

CROSS CURRENTS

First Lutheran Church Newsletter—November-December 2016

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Pastor

Rev. Kevin L.
Kolander

Music Director

Gail
Christensen

Church

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Elders

Reed Steiner

Justin Morris

Don Crow

Larry Hall

Michael

Sunshine

Don Crow

Larry Hall

Dear First Lutheran Family and Friends:

On the eve of the Reformation of the Lutheran Church and All Saint's Sunday (along with elections, a national identity crisis, death, sickness, weather changes, marriage challenges, job pressures, etc.) it is always good to hear a word of our Lord and also from our dear friend Dr. Luther. ☺

Let not your hearts be troubled. – John 14:1

Christ knows that if we want to remain His own and contend earnestly for the faith as we live in this present world with the evil one pressing us with all his might, we need to have God warding off everything that would prevent us from being comforted and protected as He leads us Home. Thus, Jesus gives to the faithful, His word "Let not your heart be troubled."

Our Lord has given this consolation itself to us. We must impress it upon our hearts, use it, and strengthen ourselves with it when we feel grief and anxiety. At such times we must hear Christ speaking these words personally us: "What are you doing? You surely will not be scared to death and quail because of this! Be of good cheer, and take heart. Even if the devil, the world, or your own conscience plagues and frightens you, and even if you do not feel My presence, do you not recall that I foretold this long ago and left this comfort with you to strengthen and preserve you?" Thus, you see, the benefit of being Baptized, we should learn to accustom ourselves to apply this consolation of our Lord Christ by daily practice amid all our troubles and temptations, lest these words be related and recorded and preached to us in vain.

From these and similar words and admonitions of Christ we should also learn to know the Lord Christ aright, to develop a more cordial and comforting confidence in Him, and to pay more regard to His Word than to anything else, which may confront our eyes, ears, and other senses. For if I am a Christian and hold to Him, I always know that He is talking to me. And here and elsewhere I learn that all His words are intended to comfort me; yes, that all He says, does, and thinks is nothing but friendly and consoling words and works. Therefore it is undoubtedly true that mourning and a faint and fearful heart do not come from Christ. To this end He promises to send His disciples and the Christian the Holy Spirit, Whom He calls the Comforter. Through Him Christ wants to fortify and keep His disciples close to Him.

Happy is he who can learn this and really take to heart Christ's statement and testimony. It will not be Me who frightens and grieves you. No, when such sufferings afflict you, conclude immediately that this is the devil's phantasy an delusion. The voice by which you are to recognize Me, as sheep recognize their true shepherd, is the voice that says: "Fear not, I have redeemed you. You are Mine. These are My words and thoughts toward you. If you hear or are coaxed by anything else, you are not hearing My voice. Do not believe, follow or trust it."

This is what we must learn daily by experience and the teaching of the Holy Spirit. This is what we must proclaim and impress upon ourselves and before Christians, who, by reason of tender hearts and consciences, are easily frightened, since we both know and feel our frailty and unworthiness. So, let the other, vulgar multitude, which neither knows nor follows Me, go its way. They will certainly get their due when their hour approaches and they are suddenly overcome, with no one to comfort them. Christians, on the other hand, endure all things, hope for all things and believe all things that their Lord has promised and given them. Therefore let anyone who would be a Christian inscribe and keep these words in his heart. Knowing what awaits the Christian, Christi anticipates it here and exhorts him not to abandon his faith and confidence in his dear Lord, no matter what terror or distress befall him on this account. Christ spoke these words beforehand and left them to us that you may know and remember what He demands of you, namely, that you be unafraid and look to Him for help, to come and rescue you.

And so the Church prays, "Come, Lord Jesus." Amen.

