

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

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*Annual Meeting  
January 27th*



# THE FLARE

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*January 2013*

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

## From Our Pastor . . .

Happy New Year! May God bless you in 2013 and may you be a blessing to others. Through January 5<sup>th</sup> the church is still celebrating the feast of Christmas. For the shopping malls it all ended on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, except for the returns. But for Christians, we think the birthday of our Savior Jesus is worth celebrating for a full 12 days. On Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> we begin the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is the season of light. In the midst of a cold, dark January we look to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany means a revelation, a manifestation, something is brought to light and clearly understood.

The January church calendar starts out with 3 epiphany events which spell out the good news that Jesus is Lord and Savior. First off, the naming of Jesus on January 1<sup>st</sup> spells out that Jesus is the Savior. What's in a name? Jesus or Joshua/Yeshua in Hebrew literally means "He saves" or "God saves". As the angel told Mary "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:31 Like all Jewish babies, Jesus was named on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of life. In our modern calendars, this is also New Year's Day. How appropriate to start off a new year in the name of Jesus, the one who saves.

Next, we have the Visitation of the Wisemen on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The magi from the East followed the star and traveled long and far to see the child who was born king of the Jews. When they finally found the humble child with his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. The magi brought him gold, frankincense and myrrh: gifts fit for a king. The visit of the magi is an epiphany and reveals that Jesus truly is our good and gracious heavenly king. The wisemen help reveal the truth about Jesus. Wise men and women still seek him today.

Then on January 13<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Jesus is baptized by John in the River Jordan. Though sinless, Jesus is baptized in solidarity with us and with all people. As Jesus is baptized, the heavens are opened, the Spirit of God 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." Luke 3:22. Jesus baptism is his commissioning for service. After he is baptized Jesus starts, teaching, healing, eating with people and feeding them and journeying toward the cross, the grave and the resurrection.

In our own baptisms, God claims us as his daughters and sons and commissions us for service in the name of our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. And trusting in Jesus the Savior of the world, we seek to share the light and love of Jesus with other people.

May your Epiphany season be full of the light of Jesus,  
Pastor Dennis

## PARISH STAFF

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

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

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## CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS THROUGH JANUARY 2013

### Officers:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary

Brett Koss  
Jim Ayers  
Patty Akers

### Ministry Assignments:

Worship & Music

Alice Wanless

Erik Hurson

Education

Sue Ayers

Dewey Keith

Youth

Debbie Butler

Congregational Life

Charlene Watterson

Bev Gruber

Outreach

Doug Fessler

Property Management

Mike Luvera

Stewardship

Patty Akers

### Non-Council Positions:

Treasurer

Min Meseck

Financial Secretary

James Stolte

South Property

Glenn Madsen

Facility Coordinator

Don Morris

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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)



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[flceburg@yahoo.com](mailto:flceburg@yahoo.com)



*Tom Alford (Ackerman's son-in-law: melanoma), Vana Fessler (Doug's mom), The family of Chris Solberg at his passing, Donald Rehkopf, Charlene Watterson, Roger deVeers, Jim Foye, Grace Meyer, Jane Rising (Mary Weeks sister), Gladys Wahle, Linda Busch (cancer), Evelyn Carter (Carol Thovsen's mom), Dillon Duncan (Ian & Bonnie Smith's grandson), 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 Jana (Blazek) Kitelinger, Marcus Nelson, Troy Roberts 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, Bread for the World and FISH Food Bank. We continue to pray for all affected by Hurricane Sandy.

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

## Outreach News

In November, FISH (our food bank) gave away 50,000 pounds of food. And recently the number of clients has set records in terms of their number. There has been enough food.

THANKS FOR ALL THE FOOD YOU DONATE. And thanks to the church for donating dollars to the food bank. All of this helps so much. FISH is looking forward to many persons continuing to come to the food bank this month and in the months to come. These clients are so grateful. The FISH Board is amazed at the continuing blessings the food bank receives each month. Thanks too for serving the Saturday suppers. Attendees are very appreciative.

