

CROSS CURRENTS

Pastor

Rev. Kevin Kolander

Music Director

Gail Christiansen

CHURCH COUNCIL**President**

Mike Haworth

Vice President

Leonard Cloer

Secretary

Mary Kenagy

Treasurer

Cheryl Cheek

Financial Secretary

Beverly Leckie

Education Director

Heather Haworth

Evangelism Director

Maurine Hahn

Stewardship Director

Ray Knight

Trustees

Maurice Kaneshiro

Tom McDermott,

Jim Smith

Sherm Terry

Jesse Washington

Frank Crow (volunteer)

Elders

Bob Brown

Frank Crow

Justin Morris

William Neebe

Frank Crow

Out of Egypt I called My Son

March/April - 2011 A.D.

Dear Family and Friends of First Lutheran - After all the happenings in Egypt this last month, I was curious about the past and present of Christianity in Egypt, did some investigating, and even made a Coptic cross. Here's one article I found which was very interesting. The "rest of the story" as Paul Harvey used to say, is at the end of this letter. +pastor

Tattoos have become commonplace in modern American culture. One survey said that more than one third of Americans between the ages of 18 and 40 have at least one. Body art has become yet another way for people to express their beliefs and values. Young Christians have joined the trend, emblazoning Bible verses, crosses, or fish symbols on their biceps or ankles. But they are certainly not the first to do so in the history of the church. Some early Christians, including many in Egypt, took the ancient practice of tattooing and infused it with Christian meaning.

Christianity found fertile ground in Egypt in the first few centuries after Christ, and the Coptic church grew and assumed a position of leadership in the late Roman Empire. The great Egyptian city of Alexandria held center stage in many early Christian controversies (including the debate over Christ's divinity), and monasticism began in the deserts of Egypt. By the time Arab Muslims invaded Egypt between 639 and 641, therefore, the vast majority of Egyptians were practicing Christians. Arab conquerors adopted the Coptic word *kubti*, meaning "Egyptians," which eventually evolved into the name "Copt." So strong was the link between Egyptians and Christianity that the Arabs used the word "Copt" to refer both to their subjects' ancestry and to their religion. To this day, a Copt is a Christian of Egyptian descent living in Egypt or abroad.

Throughout much of Coptic church history, Egyptian Christians have been a minority in their own land. The Arabs invaded Egypt because of its strategic position within the Byzantine Empire as well as its close proximity to natural resources. Within two centuries, the minority Muslim government realized that in order to maintain power they had to make life more difficult for Christians who refused to convert to Islam. They increased taxes on Christians, restricted traditional Coptic dress, and expanded the use of Arabic. Quickly the Copts slipped from majority status into being a persecuted minority.

Slaves of Christ

During these long periods of maltreatment, the Coptic practice of tattooing arose. Ancient (pre-Christian) Egyptian tattooing can be definitively traced back to 2000 B.C. In the Roman Empire, tattooing was a degrading practice used to brand slaves and criminals, and was also sometimes used in pagan religious rites whereby someone became the "slave" of a god. In the fourth century A.D., the Montanists, a Christian sect relying heavily on the Book of Revelation, began tattooing themselves as "slaves of God". The earliest evidence of Coptic tattooing goes back to the eighth-century, when Egyptian monks began to brand their hands with Christian symbols. Some scholars believe they learned the practice from Ethiopian Christians, who branded crosses on their foreheads, temples, and wrists.

Historian Susanna Elm writes that "different kinds of Christians, ascetics, ordinary Christians, and occasionally bishops carried *stigmata* that signaled in various ways their obedience to God, their 'belonging to God,' even in adverse circumstances." Coptic scholar Otto Meinardus agrees: "In times of persecution, the tattoo of the cross has given strength to the faithful and has made it impossible for them to deny their faith."