Official Acts- Memorial Services-

David Dick (Jean Eilers Son) Oct 15

Acolytes-

Nov 6-Zach
13-Morgan
20- Christian
27-Zach
Dec 4- Morgan
11-Christian
18-Zach
25- n/a

Attendance

Sept	4	11	18	25
Worship	86	82	80	n/a
Communed	86	-	n/a	-
Bible Class	31	33	34	32
Sun.School	n/a	16	12	9

Oct	2	9	16	23	30
Worship	94	82			
Communed	82	-			
Bible Class	33	n/a			
Sun School	n/a	11			

Stewardship—

Month of September 2016:

Income \$10,933

Expenses \$15,131

Jan Thru September 2016

Income-\$141,330

Expenses-\$145,334

Clean Team

November-Morris, Steiner, Steiner

December-Kyle

Praying for Our Church family & Loved Ones Members and our loved ones serving in the Armed Forces

—Austin & Travis 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, LCMS chaplains: Rob Mueller &
Dann Ettner.

Pray for Our Church Family & Loved Ones

Betty Leonhart, (severe arthritis), Jean Eilers,
(stroke), Dave & Pat Lenhart (healing)

Pray & Visit Our Homebound Bud & Betty
Leonhart, Madeline & Jack Dulmatch, Kay & Don
Foster, Beverly Christiansen.

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

Loved Ones recently died

Our Lutheran Pastors- Rev.Gary Rohwer (Muslim
ministry in Dearborn, MI), Rev. Bernard (Lutheran
Church-Haiti, West Indies).

Our College Students

Noah Kolander, Lana Brannon,
Enoch Berus (member of Pr Bernard's church)



All ladies are invited to join us the first Tuesday of
the month at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy the blessings of a
Bible Study with Pastor Kolander, hymn singing, a
short business meeting and the fellowship of sharing
a theme lunch together. Each month we celebrate our
members' birthdays by singing their favorite hymns.
The mites that we collect, in the little purple and
white boxes, support the National LWML Mission
Goal of \$2,000,000 for 2015-2017. Each month we
pray for a project and that we may reach the goal set
for it. The November project is "*Helping Hands
Initiative*" LCMS National Housing Support
Corporation...\$100,00, the December project is
"*Deaconess Training*" Support for International
Partner Churches...\$90,000.

On November 1 we will meet and sing the favorite
hymns of Frieda Bartsch and Susie Mericle for their
birthdays. Election for the offices of President and
Secretary for the 2017-2018 term will be held. Our
lunch will have Thanksgiving flavors.

November 5 is the date for *The Cranberry Tea with
Craft and Bake Sale*. The theme is Sing Praises to
God. (cont'd pg 3)

(LWML cont'd from pg 2)

All ladies are welcome to join us for tea and punch, scones, finger sandwiches, fruit plates, and cakes. Gail Christensen is our guest speaker, Maurice Kaneshiro is our musical entertainment, with singing, and Music Bingo with prizes. The \$10 tickets can be reserved with Betty Van Patten or purchased from Lore Tucker. The Bake Shop is stocked with delectable homemade foods and the Craft Shop provides handmade items for your Christmas shopping. The proceeds fund our FLC LWML society and local mission projects.

December 6 is the day we remember our Savior's birth and celebrate with a Christmas Party, a gift exchange game, sing Nancy Purcha's favorite hymn for her birthday, and enjoy tasty Christmas goodies for lunch.

We thank you, our church family and appreciate the support you give to our LWML Missionary Projects.

Betty Van Patten, President

Sunday School News.

We had a very successful Rally Day Presentation with all our students present. Certificate & Pins went to: Natalie Sunshine, Jonathan Sunshine, Evey Morris, Jude Morris, Benjamin Sunshine, Juliana Clough, Nate Rosenblatt, Emy Kyle, Mollie Rosenblatt, Will Rosenblatt, Morgan Kyle, Zack Anton and Christian Kyle. Our teachers receiving Certificates and Pins were: Dave Anton, Melody Anton.

The presentations were followed by our first Ice Cream Social served by the Kyle Family. Many thanks to them and all that helped. Susan Morris for our awesome bulletin cover. Melody for sending email reminders. Pastor for an outstanding message and hymns. Vicar Josh for the Kid's Sermon. Our little flock is truly Blessed to have such a supportive congregation to help them with their walk with God.

