

CROSS CURRENTS

First Lutheran Church Newsletter—September-October 2016

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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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Rob Sandberg

Vice President

Dave Anton

Secretary

Susie Mericle

Treasurer

Cheryl Cheek

Financial

Secretary

Gail Christensen

Education-

Director

Judy Adler

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Director

Bob Brown

Stewardship

Director

Mark Steiner

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Duane Van Patten

Jesse Washington

Leo Fay

Maurice Kaneshiro

Elders

Reed Steiner

Justin Morris

Don Crow

Larry Hall

Michael Sunshine

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Family and friends of First Lutheran,

“And Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them those who were lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.” -Mt. 15:29-31

Among all the technology, electronics, halls of education and vast sea of people on FB today, search the world and see if you can find anyone like our Lord Jesus! Search among the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans; go among the Muslims, Hindus and Americans; look among the Baptists, Methodists and Lutherans. Search among the wise of the past and present, among the mighty intellects, the great and good among Wikipedia. Search among the Democrats and Republicans, if you can, among the poor and the rich, among red and yellow, black and white; climb up to the heights of the prayer flags on Everest or down to the depths; there is none like Jesus. He, He alone can and will save us. His power and mercy are the same. Of no one else can it be said, as it is said of Him: “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” [Is. 53:4]. “Great multitudes came to Him, having with them those who were lame, blind, mute, maimed, (add your own loved one here _____); and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them.” No one else takes care of us as He does. The world is infected with sinners; He is the Saviour of sinners. The world is sick; He is the Healer of the sick. The world is not right; He is our forgiveness. We are all captives of death; He is the Destroyer of death and the Lord of Life. He has a remedy for everything that is lacking, sick and stained in you. You are poor in body and soul; Jesus heals both. He takes away your sinful guilt and cleans your heart. He removes the poison of mind, soul and body that works your harm. And you become clean with Word and water from the font, forever. “He forgives all your iniquities, He heals all your diseases. He satisfies your soul’s mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed [Ps. 103:3,5]. Be amazed. Now get up and give thanks with joy. And make note, He does not turn away anyone who seeks healing from Him. No one, no one is so sick, so wicked, so sinful, --if he comes on his own or is brought to Jesus, asks to be made well, he receives it. Jesus turns no one away. Remember this for yourself first. Then bring others. Not a single one has He turned away, not a single one who came to Him and wanted to be saved was disappointed. His whole life was devoted to what He Himself says: “Whoever comes to Me I will by no means cast out” [John 6.37]. (cont'd pg 2)

(cont'd from pg 1)

Draw us all to You and be our Healer, Lord Jesus, for Your blood avails for all. Heal us, and give life from Your open wounds and Word. Lift us up and then lead us. We shall be amazed, we will give thanks and serve one another, that they too may be laid down at the feet of Jesus.

O that I had a thousand voices, to praise my God with thousand tongues!

My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, would them proclaim in grateful songs

To all wherever I might be, what great things God has done for me. TLH 243:1

Adapted from Monday in Trinity 12, Book of Family Prayer, Laache.

Official Acts-

New Member-Richard Seifrid, transfer from Emmanuel Lutheran, Aurora, Illinois.

Memorial Services-A memorial service was held Saturday, August 6th for long time member **Delores Zegestosky**.

Acolytes-

- Sept 4-Will
- 11-Christian
- 18- Luke
- 25- Zach
- Oct 2 -Morgan
- 9 -Will
- 16-Christian
- 23-Zach
- 30-Morgan

Attendance

July	3	10	17	24	31
Worship	93	76	100	101	92
Communed	87		84		-
Bible Class	34	31	34	35	36
Sun School	4	4	5	5	5
Aug	7	14	21	28	
Worship	83	101	88		
Communed	78		78		
Bible Class	33	33	32		
Sun School	7	8	8		

Stewardship—

- Month of July 2016:
Income \$ not available
Expenses \$ not available

- Jan Thru July 2016
Income-\$ not available
Expenses-\$ not available

Clean Teams

*September-*Wilson
October- Kenagy

Our Family & Friends

Addition to your Church Directory

E-3 Wilson, Travis
A Co.2-60th IN REGT, 193rd IN BDE
1st Platoon "Knights"
5422 Jackson Blvd
Fort Jackson, SC 29207-5025

(Note--when writing to Travis, put the numeral"1" on the back of the envelope)

Praying for Our Church family & Loved Ones

Rob McCoy (healing), Tim Noel, Ida Williams, David Neebe, Pat Lenhart (healing), Bob & Lois Salchow (Gary, son-in-law), Pat Eide (healing)

Members and our loved ones serving in the Armed

Forces –Austin Wilson, Travis Wilson , Pat Crow (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, Kay & Don Foster, Beverly Christiansen, Joann Pomo.