Between 1250 and 1517, the Egyptians who remained Christians experienced their most difficult period of persecution. The dictatorial Turkish Mamluk rulers forced Christians into degrading positions, such as riding their donkeys backwards and wearing bells around their necks. Their homes were frequently looted, and they experienced oppression by Muslim princes all over the country. Yet throughout centuries of persecution, the Egyptian church and its people survived. The Copts' professional talents as bookkeepers, administrators, architects, doctors, and craftsmen made them an indispensable part of Egypt's economy and government.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — Oliver Kenagy
- 8 — Geri Daughtery
- 9 — Justin Morris
- 14 — Michael DiBella
- 16 — Delores Zegestosky
- 20 — Alan Peterson
- 20 — Bob Salchow
- 27 — Charles Cheek
- 28 — Marion Schmedake
- 30 — Patti Luebbert
- 31 — Jeff Bergman
- 31 — Lana Brannon



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — Carole Bucker
- 3 — Christina Kolander
- 4 — John Detviler
- 4 — Michelle Gerock
- 5 — Sandra Brannon
- 6 — Dot Mericle
- 6 — Nathaniel Rosenblatt
- 7 — Arnold Winchester
- 9 — Erla Cloer
- 10 — Lois Salchow
- 12 — Anna Mevis
- 13 — Dorothy Wilkes
- 19 — Dave Anderson
- 19 — Christian Kyle
- 25 — Jaclyn Anderson
- 25 — Jerry Davidson
- 26 — Paul Niehouse
- 28 — Betty Leonhart
- 29 — Virginia Dunn
- 30 — Tom McDermott

Marks of Distinctiveness

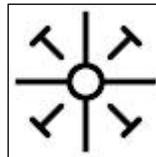
The Copts recognized their need for a strong church hierarchy in order to maintain ecclesiastical authority while living in a dictatorial state. The Coptic church has maintained two distinctive branches of authority: the Patriarch acts as the church's spiritual leader and pastor, while the Holy Synod makes decisions on matters of spiritual, ecclesiastical, and economic importance. Yet perhaps the church's most important asset has been its laity. During centuries of Muslim rule, the Copts experienced an erosion of culture. Coptic scholar Theodore Partrick asserts that while Arabic prevailed and Islam expanded, it was predominately Coptic laypeople practicing their traditional faith who kept Egyptian Christianity alive: "It was largely their sense of being different that saved the Copts as a group from the various pressures of the majority."

This general "sense of being different," along with their willingness to publicize their religious distinctiveness, makes Coptic Christians a persistent and dauntless minority (although the BBC notes that as many as eleven million Copts live in Egypt today, making them the largest Christian group in the Middle East). While cross tattoos are no longer widespread among urban Copts, they remain popular among Egyptian Christian villagers as reminders of particular blessings and religious vows. To these Copts of both the past and present, cross tattoos have not been a sign of teenage rebellion or fashion forwardness. Instead, they have been enduring reminders of their Christian faith—showing the Copts' dedication to the One, Jesus Christ, who bore the everlasting scars of mercy, grace, and truth.

Copyright © 2009 by the author of Christianity Today International/Christian History & Biography magazine. Jennifer A. Johnson is a graduate of Bethel Seminary with a concentration in Christian history and currently works as an editor and writer.

Early this winter, after a funeral here at First Lutheran, a young man introduced himself to me and asked about the little tattoo on my hand. He said he was born in Egypt, lifted his hand and showed me the cross below and then explained that when he was a baby, his parents gave him this mark so that if anything should happen to his parents, everyone would know that he was not a Muslim but a Christian. God has distinctively marked us with the sign of the cross at our Baptism sealing us as sons and daughters and guaranteeing to keep us safe in the faith in time and for eternity. And no, I would not suggest that my boys get a tattoo (or anyone else for that matter).

+pastor



Coptic Cross—The T shape represents the nails used in Jesus' crucifixion. The Coptic Church shares the history and theology of the earthly church, which Egypt played an important role.

Out of Egypt I called my Son.

WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Lynn Lipa (cancer surgery); Carol Ittner (cancer treatment); Ernie Alber (heart); Madeline Dulmatch (hip fracture); Helen & Arnold Winchester; Guy Hahn; Pat Eide; Marion Schmedake; Dave Anderson; Kim Sunshine (Dad); Neebe family; Frank Crow; Don (eye surgery) and Kay Foster (daughter Terri); Jenny Lawson; Rev. Jeff Springer, cancer/dialysis (Trinity Lutheran church Whittier); Jon Martin (Lutheran High friend); David Dick & Chris Gainey (work); Meagan Bergman (teaching/Kuwait); Seminarian Blaise Marin (adopted by the LWML).

OUR HOMEBOUND: Betty Leonhart, Ruby Atkinson, Clara Morgan, Helen Winchester, Virginia Dunn.

