

*First Lutheran Church
512 N Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926-3154*

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*Annual Meeting
January 29th*



THE FLARE

Epiphany

January 2012

*First Lutheran Church
512 N Ruby St, Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-925-2844
flceburg@yahoo.com † www.flc-eburg.org*

From Our Pastor . . .

God's beloved people,

Happy New Year 2012! I'm writing this in mid-December, but January and a new calendar year will be here soon enough. According to the ancient Mayan calendar, the world will end in 2012. Don't count on it. Don't quit your day job. It's possible, but not very probable. In Mark 13:32, Jesus says this about heaven and earth passing away. "But about that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." So second guessing the second coming is pointless. It's best to keep on living in faith, hope and love in Jesus, the light of the world.

In January we enter the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means a revelation, a manifestation, something is brought to light and understood clearly: as in "Aha! I get it!" After the 12 days of Christmas, Epiphany begins on January 6th with the visit of the wise men to the child Jesus. The Magi brought to light that Jesus (not Herod) is the true king and Savior of all humankind. Their gifts revealed that Jesus is worthy of our worship and the best we have to offer, because he is the light of the world. Jesus is the light no darkness can overcome.

Someone has calculated that a certain day toward the end of January is the most depressing day of the year. The nights are still long. The weather is usually cold and snowy or icy or foggy. The credit card bills from Christmas are coming due and it's time to get started on last year's taxes. On top of that the economy is still lousy, people are still unemployed or losing jobs and homes and health insurance.

In the midst of that it's good to remember that Jesus is indeed the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome. On Sunday, January 8th we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. This is another epiphany moment. As Jesus is baptized, the Spirit descends on him like a dove and God's voice from heaven says, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11. Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. He is the light which no darkness can overcome.

Share the good news of Jesus in 2012 with someone who is in the dark and yearns for some light.
Serving Christ together with you,

Pastor Dennis



THANK YOU! Pastor Dennis and family wish to thank everyone for your thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts. You are very kind!

PARISH STAFF

Pastor
Ministry Associate
Organist
Choir Director
Office Administrator
Youth Director
Preschool Teacher
Preschool Aides

Dennis Hickman
Carla Bergman
Betty Kramlich
Tor Blaisdell
Christine Rice
Joe Johnson
Laura Gorman
Kandice Halferty &
Aimee Stinson

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS THROUGH JANUARY 2012

Officers:

President
Vice President
Secretary

Jim Ayers
Alice Wanless
Sue Ayers

Ministry Assignments:

Worship & Music

Alice Wanless
Timothy Hurson
Lynn Blazek
Donna Morris
Debbie Butler

Education
Youth

Charlene Watterson
Ginny Gunderson
Shirley Fischer
Brett Koss
Sue Ayers
Mary Aho

Congregational Life

Outreach
Property Management
Stewardship

Non-Council Positions:

Treasurer
Financial Secretary
South Property
Facility Coordinator

Min Meseck
James Stolte
Glenn Madsen
Don Morris

The FLARE is published monthly. We encourage all members to contribute articles which may be submitted to the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ON KXLE-AM RADIO (1240)



PHONE
(509) 925-2844



WEBSITE
www.flc-eburg.org



EMAIL
flceburg@yahoo.com



Tim Dittmer, Glen Burfeind, dna Madsen, Irene Trosky, Walt Larson, Carol Cheff, Larry Cruz (Dzintra's nephew), Roger deVeer, Glenna Johnson (Alice Wanless's sister, lung cancer), Caliya Jackson (infant), Kevin Whitaker (Acute Myeloid Leukemia), Evelyn Carter (Carol Thovsen's mom), Ramona Pearl, Dillon Duncan (Ian & Bonnie Smith's grandson), Norm Bauer, Gail Bauer, Kendy (a child in Haiti), Jane Peterson, Mary

Ann Hardenbergh (Tim Dittmer's aunt), Pr. Rick Evenson, the people in the countries of the Middle East, for safety for all U.S. Service Men and Women and their families, especially Mark Blazek, Jana (Blazek) Kitelinger, Marcus Nelson, Peter Leonard, leaders of all nations, and for peace in our world and in our families.

We pray also for our Companion Synod, the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Tree of Life Lutheran in Yakima, Bread for the World and FISH Food Bank.

~Please update Pastor Dennis about people on the prayer list~

A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by taking hardships from you,
 But by taking fear from your heart;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
 Not by making your life always pleasant,
 But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
 and by making you anxious to be there to help.
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

~ Author unknown



Confirmation Class: Wed January 4th. This is just a reminder that confirmation classes start up again on Wed. January 4th at 6:30 pm. We will meet every Wed. through Feb 15th. We'll see you there.



