

# CROSS CURRENTS

**First Lutheran Church Newsletter—May/June 2015**

**600 W. Sumner Ave. Lake Elsinore, CA 92530 (951) 674-2757**

**Pastor e-mail: [pastor@firstluth.com](mailto:pastor@firstluth.com)**

**Web page: [www.firstluth.com](http://www.firstluth.com)**

**Pastor**

Rev. Kevin L.  
Kolander

**Music Director**

Gail Christensen

**Church Council**

**President**

Bob Brown

**Vice President**

Dave Anton

**Secretary**

Susie Mericle

**Treasurer**

William Neebe

**Financial Secretary**

Gail Christensen

**Education-**

**Director**

Melody Anton

**Evangelism**

**Director**

Open

**Stewardship**

**Director**

Rob Sandberg

**Trustees**

Duane Van Patten

Jesse Washington

Tom McDermott

Maurice Kaneshiro

***From The Pastor's Desk:***

Dear Family and Friends of First Lutheran,

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2003, Tom McDermott, Jim Smith and I, got off the plane and showed our passports at the gate in Haiti, West Indies where we were met by Pastor Bernard, who studied with me at the seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. For five days the three of us visited his Lutheran schools, churches and the home of his wife Margareth and three children. Since that day, the congregation of First Lutheran has continued to help support Pastor Bernard and the Evangelical Lutheran Church with thousands of dollars in gifts and offerings and many hours of prayer. Both their lives and ours has been enriched by our Christian friendship through emails, letters, a visit and countless cards and phone calls. I want to personally thank all of you at First Lutheran for these gifts you have continued to offer on behalf of Pastor Bernard and the Lutheran Christians in Haiti.

This journey with you has also been a great experience for me to work with my hands and make so many different crosses over the years which have gone to help continue the support for the Word and Sacrament ministry in Haiti. This is my little part to remember, give thanks, pray and help offer something that can be exchanged into offerings. I have lost count how many crosses have been made out of wood, copper, steel, iron, brass, seashore glass, barbed-wire, leather, r rusty cans and now wire and glass. Two of the bigger crosses of the crucified Christ have generated \$250.00 each. Over the years, this little project, which started out with just a few hammered copper crosses has generated offerings for Pastor Bernard in excess of over \$3,000.00 and over 500 crosses!

There's a lot more to this story including the many lives that have been touched by the cross of Christ, Pastor Bernard and this little "mission" corner in my garage. (*cont'd page 2*)

(cont'd from page 1)

But for now, I think all of you know that this “Note of Thanks” both to God and to you who have given offerings for our friend, can’t even begin to express my gratitude and joy with you in this “mission project” over the years. Who would have thought this would have started by finding a few rolls of copper in the back yard of the late Otto Lege. Like I said, there’s a lot of stories that go with these crosses.

Thanks dear Lord for all the gifts you give us, most especially, the cross of Jesus.

### Your Pastor

\*\*\*\*\*

### OFFICIAL ACTS- None in March 2015

\*\*\*\*\*

**Church Directory**—Please advise Bob Mericle of changes or corrections to the Church Directory!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Acolytes

**May 3-Luke**

**10-Zach**

**17-Noah**

**24-Will**

**31-Christian**

**June 7- Luke**

**14-Zac**

**21-Noah**

**28-Will**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Church Council Notes

- Approved expenditure of \$4123.41 for purchase (replacement) of a refrigerator and vacuum cleaner; funds were transferred from Contingency Reserve Account.

### Attendance

March	1	4	8	11	15	18	22	25	29
Worship	105	50	93	60	94	46	86	52	111
Communed	94				84				104
Bible Class	35		30		33		35		35
Sun. School	9		N/A		N/A		13	10	11

### Quick View of Financial Stewardship—

- **Year Thru Feb 2015:**  
Income 28,015.45  
Expenses 34,716.22
- **Year Thru Mar**  
Income-Not Available  
Expenses-Not Available

### Our Family & Friends

**Members and our loved ones serving in the Armed Forces** –Austin Wilson, Frank & Pat (granddaughter, Jessica), Robert Steiner, Mary Kenagy- nephew Joshua, Nancy Purcha-3 grandsons, Brenda Romanek-brother, Alan & Helene Peterson- son Erick, Francine Wellington- grandson, Andrea Hall- nephew, Don & Ruth Detviler- grandson, LCMS chaplains: Rob Mueller & Dann Ettner.

**Pray & Visit Our Homebound** Bud & Betty Leonhart, Madeline & Jack Dulmatch, Sylvia Carter, Kay & Don Foster, Cheryl & Chuck Cheek, Delores Zegestosky.

**Pray for our Lutheran Pastors** Rev. Thomas Bernard (Lutheran Church in Haiti, West Indies) & Rev. Gary Rohwer (Muslim ministry in Dearborn, MI).