MEMBERS AND LOVED ONE IN THE ARMED FORCES **Anthony True;** **Robert Steiner;** Don & Ruth Detviler (son Mike and grandson Adam); Debbie Bergman (nephew); Emily & Austin Reinitz (grandsons); Erla Cloer (grandson); Nancy Purcha (3 grandsons); Brenda Romanek (brother); Alan & Helene Peterson (son Erick); Mary Gainey (grandson); Rick & Francine Wellington (grandson); Jean Eilers (grandson); Andrea Hall (nephew).

OUR LUTHERAN PASTORS Rev. Rohwer (Muslim), Rev. Bernard (Lutheran Church-Haiti, West Indies).

THE LUTHERAN HOUR BRINGS CHRIST TO THE
NATIONS AND THE NATIONS TO CHRIST

The following article was Hour published in the Jan-Feb Lutheran Layman newspaper, by previous Lutheran Hour speaker, Ken Klaus.

Evil? Counts on It!

“All that is necessary for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke, 18th century statesman, member of Parliament and supporter of the American Revolution, is supposed to have said that. But he didn’t. He said something like that, but he didn’t say those words. On the other hand, he did write, “The writers against religion, whilst they oppose every system, are wisely careful never to set up any of their own.”

Burke was right. Week after week, as I write the *Daily Devotions*, I come across articles which talk about atheists and agnostics buying billboards which sneer at religion. People send me clippings which talk of some situation where God has been banned from a classroom or courtroom or marketplace. Letter after letter has some senior citizen pouring out heartfelt pain as a grandchild or great-grandchild walks away from the faith. Indeed, these golden-agers, without seeing the statistics, have known that it has become fashionable to be irreligious.

Not surprisingly, as Burke noted, those who oppose Christianity propose things like, “If we were all nice to each other, what a wonderful world this would be.” Statements like that sound so wonderful, so simple. And I suppose, if we weren’t sinners, and if we really were good people down deep inside, that line of thinking might be worth pursuing. But we’re not nice, and we’re not good, and we are sinners. How many leaders have we not seen sell their integrity for a bowl of payola porridge? I cannot guess how many movers and shakers in the business world have not been brought down by behind-the-counter misdealing and unscrupulous misdeeds. No, these decriers and disparagers of Christianity don’t propose anything to take its place because nothing can take the place of faith in Christ.

But don’t take my word for it. Ask the Soviet Union. For more than 70 years the official position of that great country was on uncompromising opposition to any religion. The USSR discovered the moral and spiritual bankruptcy which resulted. Which is why, in one quarter of its public schools, Russian is now teaching Christianity, ethics, and values. If the results are positive, officials will expand the concept to all classrooms.

America has not yet discovered the price a country or its citizens pay when they walk away from God. The prophets tell us, history tells us, the Lord, Himself tells us: Without His presence, His guidance, His bounty, there’s going to be trouble. Which is why the programs of the Lutheran Hour Ministries are designed to say to the doubter, “Listen, there’s truth here—so solid you can entrust your eternity to it.” But those same programs are constructed in a way which speaks to those who know Jesus as their Saviour, but find their faith wobbling and weakening.

So there you have it. That’s the purpose of the Lutheran Hour Ministries: To share the Saviour’s story of salvation with sinners. We invite you to join us taking this stand. And why would you support the work of making Christians? Simple—Edward Burke should have said, but didn’t: “All that is necessary for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing.” Oh, and because Jesus has asked and equipped us to do it.

MARCH
ANNIVERSARIES

- 12—Ron & Brenda Romanek
19—Jerry & Helene Rice
20—Rick & Francine Wellington
21—Jeff & Debbie Bergman



APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES

- 6—Harry & Bonnie Harlow
7—John & Jamie Wilson
9—Michael & Sandra Smith

CORNED BEEF AND
CABBAGE DINNER

Saturday, March 19,
5:00 —7:00 PM



Adults — \$8.00

Kids 12 & under — \$5.00

**Shamrock Special: 2 Adults + 4
Kids (any age) = \$30**

*Volunteers needed for cooking,
set-up, serving and
cleanup*

REFRESHMENTS**MARCH****6th** Pat Crow

Madeline Dulmatch

Dot Mericle

13th Kathy McCaleb

Ellie Niehouse

Jamie Wilson

20th Gerry Connellan

Maurine Hahn

Mike Haworth

27th Potluck

Bev Leckie

Kelly Kyle

Ted Rosenblatt

**APRIL****3rd** Marion Schmedake

Sharon Timms

Andrea Hall

10th Cheryl Cheek

Delores Zegetosky

Bev Christiansen

17th Shirley Brown

Christina Kolander

Erla Cloer

24th Potluck

Lore Tucker

Joline Terry

Melody Anton

LUTHERANS IN MISSION HONG KONG

This 'Good News from the field' story was shared by GEO missionary Andrea Bolognini, serving in Hong Kong.

Christmas marks a special time in Hong Kong. In the United States, Baptisms often occur for individuals throughout the year. This is not the case in The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod. One of the ways they celebrate the birth of our Savior is by celebrating new births in the family of Christ! I had the joy of attending two Baptism services this Christmas season. The first was held by Abiding Grace Lutheran Church. I work with its youth every week through a youth-led service, a discipleship training class and a new English class. Six of the youth who regularly attend the youth service, one mother and an infant were baptized. I thank God for each one who professed faith that day and I would like to share a few highlights.



Andrea Bolognini

The infant who was baptized was born into a loving Christian family in which both parents are strong believers. This is exciting because many times in Hong Kong mothers believe but fathers do not. This little girl has a mother and father who will raise her in the family of Christ! Another highlight was seeing the youth that I teach weekly and have gotten to know over the past year and a half profess their faith! Many of these students displayed, through heartfelt and some tearful testimonies, the fact that faith in Jesus Christ is undeniably life-changing and salvation-giving.

I also attended the Baptism service at Holy Word Lutheran Church. This was a special day for 14 people and their loved ones as some confessed their faith, others were confirmed and still others became new members. It was especially moving to see two mothers and their sons as well as a mother, father and son be baptized as a family. The son of this last family mentioned is Edwin. He is a fourth grader at one of my schools. His family has a special story. His grandmother, Susan, has been an active member of Holy Word for some time. When I arrived in Hong Kong, last year, I heard her share her powerful testimony of how God healed her from cancer. Sadly, her cancer is back, but this has not hurt her faith. I had an opportunity to visit her at her home, where she played the piano and we sang songs from the hymnal with other church members. She trusts God, is a loving mother and grandmother and a powerful witness of faith. God is strengthening her and clearly working in her family also. It was a blessing she was able to witness her family's Baptism. Please pray for her continued recovery!



A student showing off her art work.



Andrea giving stickers to her students.

TED AND COURTNEY ROSENBLADT

In Miramar, California, on July 23, 1976, Sharon Anderson Coren and Norman Coren, became the parents of a little girl whom they named Courtney Susan. An older sister, Colleen, was also there to welcome her into the family. Courtney was baptized in 1986, and raised in the Baptist faith. She graduated from Corona High School in 1994. After high school, Courtney attended the University of California in Irvine, graduating with high honors in 2005 with a B. A. degree in the Classics and Classical Civilizations. Motherhood, however, is at the present time her chosen career.



The Rosenblatt Family
Ted, Courtney, William, Mollie and Nathaniel

Theodore William Rosenblatt came into this world on December 21, 1971, in Los Angeles, California. Ted's father is William Rodney Rosenblatt; "Rod" is a highly regarded professor of theology at Concordia University in Irvine. Ted's mother is Lois Dilling Rosenblatt. Ted was baptized when an infant in 1971, in La Jolla, California, and brought up in the Lutheran faith. He has a younger sister, Erin Biermann, who is two years younger than he, and lives in Portland, Oregon.

Ted graduated from high school at St. Margaret's in San Juan Capistrano in 1989. He then took some college classes and certificate programs, but is mostly a self-taught graphics artist and web designer. He now works for the White Horse Inn, a radio show. There is also a magazine associated with this organization.

Courtney became a Lutheran in 2000, having been catechized by Pastor Cwirla at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, in Hacienda Heights. Through mutual friends, Ted and Courtney were acquaintances for many years before they began dating in 2000. They were married October 13, 2001 and lived in Orange County until 2006 when they moved to Brighton, Colorado, (outside of Denver), and then returned in 2008 as Ted obtained employment here.

Ted likes to work with wood, and has built lawn furniture for their personal use. He also likes video games, shooting, and discussing theology. Courtney enjoys sewing, reading, and writing. She wrote for her college newspaper when she attended UC Irvine. Her sewing includes making bags, purses, and baby items.

The Rosenblatt's have three darling children. They are William Joseph, born in 2005, Mollie Grace, who came into the world in 2007, and Nathaniel Paul, who joined the family in 2010. The family became members of First Lutheran Church in

FLOWER SCHEDULE

March

- 6—Geri Daughtrey
Birthday
- 13—Cheryl Cheek
Memory of Father
- 20—Rick & Francine
Wellington
46th Anniversary
- 27—



April

- 3—Harry & Bonnie Harlow
Anniversary
- 10—
- 17—Christian Kyle
Birthday
- 24—Jerry Davidson
Birthday



Betty Krieger

Called Home

February 21, 2011

Memorial Service

February 27, 2011

**BIBLE STUDIES
AT
FIRST LUTHERAN**

Sunday 9:00—10:00AM

Praying the
Book of Psalms

Wednesday

10:30 AM—12:00 Noon

Book of Matthew

Friday

Chain the Cat

6:00 PM—Supper

6:30 PM—Prayers

7:00 PM Bible Study



**FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

600 West Sumner Avenue
Lake Elsinore, CA 9250

Phone: (951) 674-2757

Web Page: www.firstluth.com

E-mail: pastor@firstluth.com



2009 and are very happy to be able to worship in a church that is devoted to teaching the historic and confessional Lutheran faith.

Needless to say, we folks here at FLC are pleased and gratified to have these precious people as part of our church family. May Lord and Savior bless and keep them in every way.

Jean Eilers, FLC Roving Reporter, January 2011

To all of you wonderful folks at First Lutheran Church: This is just a little message to let you know that I am retiring as your "Roving Reporter," and I wish to thank each and every one of you who have allowed me to visit with you, ask personal questions, and write your biography. It was fun, a great way to get to know you better, and in every way my pleasure. May our Lord Jesus richly bless each and every one of you. In His Name, Jean Eilers

LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE

March/April 2011

The L.W.M.L. wants to thank you for supporting our Summer Clothing Drive to help the needy in other countries. We are blessed to have such loyal Lutherans helping us care for the less fortunate. A big THANK YOU for all who fill the Mite Boxes every month. You have been most generous.



Ladies, mark your calendar as April will bring our Annual English Tea. Geri Daughtrey has been very busy planning this event. The date is APRIL 9. As the date draws closer, flyers with time and entertainment that everyone will enjoy will be available. See you there.

As always we would like you to join us the first Tuesday of each month for our meeting, Bible Study with Pastor K. and a great luncheon.

Yours in Christ,

Madeline Dulmatch, Secretary

APRIL 9

SPRING

TEA



ATTENDANCE

	2	9	16	23	30
JANUARY					
Worship	120	106	91	116	78
Communed	*		82		
Bible Class	37	44	36	38	38
Sun. School	*	*	*	*	
Offerings	\$3305.	\$3240.	\$2485.	\$3606.	\$2195.
FEBRUARY	6	13	20	27	
Worship	119	116	102	112	
Communed	101		91		
Bible Class	46	*	40	39	
Sun. School	*	*	*	*	
Offerings.	\$4247.	\$2873.	\$2536.	\$3564.	

*denotes not listed



CROSS CURRENTS

Newsletter of First Lutheran Church
600 W. Sumner Avenue
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

The Rev. Kevin L. Kolander, Pastor
Church Office (951) 674-2757
e-mail: pastor@firstluth.com
Web Page: www.firstluth.com
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

- March 9 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Ash Wednesday Service w/ Communion @ 7:15 PM
- March 16 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- March 19 **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner @ 5:00-7:00 PM**
- March 23 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- March 30 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- April 6 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- April 9 **LWML Spring Tea**
- April 13 Midweek Soup Supper @ 6:00 PM
Lenten Vespers @ 7:15 PM
- April 17 Palm Sunday w/ Holy Communion @ 10:30 AM
- April 21 **Maundy Thursday Service w/ Communion @ 7:15 PM**
- April 22 **Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7:15 PM**
- April 24 **EASTER SUNDAY w/ Holy Communion @ 10:30 AM**

Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3

