

CROSS CURRENTS

First Lutheran Church Newsletter—July-August 2015

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Pastor e-mail: pastor@firstluth.com

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Pastor

Rev. Kevin L.
Kolander

Music Director

Gail Christensen

Church Council

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Rob Sandberg

Vice President

Dave Anton

Secretary

Susie Mericle

Treasurer

William Neebe

Financial

Secretary

Gail Christensen

Education-

Director

Melody Anton

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Bob Brown

Stewardship

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Mark Steiner

Trustees

Duane Van Patten

Jesse Washington

Tom McDermott

Maurice Kaneshiro

Elders

Reed Steiner

Justin Morris

Don Crow

Larry Hall

Michael Sunshine

From the Pastor's Desk

Some of the Best People Are Not Christians

Some of the nicest people I know are not Christians. Many of them are followers of other religions, some of them are non-religious, and a few of them are atheists. They're the kind of friends who always have my back. They're gracious to me when I mess up. I couldn't ask for better neighbors. They donate to charities, work with troubled youths, are still happily married to their high school sweethearts. They far outdo me (and many of my Christian friends) when it comes to being upstanding citizens, faithful friends, moral examples, and overall good people.

Yet they have nothing whatsoever to do with Christ.

I'm reminded of a story in Abraham's life. He and his wife, Sarah, traveled to Egypt to escape a famine in Canaan. Because he was afraid the Egyptians would see his lovely wife, kidnap her, and murder him, Abraham asked her to slip off her wedding ring and tell everyone he was her brother.

This she did, but the plan backfired. When Pharaoh's servants saw how gorgeous Sarah was, they took her into the palace anyway. They didn't know she was married, nor did the king. Pharaoh was simply doing what most kings did back then—enriching his harem with another attractive female. And, contrary to what many think, there's nothing to suggest that the king wasn't having sex with Sarah. In fact, he says, "I took her for my wife."

So what did Sarah's husband have to say about his wife sleeping with the king? Nothing. Abraham said not a word. In fact, in exchange for the "sister," the king of Egypt "dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels." Far from losing his life, Abraham's life was materially enriched. His wallet was stuffed with Egyptian riches so long as he kept his mouth shut. Of course, it made him a *de facto* pimp, but still this husband kept silent.

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Who knows how long this scandalous situation would have gone on had not heaven had enough. Though Pharaoh was sinning in ignorance, the Lord struck his house with plagues. We're not told how the king found out why all this suffering was befalling him, but he did. And when he did, he was fit to be tied. He immediately ended the adulterous affair. He rebuked Abraham to his face for lying to him, but he did not punish the husband for putting him in this situation. He gave Sarah back to her Abraham. What's more, he demanded not a single gift back from the patriarch. And he sent soldiers to escort the couple, fat with the riches of the country they had defrauded, safely out of its borders.

What kind of man did Pharaoh show himself to be? An honest man. One concerned for the purity of the marriage bed. Not revengeful. Gracious and giving. Full of righteous indignation for being deceived into sin. In other words, all the good, praiseworthy qualities that believing Abraham had not shown, unbelieving Pharaoh did. If there's anyone in this story that comes out smelling like a rose, it's the pagan ruler not the chosen patriarch. Abraham looks like a lying, selfish, greedy jerk.

There are plenty of Pharaohs still in the world today, as there are plenty of Abrahams too. The most charitable, outwardly righteous folks in town might be enjoying some bacon and eggs at IHOP on Sunday morning while people full of moral failures are kneeling at the rail for some bread and wine.

So what gives? Aren't Christians supposed to be lights in the world, models of morality, loving neighbors, law-abiding citizens, and commandment-keepers? Of course we are. And many Christians do a fine job of leading ethical, exemplary lives. Just like some unbelievers do a fine job of leading those same ethical, exemplary lives. Here's the significant point that is far too often missed, both inside and outside the church: Christians are not Christians because they are good people. Christians are not Christians because they are better than the world at keeping laws, being faithful spouses, rearing obedient children, running honest businesses, and crossing every legal "t" and dotting every moral "i."

