

# CROSS CURRENTS

## Pastor's Page



November- 2012

Dear Friends and Family of First Lutheran,

The End-Time: CHRISTIAN HOPE

*Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning!*

“You are all on the way to the Last and Glorious Day!” That is the message which we hear on the last Sundays in the church year. Though the world in which we live may often appear to be everlasting, yet ever-recurring catastrophes in nature and history (and our own bodies!) forces us to sense that all our attempts to guarantee our existence this side of Heaven are doomed. They cannot hold off God’s final judgment upon our lives. Holy Scripture makes clear to Christians that we must all appear before the judgment seat of God. Nevertheless a new reality has appeared on earth and is even now present, though as yet hidden and secret. Ever since God’s Son first appeared bodily on earth, He has continued to be with us on earth and will be with us always even unto the end of the world. Word and Sacrament are the two forms in which this victorious Saviour now manifests Himself to create and sustain a holy people for Himself. And therefore it is in the use of these means of grace that the great decisive decision for either life or death occurs; and those hidden decisions will be made manifest when Christ appears in Glory before the whole world.

Meanwhile the Church, Christ’s body, is called to busy herself with these end time realities; and so despite her own sin and iniquity she boldly and confidently faces death (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity), Judgment (25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity) and Eternity (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity); all the realities of the end-time press in upon us on these last Sundays of the church year. The Church is not a society which is busy running around in circles trying somehow to aid in the formation of a “heaven on earth,” but she has a definite goal for which she waits: the coming of the Bridegroom, when all her anxieties and troubles will be done away with, when what is amiss will be restored, and when we will take part in the freedom of the Baptized children God. Then we will live in the new heaven and new earth with Christ. “Behold, He comes with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him; and all kindreds of the earth will wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. ‘I Am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending,’ says the Lord, ‘which is, and was, and which is to come, the Almighty.’”

So, even if the Lord does not return before the end of the year, the Church remains prepared & strengthened in faith by God Who comes down from Heaven with His Word of grace and Gospel. She will continue to lift up her head, knowing that He will come as promised. And she will greet the Lord with joy in the season of Advent as she sings again with great fervor, anticipating Christ to bring us His gifts: O Come, O Come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel (Church).

Blessed season of joyful expectation dear Lutherans!  
 God’s peace.  
 +Pastor Kolander



**PASTOR**

Rev. Kevin Kolander

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Gail Christiansen

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President**

Tom McDermott

**Vice President**

Bob Salchow

**Secretary**

Melody Anton

**Treasurer**

Cheryl Cheek

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Beverly Leckie

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**Stewardship Director**

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Frank Crow

Maurice Kaneshiro

Ron Niehouse

Jim Smith

Jesse Washington

**Honorary Trustee**

Tom McDermott

**Elders**

Bob Brown

Don Crow

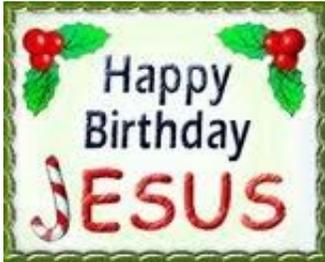
Justin Morris

William Neebe

Michael Sunshine

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 — Joseph Caithamer, Jr.
- 6 — Donald Foster
- 8 — Jim Smith
- 9 — Amber Santee
- 10 — Frieda Bartsch
- 11 — Travis Wilson
- 11 — Joseph Caithamer
- 18 — Rhonda Gainey
- 19 — Debra Hoyt
- 19 — John Wilson
- 21 — Susie Wysong
- 28 — Donald Detviler
- 28 — Emilyn Kyle
- 28 — Sue Rohrbach
- 29 — Christopher Bergman
- 30 — Shirley Brown

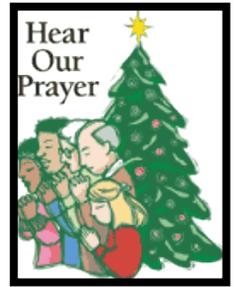


**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 — Bob Fuhr
- 2 — Hedder Gomez
- 8 — Christine DeKoker
- 10 — Debbie Bergman
- 14 — Yolanda Arp
- 14 — Rachel Bennet
- 15 — Lynn Lipa
- 16 — Kimberly Neebe
- 16 — Nancy Purcha
- 21 — Emily Reinitz
- 21 — Ted Rosenblatt
- 26 — Ellie Spellum
- 29 — Mary Kenagy

**WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Pray for Our Church Family & Loved Ones** Kay Foster; Ida Williams (brother-in-law Charles); Noah Niehouse; Erla Cloer (son Kevin); John Wilson; Phyllis Werner; Gaylon Knight; Chris Christensen; Tom McDermott (sister Maureen); Jim Smith (daughter-in-law); John Klek (looking for work); Dot Mericle; Susan Morris (baby on the way); Brian Christensen (college-out of state); Allysha Neebe (teaching position at Abiding Saviour Lutheran School, Lake Forest).



**Members and Loved Ones Serving in the Armed Forces** Robert Steiner (Navy-deployed); Debbie Bergman (nephew); Mary Kenagy (nephew Joshua); Emily & Austin Reinitz (grandsons); Erla Cloer (grandson); Nancy Purcha (3 grandsons); Brenda Romanek (brother); Alan & Helene Peterson (son Erick); Mary Gainey (grandson & great nephew); Rick & Francine Wellington (grandson); Andrea Hall (nephew); Don & Ruth Detviler (grandson); Chaplains Mueller & Ettner (friends of pastor).

**Lutheran Pastors** Rev. Thomas Bernard (Haiti, West Indies) & Rev. Rohwer (Muslims).

**Our Homebound** Betty Leonhart; Clara Morgan; Helen Winchester; Madeline & Jack Dulmatch; Anna Mevis; Sylvia Carter.

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Communed</b>	<b>86</b>		<b>100</b>		
<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Sun. School</b>	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Offerings</b>	<b>\$3714.</b>	<b>\$2854.</b>	<b>\$2020.</b>	<b>\$2279.</b>	<b>\$2559.</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>Worship</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>98</b>	
<b>Communed</b>	<b>94</b>		<b>95</b>		
<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>Sun. School</b>	*	*	*	*	
<b>Offerings.</b>	<b>\$2854.</b>	*	<b>\$1854.</b>	<b>\$3891.</b>	

\*—denotes not listed

**LWML MISSIONS BULLETIN BOARD**

Check out the "Missions" Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall (created by Melody Anton) that gives our congregation a broad view of the LWML Missions, and how the Mite Box monies are spent. Susan Morris has beautifully portrayed a separate mission for a well to give the people of Haiti a clean water source. Pastor Kolander will be speaking at the LWML Cranberry Tea on November 3rd regarding the WELL for HAITI and the poster is designed to give a visual of our Mission Goal and Progress.



# Defending the Faith:

## PART 2—RESPONDING TO NONBELIEVERS

Our first Defending the Faith Evangelism Workshop took us through the reason for the hope within us. This workshop will go deeper in equipping you to defend the Christian faith with those who...

- ✚ *believe the Bible is just another book*
- ✚ *deny the existence of God*
- ✚ *think that reason and science are opposed to Christianity*

...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. (1Peter 3:15 ESV)

**Saturday, November 17, 2012**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Presenter: Pastor Paul L. Willweber

*Lunch will be provided!*



Please let us know if you'll be coming. However, we will *gladly* accept walk-ins!

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church [LCMS]**  
**6801 Easton Ct., San Diego, CA 92120**  
**619-583-1436 churchoffice@princeofpeacesd.net**  
**www.princeofpeacesd.net**

## JOB OR MINISTRY

Some people have a **JOB** in the church; others involve themselves in a **MINISTRY**.

If you quit because somebody criticized you, it was a **JOB**. If you keep on serving, it's a **MINISTRY**.

If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a **JOB**. If you stay with it even though nobody recognizes your efforts, it is a **MINISTRY**.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a **JOB**. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a **MINISTRY**.

If you do it only as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a **JOB**. If you are committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a **MINISTRY**.

If your concern is success, it's a **JOB**. If your concern is faithfulness, it's a **MINISTRY**.

An average church is filled with people doing **JOBS**. A great and growing church is filled with people involved in **MINISTRY**.

### WHERE DO WE FIT IN? WHAT ABOUT US?

If God calls you to a **MINISTRY**, don't treat it like a **JOB**.

If you have a **JOB**, give it up and find a **MINISTRY**.

