

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Community Thanksgiving Service
November, 26th at 7 p.m.*



THE FLARE

*Let us come
before him with
thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2, NIV

November 2013

*First Lutheran Church
512 N Ruby St, Ellensburg, WA 98926
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From Our Pastor . . .

All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christ the King Sunday

As I write this in mid-October, the leaves on the trees and bushes are turning brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red. Some leaves have already dropped and we have had some cold nights and frosty mornings which put an end to most flowers and gardens. It's a beautiful warm, sunshiny day today, but November is coming. And November means colder temps, more rain or snow, the dying of the landscape and (hardest for me) less daylight hours. November is a month of change.

November is also the last month in this church year: the year of the Gospel of Luke. A new church year, the year of Matthew, begins on Dec 1 with the First Sunday in Advent. In November we celebrate All Saints Sunday-- Nov 3rd, Christ the King Sunday—Nov 24th, and Thanksgiving Day—Nov 28th.

On Nov 3rd, the church celebrates All Saints Sunday. We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith and now live forever in the full kingdom of God. The reformer Martin Luther would also remind us that all Christians are at the same time saints and sinners. We are all sinners, entirely dependent upon the saving grace of Jesus Christ and not on our own merits. At the same time we are saints who seek to live lives of faith and commitment on earth. We give thanks for the saints, the mentors in our lives who have inspired us in the Christian faith. And we ourselves strive to be friends and mentors in the faith for others.

Christ the King Sunday is always the last Sunday in the church year and falls on Nov 24th this year. We celebrate Jesus as the Savior King and the goal of all human history. The gospel reading for Christ the King Sunday is strangely and appropriately the crucifixion of Jesus from Luke 23. Jesus is our King and Savior because he goes to the cross to forgive the sins of the whole world. The thief on the cross beside him says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

We have our National Day of Thanksgiving on November 28th this year. It is good and right that we as a nation pause to give thanks on this day. I know we live in a religiously plural nation now. But my pet peeve is that many folks have forgotten who to thank. Sure, people will say, "I'm thankful for my family" or "I'm thankful for food, clothing and shelter" or "I'm thankful that I live in a free country." These are all wonderful blessings. But let us not fail to mention who we give thanks to: to God, of course! To God the source of all goodness. To God from whom all blessings flow. To God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, love and all that exists. Living with the "gratitude attitude" is a big part of the Christian life.

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
Vacant
Laura Gorman
Kandice Halferty &
Aimee Stinson

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS THROUGH JANUARY 2014

Officers:

President
Vice President
Secretary

Brett Koss
Doug Fessler
Patty Akers

Ministry Assignments:

Worship & Music

Erik Hurson
Nancy Budner
Dewey Keith
Neil Caulkins
Debbie Butler

Education

Youth

Lesley Swan
Bev Gruber
Doug Fessler
Dave Stambaugh
Mike Luvera
Patty Akers

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)



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Bob Wiekling (recovering from heart attack), Don & Donna Morris at the death of their son Jim, Marian Curtis (wife of Elmer Curtis, shingles), The family of James Berry at his death, Pr. Jill Henning (chemo for breast cancer), Elmer Curtis (Helen Waddle's brother-in-law), Cheryl Barnhart (knee surgery), Virg Thovson (heart surgery), Harry Kukes (bone cancer), Patty Shafer (Libby Street's sister) stage 4 cancer, Dainis Zelenko (Dzintra's cousin) cancer treatment, Paul Dittmer (Tim's Dad Lymphoma), Jerry Nelson (Diane Nelson's husband), Anna Richmond, Sandy (Berry) Barnett, Tom Alford (Ackerman's son-in-law: melanoma), Grace Meyer, Gladys Wahle, 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, 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.

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

A Veterans Day Prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home.

Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

~ Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

November is often a stewardship emphasis month in the church. We are asked to consider how we will give of our time, our talents and yes, our treasure, our money, to further the work of God's kingdom in our church, our community and our world. We can do so unafraid, secure in the faith that God has already given us the forgiveness of our sins, life and salvation all through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior.

Serving Jesus together with you,

Pastor Dennis

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service at FLC Tues. Nov 26 at 7:00pm



Everyone is invited to an informal community wide Thanksgiving Worship Service here at First Lutheran on the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving Day. There will be songs and prayers and scripture readings and brief sermons. A number of pastors from various churches in town, including FLC, will be taking part.