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

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

A HEADS UP Alert!!

FLC's Choir kicks off the 2016-17 year on Wednesday, September 14, 5:30p.m. with an invitation to new voices!! Sopranos, Altos, Baritones and Bass voices are needed---great music, lively fellowship!



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. The mites that we collect, in the little purple and white boxes, support the 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 September project is "*We Are God's Workmanship*" *International Student scholarship at St. Paul High School, Concordia, Missouri...\$32,500*, the October project is "*Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel*" *Apple of His Eye Mission Society Israel...\$100,000*.

For our annual restaurant lunch we were graciously received by Donna Niehouse at Pints and Quarts at the Lake Elsinore Outlet Mall.

November 5 is the date set for *The Cranberry Tea with Craft and Bake Sale*. The theme is Sing Praises to God. LWML will gladly accept donations of craft and baked goods from the congregation.

At the September 6 meeting, we will remember the birthdays of Susan Kaneshiro and Ivy Arndt. We are again collecting stamps. Formerly known as Stamps for Missions, it is now part of Multi-Cultural Mini Grants. Guideline sheets for collectible stamps are posted on LWML bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Summer BBQ is the theme for our lunch.

On October 4 the birthdays of Diane Sandberg, Brenda Romanek, and Dana Davidson will be remembered.

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

Betty Van Patten, President

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September Birthdays

2-Robert Steiner	14-Austin Wilson
4- Chris Christensen	14-Jonathon Sunshine
4-Edward Kieta	17-Ivy Arndt
6-Debbie Anderson	21-Bonnie Harlow
11-Bob Mericle	23-William Clough
12-Jesse Washington	25-Benjamin Sunshine
13-Susan Kaneshiro	27-Noah Kolander

October Birthdays

2-Dave Lenhart	15-Tracy Adler
3-Jack Dulmatch	15-William Neebe
7-Merisa Caithammer	17-Brenda Romanek
9-Juan Nava	18-Joline Terry
11-Kelly Kyle	21-Barbara Greco
13-Karol Steiner	22-Barbara Weymouth
	31-Dana Davidson

September Anniversaries

4-Don & Kay Foster
5-Dave & Pat Lenhart
18-Brian & Tiffany Casey
25-Chris & Gail Christensen

October Anniversaries

17-Tom & Barbara McDermott
24-Alan & Helene Peterson
25-Austin & Katrina Wilson

Flower Schedule

Sept 4- Mary Kenagy (Remembering Parents 62nd Anniv)
11-Susie Mericle (Bob's B'day)
 Wilsons (Austin's B'day)
18-Cheryl Cheek (Daughters B'days)
25-Andrea Hall, Crow's (Gary's B'day)
 Pat Lenhart for friend Ida, 99 yrs old
Oct 2-Lenhart's (Dave's B'Day)
9-Juan & Claire Nava for Juan's 62nd
16-Bev Leckie
23-Wilson's- Austin & Katrinas (2nd anniversary)
30- Dana Davidson- (B'Days),

Ongoing Ministries

E-Prayer—Pastor Kolander

Greeters---Susan Kaneshiro & Brenda Romanek

After Services Refreshments.....

Sept. 4-Erla Cloer, Ana Currier, Joline Terry
11-Ida Williams, Nancy Purcha, Lore Tucker
18-Ellie Neihouse, Bev Lecke, Kelly Kyle
25- Potluck- Kim Sunshine, Leo Fay, Tom

("Refreshments" cont'd from pg 3)

- Oct-2-** Yolanda Arp, Dana Davidson,
Diane Sandberg
9- Claire Nava, Tiffany Casey, Linda Bosch
16- Shirley Brown, Judy Adler, Christine
Kolander
23- Ruth Detviler, Andrea Hall, Bonnie Harlow
30- Potluck--Kathy Gilbert, Bill Clough, Helene
Peterson

Mission News.....from our Church in Haiti

Dear Brothers, Sisters & Supporters of the ministry of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port-au-Prince, Haiti:

Grace and Peace to you from God our Lord and Savior Jesus! We give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever. The Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church is more than delighted to write this in which she is expressing her thankfulness and gratitude to each one of you for your continuing prayers and support.