God does not want us feeling stuck with a **JOB**, but excited and faithful to Him in a **MINISTRY**.

*Author Unknown—Submitted by Kathy McCaleb. Thank you!!*

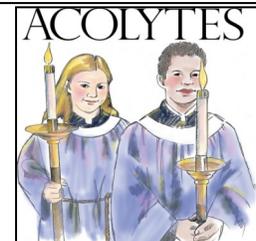
## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 7—Frank & Pat Crow
- 7—Michael & Catherine DiBella
- 7—Michael & Kim Sunshine
- 18—Erla & Leonard Cloer
- 24—Bob & Shirley Brown



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10—Bob & Lois Salchow
- 15—Justin & Susan Morris
- 20—Mark & Karol Steiner



- Nov. 04—Christian Kyle
- Nov. 11—Austin Wilson
- Nov. 18—Will Rosenblatt
- Nov. 25—Luke Kolander
- Dec. 02—Zach Anton
- Dec. 09—Noah Kolander
- Dec. 16—Christian Kyle
- Dec. 23—Austin Wilson
- Dec. 24—Will Rosenblatt
- Dec. 25—Luke Kolander

## CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

November

Kenagy & Sunshine

## REFRESHMENTS

**NOVEMBER**

**4th** Sue Rohrbach  
Francine Wellington  
Susie Wysong

**11th** Ruth Dettviler  
Mary Gainey  
Yolanda Arp

**18th** Jamie Wilson  
Susan Kaneshiro  
Ida Williams

**25th Potluck**  
Cheryl Cheek  
Andrea Hall  
Kim Sunshine

**DECEMBER**

**2nd** Hedder Gomez  
Susan Morris  
Karol Steiner

**9th** Pat Crow  
Kaathy McCaleb  
Nancy Purcha

**16th** Bonnie Harlow  
Gerry Rice  
Ellie Niehouse

**23rd** Beverly Leckie  
Kelly Kyle  
Courtney Rosenblatt

**30th Potluck**  
Diane Sandberg  
Dana Davidson  
Lore Tucker

## FULFILLING A COUPLE'S MISSION PASSION: PROVIDING PASTORS IN GHANA

Growing up in St. Paul, Minn., Marion Johnson and Orville Lundstrom took an interest in mission work. Although Orville considered becoming a Lutheran missionary in Africa, he pursued a career as a geologist. His future wife, Marion, became a teacher.

The late couple never served as missionaries. Still, they served the Lord on the continent that held a special place in their hearts.

### **The mission field held a special place in the hearts of Marion and Orville Lundstrom.**

“For our parents, supporting the mission field was a very special commitment to spreading the Good News of salvation around the world,” say the Lundstroms’ daughters. “Supporting the new Lutheran seminary in Ghana, West Africa, to train future pastors in God’s Word was a way to do that.”

Several years ago, the Lundstroms, members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Houston, began sharing their blessings to help replace the cramped seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG), one of the oldest LCMS partner churches in Africa. The current seminary, located in the ELCG headquarters in Accra, can graduate only 14 students every four years. More pastors are needed to serve the church body, which has some 29,000 members in 200 congregations and 300 preaching points served by 25 pastors.

Thanks to generous donors such as the Lundstroms, a new seminary is under construction that will accommodate up to 60 students.

“Marion had a passion for Ghana and enthusiasm for making a significant contribution to the seminary,” says Terry Biesboer, one of several mission advocates serving in Synod’s Mission Advancement unit. “Orville was a very keen and astute businessman who loved the Lord and sharing the Gospel. And his wife meant the world to him.” Marion went home to be with Lord in 2000, and Orville honored her memory and wishes with ongoing support for the effort in Ghana. Orville fell asleep in Jesus in late 2011.

The Lundstroms’ daughters continue to support the seminary that meant so much to their parents, fulfilling a cherished dream for Marion and Orville – and their beloved mission field.



Marion and Orville Lundstrom

## LADIES CRAFT FELLOWSHIP

### FIRST LUTHERAN LADIES!!

First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall will be open at 9:00 AM every 2nd Saturday of the month for all you ladies who like to enjoy Christian Women’s Fellowship while crafting (scrapbooking, quilting, knitting, crocheting, etc.) at the same time.

Join us and stay and enjoy fellowship with your sisters in Christ! Bring your own snacks and drinks to share. Remember the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM.