Christians are Christians not because of anything that they have done but because of everything Christ has done for them. Abraham was a Christian. He believed in the promise of the Lord to send the Seed who would destroy the work of the devil and give his life for us all. He looked forward to that saving work of Christ just like we look back to its accomplishment. And that death-destroying, life-bestowing work of Jesus Christ made Abraham a Christian, just as it does all Christians today.

Outwardly, there often doesn't seem to be much difference between believers and unbelievers. You'll find them side-by-side in prisons and rehab facilities and divorce courts and AA meetings. Similarly, you'll find Christians and non-Christians together at charity events and soup kitchens and marriage seminars. We all blend together, some better than others, some worse, but all us sinners in need of the grace of God. Our standing before God is not determined by outward obedience to any set of laws, human or divine. Our standing before God has already been determined. He has reconciled the world to himself in the cross of Jesus Christ. To every man, woman, and child; to every Abraham, Sarah, and Pharaoh; to every law-abiding citizen and convicted felon; to everyone, no matter how good or bad they appear to be, God says, "I forgive you. The blood of my son has washed away your sin. We are reconciled. All is at peace between me and you. My Son has kept the law for you, as he has paid the ultimate price for your breaking of it. I love you, every one of you, no matter who you are or what you've done. I am your Father and you are my child."

Some believe this, some don't. But faith doesn't make it true, anymore than unbelief makes it false. It is the truth of the God who loves you, no matter how good or bad you seem to be. He loves you as you are because he loves you in Jesus Christ. And this is Good News indeed. Good News not just for the church but for the world that God so loved, that he gave his one and only Son to fill that world with his forgiveness and life.

Written by Chad Bird, Lutheran Writer

Church Directory—

Add to your Directory:

- Steve & Marjorie Marrale
33669 Harvest Way
Wildomar, CA 92595
951-244-7595
 - Mr. & Mrs Austin Wilson
163 Thomas Jefferson Ct.
Unit 202
Wahiawa, HI 96786
 - Linda Bosch email l.bosch114@gmail.com
 - Lore Tucker email loretucker@hotmail.com
- *****

Acolytes

July 5-Christian

12-Luke

19-Zach

26-Noah

August 2-Will

9-Christian

16-Luke

23-Zach

30-Noah

Attendance

May	3	10	14	17	24	31
Worship	97	102	44	73	97	105
Communed	96	-	38	-	76	96
Bible Class	29	**	*	24	35	36
Sun. School	-	**	*	11	-	6

* Ascension Service

** Mother's day Breakfast

Stewardship—

- Month of May 2015:
Income \$17,486.25
Expenses \$14,549.99
- Jan Thru May 2015
Income-\$87,761.20
Expenses-\$83,837.94

Church property Damage

During the evening hours of Monday, June 1, vandals inflicted extensive damage to the two restrooms, copy room, Pastor's office, Narthex and Sanctuary. Damage included walls, carpet, tile, broken windows and inserting a hose through the

broken copy room window, turning on water which ran some 8+ hours causing major damage estimated

to be in excess of \$60,000! Fortunately, the Church has insurance that offsets most of the cost to repair. Repairs will probably run into August! Thanks to a surveillance camera, pictures of the three vandals in action assisted in their apprehension. Sadly, the two boys and one girl are pre-teen youth.

Our Family & Friends

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

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

Pray for our Lutheran Pastors Rev. Thomas Bernard (Lutheran Church in Haiti, West Indies) & Rev. Gary Rohwer (Muslim ministry in Dearborn, MI). **Loved Ones recently died** Bev Leckie (sister Barbara), Lori Tucker (friend Marshall). **Our Lutheran Pastors-** Rev. Gary Rohwer (Muslim ministry in Dearborn, MI), Rev. Bernard (Lutheran Church-Haiti, West Indies).

Our College Students:- Brian Christensen, Bethany Lutheran, Mankato, MN graduates 12/11/15 degree in Communications. **Travis Wilson** is enrolled at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and will be leaving his Lake Elsinore home in August.



Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2

Our Spring Tea was beautiful, informative, entertaining, and fun. Many ladies brought flowers from their gardens for display and judging. Pastor

Kolander took first place for a variety of purple flowers from his garden. Susan and Maurice

Kaneshiro entertained us with information on birds, bees, and flowers and some funny songs. Everyone enjoyed tea and punch with finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, scones and fancy cakes.

Heartfelt Thank You's go to Linda Bosch and Sandra Gray for planning, executing, cooking (with the help of The K Team) and serving our first Father's Day Breakfast. 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.

At our July 7 meeting we will celebrate our country's birthday with a BBQ picnic lunch. VBS will be held the first week of August so we will meet on August 11 and sing hymns chosen by Judy Adler, Lore Tucker, Bev Leckie, and Ana Currier for their birthdays. For lunch we will go to a restaurant in memory of Betty Kreiger.

The quilters have finished 4 quilts which will be given to our shut-ins. They will meet in the fellowship hall on July 14 and 28 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for more quilting. They will meet again on August 18. Everyone is welcome from novice to experienced seamstress.

Betty Van Patton

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays

2-Susan Morris	20-Rob McCoy
7-Brian Casey	21-Emma Casey
7-Reed Steiner	21-Jonathon Sunshine
11-Don Currier	23-Cheryl Cheek
13-Rick Goss	23-LeAnn Lone
14-Will Rosenblatt	24-Austin Kolander
19-Leonard Cloer	25-Paul Niehouse

August Birthdays

3-Bob Arp	21-Luke Kolander
4-Don Crow	21-Barbara Mc Dermott
9-Judy Adler	24-Pat Crow
12-Sherm Terry	24-Melody Anton
15-Terri Pinto	24-Lore Tucker
15-Jerry Rice	26-Bev Leckie
19-Save Marrale	29-Ana Currier
21-Frank Crow	
21-Andrea Hall	

July Anniversaries

3-Bob & Yolanda Arp
 5-William & Lezlee Neebe
 5-Jim & Linda Warner
 9-David & Kathleen Neebe
 12-Duane & Betty Van Patten
 14-Ralph & Nancy Purcha
 23-Paul & Donna Niehouse
 30-Dave & Debbie Anderson

August Anniversaries

9-Maurice & Susan Kaneshiro
 11-Rob & Joyce McCoy
 12-Bud & Betty Leonhart
 17-Kevin & Christina Kolander
 18-Don & Ruth Detviler
 18-Pat & Kelly Kyle

July Flower Schedule

5—Pat & Frank Crow for Sally's Birthday
 12--Duane & Betty for Anniversary
 19--Andea Hall for Krys' Birthday
 26—open

August Flower Schedule

2—Rick's Birthday
 9 --Helen & Jerry Rice
 for Jerry & Terri Pinto Birthdays
 16--Bonnie Harlow In Memory of Husband
 Harry & Son.
 23-- Pat & Kelly Anniversary
 Pastor & Christina Anniversary
 30--Open

Cleaners-

July-Kenagy & Crow

August-Wilsons

Ongoing Ministries

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

After Services Refreshments.....

July 5-Judy Adler, Shirley Brown, Christina Kolander

12-Linda Bosch, Tiffany Casey, Diane Sandberg

19-Yolanda Arp, Ruth Detviler, Pat Eide

26- Potluck-Jamie Wilson, Bev Leckie, Susan Kaneshiro

August-2- Susie Mericle, Sue Rohrbach, Betty Van Patten, Francine Wellington
 9-Dana Davidson, Bonnie Harlow, Kelly Kyle
 16-Susan Morris, Hedder Steiner, Karol Steiner
23-Ellie Niehouse, Helene Peterson, Jerry Rice
30-*Potluck*-Maurice & Susan Kaneshiro
 Tom McD & Jesse Washington

Vacation Bible School--Dave & Melody Anton announced the annual Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 3 thru 7, 9-12 a.m. The theme for this year's school is **Camp Discovery!** Volunteers will be needed for the five day event--as in past years the decorations used to fit the theme have been extensive and colorful! Volunteers will be needed for the many jobs associated with the event; watch for a sign up sheet which will be posted in the Narthex.

