Malone Stinson, Kohn Sherrill, Bob Hedrick, and Jill Underwood; occasionally. Guest teachers are invited to present a series of lessons. Most of these teachers use a limited amount of lecture based on a reading of the Bible, followed by open discussion. To stimulate discussion, many teachers ask open-ended questions. The teachers take this leadership very seriously, and love to be thoroughly prepared to lead discussion and exploration of the text. The group is made up of twenty or so members of varying ages, singles and couples alike. Active participation is encouraged. Why don't you join us and take part in a most interesting class of Bible study?

Trail Head 13 (A13) -- "SACRED PAUSE -- Paying Attention to the Inner Journey"

In the Christian "Way", as in all forms of religion and spirituality, there are two major expressions of practice that are always intertwined. There is the "Outward Journey" which includes things like serving neighbors, gathering for worship, sharing your faith with others, small groups and Bible Study, caring conversations, etc. These are typically the things we "do" that are more outwardly visible. But there is also the "Journey Inward" which is less visible, involving prayer, meditation, reflection, contemplation and silence, which focuses more on "being" rather than "doing." You are invited to consider "Sacred Pause" as a means of feeding that Inner Journey. Each week a leader will introduce a practice of meditation or contemplative prayer, usually incorporating some silence. After brief introduction and instruction, we'll practice the form. Our hope is to provide a peaceful and restful experience each week that will engage the heart and provide nutrition for your soul. All are welcome. No experience necessary! Contact Pastor Jay for information. He will help lead, along with Todd Herman, Pastor Brady Faggart and others.



New Beginnings Class: Meets once a quarter. Classes will be offered on the following dates:

- September 23 with a joining date of September 30
- November 11 with a joining date of November 18
- January 20 with a joining date of January 27
- April 21 with a joining date of April 28



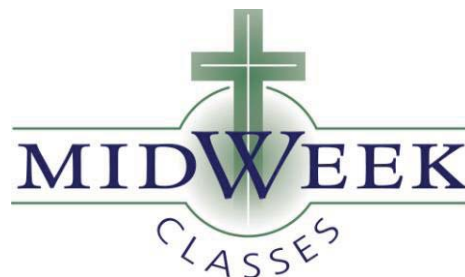
The class focuses on discipleship and is open to people interested in joining this faith community. In addition, faith practices, spiritual gifts, lifelong learning, and serving at the church and in the community are explored. This class is strongly encouraged and is helpful for participants to gain a greater understanding of First Lutheran. It is not mandatory to take the class to join. For details, contact Frank Moore, 292-9125 Extension 102, frank@firstlutheran.com.

Sunday Morning Attendance Clerks: Al Lochra and David DeVane

Note: A nursery is available for infants and toddlers all morning. Sunday education classes are available for children ages 2 – 5th grade and youth in grades 6 – 12 at 10:00 am.



Other Adult Faith Formation Opportunities



Weekday Bible Studies

Weekday Bible Studies – Gospel of John

We will complete our study of the Gospel of John. No prior experience is necessary. No prerequisites! Even if you didn't join us last year, we will catch you up. Everyone is welcome. The class is informal. Just bring a Bible, openness to God's Word, willingness to share your insights and experiences, and a respect for differing opinions.

Beginning in October

Wednesday, 10:00-11:30 AM

Thursday, 10:00-11:30 AM

Both classes meet in Room A12 in the east wing.

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Other Resources for Growth Beyond FLC:



Via de Cristo - a Spanish phrase meaning "The Way of Christ" is a national Lutheran organization that sponsors highly structured, four-day (Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon) retreats throughout the year in North Carolina. Nurture your spiritual journey and build up the body of Christ by strengthening and renewing your faith. Find a new awareness of living in God's grace. First Lutheran contacts are Kacy and Lyman Newton, 274-6477, lnewton1@triad.rr.com, or go to the Eastern North Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo website: www.encvdc.org. Both Pastors Charlie and Jay have attended, if you'd like to discuss it.

The Servant Leadership School of Greensboro (SLSG) -- has a core belief that every church in the world is called to prepare servant leaders to follow Jesus Christ and serve God's dream for a transformed world. SLSG invites you to explore both an inward journey of personal transformation and an outward journey, discerning our particular "call" and giving expression to some form of life-giving service in the world. SLSG is housed on the campus of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Greensboro. Ruth Anderson is the Director. Call 275-0447 or email rdanderson@triad.rr.com, or visit the website: www.servantleadergreensboro.com. Pastors Jay, Charlie and Brady Faggart, along with Frank Moore and about 20 other members of First Lutheran Church have attended classes through SLSG.





Music Ministry – Milepost 95:2 (based on Psalm 95)

Contacts:

Karen Brown, 292-9125, ext. 111; Karen@firstlutheran.com

Billy Summers, billy@firstlutheran.com

Luke Bump, luke@firstlutheran.com

Brian Russell, brian@firstlutheran.com

If you need information or have an interest in music, call, email or see the persons listed.

Senior High Youth and Adult lead singers and band – Sings and plays at the 9:00 am and 11 am Contemporary Services. Practice: 6:30 pm Tuesdays for 9 am service and 6:30 pm Wednesdays for 11 am service.

Co-Coordinators: Luke Bump and Brian Russell

Chancel Choir (high school and adult): Large four-part group sings at traditional services, alternating times with the Fellowship Choir. Practice is Wednesdays, at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room. Does at least one major work each year, usually in the spring.

Director: Billy Summers

Fellowship Choir (high school and adult): Sings at traditional services, alternating times with the Chancel Choir. Practice is Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room.

Director: Billy Summers



Handbells (high school and adult): Four + octaves of bells. Plays challenging music once a month in worship. Practice is at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays in the Worship Room.

Director: Karen Brown



Children's Choir (grades K – 4/5): Sings monthly. Practice time varies; first one, September 16, 5:00 – 5:30 pm in the Choir Room. Word sheets and learning CD's available upon request and songs also on the website.

Contact: Karen Brown

Luther Brass/Band: (youth and adults) rehearse weekly. **Coordinators:** Dave Limburg and Allen Gerhard.

Shout musicians: Rehearse and lead worship weekly on Sunday evenings for contemporary service.

Contacts: Chad Johnson or Gwen Bader



Share your God-given gifts to help transform lives!

Here are some upcoming events to serve in the community. For a complete listing of ministries, go to www.firstlutheran.com, check worship bulletin or newsletter or ask a staff person or Council member for possibilities.

- **October 5:** Grocery store food drive. Contact: Frank Moore or Colette Gibson
- **Sept. 17:** Big Sweep. Contact: Frank Moore
- **October 14:** CROP Walk. Contact: Louise Lampron-Welker or Charlotte Matheny
- **Late October-mid-November:** Operation Christmas Child. Contact: Amy Schenck or Frank Moore
- **Mid-October-early December:** Christmas Store. Contact: Sue Tomalka or Brenda Gerhard

A number of ongoing ministries are open for you to explore. Some include:

- Thursday morning breakfast: Contact: Kimberly Embry
- Friday morning breakfast: Contact: Todd Herman
- Night Shelter on fourth Thursdays: Contact: Linda Bernhardt or Grace Lindley
- Mobile Meals on fourth Mondays: Contact: Jo Fleck
- School for Young Children: Contact: Dale Langerman or Melissa Jardina
- Home repair teams: Contact Rudy Hoch

GOD'S WORK



OUR HANDS



Join the Journey

*First Lutheran Church
3600 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27410
(336) 292-9125*

Website: www.firstlutheran.com