

In the First Place

“Learning the Way, Sharing the Journey”

July 2, 2008

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THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Ben Brower (M.D. Anderson in Houston, Texas), Bill Stewart (home), Margaret Aden (home), Herb Nunemaker (home), Kris Luber (home), Linda Norland (home), Bob Adams (home), Barb Huss (Yuma, Arizona), Thelma Fetzer (home), Marlene Rimmel (home), Neta Jeffus (friend of Mary Kay Moore), Earl Brambaugh (Ruth Denno's brother), Pat Sanford (Ruth Denno's sister), Don McClafflin (Ruth Denno's brother-in-law), Mary Elizabeth Shaw (George & Susan Bales' infant granddaughter), Thelma Stutzman (Emily Cox's aunt), Doris Cole (friend of Verla Buch), Kay Becker (Jessica Elsen's godmother), Morgan Brickei (friend of Hogrefe's), Debbie Keehn, Elizabeth Keehn, Matthew Keehn (Pat Lichter's daughter and twin grandchildren), Fran Hoss (Karen Oxandale's aunt), Lynette Stafford (Mark's sister), Simeon Weltmer (Evelyn Wilson's nephew), Jeff Pearce (Duane's son), Natalie Mott (Martha Donohoe's sister), Damian Levings (Sylvia's husband), Camille Engler (Ted & Lucille Baehni's daughter), Leon Phillips (friend of Jessica Elsen), Jim Self (Virginia Will's nephew), Ann Marie Lenartsson (LaVerne Engelhardt's cousin), Junior Schulke (Wendy Sanders' great uncle), Barb Rowrer (friend of Wendy Sanders), Dorothy Wozny (Randy Lambrecht's grandmother), Laura Herl (Martha Donohoe's daughter).

SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Specialist, Matt Cervantez (Afghanistan), Specialist, Adam Hamby (Afghanistan), Captain Raul Rivera (Iraq - Trudi Myers' grandson).

THE CHURCH OFFICE STAFF WOULD APPRECIATE FAMILIES NOTIFYING THE OFFICE WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE TO REMOVE YOUR LOVED ONE'S NAME FROM OUR NEWSLETTER & BULLETIN PRAYER LISTS.

WEEKLY CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER LIST

On **July 6th**, we pray for: Chris, Cindy, and Cady Lear, Jonathan Leffler, Michele Leffler, Miranda Leffler, Jason Lehnerr, Robin, Ashley, Meghann, and Nathaniel Leininger, Megan Leon, Diane Leupold.

On **July 13th** we pray for: Sylvia Levings, Jeff, Michele, Chris, and Courtney Lewis, Mike, Jeanette, and Kyle Lewis, Tina Lewis, Pat Lichter, Don and Lura Lilya, Arloine Lindgren.

A BRIEF UPDATE FROM

THE WORSHIP CENTER RENOVATION TASK FORCE:

We have had a wonderful response to our campaign to renovate our main Worship Center. As of this writing we've had over **\$42,195.00** pledged to the project and of that (as of 6/30/08) have received **\$30,260.00**. With the memorial moneys from Loretta Elwell's bequest, we have enough to complete Phase 1 of new pews and flooring. The final bids for both have been received and approved by Church Council, and we are on schedule to begin the flooring project mid August, with the pews arriving sometime around Labor Day.

A work crew is being formed to remove and discard the old pews. If you would like to volunteer to help accomplish that, please contact Jerry Anderson (272-8877) or David Krug (233-6905).

There is still opportunity to make a pledge/contribution to this remodeling project. With a few more thousand dollars we can also complete Phase 2 this fall and replace the south windows of the Worship Center. We hope to be able to do this as soon as possible to help protect the new carpet and pews and padding with better, more energy efficient, windows than we currently have.

A very large Thank you to everyone who has made a commitment to the renovation.

BIBLE TRIVIA

Malachi told the people that they had robbed God by not doing what?

- A. Honoring their parents
- B. Paying their tithes and offerings
- C. Offering their sacrifices
- D. Keeping the Sabbath day holy.

(Note: after 11 years, we have finally finished Bible Trivia for the Old Testament. Next issue we begin with the New Testament. Hope you enjoy it also.)

DEADLINES

FOR THE NEXT "IN THE FIRST PLACE" ARTICLES

JULY 13th and 27th

CALENDAR DEADLINE FOR AUGUST IS JULY 27th.

THE BIRTH AND BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The word **PENTECOST** means "the fiftieth day."

PENTECOST is "a Jewish festival" occurring 50 days after the **PASSOVER**. It marked the beginning of the offering of first fruits. The New Testament uses the term to refer to the established Jewish feast, but since the gift of the Holy Spirit to Christ's church occurred on the day of Pentecost, Christians reinterpreted the meaning of it in terms of this event and called Pentecost the "birth of the church" (see Acts, chapter two, for the Pentecost account).

The liturgical color of the **DAY OF PENTECOST** is **RED**. Red is the color of **FIRE**, which symbolizes **POWER**. It also is the color of **LOVE**, the renewed **LOVE** the disciples had after Pentecost.

