

In the First Place

“Learning the Way, Sharing the Journey”

February 1, 2012

Published by *First Lutheran Church* Vol. 19, Issue 3

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE: Marge Rawson (Aldersgate Health Unit), Kris Luber (home), Jo Baldwin (Lexington Park), Frank Hoshour (in Florida), David Schmidt (home), Elma Cassidy (Clare Bridge), Linda Norland (home), Marlene Remmel (home), Emma Weber (Presbyterian Manor), Ryan Hamilton Family (friends of the Roark’s), Fred Cushing (Chris’ father), Shirley Gann (friend of LaVerne Engelhardt), Don McClafflin (Ruth Denno’s brother-in-law), April Lemon (Cindy Crawford’s sister-in-law), Bob Griffiths (Shirley Brower’s brother), PFC Michael Myers (Trudi’s grandson), John W. Hanna (John’s father), David Howard (Barb Bangert’s brother), Bill Brabec (friend of Wendy Sanders), Julia Dias (Ron Bessler’s ex-wife), Dean Carstensen (Wendy Sanders’ father), Debbie Edelman (Margaret Stewart’s niece), Troy Warner (friend of Phillip Henry), Annika Lundgren (friend of the Engelhardt’s), Susan Engle (friend of the Engelhardt’s), Bruce Baenig (former member), Millard Kefauver (former member), Debra Falchek (friend of Wendy Sanders), Pat Walters (friend of the Brower’s), Julia Self (Virginia Will’s nephew’s wife), Leann Pierce (Wendy Sanders’ cousin), Earl Brumbaugh (Ruth Denno’s brother), Pat Sanford (Ruth Denno’s sister), Natalie Mott (Martha Donohoe’s sister), Damian Levings (Sylvia’s husband), Camille Engler (Baehni’s daughter). **SISTER CHURCHES:** Peace Lutheran in Joplin, MO (tornado damage) and Grace Lutheran in Lewiston, Idaho (fire damage–Susan Bjerke’s home church).

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of *Naomi Larson* who died Tuesday, January 31, 2012. A celebration of her life and faith will be Friday, February 3rd at 11:00 a.m. here at First.

TRIVIA ANSWER: John 9:1-3

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AVAILABLE
AT THE WELCOME CENTER.**

CELL PHONES

Recently we’ve had a few cell phones start to ring while worship is going on. Be sure to turn your cell phone to **OFF OR TO VIBRATE** when you come to worship. Thanks for your help.

Breakfast with Pastor Katy

Monday – Thursdays during February & March
Any time before 9:30 a.m.

What’s your morning routine like? Do you read the newspaper over a hot cup of coffee? Do you enjoy an early morning swim or a long walk with the dog? Or do you hit that alarm clock a couple of times before dashing out of bed to get kids ready for school? Or do you sit down to a warm bowl of oatmeal and read a morning devotion, having a little quiet time with God? Sometimes that morning “break” of a cup of tea or piece of toast, can be just the reminder we need to remind us that God’s “mercies are new each morning.”

During the months of February and March I’d like to invite you to start your morning off by grabbing a bowl of oatmeal and chatting with your Associate Pastor. Help me learn more about our congregation by sitting down to breakfast with me. Help me learn what makes you and First Lutheran tick. For those of you who have flexible morning schedules, I would love to come to your home and get to know you over a bowl of cereal or fresh fruit. (Or any ol’ breakfast menu will do – I’m not picky!) If breakfast time is crazy at your house, I would love to have lunch, dinner or coffee with you and your family.

How to Sign up:

Call me at the office (272-5302) or at home (806-6563) or e-mail me (katyaharder@gmail.com) to schedule a day and time that would work for you. I will try to schedule most breakfasts on Monday – Thursday, any time before 9:30 a.m. Exceptions can be made though, just ask!

May each new morning greet you with God’s presence and peace.

Pastor Katy

BIBLE TRIVIA

Who sinned and caused a man to be born blind?

A. His father B. The blind man C. His parents D. No one

DEADLINES

FOR THE NEXT “*IN THE FIRST PLACE*” ARTICLES
FEBRUARY 12th
CALENDAR DEADLINE FOR MARCH IS FEBRUARY 12th



The word **EPIPHANY** means MANIFESTATION or SHOWING FORTH. It is the festival on which we remember that Jesus manifested (that is, showed himself) to the Wise Men who came from the East, following the star which led them to Bethlehem, to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The date of Epiphany is January 6th. It concludes the 12 Days of Christmas which Christians celebrate beginning with the birth of Christ on Christmas day.