Thank you again,  
Outreach

## Ministry Meetings Sunday January 13th

Announcing Ministry Meetings, the second Sunday of the month after worship.. This is an invitation for anyone interested in the ministries of First Lutheran, to attend a joint meeting of all ministries. The Ministries consist of Worship and Music, Property Management, Outreach, Education, Congregational Life, Youth, and Stewardship. It will be an opportunity to develop ideas, address concerns and work together, prayerfully, with God's guidance.



## Annual Meeting of First Lutheran Church: Sunday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup>

The annual meeting of our congregation will be Sun. Jan 27<sup>th</sup> 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 new church council members and pass a budget.

## Annual Reports due by January 13<sup>th</sup>



If you chair a ministry or head up a group within FLC, please submit a brief written report to the church office by Sunday, January 13th. These will be included in our annual report packet which we will have available for people to read on Sunday, January 20th. 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.



Pastor Dennis and family wish to thank everyone for your Christmas cards, gifts and Christmas wishes. Your kindness is appreciated.

## FROM THE BISHOP. . .

God's Beloved People,

It seems unlikely that regular readers of this column would need encouragement but I want to take advantage of the turning of the year to encourage those of you who may have been missing church to return to regular attendance. There really is nothing like a "home congregation!"

I discovered this for myself after missing church at my home congregation, St Mark, Spokane, for most of the fall. I've got a good excuse of course, because most Sundays I'm visiting another congregation of the synod or otherwise traveling on business. Let me tell you what I discovered on the hope that it might rekindle your own attendance.

I discovered beloved people! Few of us know everyone in the congregation so it isn't as if I were returning to close friends. What I discovered was a return to familiar faces, often in the same seats as I saw them last, some more frail, some young ones having grown what looked like several inches! These are "my" people, I thought, the sturdy Lutherans, and I know them and they know me. These are the ones I follow in the newsletter prayers. These are the brothers and sisters of the great procession up the aisle to Holy Communion, eyes down, hands out. These are the beautiful and sometimes off-key singers! These are the ones with whom I sing and speak in unison, confessing the faith or responding to prayers. We kneel together. We greet one another with warm "It's so good to see you again" sentiments. We shake hands, look one another in the eye, and wish one another the Peace of the Lord.

Beyond the people of course were more signs of belonging, baptismal belonging, ancient and new symbols of the faith in colors and worship committee creativity. I felt lucky to be present for a choir anthem from "Messiah" that I knew had been prepared for the Advent season. There were announcements about life and death and after the mention of one name I searched the congregation until I could account for beloved friends. With three pastors on staff you'd think there was enough variety in the preaching voices, but one of the geniuses of St Mark is their regular use of other invited preachers. On my day of return we heard a heartfelt proclamation from ELCA Pastor Jeff Solheim, an Air Force chaplain. I thanked God for my pastors Dick, Eric,

## Winter Youth Retreat



### Youth Winter Retreat

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.

There will be a \$30/per person cost, due Sunday, February 3. Begins 4:00 Friday, February 15 until 9:45 Sunday morning, February 17.

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## Souper Bowl Sunday



On Sunday, February 3rd — "Super Bowl Sunday" — First Lutheran has an opportunity to join several other congregations in gathering and donating funds to fight hunger. Youth will stand outside the sanctuary doors collecting donations for the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Please bring a few extra dollars or healthy food to donate. All offerings will be given to FISH Food Bank.

As we watch the Superbowl, let us not forget those who cannot afford a bowl of soup.



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This is just a reminder that confirmation classes start up again on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

# FLC Youth & Family News

## **Lutherhaven Nights at FLC**

Second Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, January 8th

Everyone seemed to have a great time, so come join the fun! All children/youth are invited on the second Tuesday of each month to enjoy games, songs, prayers and Bible stories with Lutherhaven counselors Lauren Bender and Eric Czirr. Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet from 4:30-5:45.

Everyone, including parents, is invited for dinner at 5:45 pm.,. Then middle school and high school meet from 6:15 to 7:40. This is shaping up to be a great thing for the kids and youth of First Lutheran Church!

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## **Annual Potato Feed**

The Youth will be hosting the annual meeting potato feed (January 27th).

We need youth to help serve on Sunday.



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## **High School Youth Group**

Wednesdays, January 2, 16, 23, 30

All high schoolers are welcome to meet with Jonathon Motteler on Wednesdays in January (we won't try to meet on Jan. 9 because Lutherhaven.)

