

CROSS CURRENTS

First Lutheran Church Newsletter—January-February 2016

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

President

Rob Sandberg

Vice President

Dave Anton

Secretary

Susie Mericle

Treasurer

Wm Neebe

Financial

Secretary

Gail Christensen

Education

Director

Melody Anton

Evangelism

Director

Bob Brown

Stewardship

Director

Mark Steiner

Trustees

Duane Van Patten

Jesse Washington

Tom McDermott

Maurice Kaneshiro

Elders

Reed Steiner

Justin Morris

Don Crow

Larry Hall

Michael Sunshine

Dear Family and Friends of First Lutheran,

January 2016

Praise is awaiting You, O God in Zion. Psalm 65:1

The name of Jesus greets us again this new year. Jesus separated us from all sins of the past, so that we can look back with joy and peace. Jesus gave us His Word and love, preached, read, sung, prayed, poured & placed into our mouths. Could anything better meet us on the morning of the new year than Jesus? Could anything better greet us this first month than the strong name and person of Jesus to bring us forgiveness, life and peace? Or would we want anyone else at our side, when our last year comes than to die in Jesus' name?

The merciful God has given His Son as Saviour and has let Him take on Himself the curse of the Law and all our sin. From the moment we were Baptized, we entered into Christ's family and left the world, into life and out of death. What Jesus became for us and the world by fulfilling all righteousness is ours. Jesus is the heart of God's saving grace and is present in everything we say, think, feel, do and love. Jesus is your Saviour, that is, He has paid in full for your sin, closed the door to hell, crushed the devil's head and opened Heaven for you. This He did with His life, death, resurrection and glorious ascension. God has picked us out of our solitary prisons, brought us to Himself and gives us one another. He keeps you safe from the threat of punishment, gives you His fresh grace and innocence every day, lives at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for you 24/7, lifts up your spirit with His Word and nourishes faith with His Body and Blood. Jesus is why our praise is given to God in Zion. The One Who is born, died and rose is alive forever, your King and God, your Prince of peace, your Friend, your Shepherd and Guardian of your soul, your Brother and Bridegroom, He is the One Who kept you in the faith last year and will do so in the new.

And because God keeps His promises, He will continue this relationship with you-- redeeming, comforting, teaching, saving, guiding, healing-- all the year long. This whole new year depends on Jesus and everything in the world serves under Him for your salvation. God will make sure that you will not be left alone for one day or moment. Yes, dear Father, Son and Holy Ghost, praise is awaiting You in Zion, and this little band of believers at First Lutheran will join the song in 2016 and eternity.

*To the name of our salvation, laud and honor let us pay,
Which for many a generation, hid in God's foreknowledge lay;
But with holy exultation we may sing aloud today.*

“To the Name of our Salvation” TLH 116:1

Official Acts-

Memorial Services-

- Fran Short

Receiving of New Members, December 13

- William Clough

Acolytes-

Jan 3- Luke	Feb 7-Zach
10-Zach	14-Will
17- Will	21-Christian
24-Christian	28-Luke
31-Luke	

Attendance

Nov	1	8	15	22	26*	29
Worship	69	95	107	76	55	97
Communed	-	63	88	-	47	86
Bible Class	29	33	32	30	-	35
Sun.School	12	14	15	12	-	14

Stewardship—

- Month of November 2015:
Income \$xxxxxx.00
Expenses \$yyyyy
- Jan Thru November 2015
Income-\$xxxxxx
Expenses-\$yyyyyy

Clean Teams-

January-Antons

February-Kenagy

Praying for Our Church family & Loved Ones

Kay & Don Foster, Tiffany Casey, Nick & Joanne Pomo, Ida Williams, Kathy Neebe, Geri Daughtrey (son Ivy), Ruth & Don Detviler (son Mike), Barbara Greco (sister in law, Wanda), Fred Duncan (brother Ben), Jenny Lawson & those who travel over Christmastide, our future Vicar. **Babies on the way-** Jenny Fay, Susan Morris, Katrina Wilson & Hedder Steiner.

Members & loved ones serving in the Armed Forces

Austin Wilson, Robert Steiner, Frank & Pat (granddaughter, Jessica), Mary Kenagy- nephew Joshua, Nancy Purcha-3 grandsons, Brenda Romanek-brother, Alan & Helene Peterson- son Erick, Francine Wellington- grandson, Andrea Hall- nephew.

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

Pray for our Lutheran Pastors Rev. Thomas Bernard (Lutheran Church in Haiti, West Indies) & Rev. Gary Rohwer (Muslim ministry, Dearborn, MI), LCMS chaplains: Rob Mueller & Dann Ettner.