Annual Meeting of First Lutheran Church: Sunday Jan 29th.

The annual meeting of our congregation will be Sun. Jan 29th after the 10 AM worship service. You won't go hungry, because the youth will be serving their famous baked-potato bar with all the toppings. We need all voting members of FLC at this meeting to elect 4 new church council members and pass a budget.

Annual Reports due by January 17th



ANNUAL REPORT

If you chair a ministry or head up a group within FLC, please submit a brief written report to the church office by Tues. Jan 17th. These will be included in our annual report packet which we will have available for people to read on Sun Jan 22nd. This is a good way to celebrate the many wonderful ministries which happen through FLC. It doesn't have to be long. Just tell us what you do and who you work with.

FROM THE BISHOP. . .

God's Beloved People,

Grace and peace to you as we move into the beginning of a new church year and come under the urgent word of St Mark's gospel: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1:1. I hope this Advent is the beginning of "light in darkness" for you, for your congregations, and for the terrified people of this world! Let your word be bold, true, and urgent as St Mark's gospel is bold, true, and urgent!

Three shorter things to bring us into the questions we face:

1) Opponents of the ELCA continue to wander through our synod seeking to undercut ministry and raise false questions about the faithfulness of our proclamation and ministry. A resource for you is: <http://elcafactchecker.com>. I am a resource for you as well and my e-mail address is below.

2) Today I give thanks for the faithfulness and scholarship of Hubert Locke, former Dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Washington. Last night I heard Dr. Locke lecture on Martin Niemoller, former U-Boat captain and then pastor of the Evangelical/Lutheran church and leader of the resistance to Hitler. As it turns out Dr. Locke was on his way to becoming a pastor when a life of scholarship beckoned. He never forgot his interest in the Holocaust and the fascinating and faithful/fallible people of World War II Germany. Today I give thanks for scholars and scholarship and for our colleges and schools of the ELCA, especially Pacific Lutheran University. Please keep PLU in your prayers as we seek a new President after 20 years of faithful leadership under Dr. Loren Anderson's leadership. And please keep in your prayers the faithful ministry our synod is doing on college campuses through the work of Diaconal minister Karla Neumann Smiley (UI), campus pastors Shelley Bryan Wee (EWU) and Nick Nicolai (WSU), and a new group seeking to serve the students of Boise State. Through these faithful ministers we offer students prayer support and conversation when hard questions come up like those raised in WW II Germany.

3) Finally: The day is hard and many in our neighborhoods are suffering from loss of jobs, hunger, and hopelessness. I haven't asked our pastors and church council presidents how they feel about this idea, but I'll risk it anyway for the privilege of starting a conversation: Many of you are using your church kitchens and food pantries to help feed the hungry. Thank

WINTER retreat

February 17-19. Lazy-F Camp

Winter Youth Retreat

The Winter Youth Retreat isn't far away. During Presidents' Day Weekend, FLC Youth will travel to Lazy-F Ranch for a couple nights away in the snow. It will be a time for play and worship, including running in the woods, tubing, skating, and avoiding snowballs. We will also sing and study as we set ourselves apart devoted to God and his people. Watch for more information and be sure to sign-up right away (sign-up sheet is on the gym door). We are restricted to the first twenty people signed up. Each Youth is welcome to invite one friend who does not regularly attend FLC. The cost is \$30/per person and includes lodging and all meals (due by 2/5). Friday, February 17–Sunday morning, February 19.

Annual Potato Feed

The Youth will be hosting the annual meeting potato feed (January 29). Of course we need youth to help serve on Sunday, but we also need 4-6 youth to help set up the day before (arrange tables, scrub potatoes, etc.). If you can help, please let Joe know. We'll be at FLC from 1:00 to 3-ish on 1/28.

Adult and Family Participation

The Youth department is part of the body of FLC. Our aim is to integrate into this church, preparing students for a lifetime of worship and service. For true integration to happen, we need everyone's help — from the infants we can care for on a Parents' Night Out to every saint who still draws breath. This year we treasure any participation you can have in this ministry, whether it is prayer, snacks, chaperoning, or just taking a moment to wander into gym chaos to say "hello" to some of our Youth. We thank you for all your support and for being seen, letting us know that Jesus isn't someone we outgrow.