THE WORLD IS MINE -- Author unknown

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I were as beautiful.
 When suddenly she rose to leave,
 I saw her hobble down the aisle.
 She had one leg and used a crutch.
 But as she passed, she passed a smile.
 Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
 I have two legs; the world is mine.
 I stopped to buy some candy.
 The lad who sold it had such charm.
 I talked with him, he seemed so glad.
 If I were late, it'd do no harm.
 And as I left, he said to me,
 "I thank you, you've been so kind.
 It's nice to talk with folks like you.
 You see," he said, "I'm blind."
 Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
 I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street,
 I saw a child I knew. He stood and watched
 the others play, but he did not know what to do

I stopped a moment and then I said,
 "Why don't you join them dear?"
 He looked ahead without a word.
 I forgot, he couldn't hear.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
 I have two ears; the world is mine.
 With feet to take me where I'd go..
 With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
 With ears to hear what I'd know.
 Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
 I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

Father's Day Brunch

A Great Big THANKS to Sandra Gray and Linda Bosch for preparing and serving the Father's Day Brunch---Chef Dave Anton provided an assist!!

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



Dear Members of First Lutheran,

I would have sent this news earlier-- I was waiting for the 18th anniversary of the church to be able to send you some more information. We are thankful to God that everything went well at the event. A delegation from each of the four congregations that I am serving attended the event. This summer, we are going to officially make one of our preaching stations that have an attendance of eighty-five people to become a congregation. One of our seminary students is serving this preaching station. This latter will be ordained very soon.

This coming December on the 4th, one of our new congregations will be dedicated. Thanks be to God, for the continuing supports of the few congregations in the U.S. that allowed us to complete the building of the church in Leogane. This congregation is also served by one of our seminary students.

Once again thank you so much for all you do to help us continue to spread the good news of salvation to those living under the bondage of the evil one. Looking forward to keeping in touch with you, I remain brotherly yours in Him.

Pastor Thomas Bernard
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

Concordia Irvine Summer Concerts

Concerts On The Green are again scheduled this summer for the enjoyment of Lutheran families and their guests. The concerts are free, and according to

several First Lutheran families who have attended, are both entertaining and diverse in nature! Attendees are encouraged to bring their beach chairs or blanket and a picnic dinner---an umbrella to protect from the late afternoon sun might be considered! The concerts are held on Sunday afternoons and are two hours in duration, from 5 to 7 p.m.

July 12- *Stone Soul* will be presenting Soul and Motown classics of *Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, The Temptations* and more!

July 19-*Broadway Star Ivan Rutherford* who played the leading role in *Les Miserable* and has played in other musicals including *West Side Story, South Pacific and Titanic!* Mr. Rutherford will present from these musicals as well as other familiar songs!

July 26- Unique repertoire from the *Great American Songbook, Phil Jeffrey and his Band, Musique Noir*, will take you back to the Frank Sinatra era together with musical gems from Tony Bennett, Bobby Darren and MORE! For longtime Lutherans these informal concerts may be the occasion for meeting others from churches throughout Southern California!! Plan on attending you will be delighted!

Joy Of Family


I was just a boy. Our life was simple, our house small, our family inauspicious. But Mom and Dad never failed to find ways to add a little fun to life. One Christmas, Dad brought home a snowmobile to two boys, gazing, mouths agape out the front window. It was only minutes later that my brother and I were dressed for the weather and climbing about this sleek machine, itching for the first shot at it. It was a brilliant move for the family. Every weekend or holiday when snow prevailed in Northwest Iowa, we'd haul the machine out to Cousin Larry's farm and spend the afternoon together. Dad would pull us via rope on an old truck tire inner tube over snow-covered hill and dale. We'd try to hang on, only to lose the battle higgledy-piggledy in a tumble of arms, legs, snow and laughter. I can see in my

mind's eye my dad on that machine, one knee kneeling on the seat (as he liked to ride), head held high above the windshield, grinning ear to ear glasses fogged, circling to give us another go at it. Do it again, Dad! Again! My little sister, who to this day retains something of her unique combination of timidity and total self-confidence, had