Away at college Travis Wilson, Noah Kolander, Lana Brannon, Enoch Berus (Concordia, Irvine).

Loved ones recently died Phyllis Werner (sister Janet). Fran Short (former member)



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

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.

December 1st was a gleeful meeting with our members and guests celebrating the coming birth of our Savior. Thank you, Nancy Purcha for directing a skit that reminded us that Christmas cards, music, decorations, and lights bring us joy as we prepare for Jesus birth. Thank you, actresses Lore, Melody, and Geri for a great performance. We had a rousing gift exchange filled with fun and laughter. A delicious ham dinner was a fitting end to our celebration.

On January 5th we welcome Nancy Purcha as Vice President and Lore Tucker as Treasurer for the 2016-2017 term. Karen Duncan, Melody Anton, and Diane Sandberg have volunteered as committee members to help the Vice President with In Reach Mission Projects, bulletin boards, and Special Event planning. Plans for dispersing the harvest of funds from our Cranberry Tea, Craft, and Bake Shops will be discussed. To celebrate the birthdays of Linda Bosch, Jean Eilers, Madeline Dulmatch, and Betty Van Patten we will sing their favorite hymns. Salad and pizza will be served for lunch.

(cont'd on page 3)

At our February 2nd meeting we will remember the birthdays of Helene Peterson, Pastor Kolander, and Pat Eide.

Our national L.W.M.L. President Patti Ross invites us to, *Come along with me as we serve our Lord together, making a joyful noise along the way!*

Betty Van Patten, President

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

11-Brian Christensen	22-Madeline Dulmatch
12-Donna Niehouse	22-Jamie Wilson
12-Jim Rohrbach	27-Betty Van Patten
14-Linda Bosch	27-Ron Romanek
16-Michael Sunshine	28-Zach Anton
17-Jean Eilers	31-Joyce McCoy
18-Dave Anton	

February Birthdays

1-Janice Fuhr	9- Ernie Alber
1-Nick Pomo	19- Bud Leonhart
2-Helene Peterson	23- Phyllis Werner
4-Pr Kolander	25- Adam Kolander
7-Pat Kyle	25- Katrina Wilson
8-Gail Christensen	27-Mollie Rosenblatt
8-Pat Eide	28-Lee Mein

January Anniversaries

6-Steve & Marj Marrale
28-Larry & Andrea Hall

February Anniversaries

14-Bob & Susie Mericle
14-Don & Ana Currier
27-Jack & Madeline Dulmatch

Flower Schedule

Jan 3-Pat Lenhart-Birthday
10- None listed
17- None listed
24-Duane van Patten-Birthday
31- None listed
Feb7- None listed
14-Bob & Susie Mericle
21- None listed
28- None listed

Ongoing Ministries

E-Prayer—Pastor Kolander

Greeters---Susan Kaneshiro & Brenda Romanek

After Services Refreshments.....

Jan 3-Yolanda Arp, Dana Davidson, Diane Sandberg
10-Pat Eide, Tiffany Casey,Linda Bosch
17-Shirley Brown, Judy Adler, Christina Kolander
24-Ruth Detviler, Bev Leckie, Bonnie Harlow
31-POTLUCK_Jamie Wilson, Helene Peterson, Susan Kaneshiro

Feb 7-Susie Mericle, Sue Rohrbach, Betty van Patten, Francine Wellington
14-Andrea Hall, Kelly Kyle, Ellie Niehouse
21-Susan Morris, Karol Steiner, Hedder Steiner
28-POTLUCK--Maurice Kaneshiro, Jesse Washington, Gerry Rice

Mission News.....from Pr Bernard

December 22, 2015

Dear Redeemed of the Lord,

Grace and Peace to you from God, our Father who is visiting us today in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church is more than delighted to share with you the joy and peace and all the other blessings that the holy Child of Bethlehem is shedding upon her and also some of the challenges that she is facing. We give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and his mercy endures for ever. We give thanks to him for all the blessings received through the past years and mainly for the forgiveness or sins and for the gift of his Son.

First of all, Good Shepherd Lutheran is expressing her thankfulness and gratitude to all the donors and supporters for their contribution and heartfelt love to the Lord's ministry down here. By ourselves only the task would be very difficult if not impossible. In other words, we would not be able to achieve our goal. Thanks to your christian love, your generosity and commitment we are
(Cont'd on page 4)

able to establish/found a new congregation in a so well populated area called "VILLAGE CORACESS" where the majority of the people living there are under the age of forty. It's a privilege for us to be there in order to share the good news of salvation to those people who are not saved. Those who come to faith are yet involved in social and christian activities. All the glory is to God!