The color for the **SEASON OF PENTECOST** is **GREEN**. Green symbolizes **GROWTH**, both numerically, as the Church grows in followers committed to their Lord and Savior, and spiritually as individual Christians grow and mature in their faith and in their relationship with Jesus and with God's people.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

God calls us to share the love of Jesus Christ through the Word with all people and to help them to grow spiritually to love, serve, and glorify God.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE SATURDAY & SUNDAY, June 21 & 22 and 28 & 29

ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 237	Tithes and Offerings:
Saturday: 51	\$4,147.75
Sunday Early: 70	Sunday Late: 116

ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 211	Tithes and Offerings:
Saturday: 42	\$7,117.00
Sunday Early: 73	Sunday Late: 96

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Kim Rasmussen* on the death of her father, Norris Veverka.

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Pat Drake* on the death of her mother, Jayne Hillrichs.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of *Hilton Ragsdale* who died June 29th and will be given Christian burial here at First on Thursday, July 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Chris Jenks and Ashley Jetter* who were married on Saturday, June 28th here at First Lutheran Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Matt Bender and Tanya Jernigan* on the July 1st birth of their son, *Nathan Matthew Bender*.

TRIVIA ANSWER: Malachi 3:8

CENTRAL STATE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Pastor Luber has placed his Synod Assembly notebook in the church library for anyone who would like to look through it, read the resolutions discussed, and enjoy the worship services.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE *THRIVENT BUILDS* BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE KRIS' OFFICE. DRIVE BY THE HOUSE LOCATED AT 1400 SW VAN BUREN.

**DUE TO THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND,
THERE WILL NOT BE A FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH
THIS SUNDAY, JULY 6th.**

NEXT ONE WAY MEETING JULY 6 when we'll be reliving camp with hot dogs and smore's. Please **RSVP** by leaving a message (voice or e-mail) for Kris at krisluber@prodigy.net, home – 272-9876, church – 272-5302. **SAVE THE DATE** Next week Wednesday we are invited to a pool party with the youth of Trinity and Our Saviors. We'll have more details to share Sunday night.

VBS AND DAY CAMP VOLUNTEERS will meet for training at Our Saviors Lutheran Church 2021 SW 29th Street on **Sunday night at 7**. If you need more information please call Bridget (VBS) 230-3425 or Andrea (DC) 478-0485.

**2008 CAMP TOMAH SHINGA QUILT AUCTION
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008**



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO LWR COFFEE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS! Due to higher coffee and cocoa prices and other rising costs, Equal Exchange needs to increase coffee and cocoa prices. **The NEW PRICES, effective August 1st, 2008** will increase coffee 45 cents per pound and the cocoas 75 cents per can. Equal Exchange Fair Trade gourmet coffee, tea, hot cocoa mix, and baking cocoa **WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AFTER BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES ON JULY 13th & AUGUST 10th**. Order forms are always available at the Welcome Center if these dates are not convenient. Women of the ELCA in our congregation sponsor this project and make the coffee available at cost with no shipping fees. July will be a good time to stock up on your favorites before the higher prices take effect.

THE WOMEN OF ELCA WILL MEET ON JULY 16th

Lois Group will meet at the home of Lucille Baehni, 1128 SW MacVicar, at 9:30 a.m. JoAnn Stanley is Bible study leader.

Deborah Group will meet at the church at 1:15 p.m. with Marilyn Chittenden as lesson leader.

Martha Group will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. with Nancy Kalthoff as hostess, and Anita Nelson will be the lesson leader.

The **second session** in the overall topic "Come to the Waters" is "It's a Matter of Life and Death" with an emphasis on Baptism.

The **Central States Synod of the Women of the ELCA** will be meeting **July 25-27 in Springfield, MO**. Ruth Denno will be our delegate.

At the **July** meetings a **Love Offering** for the Synod will be collected.

Due to the number of people going to the congregational retreat in July, there will be **ONLY ONE SERVICE at 10:15 on JULY 20th**. There will also be **NO BRUNCH** that Sunday morning. The Saturday night service that weekend will still be held at its usual 5:00 time.

HERE'S A WEBSITE FOR YOU!!

Check out the following website to find out more about the Central States Synod of the ELCA of which First Lutheran is a part: www.css-elca.org. And be sure to click on the newsletter link to find out what's happening in the Synod and its congregations. Bookmark the website for your future use!!

A FUN FEST THANK YOU!

What a beautiful evening we had for Fun Fest! Parish Life wishes to extend a tremendous "Thank You" to everyone who participated, from our game supervisors to our greeters. Our new attractions this year were delightful. Topeka Reptile Rescue and member Todd Williams' race car were big hits with the kids. Diane Hanson and Karen Oxandale constructed new colorful games for the young ones and we appreciate their creative talents. From bingo to the band music of the Harveyville Pluckers and the Fairlawn Swing Band, everyone found something at Fun Fest. The funnel cakes were delightful, the evening air perfect, and the fellowship ever cheerful. **THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

UPDATE FROM KRIS

Last week I had my first PET scan. It shows that the cancer cells have been successfully treated by the first four rounds of chemo. This was the hoped for (but certainly not guaranteed) result. I still have two more rounds of chemo to go, which are likely to be spaced further apart than three weeks because each treatment further compromises my immune system. I should be finished with my lymphoma treatment in a couple months. Thank you for your prayers.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The Health Team conducted 14 focus group meetings involving more than 80 church members and has reviewed the comments made during those sessions. The next step is a meeting with the Central States Synod coach, the Rev. Len Dale, and that session is scheduled for July 8. The team plans to examine four areas in drafting an action plan. They are the worship experience, the youth experience, small group experiences and opportunities to share our faith, with an emphasis throughout on prayer, Bible study and devotions. Typically, a health team expects to add to its membership to help draft such a plan.