Upcoming Sunday School Events:

We will be participating in a "Pen Pal" program with the Sunday School of our Sister congregation in Haiti. They have 30 – 40 children age 5-16 and we have about 12 children 3-16. If any of our members have grandkids that would like to participate please let me know. We also could use

anyone that can help translating to and from French or Creole. Please contact Judy Adler (626) 224-6958 and leave a message or email judythecuddie@yahoo.com. We hope to have something to send by Christmas. We will also be doing a Mission Offering collection each Sunday with the kids.(spare change) so they can feel a part of this outreach.

Evangelism

We will be doing another mailer to announce the birth of our Savior. They will include the Advent Schedule as well as an invitation to join us for Worship. We will have extras for members to hand out or send to family, friends, co-workers or that person you always want to invite to church but never knew quite how to spread the Word. The Board is hoping to have an event in November. Watch for further information.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November Birthdays

4-Joseph, Jr. Caithammer	21-Susie Mericle
6-Don Foster	28-Don Denviler
10-Frieda Bartsch	28-Emilyn Kyle
11-Travis Wilson	28-Sue Rohrbach
12-Joseph Caithammer	30-Shirley Brown
19-John Wilson	

December Birthdays

2-Bob Fuhr	16-Kimberly Neebe
2-Hedder Steiner	16-Nancy Purcha
3-Robyn Gogue	18-David Neebe
8-Christine DeKoker	21-Ted Rosenblatt
9-Tiffany Casey	29-Mary Kenagy
12-Yolanda Arp	

November Anniversaries

7-Frank & Pat Crow
7-Michael & Kim Sunshine
18-Leonard & Erla Cloer
21-Edward & Dolores Kieta
23-Reed & Hedder Steiner
24-Bob & Shirley Brown

December Anniversaries

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

Flower Schedule**Nov 6**-John & Travis Wilsons Bday; Geri D.-

Daughter Bday

13-Janice Fuhr

20-Susie Mericle Bday

27-Emilyn Kyle Bday

Dec 4- Bev Leckie11-Nancy Purcha- Bday, Kathy Gilbert, Mom's
Bday

18-Lore Tucker

25- Andrea Hall

Ongoing Ministries**E-Prayer**—Pastor Kolander**Greeters**---Susan Kaneshiro & Brenda Romanek**After Services Refreshments.....****Nov 6**-Susie Mericle, Sue Rohrbach, Betty Van

Patten, Francine Wellington

13 -Helen Rice, Tiffany Casey, Susan Kaneshiro

20-Susan Morris, Hedder Steiner, Karol Steiner

27-POTLUCK- Leo Fay, Kim Sunshine, Jesse
Washington**Dec 4**- Erla Cloer, Maurice Kaneshiro, Joline Terry

11-Ida Williams, Nancy Purcha, Lore Tucker

18-Ellie Niehouse, Bev Leckie, Kelly Kyle

25-NO POTLUCK

Mission News.....**From Good Shepherd Church in Haiti--**

Dear All,

Hearty greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus! We are thankful to God for His love and Mercy. "If He hadn't helped us, we soon would have gone down to silence. Our skin and flesh cling to our bones; we escape with the skin of our teeth. But we know that our Redeemer lives and will at last stand on the dust. Afterward our skin will surround this body, and in our flesh we will see God".

Once again, Haiti is facing with hardship and difficult times. It seems that the universe/the nature is rising against the inhabitants of the earth. Finally we come to the point that we are living the end of times. If the earthquake of January 12, 2010 stays and reminds an unforgettable event in the lives of the Haitian people, the Hurricane Mathew is not less grave. One week after the Hurricane a heavy rain

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comes and causes numerical damages in various parts of the country. So, there are no words nor expressions to describe the situation. We are wondering whether or not that nature does not have a specific problem with Haiti.

Not only the rate of starvation is getting higher and higher but a lot of diseases are killing hundreds of people, such as cholera, tetanus and else. Is the government able to meet the need of the people? Or does it has the willingness to react positively on behalf of the needy ones?.