**Loved Ones recently died** Bev Leckie (sister Barbara), Lori Tucker (friend Marshall).

**Our Lutheran Pastors-** Rev. Gary Rohwer (Muslim ministry in Dearborn, MI), Rev. Bernard (Lutheran Church-Haiti, West Indies).  
**Our Homebound** - Betty Leonhart, Jack & Madeline Dulmatch, Don & Kay Foster, Sylvia Carter, Charles Cheek & Delores Zegestosky

### **College Students:- Brian Christensen**

**Travis Wilson** is enrolled at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and will be leaving his Lake Elsinore home for the dormitory in August.



- **National Convention**-The 36th Biennial Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention is to be held June 25-28 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme for this convention, "Bountiful! Sow Nourish Reap," is based upon Corinthians 9:8 (NIV); check the LWML website for detailed information.



Our LWML ladies have been busy these past two months. We assisted at the Easter Breakfast, began making plans to make quilts for our First Lutheran "shut-ins, drew names for our "Secret Sister" and attended the April 25<sup>th</sup> Zone Spring Rally at Shepherd of the Valley in Moreno Valley.

Our Spring Tea is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 from 11-1 with a "Naturalist" theme! Susan Kaneshiro is scheduled to be our featured speaker. She will be sharing wonderful information about God's creation, and His Nature around us. Guests are invited to bring flowers in a vase for display if you so desire. !! Tickets will be available in May on Sundays, with a requested donation price of \$10.00; contact Diane Sandberg (951-678-6916) for tickets and further information.

All ladies are invited to join us the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM to enjoy with us the blessings of a Bible Study with Pastor Kolander, hymn singing, a short business meeting and always the fellowship of sharing a lunch together. Each month we celebrate the birthdays of our members by singing their favorite hymn, in May we will celebrate the birthdays of Ida Williams, Francine Wellington, and Helen Rice. In June we will celebrate the birthdays of Sandra Gray and Ruth Dtviler.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### May Birthdays

1--Beverly Christiansen	16-Ellie Niehouse
1--Duane Van Patten	20-Bob Brown
2--Larry Hall	21-Lezlee Neebe
4--D.J. Brannon	21-Francine Wellington
4--Morgan Kyle	25-Kay Foster
5--Sue Segade	26-Helen Rice
7--Sylvia Carter	30-Stasiu Kieta
9--Keagan Kieta	31-Natalie Sunshine
11-Ida Williams	
14-Harold Atkinson	

### June Birthdays

1--Linda Warner	21-Lea Brannon
6--Eve Wysong	21-Sandra Gray
8--Maurice Kaneshiro	21-Kathleen Neebe
16-Ruth Dtviler	23-Kim Sunshine
16-Neil Steiner	26- Silvia DePillo
20-Elizabeth Porter	27-Ron Niehouse
	28-Mark Steiner

### May Anniversaries

12—Sherm & Joline Terry

### June Anniversaries

6—Robert & Aggie Steiner  
 15--Daniel & Tabitha Dinger  
 28--Dave & Melody Anton  
 Nick & Joann Pomo

### May Flower Schedule

3—Duane Van Patten's Birthday  
 4--Morgan Kyle's Birthday  
 10—Jim & Sue Rohrbach for Moms'-Billie & Ida  
 17--Open  
 24—Helen Rice's Birthday  
 31—Open

### June Flower Schedule

7—Susie & Bob for Mom Eve's 97th & Sis in-law  
 Laura Davis 98th Birthdays  
 14-- Open  
 21--Kathy Neebe's Birthday  
 28-- Open

**Cleaners-**

May-Kolandars

June-Kyle

**Ongoing Ministries**

E-Prayer—Pastor Kolander

H.O.P.E. Basket 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Greeters---Susan Kaneshiro &amp; Brenda Romanek

**After Services Refreshments.....****May 3-**Susie Mericle, Sue Rohrbach, Betty Van Patten, Francine Wellington**10-**Mother's Day Breakfast**17-**Susan Morris, Hedder Steiner, Karol Steiner**24-** Susan Kaneshiro, Andrea Hall, Helene Peterson**31-Potluck**

Yolanda Arp, Bev Leckie &amp; Jaime Wilson

**June-7** Linda Bosch, Ellie Niehouse, Joline Terry**14-**Kelly Kyle, Nancy Purcha, Lore Tucker**21-**Tom McDermott, Tabitha Dinger, Kim Sunshine**28-**Potluck- Dana Davidson, Ida Williams, Jesse Washington

**Vacation Bible School--**Dave & Melody Anton announced the annual Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 3 thru 7. The theme for this year's school is **Camp Discovery!** Volunteers will be needed for the five day event--as in past years the decorations used to fit the theme have been extensive and colorful! Volunteers will be needed for the many jobs associated with the event; watch for a signup sheet which will be posted in the Narthex.