## SUSAN AND MAURICE KANESHIRO

Their story begins oceans and continents apart. On the Pacific Island of Okinawa in the late 1800s, a young man and his bride travelled by boat to Hawaii, settling on Oahu where they started a family. They had a son named Shig who married Miriam and had 4 sons: Dennis, Maurice, Ronald, and Patrick. Maurice grew up in Hawaii before Honolulu was a popular location for tourists, and he could write a book on his childhood adventures. His father was the manager of a local Ben Franklin Dime Store. His Dad decided it was time for the family to move to California in 1965, where his sons would have more opportunities.



Maurice had just graduated from High School in Oahu. Once in California, Maurice started working at Thriftmart Grocery Store while attending Santa Monica College. Tiring of Retail Clerks Union Strikes, Maurice went to work for General Telephone. Maurice enlisted in the Marine Corps and was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1972.

Across the Atlantic Ocean, a young man and his bride took a boat from Czechoslovakia to New York, entering Ellis Island in the late 1800s. John wanted to have a family and initially settled in Chicago working as a baker. In the 1900s, all 9 children, Bessie, Anna, John, Emily, Olga, Sue, Dorothy, Helen and Ellen, grew up on a farm in Texas. They were all baptized as infants. Dorothy grew up during the Depression and wanted to go to nursing school. She worked picking cotton and cleaning houses until she raised enough money to complete her college education and became a Registered Nurse. She met Frank who was completing his Engineering Degree at Texas Tech. They married near the end of World War II, and eventually moved to California, where they raised a family. Susan, who was the oldest, grew up with 2 sisters and a brother. They all attended First Lutheran Church in Culver City and Palms, attending Christian Day School and all being confirmed by Pastor Kalthoff. After graduating High School, Susan went to Santa Monica College and then Nursing School at Cal State Los Angeles where she received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing in June 1974.

Susan and Maurice were neighbors but had never met, so “brave” Maurice put a note on Susan’s car. She answered the note three years later after visiting a girlfriend who had moved to Canada and also consulting with her mother. Her mother always encouraged her to finish her education to be able to support yourself before getting married. Susan and Maurice became friends as they joined a Bowling League with Maurice's brothers. After a 3 year engagement, Maurice and Susan were married in August 1974 at First Lutheran Church, Culver City and Palms. They wanted to buy a home and settled in Mission Viejo (Orange County). There, they attended Abiding Savior Lutheran Church with Pastor Charles Birner.

Susan worked at Centinela Hospital while Maurice worked for General Telephone. Susan soon got a job at Saddleback Hospital, which was closer to home. Maurice's job moved them to Thousand Oaks in 1986, where their church home became Redeemer Lutheran Church with Rev. Reimnitz. Maurice retired from GTE in 1999 and spent more time with his Mom and Dad. Susan continued working until her mother

## FLOWER SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER

- 4—Frieda Bartsch**  
Birthday
- 11—Wilson Family**  
John and Travis Birthdays
- 18—Leonard & Erla Cloer**  
5th Anniversary
- 25—Kyle Family**  
Emilyn’s Birthday
- Bob and Shirley Brown**  
50th Anniversary



### DECEMBER

- 2—Gerry Daughtrey**  
Jan’s Birthday
- 9—**
- 16—**
- 23—**
- 30—**

### WHOEVER GIVES THESE LITTLE ONES A CUP OF WATER

The new church in Leogane, Haiti (rebuilt after being destroyed by a hurricane), served by Pastor Thomas Bernard, needs a water well dug so the congregation and future school can have clean water. First Lutheran has offered to help. The cost of the well is 6-10k. We already have a few members of the church who have offered to help with this project. Gifts can be marked “Haiti well” and will be deposited into the church treasury and then wired to Pastor Bernard.