The offering will (probably) be given to our FISH Food Bank. Coffee and cookies afterwards, of course. Let's come together and give thanks to our wonderful God!

New Members/Inquirer's Classes

Sundays Nov 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 11:30 AM in the chapel.

Anyone who is interested in joining First Lutheran Church, or simply wants a little refresher on what Lutherans believe and do is invited to attend these four classes after Sunday worship services. We'll meet for an hour or less with Pastor Dennis and read together Dan Erlander's great little book, "Baptized We Live." Please plan on attending all four classes if you can. It's a great time to ask questions and get to know some of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

FROM THE BISHOP. . .

God's beloved People,

This month there are lots of "Bits and Pieces:"

The fall Conference of Bishops meeting has now passed along with the wonderful installation for our new Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. I hope some of you were able to see the live-streaming of the worship service. For those of you who would like to see more, please go to www.elca.org.

The Conference meeting was about celebrating the future and the past. Thick and very dear thanks were offered Bishop Mark Hanson and our Secretary, David Swartling. David is heading back to our country (Bainbridge Island) and will, I'm sure, continue to be active in the Region. Mark and Ione are buying a house in St Paul, MN, and the future is still unknown. Both Mark and David expressed deep thanks to the church for the opportunity to serve.

Otherwise, the Conference meeting was business as usual with lots of reports and new conversation about a 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA as passed by the Churchwide Assembly. Our synod is considering whether this might be an opportune time to do a parallel campaign that would address synod and Churchwide ministries.

Bishop's Convocation is around the corner and I'm deeply grateful for the participation of our rostered leaders. Coming out of this event I expect we will be better prepared for the roller-coaster future that is the challenge of our day. Keeping our congregations focused and centered during days of change is a challenge for all our leaders. Some of "The Way Forward" goals have to do with deeper leadership training for church councils so I look forward to sharing what we learn with congregations.

This month we will give thanks for the excellent leadership of Dr. Phylis Anderson at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Phylis has been a sturdy partner during her whole career as an academic and pastor. We wish her well as she moves into the next phase of life and as the seminary begins a wonderful new chapter associated with California Lutheran University.

A yearly part of my work is a visit to one of our eight seminaries to talk with faculty members and senior students getting ready for their first assignment in the church. I have been to the campus of our Gettysburg seminary before and look forward to a free half-day to soak in the American history, the new Civil War museum on campus (a dorm that was used as a hospital during the battle), and to acknowledge the 150th Anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The important work is with anxious seniors who have lots of questions about assignment and the call process, the health of congregations, and their own goals in ministry. We will be seeking

Parents' Night Out November 1st

It's time for another Parents' Night Out! PNO is a chance for families with young children to get out for a few hours. On Friday, November 1, the FLC Youth will host your kids, feed them, and play games through the night. The night lasts from 5:30 to 9:30. No donations or gratuities will be accepted.

If you have interest in helping out with the event, please be sure to sign up. We need people to cook, supervise, and clean.

Parents and volunteers are asked to sign up so that we plan food and supervision accurately. Contact Sarah Roberts for more information.

(Note to Youth: We also need your help. Please sign up on the gym door. Setup begins at 5:00 p.m. and we'll be cleaning up until around 10:00 p.m.)



Scandinavian Potluck Dinner Wednesday, December 11

Mark your calendars for Dec. 11, the date for our annual Scandinavian Potluck Dinner, which begins at 5:30 p.m.

To attend the dinner, please sign up on one of the 3 Sundays before the event: Nov. 24, Dec. 1 & Dec. 8.

When you sign up to attend, you will be asked to indicate what food items you'll be bringing to share. You will also be given free tickets for each person in your party. There is limited space, so get your tickets and sign up early! (The tickets help us to have an accurate count for the number of table settings needed.)

Lots of help is needed and all are invited to come and take part in this festive event.

(Note to Youth: We need your help to serve coffee at the tables, and to serve cookies after the meal ~ thank you!)

DECEMBER 11

FLC Youth & Family News

Youth Fun Nights: the Second Tuesday of the month November 12th

Everyone seemed to have a great time in October, so come join the fun. All children/youth are invited the second Tuesday of each month to enjoy games, songs, prayers, and Bible Stories. Invite your friends!

The schedule will be:

4:30-5:45 ~ Elementary kids K-5

5:30-5:45 ~ Music for all ages

5:45-6:15 ~ Dinner (for all—parents, too)

6:15-7:30 ~ Middle/high school youth



If you would like to help with these evenings, see Pastor Dennis.