**Out of the mouth of kids:**

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

**MISSION NEWS.....from Our Church in Haiti**

Dear Members of the First Lutheran,

Hearty greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is a delight for our school to send you this information relating to its progress and challenges. Before the earthquake of January 12, 2010 we've got an attendance of 360 kids/students. But unfortunately after the earthquake some of the parents living in Port-au-Prince, the capital city, moved to other places. Because of this our attendance has decreased from 360 to 260.

We have three sections in our school: Kindergarten, elementary and the high school (from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12 grades). We put great emphasis to education because without it our people will not be able to survive. Being one of the factors of development, education is one of the top priorities of the ministry of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our school is also a means of evangelism since 50% of our students are from non-Christian parents.

Every year our 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders go to official testing under the leadership of the Ministry of National Education of Haiti. Thanks be our God, we always have good scores. After finishing with high school not all of our students go to college/university, this, because of lack of financial possibility; some others go professional school. We are in a sense very fortunate because some of our first students are teaching in our school now. Those are the ones attending our school in the past years. They went to college for at least four years and become teachers and now they are able to make a little living.

Right now we have 150 students in middle school and high school, 65 in grade school and 45 in kindergarten which gives a total of 260 kids. The majority of them are unable to pay the little tuition required but we do keep them because we have a special message for them which will change their whole life. This message is the good news of salvation. The Good Shepherd ministry focuses on both physical and spiritual needs of men.

(cont'd page 5)

(cont'd from page 4)

We are thankful to our donors, sponsors & supporters because without them we would not be able to carry out in a positive way the message of Christ to the dying ones.

In Him,  
Pastor Thomas Bernard.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Ministry to the Armed Forces**

### **Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries INC.**

Since 2007 Lutheran Military Missions (LMVFM) has provided free care and services to veterans, \*military contractors, and their family members. Additionally, LMVFM has provided training programs for churches, groups, professionals and individuals to increase their awareness and understanding of the unique needs and challenges to

providing care to those who have served our country. These two distinct and complementary areas fall under

LMVFM's "Direct" and "Indirect" care missions.

#### **Mission 1 "Direct Care"**

LMVFM provides free counseling, quarterly weekend retreats, general assessments, assistance with obtaining care and resources necessary to the veteran, their family members, as well as military contractors. LMVFM also assists clients by helping them identify additional needed resources within their local community.

While the VA actively excludes many veterans who do not meet specific service criteria such as time in active service, or those ineligible due to their discharge status, LMVFM serves any veteran who comes to us in need. If a person has served one or more days in uniform or as a member of the military contracting community, they as well as their family members are eligible for our care.

#### **Mission 2 "Training and Assistance" for civilian care-givers**

LMVFM provides training programs for civilian care providers, therapists, counselors, clergy, Stephens Ministers, and other citizens who want to be better equipped to work with veterans and their

families. To increase awareness among the general population, LMVFM provides its members, **-5-**

congregations, groups and other supporters with carefully researched, unbiased current information on a wide range of issues that affect our military community members.

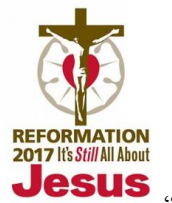
LMVFM works with and assists congregations in the development of their mission outreach programs and

focus to veterans and their families.

LMVFM provides resources to congregations and groups regarding various military issues.

## **Plans taking shape for 2017 Reformation celebration**

Worship opportunities, outreach grants, Web resources and even a Reformation documentary are some of the undertakings for the Synod and its partner organizations celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation throughout 2017. Still, the leader of the Synod's celebration planning reminds us that it's all about Jesus.



Sinners still need Jesus, *only* Jesus — that's really the point Luther was making with the 95 Theses. He was fundamentally concerned about pastoral care for God's sheep," said the Rev. Randall Golter, who serves in the LCMS Office of the President as special assistant to the president. In this capacity, he is responsible for leading the Synod in coordinating and planning for the 2017 Reformation-anniversary celebration.

"We must remember this celebration is not only for our ears but for those who do not know Jesus; our celebrations need an outward push to others, which is our Lord's tendency always," he added.

Golter said a focus on the Gospel led to the celebration's logo — a reminder that the ongoing



center of the Reformation is *Jesus*, not Martin Luther or any other figure.

“The logo says it all! Luther himself would be embarrassed if the 500th was about anyone else but his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” said Golter. “The logo fits quite well with the New Testament’s emphasis that there is only one Good News in Jesus.”