More than ever, we need to continue to stay in God's presence, preach His inspired Word, and administer the Sacraments as we are facing difficult times. Only in Him that we can we find relief and strength permitting us to endure the difficult times. The instability of our nation causes a lot of trouble among the citizens and in the different neighborhoods. As you probably know, Good Shepherd is ministering in four places in the Port-au-Prince area: Delmas, Village of Peace, Leogane and Village Coracess. We have a tight schedule. Since the beginning of the ministry we always have two worship services in each of these places (a worship service in the morning and an evangelism service in the evening where non-converts are invited to join us). But nowadays the evening service at Village of Peace is held at 4:00 pm because of the gangs that are performing there. From 6:00 pm to 6:00 am the members of the community need to be at home to make sure that they are at 50% safe. It is a complicated situation. And in all these matters we ask the question "who cares"? The answer is "only God cares". "If God is for us, who can be against us"?

The cholera problem is another issue. Hundreds of people have already passed away. They cannot survive because the health care down here is a luxury. At a certain point, sometimes we even get

discouraged but after all we come to the conclusion that our God is faithful, merciful and compassionate. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him (Lamentations 3:21-24)." What a friend we have in Jesus, my friend!

Thanks be to our Redeemer, in the midst of great distress and calamity, as a loving Father, He is always there to help His children. In spite of our sins and iniquities our God does not abandon us. That is why we say together with the psalmist David "I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me (Psalm 13:6)."

Thanks be to Him, in spite of all our difficulties, congregations and schools are making great progress. The Word is taught, the Sacraments are administered, believers are committed and new members are joining us.

Due to this chaotic situation that is going on down here and that affect our entire beings your constant prayers remain a necessity for us.

Brotherly yours in the resurrected One,

Rev.Thomas Bernard
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
and School

First Lutheran's Pride & Joy--Vicar Josh Arndt & Wife Ivy

Now that Joshua and I have been welcomed so warmly to California, both by the summer heat and more importantly, the entire congregation of First Lutheran Church. I would like to write a little bit about our backgrounds and what our lives were like before arriving to California. This is to ensure that whoever may not have heard these stories will be able to know a little more about our backgrounds and we can all get to know one another better.

Beginning with my husband Joshua: Joshua was born in south central Minnesota where he spent his childhood growing up on a farm. His parents, Tray and Annette, raised him and his three siblings in a faithful Christian home; where he was also shown the

done. When you work hard, playing hard comes naturally which is why I have always seen his hard-work complemented with lots of fun. Most of the time, his ideas of fun consist of doing active things out of doors, like hiking, mountain biking, etc. Joshua is the oldest of four kids in his family. Despite being born with glaucoma; Joshua has never let his disability stop him from enjoying the gift of life his Savior Jesus Christ has given to him. Joshua has learned to read both print and braille, but has learned over time that braille is a much more efficient way of reading than trying to read print; even though this was not always the case. Early on he preferred to use print as much as possible simply because it was what everyone else in school used.

Joshua attended Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota which was about a half hour from where he grew up. Initially Joshua had thoughts of becoming an elementary school teacher however, spending a couple years immersed in a Christian college allowed the Holy Ghost to work the desire to become a pastor into Joshua's heart. After graduating Bethany Lutheran College with a degree in Religious Studies, Joshua continued his education and began his studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, in Fort Wayne Indiana; which is when we met.

Before getting into our relationship together, I'll take a few steps back and say a little bit about my childhood. Completely opposite from Joshua who is the eldest child, I am the youngest of four children. Like Joshua, I absolutely love to be out of doors and that is exactly where most of my childhood was spent.

Moving was a very common thing in for our family because my father Jeffrey, was an Army Chaplain. My mother, Ranita, has a deep appreciation and understanding for the value of committing time to family which motivated her to home-school us. I was home-schooled through fifth grade, and in my early teen years our family moved to Michigan. This is where our family has lived ever since and is also where I attended college at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. During my time spent at Ann Arbor, I studied and received a degree in Criminal Justice. Now that you have been caught up on our lives, let's go back to last summer when Joshua and I first met. We were both working at a Lutheran summer camp

photographer. It didn't take long after meeting one another for us to realize how much we had in common and how well we got along. Practically all of our free-time was spent talking with one another or going on fun adventures, just getting to know one another. We also started reading the Bible together and learned how much we both love Jesus and the life we have in Him.

After that summer ended Joshua returned to the Seminary in Fort Wayne and I started my final year of college at Ann Arbor, which is about two hours from Fort Wayne. We talked on the phone every night often times for over an hour, and I would drive to visit every weekend I could. Josh and I continued dating for six months and then got engaged in December of 2015. We planned the wedding for the upcoming June. On June tenth, we were married-- a couple weeks before leaving for vicarage here in California.