FLC Youth & Family News

Youth Sunday School

Starting, January 8th, Sunday School starts again as we pick up with the “re:form” curriculum, tackling some tough questions about the Christian faith. Every Sunday we’ll spend our mornings in prayer, Bible study, and consideration of those strange beliefs we hold as Christians. Some of the questions we’ll look at soon include, “Who wrote the Bible?”, “How can God be three-in-one?”, and “What does it mean to be ‘born again’?” All Youth, sixth through twelfth grade (or people, including college students, who like to learn with/from 6-12 graders) are welcome every Sunday.



(For more information on the re:form curriculum, visit www.wearesparkhouse.org/reform.)

YOUTHNight

Youth Night’s this Month

Youth Nights are weekly times for worship, fellowship, games, and food — usually for high school (and college students who don’t think we’re too weird to hang out with). We have four YNs this month: no YN on 1/25. Youth Nights last 6:30–7:30 with a shared game time with Confirmation students, 7:30–7:45.

Come spend some time together praising God and enjoying his people.

Stay Connected

Do you want Youth updates through e-mail? If so, please e-mail Joe at flcyouth.eburg@gmail.com to be included on our news and events e-mail list.

you. Perhaps there are other congregations who would consider offering a ministry of food but they are stuck with kitchens that won’t pass regulations about food safety. Shall we make focused SHARE grants available to congregations who might use a small grant to move in the direction of modernizing their kitchens for hunger ministry? In a meeting with the Washington Governor’s office yesterday we asked whether kitchen certification requirements might be relaxed during this time of urgent need. Another idea: If the kitchen regulations can’t be relaxed and if for good reasons it isn’t time to modernize your kitchen for public use, shall some of us begin taking our prepared food to the church once a week for a potluck with anybody who shows up hungry? Could our high school students put out the word among their friends that food and community are available at the Lutheran church? I know; I know: Now I’m really meddling! To those of you already doing ministry like this, Thank You!

I wish you peace and joy in the Advent and Christmas season ahead! The Prince of Peace is coming to us again on the stout hearts of Mary and Joseph and he will be looking for shelter among us. Please God, let our hearts be open as well!

Blessed Days,
Pastor Martin Wells, Bishop
mstmwells@aol.com

Epiphanies

“The word *epiphany* means to show forth. Epiphanies, both large and small, tend to be private events — yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what is was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is that epiphanies are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully.”

~ Father Thomas Rosica

Offering Envelopes

The 2012 offering envelopes are available to be picked up in the fellowship hall. If you do not see a boxed set of envelopes with your name on it and would like envelopes see James Stolte or contact the church office. Thank you!



Missing Dishes

Are you missing any dishes or containers? In the kitchen, on the corner counter are a bunch of misc. dishes and containers that need to find their way home. If any of these are yours please, pick them up. Thank you!!!



O Hatred, on Love

Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929, will be remembered this year on January 16th. Given the rancor rampant in today's world, it's fitting to recall King's words: "Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it."



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SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 1, 2012

Num. 6:22-27
Ps. 8
Gal. 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

January 15, 2012

1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20]
Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor. 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 29, 2012

Deut 18:15-20
Ps. 111
1 Cor. 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

January 8, 2012

Gen. 1:1-5
Ps. 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 22, 2012

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Ps. 62:5-12
1 Cor. 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20



You are encouraged to read these in preparation for worship on Sunday. "Christ in our Home" devotional booklets also follow these Bible readings. Pick up your copy on the small table by the front doors.



1 Corrie Fisher	13 Allen Lehnhoff
1 Fred Watterson	16 Ralph Sorenson
2 Don Childress	18 Timothy Hurson
2 Jensen Lillquist	19 Mark Johnson
5 Roger Sparks	22 Connie Anderson
6 Dave Stambaugh	23 Sarah McNamee
9 Dennis Hickman	23 Brooke Ringe
9 Mila Nelson	24 Dana Childress
10 Betty Swanson	30 Benjamin Firman
12 Cathy Hickman	31 George Robertson
12 Paul Johnson	

WHATS HAPPENING?

Worship with Holy Communion.....Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22
Worship on Wednesday.....Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25
Bible Study, Fellowship, Prayer Group.....Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
Church Council Meeting.....January 9
Confirmation Class.....Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25
YouthNight.....Jan. 4, 11, 18
Men's Lunch.....Jan. 10, 24
February Flare Deadline.....January 17

A Time to Ponder

"New Year's Eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another 12 months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights."

~ Hamilton Wright Mabie

Bob & Kristen Fisher
1/30/88