So, 9th through 12th graders come join us from 6:30 to approximately 7:45p.



and Kate.

The point is this: There is a home that we sometimes forget about and under-appreciate. I was welcomed home after a time away and it was very good to be linked in the company of fellow members. I was re-membered in multiple ways! This week all across our synod these home congregations wait for us to make them whole. It was good to sing with gusto knowing my voice always has a place in the St Mark song. It was good to smell the candles and see the smiles that meant my presence was deeply welcomed. If you've been away for awhile come on home! It's good to be home in the community of Jesus' people! And Blessed New Year!

Pastor Martin Wells, Bishop

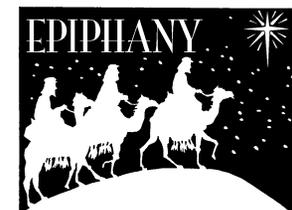
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## **Celebrating Epiphany**

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children.



# The Bulletin Board

## FLC Cooks Dinner at F.I.S.H. Food Bank Saturday, January 19th

We need help cooking and serving dinner at our food bank on Saturday, January 19th. We start cooking and setting up at 3:00 and serve around 5 pm. Clean-up takes about an hour. Come and help for part or all of it as your schedule allows. Let's help make it a good New Year for our hungry and poor neighbors.



## Offering Envelopes

The 2013 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, please add your name to the sign up sheet on the table. Thank you!

## Flower Chart



We have a new flower chart up in the Fellowship Hall. If you are celebrating a special day and you would like to bring flowers for the altar, please sign up.

## Community Christmas Basket Report

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes to everyone who contributed money for the annual Christmas Basket Program this year. Volunteers at the assembling site were thrilled to accept a large donation from members and friends of First Lutheran Church.

A total of \$1,315 was collected after the worship service three Sundays in December. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched up to \$1,000 which made a grand total of \$2,315.00 from First Lutheran.

Families in our community who are in need receive baskets of food and gifts right before Christmas.

Our Quilters also contributed many beautiful quilts to the Christmas baskets. 91 quilts, 22 baby quilts and 1 pillow.

Thank you again to all who participated in the fund raiser for this valuable community program!



## For the New Year

**H**old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)  
**A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)  
**P**ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)  
**P**ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)  
**Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**N**eglect not your talents and opportunities (Gal. 6:10)  
**E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)  
**W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Y**ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11,16)  
**E**xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)  
**A**im for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)  
**R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols



## **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **January 6, 2013**

Isa. 60:1-6  
Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14  
Eph. 3:1-12  
Matt 2:1-12

### **January 20, 2013**

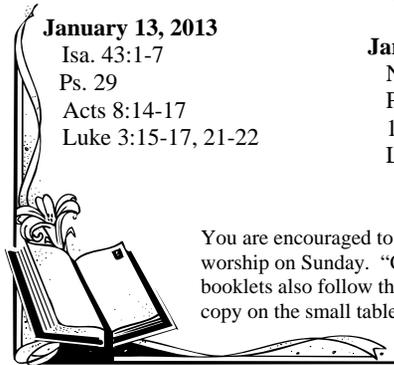
Isa. 62:1-5  
Ps. 36:5-10  
1 Cor. 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### **January 13, 2013**

Isa. 43:1-7  
Ps. 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### **January 27, 2013**

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Ps. 19  
1 Cor. 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21



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.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

Worship with Holy Communion.....Jan. 6, 13, 20  
Worship on Wednesday.....Jan.. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Bible Study, Fellowship, Prayer Group.....Jan.. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Church Council Meeting.....January 14  
Confirmation.....Jan. 2, 16, 23, 30  
High School Youth Group.....Jan. 2, 16, 23, 30  
Men's Lunch.....Jan. 8, 22  
Annual Reports Due.....January 13  
Annual Meeting.....January 27  
All Ministry Meeting.....January 13  
Lutherhaven Night.....January 8  
Budget Forum.....January 13  
February Flare Deadline.....January 15

### **Budget Forum**

Our budget forum, led by Edna Madsen will be Sunday, January 13th. If you have questions or input about the church budget, please come to the 9a budget forum on the 13th. (Don't wait until the annual meeting.)

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



*Bob & Kristen Fisher*  
1/30/88



calendar

calendar