**BIBLE STUDIES  
AT  
FIRST LUTHERAN**

**Sunday**

9:00AM—10:00 AM

Book of Psalms

**Wednesday**

10:30 AM—12:00 Noon

**Friday**

Exegeting Ephesians

*(Month of November)*

Lectern Study

*(Month of December)*

6:00 PM—Supper

6:30 PM—Prayers

7:00 PM—Bible Study

Dorothy, had a stroke in 2004. Susan took a leave from her job and took care of her mom in her mom's Laguna Woods home. Maurice was driving back and forth from Thousand Oaks to visit and they decided to sell the house and move closer. While looking for a new home, Maurice found their current home in Lake Elsinore. Then he found a LCMS church where Susan and her Mom could attend when they came to visit, called First Lutheran Lake Elsinore with Pastor Kolander. Susan began attending the Morris/Steiner Bible Study and Maurice followed to see what Susan was learning there on Friday nights. Pastor invited Maurice to stop by and have a cup of coffee with the guys on Thursday mornings (trustees). Soon, Maurice began to get more involved, first by painting the church. Over time, with the Holy Spirit working on his heart, Maurice talked to Pastor, and was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran Lake Elsinore on August 7, 2011.

Susan works at Temecula Valley Day Surgery in Murrieta as a Registered nurse in the Operating Room. The Lord guided Susan to the job opportunity while attending a CPR class. One of the surgery center office staff was in the class and encouraged Susan to apply to the surgery center which was opening soon. It has worked out well as Susan no longer has to take call, work holidays or weekends, and doesn't have to get up in the middle of the night for emergencies. She began working there over 4 years ago, in June 2008, shortly after joining First Lutheran Church Lake Elsinore in January of that year.

Maurice likes to read books, go to the gym, go for walks, work with the trustees, and sings in the choir. Maurice also attends Wednesday Bible Study. Both Susan and Maurice like to cook, work in the yard together, and visit family and friends. When time allows, Susan enjoys gardening, sewing, and baking. Susan's church activities include Altar Guild, kitchen help, and choir, and serving as an occasional greeter "substitute." Susan's exuberance shines and brightens each person's day as they enter our church home. We are so very blessed that Maurice and Susan are part of our family here at First Lutheran.

**Lezlee Neebe, FLC Roving Reporter**



**FIRST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

600 West Sumner Avenue  
Lake Elsinore, CA 9250

Phone: (951) 674-2757  
Web Page: [www.firstluth.com](http://www.firstluth.com)  
E-mail: [pastor@firstluth.com](mailto:pastor@firstluth.com)

*To the Congregation of First Lutheran in Lake Elsinore:*

*Greetings! I wanted to inform you that I received a Call from Abiding Saviour Lutheran Church in Lake Forest as a 4th grade teacher! I am very excited about the call and am very blessed to be able to serve God with these students. I have 18 students currently in my classroom, and each one of them is full of laughter, fun, and God's love. I will be continuing to live at home with my parents, William and Lezlee Neebe, and commuting into Lake Forest daily. Because of my Call, I will be transferring my membership, but I hope to have opportunities to come back to visit on Sundays occasionally to First Lutheran.*

*I also wanted to send you a personal letter of thank you for all the opportunities you have provided me. Your spiritual, financial, and loving support have truly helped me achieve not only my goals, but God's will. I can truly say I would not be where I am today without Pastor Kolander and the whole congregation at First Lutheran. Thank you,*

*I look forward to seeing you all at future events and keeping you updated about my service in the Lord and the many ways He will continue to bless me!*

*God's Peace*

*Miss Allysha Neebe*



**OFFICIAL ACTS**  
**Called Home  
to the  
Church Triumphant**  
**JANICE KUHL**  
**September 9, 2012**

## WHY LUTHERAN EDUCATION IN AFRICA?

on September 15, 2012 in [FEATURE](#), [LUTHERANS ENGAGE](#)



Jean-Lare Dabirsoa, Pastor Lare Nankabe, Pastor Likabongue Djatoite, Pastor Blaise Tchimbiantja and Pastor Tame Gotmah are all recent graduates of the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Dapaong, Togo. The stoles the ordinands are wearing were donated by Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Tulsa, Okla., and the pectoral crosses were donated by Geraldine Draper in memory of her late husband Rev. George Draper (Montana District).

by Glenn Fluegge

LCMS missionary and theological educator in Africa for the past 14 years, Pastor Glenn Fluegge reflects on the work to which God has called him and his family.

*In reflecting on the numerous and varied trials and tribulations that our family has traversed over the past years, I have asked myself some deep questions: Why are we here in Africa? Was it worth it to bring my family here for over a decade? Is it worth the financial support that so many faithful friends have donated to our ministry? Is education for the Lutheran churches in Africa really that important?*

Similar questions confront our Synod during these challenging financial times. Why are we as a church body involved in theological education in Africa? Is it really worth the sacrifices and resources that our church invests in it? Are our education efforts in Africa really that important?

