

**A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR**

Summer Fun at First



Do you remember how much fun summer was when you were a kid? I remember playing in the backyard, eating ice cream with my family and catching fireflies with my friends. Those memories return easily as I watch my own kids enjoying summer.

No doubt about it, summer should be fun for all children. I've always believed the Church ought to be part of that fun. As we ease into the warmth of summer, there are several fun events coming up at First Lutheran Church for kids of all ages.

The first fun event is Vacation Bible School. This will take place the week of August 3-7. This year's theme is Camp E.D.G.E. which stands for *Experience & Discover God Everywhere*. Once again, it will be held in the evening hours. Registration forms will be available soon. All children are welcome. Talk about fun!

The second fun event is our summer children's sermon series. For eight weeks, the books of Dr. Seuss will anchor our children's sermons. Each week a different Dr. Seuss book will be introduced.

June 28 - *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

July 5 - *Sneetches And Other Stories*

July 12 - *The Lorax*

July 19 - *Green Eggs and Ham*

July 26 - *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

August 2 - *The Butter Battle Book*

August 9 - *Cat in the Hat*

August 16 - *Horton Hears a Who*

On each of those Sundays, a portion of the book will be read, a special message will be shared and a gift will be given to each young person. Talk about fun!

Third, our Senior High youth will be journeying to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's National Youth Gathering. This year's gathering will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 21 through July 26. Over 30 of us from First Lutheran will travel together to New Orleans. This year's theme is *Jesus, Justice and Jazz*.

Along with 40,000 other ELCA members from all across our nation, we will worship, serve and grow together. For everyone who has financially supported this journey at First, thank you very much. For anyone interested in making a donation, there's still time.

National Youth Gatherings are amazing experiences. Nothing comes close to hearing 40,000 young voices praying the Lord's Prayer together. Later in August, those of us who will go to New Orleans will share our journey with First Lutheran as we lead worship. Talk about fun!

No doubt, summer is for kids. And First Lutheran Church is ready! Talk about fun!

—Pr. Arthur

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:13-14