decided it was time for her to solo on the snow machine. Dad cautiously consented, offered the requisite instruction and warnings. He pointed her in a safe direction. My brother and I braced for the boredom, reduced to making snow angels. Little Sis took her first spin at the speed of a glacier, tediously consuming our treasured minutes of icy rough and tumble racing and daring. As she pulled away, Dad watched her traverse every snow-covered inch. I noticed him growing anxious as Sister increased to moderate speed and headed in the direction of a barbed wire fence at the edge of the property. Concerned for her safety, he cupped his hands and began to shout her name, warning her away from the fence, already leaning and stepping toward her. Then (and I shall never forget it because it is the only time I had ever seen my father run flat out) fearing for her safety he took off at full speed, shouting her name. Of all my childhood memories, this one stands forever uniquely etched upon the palette of my mind. I saw my father in dark, green coveralls, gloves and snow boots, running as fast as he could over an uneven fallow field, through a foot of snow, anxiously screaming my sister's name. I was face-to-face with the depth of love of a father for his child. I know to this day that this man, so very understated and in many ways so un-animated, is animated by an incomprehensively deep love for my mom, my sister, my brother and me and for Jesus. And it has always given me profound joy to realize it and recall it. As if his running angst were itself a prayer, my sister completely oblivious to her father's snow-muffled shouts was gently carried out of danger. . . .He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary (Is.40:29-31). . . .There are many accounts in the Bible of saints running at the joy of seeing Jesus. Zachaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him (Luke 19:3). Peter rose and ran to the tomb (Luke 24:12). The women departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples (Matt. 28:8). There are also accounts of false saints running with pseudo-joy. The demoniac, when he saw Jesus from afar, ran and fell down before him (Mark 5:6). Even the rich young man ran to Jesus to pose his horrid, Gospel-denying question: A man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? (Mark 10:17). But Jesus' parable of the prodigal son provides the grandest sprint ever recorded. It unveils for us the heart of God the Father in Christ. Our God rejoices over sinners and sprints to show it.

Matthew Harrison, President
Missouri Synod Lutheran Church

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 10:30 AM Bible Class 7:30PM Elders Mtg.	<i>2</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>3</i> Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 PM Potluck 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>4</i> 
5 Trinity 5 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Lord's Supper	<i>6</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>7</i> 10:00AM LWML 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>8</i> 10:30 AM Bible Class 7:00PM Church Council	<i>9</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>10</i> Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 PM Potluck 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>11</i>
12 Trinity 6 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	<i>13</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>14</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>15</i> 10:30 AM Bible Class	<i>16</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>17</i> Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 PM Potluck 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>18</i>
19 Trinity 7 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Lord's Supper	<i>20</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>21</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>22</i> 10:30 AM Bible Class	<i>23</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>24</i> Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 PM Potluck 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>25</i>
26 Trinity 8 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Matins Mite Box Sunday POTLUCK SUNDAY	<i>27</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>28</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>29</i> 10:30 AM Bible Class	<i>30</i> 7:30 PM AA Meeting	<i>31</i> Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 PM Potluck 7:00 PM Bible Study	

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <p>"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalm 23:1, NRSV</p>					1
2 Trinity 9 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Lord's Supper	3	4	5	6	7	8
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL					
	7:30 PM AA Meeting	7:30 PM AA Meeting	7:30PM Elders Mtg.	7:30 PM AA Meeting		
9 Trinity 10 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	10	11 10:00AM LWML	12 10:30 AM Bible Class	13	14	15
	7:30 PM AA Meeting	7:30 PM AA Meeting	7:00PM Church Council	7:30 PM AA Meeting		
16 Trinity 11 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Lord's Supper	17	18	19 10:30 AM Bible Class	20	21	22
	7:30 PM AA Meeting	7:30 PM AA Meeting		7:30 PM AA Meeting		
23 Trinity 12 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship MITE BOX SUNDAY	24	25	26	27	28	29
	PASTOR ON VACATION					
	7:30 PM AA Meeting	7:30 PM AA Meeting		7:30 PM AA Meeting		
30 Trinity 13 Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 AM Matins POTLUCK SUNDAY	31	NOTE: August 30 Matins will be an Elder Led Service as Pastor is on vacation.				
	PASTOR VACATION 7:30 PM AA Meeting					