A school is yet started for the kids attending the church there. Forty kids are in daily class receiving christian and academic training. Adults are registered for confirmation class, prayers, Bible studies and worship. 85 to 90 new converts are attending this church founded two years after the earthaquake of January 12, 2010. There are also some challenges but compared to the blessings received they are nothing at all.

The challenge now is to build a modest church for the people there. We remain convinced that the Lord will provide for the need of his people. The same way he has provided for our biggest need which is eternal life in Christ Jesus, He will provide for this physical need.

Again, thank you so much for all you do. May the holy One of Bethlehem continue to shower you with all the blessings from above through all the years ahead!

We wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
PASTOR THOMAS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Our Concordia University students continue to excel in their study of art & music as witnessed by the following offerings available to all! Currently scheduled:

January 16-Concordia Keyboard Day
22-31- "Pride & Prejudice"
30-Family Pops Concert
February 5-Faculty Recital
5&6-CUI Dance Company
Annual Concert
13-Handbell Invitational
Concert #1
14-A Night for Valentines Concert
20-Fine Arts Preview Day

Tickets may be purchased online 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

First Lutheran's Brian Christensen is Ready!!!!

When Brian Christensen was a freshman at California Lutheran High School (CLHS), Mrs. Faust took the kids to University of LaVerne for a day trip to learn about television production. Each student had the opportunity to be an anchor for a news program, operate a camera in-studio, and direct a broadcast. This was the start of his dream.

Mr. Don Westphal, the Director of Admissions at Bethany Lutheran College (BLC) in Mankato, MN came to visit CLHS often, talking to the kids about the possibility of becoming students at BLC. One of the things that was most intriguing for Brian was that Don was also the announcer for all the hockey broadcasts that BLC was paid to do for Minnesota State's Mavericks Hockey Team which played at the Verizon Center right in Mankato.

(Cont'd on page 5)

By the time he was a senior at CLHS, Brian wrote in his Senior Profile that he was going to go to college and become a producer at ESPN.

He made the Mavericks Broadcast Team in his freshman year and started working in the production trailer as a replay operator. In his last three semesters at Bethany, he was the director in charge of what went on the air for each and every game. The Broadcast Team at Bethany won several regional Emmy awards for their efforts and also received a national award for college level broadcasting.

In 2014, Brian was one of 6 candidates chosen out of 18,000 applicants for a paid internship at ESPN in Bristol, CT. He spent 10 weeks there and made lots of contacts. He is currently interviewing for a permanent position at ESPN and is very hopeful that there will be an offer of employment before the end of the year.

This young man, a child of our congregation, has always been surrounded by the love and encouragement that is an integral part of God's family here at First Lutheran. From the time Brian was in a backpack on his mom's back while she directed the choir (and he dropped a little bottle of baby lotion over the balcony and scared Mrs. Wootten), to Mrs. Eilers' Sunday school student at age three, to playing his first handbells at age 6 for the ground-breaking of the new fellowship hall, to singing a solo of O Holy Night when he was 10, Brian has grown in the fellowship of his church family. May the Lord bless him and keep him as he sets out on this new adventure in his life.

There will be a cake after church on January 3 to celebrate Brian's graduation from Bethany. A card with a note of one of your memories of Brian growing up at FLC would be a real treat for him.

(ED Note: FLC is proud to proclaim Brian as "Honorary Student of the Year")

New Feature for March-April "CROSS CURRENTS"!

Welcome to *Life Together!* Through this monthly digital news digest, Synod's President Harrison will be sharing highlights from Synod publications and multimedia outlets. There'll be something for everyone — pastors, church workers and laity. Everyone will find useful news and learn about ministries and resources that will help equip us in our life together.

Articles from the digest will be included in "CROSS CURRENTS" with a variety of information selected to aid the whole church as we live and work together to proclaim the Gospel and bear Christ's mercy to one another in our congregations, communities and the world. It's my pleasure to share *Life Together* with you, and I invite you to share it with others. It's easy to print, share or save anything you find helpful.

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

A Bit of Humor?? *Children Are Quick* ----

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: Johnnie, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHNNIE: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it. (I Love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Will, why do you always get so dirty?

WILL: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Luke, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LUKE: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

TEACHER: Now, Christian, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

CHRISTIAN: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Brian, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's..

Did you copy his?

BRIAN: No, sir. It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Zach, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

ZACH: A teacher

WE All Need A TREE!

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit

and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation.. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children.. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.' 'Funny thing is,' he smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'

-30-