### **Worship opportunities, Web resources**

However, in acknowledgement of Luther’s leadership, Golter said four dates will be highlighted for special worship opportunities: Nov. 10, 2016 — Luther’s birth; Feb. 18, 2017 — Luther’s death; June 25, 2017 — Presentation of the Augsburg Confession; Oct. 31, 2017 — Reformation Day. “Sermons and services will be provided, and a hymn-writing contest is in the works,” he said.

Golter said the Synod also is collaborating with Concordia Publishing House (CPH) to develop a website to offer free, downloadable resources, including introductory and focus videos, promotional material and educational material for congregations, church partners and schools to use. He said the website should be ready to launch as early as fall 2016.

### **‘Stand With Your Community’ grants**

The Synod has \$1 million available for special grant opportunities. In recognition of the 500th anniversary, these “Stand With Your Community” grants are \$1,000 to \$25,000 per approved applicant for church projects ranging from a single event to a two-year program. This can be for a new church project, a revision of a previous effort or strengthening of an ongoing effort, outreach program or other activity that meets the grant criteria. The grants are to be used for outreach into communities through partnerships, wedding together Witness and Mercy activities.

In addition to LCMS congregations and specific groups within congregations, also eligible for the grants are LCMS circuits, LCMS schools, LCMS

colleges and universities, districts and Recognized Service Organizations. This grant program temporarily will replace the Synod’s national Domestic Grant program for about two years.

Grant applications will be accepted Aug. 1-Nov. 16, 2015. Grant awards are expected to be announced by the end of January 2016. Depending on the initial response, the application period might be re-opened at a later date. These funds are provided through a partnership between the LCMS, the Thrivent Financial Foundation and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Information on criteria, application procedures and related information is available at [lcms.org/standgrants](http://lcms.org/standgrants). Send questions via email to [Reformation.SWYCgrants@lcms.org](mailto:Reformation.SWYCgrants@lcms.org).

### **Upcoming documentary**

Thrivent Financial also funded production of a two-hour television documentary on the Reformation, set to air nationwide on PBS in 2017. “The goal of the documentary is to lead the nation’s conversation about the 500th anniversary of the Reformation,” said co-producer Mike Trinklein of Boettcher/Trinklein Media, Inc.

Trinklein said the documentary will depict the epic struggles that occurred during Luther’s time while meaningfully conveying the theological significance of the Reformation to Lutherans and to the general public.

“On one hand, it’s a great adventure story, with chase scenes, kidnappings, political intrigue and life-or-death decisions,” he said. “At the same time, it’s a story about the most important questions of life, including, ‘Who am I? What is my purpose?’ and ‘How do I get right with God?’ Our goal is to weave both elements together in a way that both satisfies Lutherans and piques the curiosity of the secular world.”

Golter said video clips from the documentary will be made available for pastors and teachers for use in congregations and classrooms and for community outreach.

# May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Friday Nite Bible Study</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Potluck</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	2
3 4th Sunday Of Easter 9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion	4 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	5 10:00 a.m. <i>LWML</i> 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	6 10:30 a.m. <i>Bible Class</i> Choir 5:30 p.m. Elders Mtg 7:30 p.m.	7 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	8 <i>Friday Nite Bible Study</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Potluck</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	9
10 5th Sunday Of Easter 9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Worship	11 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	12 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	13 10:30 a.m. <i>Bible Class</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Church Council Meeting</i>	14 Choir 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. <i>Ascension Day</i> Vespers w/communion 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	15 <i>Friday Nite Bible Study</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Potluck</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	16 <i>LWML Tea</i> 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
17 6th Sunday Of Easter 9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Communion	18 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	19 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	20 10:30 a.m. <i>Bible Class</i> Choir 5:30 p.m.	21 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	22 <i>Friday Nite Bible Study</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Potluck</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Worship W/Communion Mite Boxes	25 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	26 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	27 10:30 a.m. <i>Bible Class</i> Choir 5:30 p.m.	28 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	29 <i>Friday Nite Bible Study</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Potluck</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study</i>	30
31 Trinity Sunday 9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. Worship W/Communion <i>POTLUCK</i>						

# June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 a.m. LWML</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Bible Class</b> <b>Choir 5:30 p.m.</b> <b>Elders Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Friday Nite Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 p.m. Potluck</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Bible Study</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>1st Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship w/communion</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>10</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Bible Class</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Church Council</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Friday Nite Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 p.m. Potluck</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Bible Study</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>2nd Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Bible Class</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Friday Nite Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 p.m. Potluck</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Bible Study</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>3rd Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship w/communion</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>24</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Bible Class</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Friday Nite Bible Study</b> <b>6:00 p.m. Potluck</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Bible Study</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>4th Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>9:00 a.m. SS/Bible Class</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Matins</b> <b>POTLUCK Sunday</b> <b>Mite Boxes</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>AA Meeting</b>				