The color for the day of **EPIPHANY** is **WHITE**.

The **SEASON** of **EPIPHANY** continues on until Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday when the season of Lent begins.

EPIPHANY season is often considered a time for emphasis on **CHURCH MISSIONS** because it reminds us of the first Gentiles (non-Jewish people) who came to worship the Christ-child. It is also a season to watch Jesus begin to **GROW** as we witness first his baptism, then his miracles, and then his proclamation of God’s Kingdom.

GREEN is the color for the season of **EPIPHANY**. It is the color of new growth – in Jesus’ life, in the life of the church, and in our own life.

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, January 21 & 22 and 28 & 29**

ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 259 Saturday: 36 Early: 73 Late: 150	Tithes and Offerings: \$16,299.55
RED BAG - CAMP TOMAH SHINGA	\$625.00
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 240 Saturday: 41 Early: 55 Late: 144	Tithes and Offerings: \$3,794.18

THANK YOU to Pat Booth, Verla Buch and Margaret Worrell who helped me prepare the 2012 Summer Camp brochure mailing for Camp Tomah Shinga. And another thank you to Eileen Caspers who put us in touch with the Graphic Arts Department at Washburn Institute of Technology which designed the brochure. We sent out over 600 pieces to past campers and Central States Synod congregations in the bulk mailing. CTS enjoys First Lutheran Church's continuing support!

Kris Luber, Camp Tomah Shinga Registrar

PARKINSONS

Do you know someone who is struggling with this disease? A family member? Friend? Neighbor? Co-worker? Would you like to know about the disease and how it affects not only the people who have it but also those around them? If so, come to a special one hour presentation that our Stephen Ministers are hosting on **Tuesday, February 7th, from 7:00 – 8:00**, in the Chapel. David Friedrichs, a physical therapist from Kansas Rehab Hospital, will be our guest speaker for their monthly Continuing Education experience and (as they did awhile back with an Alzheimer's speaker) they are opening the event to all members and friends of First Lutheran. Come and learn.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet Wednesday, February 15th.
Lois Group-9:30 a.m. hostess, JoAnn Stanley 7720 SW 27th St., lesson leader, Anne Jackson. **Martha Group-6:30 p.m.** meet at church, hostess, Lorraine Chellberg, lesson leader, Mary Lou Haugh. **All women of the congregation are invited to attend.**

The members of **First Lutheran Church in Mission Hills, KS** invite you to the **17TH ANNUAL OLD FASHIONED SWEDISH SMORGASBORD, Saturday, March 3, 2012.** For more information or to order tickets, please call 913.362.4150.

CDO NEWS

CDO would like to thank Boy Scout Troop 175 for flipping pancakes at our annual Breakfast for Dinner. It is always nice to mix together two of our ministries. The boys helped to take tickets, cook and serve pancakes and sausage, clean tables and take out trash. Thank you boys!

**ALTAR FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLES
CAN BE DONATED FOR 2012
JUST CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 272-5302.**

**YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR DONUT PROVIDER
OR NOMINATE YOUR FIRST SUPER HERO
AT THE WELCOME CENTER.**

DOORSTEP'S SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 5TH

Please bring all kinds of soup for Doorstep and place on the table by the Doorstep cart. The Doorstep basement stock pile is almost gone. Souper Bowl Sunday is relied on to supply at least 3 kinds of soup for each food order for the majority of the year! **OTHER DOORSTEP FOOD NEEDS:** Jelly, Tuna, Canned Pinto Beans, Corn, Milk (canned & powdered), Pork & Beans, Peas, Noodles (egg & ramen)

VALENTINE'S DAY JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT SWEETER.

You requested **Lutheran World Relief** chocolate and we are delivering chocolate hearts just in time for Valentine's Day. Your one purchase will give many gifts – cocoa and coffee farmers will get a fair price for their crops and their communities will get the opportunity to dig wells, build schools, provide medical benefits and more. Chocolate that changes lives! What could be sweeter than that? **LWR DIVINE CHOCOLATE** will be available for purchase at the Welcome Center on **Sunday, February 12th** along with Fair Trade coffee and tea. Order blanks are on the clipboard at the Welcome Center if the above date is not convenient.

If you can help **LET'S HELP** on the **third Wednesday of any month** please call Bob and Sara Aufdemberge at 256-2672. **The next date for helping is February 15, 2012.**

KNIT FOR KIDS You can see the kids enjoying their sweaters online at www.knitforkids.org. Yarn is available at the Welcome Center if you wish to continue this worthwhile project. **Please bring the sweaters (with your name on them) to church by March 25th.** They will be mailed to **WORLD VISION** and distributed to needy children. THANKS to all the knitters.

THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY, Concordia University, Chicago, River Forest, IL, will be performing in concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3625 SW Wanamaker Road, on **March 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** The 60 member symphony is under the direction of Dr. Richard Fischer. The group has performed in 43 states and numerous countries overseas. This event is sponsored by the Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka. Free will offering. **The LFACT would appreciate help in housing the group. Please call Walt Laughlin, 266-9357 or Dee Sponamore, 232-3236.**

WHO'S YOUR 1ST SUPER HERO?

We will be spotlighting a "super hero" each week in 2012. A brief summary of the super deeds and ministry that person has performed at First or in the community will be detailed in the bulletin and the individual will also receive a Super Hero Certificate, suitable for framing. To do this we need your help! A box has been placed at the Welcome Center (look for the Super Hero poster) together with forms for you to nominate your "1st Super Hero". There are many mild mannered members in our congregation who quietly go about doing the Lord's work and we want to thank them for all they do. Please help us recognize these individuals – nominate them today! **Your Stewardship Committee**

If you have been in church this past month, you have noticed that we are having some fun with stewardship at First this year by naming one of our members a **FIRST SUPER HERO.** These are the fellow members who were **honored in January:** Ralph Krumins, Anne Jackson, John Hanna, and Mary Lou Haugh. Next time you see them, thank them for their ministry at church and in our community.



**SAVE THE DATE
JULY 9-13, 2012
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AND DAY CAMP**

FEBRUARY YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS



THANK YOU for supporting our youth at the Annual meeting meal on January 29th! We raised **\$686** that will go toward sending youth to the National Youth Gathering and Confirmation Camp. A special thanks goes out to all the youth and parents who helped prepare and serve the meal!

You are “souper!”



Super Bowl Party!



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION YOUTH! Are you ready for some football? And taco salad?! And great fellowship?! This **Sunday, February 5th**, you're all invited to a **Super Bowl Party** starting at **5 p.m.** at the **Krug Home (3114 SW Canterbury Lane)**. Dinner and dessert will be provided. Please plan to bring a side dish or snack to share and a two liter bottle of a "stain-proof" soda (i.e. clear or brown cola drinks.) Stay away from the reds and orange sodas, etc. please! If you have any questions, contact **Austin** at **785-806-5134**. Get your game face on, grab a friend, and come on over to watch the game, the commercials, and the ever popular half time show!

30 HOUR FAMINE

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH! You and your friends are invited (and challenged!) to take part in a transformative weekend event – a 30 Hour Famine. Help raise money and awareness about hunger issues that span the globe. Our famine will take place on **February 17th & 18th** and will include lots of fun activities and challenges, including a service project on Saturday. We will collect donations for World Vision at church on the two Sundays leading up to the event – February 5 & 12. We welcome all high school youth to participate and to invite friends! We will be fasting throughout these two days, consuming only juice & water for 30 hours. If there are health reasons why you can't fast, please talk with Pastor Katy, and we'll accommodate.

KID'S NIGHT OUT

CALLING ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS! All children age Pre-K to 6th grade are invited to attend **KID'S NIGHT OUT** at First Lutheran on **Friday, February 10th from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** Games, crafts, songs, and movies will fill the night with fun as we have a “mini-lock-in” all our own! All activities will be held in the north Education wing basement. Cost: \$5 per youth to cover crafts and pizza. If your child has an early bedtime, feel free to pick them up when necessary. Parents, we need help with games, crafts, and snacks! **Sign up to help and to RSVP** for your child and their friend(s) by contacting Pastor Katy at katyaharder@gmail.com or 785-806-6563. Friends are welcome!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES will be offered for students in 1st-6th grade (or anyone who hasn't taken the course!) on **Sunday, March 4th and Sunday, March 11th**. Classes will be held from 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. and will be led by Pastor Katy. **Please register your child by Sunday, February 19th**. To register please e-mail Pastor Katy (katyaharder@gmail.com) or sign up at the Welcome Center.

SUMMER CAMP FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS

Is your child interested in attending a week of camp at Camp Tomah Shinga this summer? Will they be entering 1st-5th grade next fall? **Attend an informational meeting on February 19th at 12:30 p.m. in Room 117** to learn about summer camp opportunities! We'll talk about the costs, dates, and the fun things that happen at camp. If you're interested, but unable to attend, talk with Pastor Katy.