When faced with such important questions, I've found it's often helpful to look back in history, to gain a view often missed when we focus on the present. Germany, at the time of the Reformation, provides interesting parallels that help to shed light on the present situation in Africa.

### **Challenge: Traditional African Religion**

There are parallels between the challenges faced by the Lutheran churches of post-Reformation Germany and those faced by the churches in Africa today. The first of these challenges is that of the traditional religion. Christianity, nearly universal in Europe some 500 years ago, was often intermingled with the traditional folk religion of spirits, magic and witchcraft. These remnants of a pre-Christian culture lurked just beneath the surface of popular understandings of Christianity.

Similarly, the traditional African religion of ancestral worship and animal sacrifices continues to seriously threaten the churches of Africa today. In many parts of Africa, even the strongest Christians are beset with temptations to revert to former beliefs and practices, especially during transitional life events such as birth, weddings and death. Syncretism, the mingling of Christianity with elements from the traditional African religion, continues to challenge the African church.

### Challenge: Sects and Cults

A second challenge to Christianity is the multitude of sects and cults. During and after the Reformation, a host of sectarian movements sprang up all over Europe, threatening the newly formed Lutheran churches. Luther and other reformers spent considerable time and effort combating these movements and convincing Christians of the danger these sects posed to the very Gospel itself.

Today, a vast number of sects and cults have risen up and grown alarmingly popular in Africa. Mormonism, Eckankar and Jehovah's Witness have strongholds across Africa. These sects from the United States are joined by a host of cults originating in Africa. Self-proclaimed African prophets mingle elements of Christianity with traditional African religion and gather significant numbers of followers in almost every country of Africa.

### Challenge: Islam

But the third "threat" is perhaps the most serious. At the time of the Reformation, all of Europe was at the brink of war with the Muslim Turks, who were at Europe's doorstep eagerly poised to invade. And with the Turks came their religion — Islam.

Today in Africa, Islam is entering through an open door. Prevalent in Northern Africa, adherents to Islam also encompass the vast majority of the population — around 98 percent — of many countries in West Africa, such as Guinea, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Central and Southern Africa have fewer Muslims, but their numbers are growing. Muslim merchants, financed and sent from Northern Africa, are arriving daily to settle in countries of Central Africa (trade has historically been a primary means of spreading Islam). It is most alarming to see Muslim "missionaries" intentionally at work in Africa, building mosques in remote villages and openly proselytizing in public places.

### Other Parallels

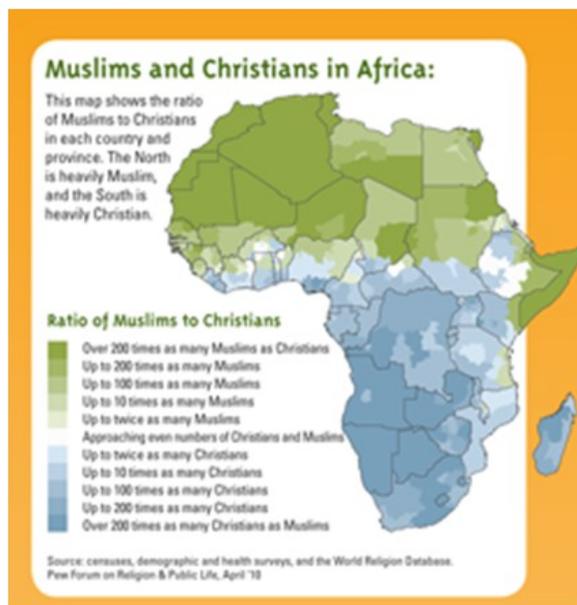
When we talk about the Reformation, we often focus on those familiar, famous events — Luther's vow to become a monk on the road to Erfurt, the nailing of the 95 Theses on the chapel door in Wittenberg and Luther's courageous response at the Diet of Worms. What we often forget is that after the break with the Roman Church, the Christian church in the German lands found itself in a state of utter chaos. Though Christianity was widespread, the Church had lost its shape.

Most devastatingly, in separating from the Roman Church, the new "evangelical" [Lutheran] churches lost the very structure that provided them with spiritual leadership. One result was an alarming shortage of well-prepared pastors and preachers so desperately needed to lead the newly established church.