Thanks be to God, as Christians we have his promises and the guarantee that we are not alone. He says in Mathew 28: 20b "And remember, I am with you always till the end of the world."The Lord will give us help against this situation. We thank you so much for your continuing prayers and support. A friend in need is a friend indeed!

Again, thank you so much for all you do and we continue to invite you to join our hands and souls together to attract the lost souls into God's Kingdom and to encourage and edify those in faith.

Brotherly yours in the resurrected One,

Pastor Thomas Bernard.

Your Church At Work in the Philippines!!

On June 8, 2016, the Rev. Antonio Reyes, president of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP), and the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president

of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), signed a protocol agreement encouraging and strengthening the official relationship between the two church bodies. "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" (Ps. 133:1).

The LCMS began work in the Philippines in 1946, and the LCP became an LCMS partner church in 1971. The Lord has blessed the LCP with 23,000 baptized members and 190 congregations and preaching stations. The LCMS continues to support numerous projects within the LCP, including theological education, church planting and training conferences. Reyes noted that the agreement does not create something new: "The signing only ratifies, declares and reminds the LCP and the LCMS of the fellowship and partnership that already exists."

The Rev. Charles Ferry, LCMS area director for Southeast Asia, also noted the importance of the ongoing relationship between the two: "The Lutheran Church in

the Philippines has been a treasured partner of the LCMS for many years, and we give thanks to God for their continued faithfulness to His Word, despite global pressures to bow to the culture of the times.”

The agreement reflects the need for mutual support against cultural pressures by holding to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Reyes noted that the LCP welcomes the agreement as a “significant commitment” between the two church bodies. The churches agreed “to support each other and to work together in mission and to hold fast to the Scripture as the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as the correct exposition of the Word of God.”

Since the LCMS has supported theological education in the past, Ferry said that the LCP’s Lutheran Theological Seminary has an opportunity to play a vital role in Asian Lutheranism: “The LCP is uniquely positioned in Southeast Asia with their residential seminary, and I eagerly anticipate conversations that will explore the opportunities to serve not only each other, but the mission of Christ’s Church as He has given it to us.” The Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill and the Rev. Robert Roethemeyer, professors from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., visited Lutheran Theological Seminary. They spoke with seminary professors and examined the library to explore ways the LCMS can further support theological education in the Philippines and Asia.

At the end of his comments, Ferry noted, “I am grateful for the recognition of the fellowship we’ve been given here, and pray for the LCP leaders even as I know they pray for us.”

Let us give thanks for this unity and pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would continue to preserve and strengthen the LCMS and the LCP in the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.

— *Rev. Roy S. Askins, Director of Communications, Asia*

Our Concordia University System

There are 10 Concordia colleges and universities regionally located around the United States.

Over 28,000 students attend the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System.

Concordia colleges and universities offer over 150 undergraduate majors and more than 60 graduate programs. More than 1,550 professors teach at our Concordia University System colleges and universities.

More than \$85 million in financial assistance is awarded to Concordia students.

Concordia students graduate in four years. Concordia professors personally challenge and help students to achieve their educational goals.

Concordia students grow in their spiritual journey by participating in faith-life experiences.

Our Concordia Irvine Story--

Founded by a small group of Southern California Lutheran church leaders, Concordia Irvine began as Christ College Irvine launching its first academic year in 1976 with only one building and 36 students. Today Concordia Irvine is recognized nationally and globally in academia and serves over 4000 students annually. The university is celebrating its' 40th anniversary this year. If any of our members have not visited the campus--please avail yourselves by attending one of the many musical offerings offered--currently scheduled:

Nov 5, 7:30pm-Concordia Wind Orchestra
Burger-VonKlewitz Jazz Duo
9- 7:00pm-Concordia Jazz Ensembles

December 3,4,9 & 10, Christmas Concerts
"And on Earth, Peace"
5- Jazz Combo Concert
12-Fall Honors Recital
13-Candlelight Christmas
Service

Check for performance schedules & tickets at the theatre arts website www.cui.edu/thearts or by calling (949) 854-8002, ext.1526.