That brings us once again, to the present time. Hopefully this helps fill in a few gaps about Joshua and myself. Of course if you have more questions feel free to ask either of us, and we look forward to sharing our first year of marriage together with you all. Based on how welcoming and supportive everyone has been it is clear to see the joy we share in Jesus and this will be a fantastic year.

Thank you all for your generosity, kindness, and love!

What can Lutherans do as voices in the public square?

As some Lutherans might struggle to grasp how to apply Luther's doctrine of the two kingdoms regarding matters of church and state, the staff of the Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) offers some clarification: One God rules the world (1 Tim. 1:17), but in two different ways in two different "realms." This twofold reality produces tensions for the Christian that are not easily resolved.

In His "kingdom of grace," where Christ reigns, He uses His Word and Sacraments to bring people to faith without coercion and to glad acceptance of His rule and authority (see John 3:3; 18:36; Col. 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:11).

In His "kingdom of power," His temporal or earthly kingdom, God uses governments to maintain order,

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stability and justice in this sinful, imperfect world (see Rom. 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17).

Thus, Jesus Himself tells us to render to Caesar and to God (Matt. 22:21). And, even as Christians honor and obey governing authorities, they must boldly disobey government when it usurps God's authority (Acts 5:29). In short, just as Christians respect human authority, they are also free to engage with government to prevent governments from acting unjustly

Breaking news from Camp Discovery: Jesus At Work Through Us

What a wonderful week of God's Word and Love from this year's *Vacation Bible School*.

The week started with every camper receiving a pair of special binoculars to search all of God's Gifts. The scene was set in a forest of trees filled with birds chirping welcoming the campers as they entered across a bridge over a pond of fish. All of God's creatures were scattered throughout the forest and all our campers were ready to learn.

Day one brought the lesson of Courage from 1 Samuel 17 - God make David Bold.

Day two brought the lesson of His Wisdom from Judges 4 - Deborah Judges with God's Wisdom.

Day three we learned how Jesus Saves us from Daniel 3 - God saves Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego.

Day four taught the Gift of Faith from Mark 10 - Jesus Gives Bartimaeus His Sight.

Day five tied everything together with Sharing Jesus' Love with others from Acts 9 - God sends Ananias to Saul.

Every day opened in prayer followed by a Bible Story involving the leaders and encouraging the camper's involvement. There were skits, reenactments and all around spreading of the word. There were wonderful snacks to strengthen the weary campers followed by fun indoor and outdoor activities to emphasize the lesson. The love and the Holy Spirit were at work in everyone. What a blessing!

One of God's Gifts that we got to see was the involvement of prior VBS students as helpers. What a blessing to see the Gift come full circle as Zack,

-6-

Christian, Daniel, Jacob, Damien and Angel helped this year.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HELPED,
ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED OUR KIDS.**
Our congregation gave a lot of Love and God's blessings through that.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Daniel vs The Lions

The Pastor of a Detroit church passed on this account of how Daniel saved his life in the lion's den: King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was astonished that the hungry lions had not eaten Daniel. He summoned Daniel and promised him that if he would reveal his secret, the king would give him his freedom. "It was easy, your Excellency," Daniel said. "I went around and whispered in each lion's ear - 'After dinner, there will be speeches.'"

With Age Comes Wisdom(??)

When a young minister was still single, he preached a sermon he entitled, "Rules for Raising Children." After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of the sermon to "Suggestions for Raising Children." When his children got to be teenagers, he stopped preaching on that subject altogether.

September 2016

DISTRICT PASTORS CONFERENCE Sept 25-28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 pm AA Meeting	2 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	3
4 Trinity 15 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Lord's Supper	5 7:30 pm AA Meeting	6 10:00 am LWML 7:30 pm AA Meeting	7 10:30 am Bible Class Elders Mtg 7:30 pm	8 7:30 pm AA Meeting	9 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	10
11 Trinity 16 9:00 AM Sunday School Rally Day Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	12 7:30 pm AA Meeting	13 7:30 pm AA Meeting	14 10:30 am Bible Class 7:00 pm Council Mtg	15 7:30 pm AA Meeting	16 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	17
18 Trinity 17 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 10:30 am Bible Class	22 7:30 pm AA Meeting	23 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	24
25 Trinity 18 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:30 AM MATINS POTLUCK SUNDAY MITE BOXES	26 7:30 pm AA Meeting	27 7:30 pm AA Meeting	28 10:30 am Bible Class	29 7:30 pm AA Meeting	30 Friday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Bible Study	

October 2016

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