In Africa today, Christianity is also widespread and is rapidly- growing. There are roughly 20 million Lutherans in Africa alone. Because of this rapid and pervasive growth, many Christian church bodies in Africa do not have adequate structures in place to provide desperately needed pastors and preachers. Lutheran churches all over Africa face an alarming shortage of well- prepared pastors.

Reformation-era Europe was also largely an illiterate society whose inhabitants interpreted the world around them in an oral and aural way. Yet the Lutheran Reformation revolved around the written Word — the Word of God. Suddenly, there was a need for an educated clergy that could read, interpret and preach this written Word.

Modern Africa, perhaps to an even greater degree, is also comprised of oral societies, and a faith based on a written Word is inherently foreign. Lutheran churches in Africa have the same urgent need for a well-educated clergy.



The reformers, in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges — religious threats to the Church, chronic lack of well-prepared pastors and the inherent challenge of sharing the written Word in an oral society — set out to rebuild the church from the bottom up. Where did they start? Education. As early as 1524, Luther wrote a letter, “To the Councilmen of all the Cities in Germany that they Establish and Maintain Christian Schools.” He and the other professors at Wittenberg also set about completely revamping the entire university curriculum so that it might produce the well-prepared pastors that the German church so desperately needed.

Luther and the reformers understood that good, faithful leaders in society are brought about through good, Christian education. Likewise, solid Christian education was seen as of the utmost importance for the health, well-being and growth of the church. The transformation of the church (and society) would be through education.

The strategic emphasis placed on education by the reformers has since become a legacy of Lutheran churches around the world. Our Lutheran forefathers arrived in the United States and immediately set about building schools with the result that, to this very day, Christian education is a hallmark of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

So, is it really worth it for us to be involved in education in Africa? History shouts a resounding, “YES!” Lutheran education (both theological and general) is one of the most important ways in which we can assist Lutheran churches and our partners in Africa today.

### Long-term Investment

A final concluding remark is warranted: Education is a long-term investment focused on decades rather than tomorrow — on generations rather than years, and this may discourage us. Let us bear in mind that Luther and the other reformers did not see the results of the educational reforms they worked so hard to bring about. And yet, countless generations continue to reap the harvest of the seeds the reformers planted.

Has my time in Africa been worthwhile? Most certainly —the long-term good of investing in education for the Lutheran churches in Africa is immeasurable. There is little that I would deem more important than what God has called us to in Africa — building up Lutheran churches through teaching God’s Holy Word.



Glenn Fluegge and his family

**About the Author:** *In June, Pastor and Missionary Glenn Fluegge and his family departed Africa for Irvine, Calif., where he will continue to preach and teach at Concordia University, serving as co-director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center and as assistant professor of theology.*



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# NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>			<b>1</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Exegeting Ephesians	<b>3</b> 11:30 AM LWML TEA
<b>4 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> Daylight-Saving Time Ends 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM LWML 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Catechism	<b>7</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 5:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Exegeting Ephesians	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Craft
<b>11 TRINITY 24 SUNDAY</b> Veterans Day 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship Voter's Meeting 2013 Budget	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Catechism Class	<b>14</b> 10:30 AM Bible Class 5:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Exegeting Ephesians	<b>17</b>
<b>18 TRINITY 25 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>21</b> 5:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>22 Thanksgiving</b> 	<b>23</b> 6:00 PM Exegeting Ephesians	<b>24</b>
<b>25 TRINITY 26 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Matins POTLUCK SUNDAY	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 4:30 PM Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Exegeting Ephesians	

# DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>2 ADVENT 1 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM LWML Christ- mas Party 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 4:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Vespers	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Lectern Study	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Craft
<b>9 ADVENT 2 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 4:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Vespers	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM Lectern Study	<b>15</b>
<b>16 ADVENT 3 SUNDAY</b> Elders Meeting 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 4:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Vespers	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM Lectern Study	<b>22</b>
<b>23 ADVENT 4 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<b>24</b> 7:15 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY- WORSHIP 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM Lectern Study	<b>29</b>
<b>30 CHRISTMAS 1 SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM SS/Bible Class 10:30 AM Matins POTLUCK SUNDAY	<b>31</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:15 PM NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE					