

CROSS CURRENTS

First Lutheran Church Newsletter—March/April 2015

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

Pastor e-mail: pastor@firstluth.com

Web page: www.firstluth.com

Pastor

Rev. Kevin L.
Kolander

Music Director

Gail Christensen

Church Council

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Brown

Vice President

Dave Anton

Secretary

Susie Mericle

Treasurer

William Neebe

Financial Secretary

Gail Christensen

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Director

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Stewardship

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Duane Van Patten

Jesse Washington

Tom McDermott

Maurice Kaneshiro

From The Pastor's Desk:

Dear Family and Friends of First Lutheran,

Over the past years we have heard good and bad things about Islam. The following true story reminds the Christian Church both to pray and be a witness to anyone and everyone. The letter came to us from POBLO, Pastor Gary Rohwer, who we help sponsor to get the Word out to Muslims.

How An Invitation to Islam Opened the Door to Share the Gospel

Recently, my wife, Mariam, and I had the opportunity to visit a Saudi Arabian family in our community. I had met Samy (the son) before, but his was the first time we interacted with his mother and two of his sisters. Samy's oldest sister did not join us, likely because I (being a male) was there, and she felt a bit uncomfortable. His mother was also shy and wore a hijab to cover her face.

During our visit, we spent about two hours discussing Saudi Arabian culture and highlighting the differences between Saudi Arabia and the United States, Samy's family home, but they expressed that they wish to remain here. They have come to appreciate the freedoms they are given, the openness of Americans, and the way that women are treated (very differently than in Saudi Arabia). They will be in the U.S. for another three months before returning to their country.

In the three months that Samy's family has been in the U.S., we were the first and only people to visit them and be invited into their home. They explained that they don't even trust their own people here, so they don't invite them to come to their home. We felt honored that they trusted us enough to have us over. The mother has asked Mariam to visit her again, so she is planning to go without me sometime in the coming weeks.

The day after visiting his family, I met with Samy. Our conversation started out like any typical conversation does; we covered topics like the weather and weekend plans. He even asked if my family would join his for a trip to the South to spend a week in a warmer place. We are thinking about it, since it's been very cold here in Minnesota!

The conversation eventually evolved to religion, and Samy invited me to consider joining Islam. In a kind and gentle way, he asked me if I had ever thought about Islam and told me that the light of Islam would clear my path and direct my steps. He apologized and said he was afraid that he had offended me with his boldness, but he insisted that he loves me and hopes that when I die, I will go to the same place that he will go. (cont'd on page 2)

(cont'd from page 1)

At this point, I couldn't be silent any longer. I asked him where he will go when he dies. He admitted that he doesn't know where he will go, so I asked him how he can invite me to join him in a place that he doesn't even know he is going to. He seemed a bit embarrassed.

I explained to him why I did not choose to follow Islam, which led me to explain the significant differences between Islam and Christianity. I shared the Gospel message of salvation with him and explained that as a Christian, I do not need to fear whether or not I will go to Heaven. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Eternal Life." As Christians, we have the assurance of salvation! I met with him again the following week, planting more seeds and answering questions that he had.

I meet with Samy now on a weekly basis and talk with him on the phone almost every day. Samy has also been meeting with a local pastor once a week for almost two months now, and they will continue to meet until Samy and his family return home.

Please pray for Samy and his friends, that they may see the real Light and know Jesus as their Saviour. Missionary John Gayed, Minnesota.
January 2015

OFFICIAL ACTS



Baptisms- December 24, 2014:
Anthony Gutierrez, Jr.
Parents- Elizabeth Porter &
Anthony Gutierrez
Confirmed- January 26, 2015:
Junior Confirmation:
Keegan Kieta
Stasiu Kieta

Adult Confirmation:

Don Currier
Ana Csihas

Marriage-February 14, 2015

Don Currier and Ana Csihas

Transfers-January 18, 2015

Dan & Tabitha Dinger from Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS), Grand Forks, ND

Called Home-January 29, 2015

Anna Mevis

Memorial Service

Anna Mevis-February 9, 2015

Addresses—A new Membership Directory has been published with copies available from the Church Office

Acolytes

March 1-Noah
8-Will
15-Christian
22-Luke
29-Christian

April 5-Zach (Easter 10:30 a.m.)

12-Noah
19-Will
26-Christian

Church Council Notes

- Our Church's 2014 support offerings to Pastor Bernard and the Church in Haiti were \$6,000 and to the New Mexico Pastor \$2,000.
- Travis Wilson is planning a college career-- several schools have accepted his application!!! Lord be with you, Travis!
- The Sunday School collected \$409.00 from the Advent Wreath sales which was delivered to a needy single father with three children.
- The theme for 2015 Vacation Bible School is **Camp Discovery**—volunteers will be needed!
- The annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is scheduled for March 21—watch for details

Attendance				
January	4	11	18	25
Worship	94	92	117	-
Communed	68		97	
Bible Class	35	29	-	29
Sun. School	11	10	14	10

Quick View of Financial Stewardship—

- **Year Ending December 2014:**
Income \$184,072.89
Expenses \$180,997.40
- Month ending January 31, 2015:**
Income-Not Available
Expenses-Not Available

Our Family & Friends

Members and our loved ones serving in the Armed Forces –Austin Wilson, Robert Steiner, Erla Cloer-grandson, Nancy Purcha-3 grandsons; Brenda Romanek-brother; Frank & Pat Crow (grand daughter Jessica); Alan & Helene Peterson- son Erick; Mary Kenagy-Nephew Joshua; Francine Wellington- grandson Richard; Andrea Hall-nephew; Don & Ruth Dettviler-grandson; Chaplains Rob Mueller & Dan Ettner

A Couple of Service Notes: Austin Wilson is well into basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Robert Steiner is serving a tour of duty at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD!

May our Gracious Lord be with you both!!

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, Anna Mevis, Sylvia Carter, Charles Cheek

College Student:- Brian Christensen



appreciation for your recent participation in our Backpack and School Supplies project.

- Because of you, it was a success! Your constant help with our projects is appreciated.
- Ladies, you are invited to join us the first Tuesday of each month for our LWML meetings. Enjoy with us a pastor led Bible Study, singing, a business meeting and a luncheon. The fellowship of LWML is a blessing to all, won't you join us? Our next two meetings will be March 3 and April 7 at 10:00 AM.
- LWML will serve **Easter Breakfast** on Easter, April 5 from 8:00 AM-10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to this breakfast. Please be aware that the kitchen will close promptly at 10:00 AM to enable our ladies to attend Easter Worship. Sign-up sheets for bringing food and to help in the kitchen and serving will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Your help is welcome!
- Zone LWML Spring Rally will be held at Faith Lutheran in Riverside on April 11. Watch your bulletins for more information
- April 25th, Saturday from 11:00 to 1:00, the LWML is pleased to invite our church ladies to the **Spring Tea!** This year we will be dazzled by presenters on Flowers, Birds, and Bees. It will be a day for the Naturalist! And a day that praises God for His glorious creation. There will food and fellowship, surrounded by flowers and smiles. At this tea we will have a special flower show, so start tending and fertilizing, or else scout out that secret place that you know God grows a wildflower just for you. More information will come about our flower show! Save the date and please join us. Tickets will be \$10.00 as a donation for the First Lutheran Church of Lake Elsinore LWML local mission projects.