Concordia Irvine is located at:
1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA 92612

Christian Stewardship

Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. If you believe this gospel, if you stand upon it, and cling to it, you are saved. Trust in this is the dividing line. It defines, either positively or negatively, all men. It separates and divides Cain from Abel, Job from his so-called friends, Abraham from Abimelech, Isaac from Ishmael, Jacob from Esau, David from Saul, Daniel from Belshazzar, Joseph from Herod, Lazarus from the rich man, and the tax collector from the Pharisee. What defines men is not whether they are good or bad, but whether or not they believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of

sins. The problem with man is his heart. Our hearts are fallen and predisposed to think that we can impress God. We think that if we do all the right things God will reward us, and we will escape evil. We think that God will be impressed with our gifts, that our prosperity and goodness is evidence that God loves us or that it should motivate God to love us. But we know better because God has blessed us with the faith of Abel, Job, and Abraham. We know that God's grace in Christ saves us, not our works. We know that God is not impressed with our giving. He is not impressed when we give him that which is already his. God doesn't benefit from our giving and He doesn't need it. But our neighbor does need it. And God delights in us growing more and more like Him. He blesses us, and He invites us to bless one another with our giving: so that the Gospel may be proclaimed, so that the poor may be fed, so that all God's work through the Church may be done.

The mission of the church depends on each family's support for the preaching and teaching, the baptizing and communing, the help for the weak and poor brothers of Christ? The widow gave all she had and thought nothing of it. She was glad to do it. The rich man gave what to him was meaningless, a trifling amount and desired a plaque in his honor.

All your works, even your monetary gifts, done in faith please God now for Christ's sake. No matter how great or small, frequent or infrequent. They are all washed and cleansed by grace through faith on account of Christ. Whatever you do from faith in God pleases him for the sake of the Son.

HOLY HUMOR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.' (This one is my favorite)"

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There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 am LWML 7:30 pm AA Meeting	2 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	3 7:30 pm AA Meeting	4 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	5 11:00 am Cranberry Tea
6 All Saints Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Worship with Lord's Supper EV Meeting	7 10:00 am LWML Mtg 7:30 pm AA Meeting	8 7:30 pm AA Meeting	9 10:30 am Bible Class 5:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm Church Council	10 7:30 pm AA Meeting	11 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	12 LWML Zone Rally Good Shepherd, Menifee
13 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Worship Voters Meeting	14 7:30 pm AA Meeting	15 7:30 pm AA Meeting	16 10:30 am Bible Class 5:30 pm Choir	17 7:30 pm AA Meeting	18 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	19
20 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Worship with Lord's Supper	21 7:30 pm AA Meeting	22 7:30 pm AA Meeting	23 10:30 am Bible Class 7:15 Thanksgiving Service-w/Lord's Supper PIE Night	24 Thanksgiving Day 7:30 pm AA Meeting	25 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	26
27 Advent Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Matins Potluck	28 7:30 pm AA Meeting	29 7:30 pm AA Meeting	30 10:30 am Bible Class 4:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:15 pm Vespers			

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 pm AA Meeting	2 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	3
4 Advent 2 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Worship with Lord's Supper EV Meeting	5 7:30 pm AA Meeting	6 10 am LWML Christmas Program 7:30 pm AA Meeting	7 6:00 pm Soup Supper 4:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm Vespers No Elders Mtg	8 7:30 pm AA Meeting	9 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	10
11 Advent 3 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	12 7:30 pm AA Meeting	13 No Church Council 7:30 pm AA Meeting	14 6:00 pm Soup Supper 4:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm Vespers	15 7:30 pm AA Meeting	16 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	17
18 Advent 4 9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 am Worship with Lord's Supper	19 7:30 pm AA Meeting	20 7:30 pm AA Meeting	21 6:00 pm Soup Supper 4:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm Vespers	22 7:30 pm AA Meeting	23 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	24 7:15 pm Christmas Eve Service
25 9:00 am Christmas Worship Service	26 7:30 pm AA Meeting	27 7:30 pm AA Meeting	28	29 7:30 pm AA Meeting	30 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	31 7:15pm New Years Eve Service