- First Lutheran – you are the best!!! We extend to you our heartfelt and deep

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March Birthdays

- 3—Oliver Kenagy
- 8—Geri Daughtrey
- 9—Justin Morris
- 16--Delores Zegestosky
- 20--Alan Peterson
- 20--Bob Salchow
- 26—Christopher Kieta
- 27—Charles Cheek
- 29—Joann Pomo
- 31—Lana Brannon

April Birthdays

- 2—Carol Bucker
- 3—Christina Kolander
- 5—Sandra Houston
- 6—Nathaniel Rosenblatt
- 9—Erla Cloer
- 10--Lois Salchow
- 19--Dave Anderson
- 20---Delores Kieta
- 21---Jude Morris
- 25—Jacyn Anderson
- 25—Jerry Davidson
- 28—Betty Leonhart
- 29—Virginia Dunn
- 29---Dorothy Byrnes
- 30—Tom McDermott

March Anniversaries

- 12—Ron & Brenda Romanek
- 19—Gerry & Helen Rice

April Anniversaries

- 7—John & Jamie Wilson
- 25--John & Silvia DePillo

March Flower Schedule

- 1— none listed
- 8—Geri Daughtrey Birthday
- 15--Andrea Hall-Amy & Erin's Birthday
- 22—Helen & Gerry Rice Anniv
- 29—none listed

April Flower Schedule

- 5—John & Jamie Wilson 30th Anniv
- 12-- none listed
- 19--Christian Kyle-B'day
- 26--Jerry Davidson's Birthday

Cleaners-

- March-Jamie Wilson
- April--Morris & Steiner

Ongoing Ministries

- E-Prayer—Pastor Kolander
- H.O.P.E. Basket 1st & 3rd Sunday
- Greeters---Susan Kaneshiro & Brenda Romanek

Coming Services.....

- Wednesdays, Mar. 4,11,18,25
- Lenten themed Soup Suppers at 6.00 p.m.
- Vespers at 7:15 p.m.
- Palm Sunday Sunday, March 29
- Maundy Thursday Service April 2, at 7:15pm
- Good Friday Service April 3, at 7:15 pm
- Easter Sunrise Service April 5, at 7 a.m.
- Easter Festival Service April 5, at 10:30 am

Coming Events.....

March 21-Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

After Services Refreshments.....

- March 1-**Erla Cloer, Ellie Niehouse, Joline Terry
- 8-**Kelly Kyle, Ron Niehouse, Lore Tucker
- 15-**Tom McDermott, Nancy Purcha, Kim Sunshine
- 22-**Susan Kaneshiro, Gerry Rice, Ida Williams
- 29-**Potluck-
- Maurice Kaneshiro & Jesse Washington

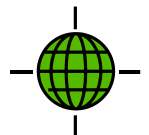
After Services Refreshments (cont'd)

- April 5-**Easter Breakfast Potluck-7:30-10 a.m.
- 12-**Dianne Sandberg, Tiffany Casey, Erla Cloer
- 19-**Shirley Brown, Judy Adler, Christina Kolander
- 26-**Potluck
- Pat Crow, Ruth Detviler, Bonnie Harlow

Out of the mouth of kids: A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service, "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us"!

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

To the Members of the First Lutheran Church/Donors/Supporters: Grace and Peace to you from God our Lord and Savior Jesus-Christ!



The purpose of this letter is to thank each one of you in a special way for the diversity of blessings you are sharing with us at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and especially with the Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In the name of all the children/students of our school,

in the name of all the teachers, in the name of the pastors, in the name of all the members of the different congregations that we are serving and in my own name, I thank you ever so much for all the past, present and future blessings. The fact that you are sharing with us your resources means that you are helping us in the building of character, taking out the good news of salvation to the unsaved ones and bringing Christ to the dying ones. With your prayers, your help, your donations and your supports we are able to feed many souls spiritually and physically. The children are receiving not only good Christian education but also academic education which will make them better citizen. This Christian action from your side is the result of God's love and faith in your lives.

At Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School we are blessed. God is adding new souls to the flock in a regular basis. At Good Shepherd located in Port-au-Prince we are serving 500 to 560 members; at Good Shepherd in Village of Peace we are serving 300 members; at Good Shepherd in Leogane we are serving 90 to 120 members and in our new congregation located at Village Coracess (started one year ago) we are serving 85 members. In our school located in the Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti, we have an attendance of 260 students. What a privilege and blessing to be led by Christ! Without your Christian love and your commitment we would not be able to accomplish all these. But all the glory is to our God. Our new project is to build a sanctuary for the saints at Village Coracess and start a school there for the children of the community. We have a unique method/philosophy: wherever we have a church we do have a school also because school is a means of evangelism for our ministry. Again, thank you so much and may our Lord and Savior continue to bless you and your ministry!
Pastor Thomas Bernard.

Concordia University Irvine News

With enrolment now exceeding 4,000 students, Concordia University Irvine, CUI, is a USNews Top Tier Regional University that prepares students for their vocations—their calling in life.

CUI offers undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and adult degree programs in a beautiful Southern California location, with online and regional cohort options.

Concordia's undergraduate program is distinctive among universities in California because of the University's innovative and engaging Core Curriculum, and its Lutheran heritage that provides a thoughtful and caring Christian community that lives out "Grace Alone. Faith Alone."

First Lutheran has for a number of years provided financial support and has had a goodly number of students graduate from Concordia!

Ministry to the Armed Forces

Since the Civil War, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the LCMS' Ministry to the Armed Forces supports 173 chaplains. Among these chaplains, 70 are active duty LCMS chaplains and 80 are serving Reserve and National Guard units.

Currently, one of these Reserve/Guard chaplains is mobilized in Bahrain. LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces also supports 23 Civil Air Patrol chaplains.

Our active duty members usually work on a base or post, with a large support staff to care for their needs, such as financial counseling, baby sitting, health care, etc. However, our reserve community and their families are often located large distances from those support structures. Our hope is that our LCMS congregations can reach out to these families, especially when their loved ones are deployed, and help care for many of their needs.

LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces initiated Operation Barnabas in 2007 as a response to the ever-increasing needs of returning servicemen and women. The program's goal is to equip and encourage LCMS congregations and their members, as well as local Operation Barnabas district counselors, for compassionate care and Gospel-sharing outreach to our military members, families and veterans.

More Mission Grants Funded

Supporters of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) praise God for His faithfulness. By His grace, the following Mission Grants for the 2013-2015 biennium have been funded. Learn more about each grant on our website.

Third installment given to [Lutheran Children's Books for Southeast Asia](#) totaling \$40,000. This grant will allow the Lutheran Heritage Foundation to print and distribute approximately 9,000 copies of Luther's Small Catechism and 6,000 copies of A Child's Garden of Bible Stories into the languages of Southeast Asia. An additional \$13,000 is still needed to complete this grant.

Third gift of \$25,000 for [Rebuilding Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School](#). This grant will help to rebuild the Lutheran primary school in Haiti, meet current earthquake standards, and serve the physical and spiritual needs of Haitian children. An additional \$25,000 is still needed to complete this grant.

This grant for [Christian Educational Support for Children - India](#) will help to reach 20,000 elementary-aged children in India with the Gospel message through Christian educational resources, provided by Concordia Gospel Outreach. With a gift of **\$85,000, this grant is PAID IN FULL!**



You may help fund the remaining mission grants of this biennium and meet our national mission goal of \$1.83 million. By God's grace, your mite offerings*, along with the contributions of other LWML supporters, help meet this mission goal. In addition, each district has their own mission grant goal. You may also donate to the LWML through your local society and a portion of this donation is sent to national to support national mission grants.

You may donate online at www.lwml.org and checks or money orders may be designated as missions and mailed to Lutheran Women's Missionary League, P.O. Box 411993, St. Louis, MO 63141-1993.

**What are mite offerings? Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), mites are monetary gifts placed in the Mite Box, sacrificially given by supporters of the LWML. These gifts are offerings above and beyond the support given to our congregations and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. You may [read more about this](#) and order your own Mite Box at www.cph.org.*