Fall Fun Sunday, November 3rd

On Sunday, November 3rd from 11:30-1:00 there will be a Fall Fun Event for kids ages 4 yrs up to 5th grade.

There will be grilled cheese sandwiches for lunch. Each child will make a craft and decorate a cupcake.

Please notify Danielle Koss or Carla Bergman with the number of kids in your family that will be attending. Hope you can make it!



one or two new candidates for our congregations.

Life is good and I pray the fall has started well for you! Our singular opportunity is to share the confidence we have in life because of the love poured into us by Jesus Christ. God bless and keep you!

Pastor Martin Wells, Bishop



BREAD FOR THE WORLD BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 24th

God's Work, Our Hands

Break out the bread pans! Muster the muffin tins! Prepare the pies! Bake the brownies! Call out the cooks!

It's time for our annual bread (etc!) sale to raise money for Bread for the World! By uniting behind BFTW, we support a strong voice in Washington on behalf of our nation's and our world's hungry people. We help to lift our brothers and sisters out of poverty and despair. We do God's work.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will again match the money we raise, doubling our effect. So all you cooks and bakers – raise clouds of flour, bag up your baked goods and bring them to church (a little early, please) on the morning of the sale, November 24th. Our savvy savants will take it from there.

Thank you for your participation!



Dinner at F.I.S.H. Food Bank November 9th

It is First Lutheran's turn to cook and serve dinner at our FISH Food Bank on Saturday, November 9th. We start setting up, prepping and cooking at 3:00 and serve dinner at 5:00. Clean-up takes about an hour. Come for all or part of it as your schedule allows. And plan to stay and eat with our guests if you are able.



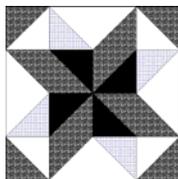
Faith Action Network (FAN) with Pastor Paul Benz Sunday Nov 3rd

On Sunday Nov 3rd, Pastor Paul Benz will bring a greeting and present a certificate to FLC as a member church of Faith Action Network. Pastor Paul will also lead the Sunday Adult Class that day. Faith Action Network is like Bread for the World, but on the state level, and advocates in Olympia on issues of hunger and justice. Nov 3rd will be a good opportunity to learn more about F.A.N. and how we can become more effective in helping our hungry neighbors.

Quilt Sale

Saturday, November 2nd
9a.m. to noon
And Sunday, the 3rd

Quilts \$35.00
Jean Quilts \$50.00
Baby Quilts \$20.00
Jean Baby Quilts \$30.00



Stewardship

Stewardship Stu here with a question. Now that you've thought about how you can participate in the congregational life of First Lutheran and filled out the Time and Talent Survey I wonder if you've given more thought to your financial participation as well? Fall, like winter, spring, and summer is Stewardship Season. The stewardship committee's job is to encourage and challenge all church goers to be more than attenders, to be active members.

You'll soon be receiving a Financial Giving Questionnaire. We ask you and your family to consider the hopes and goals we all have for our church and respond appropriately. Please pray about your personal budget and the amount you want to set aside for the work of the church. The Biblical norm is a tithe, 10% of your wealth. It seems like a lot but it's an amount that is within reach. Do the math, see what 10% of your income is, see what percentage your current giving is, then decide if you can get closer to tithing. As odd as it seems returning a portion of the gifts we're given really is a blessing.

Remember, it's called "Offering" and that implies actual sacrifice that may well be outside a \$10 a week comfort zone. Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it at the appropriate time... and if you haven't filled out a new Time and Talent Survey get a copy in the church office and let your interests be known. Thanks for reading this and responding.

See you in Church. *Stu*

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3rd

Don't forget to change your clocks back an hour!

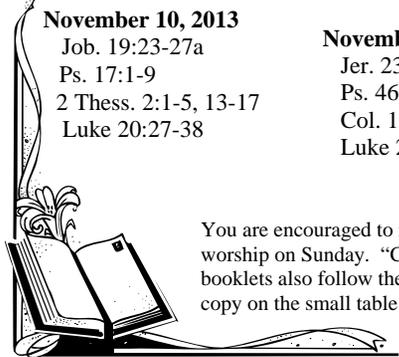


P.S. You will have the opportunity to bring your pledges forward on Sunday, November 17th if you wish.

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SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 3, 2013 Dan. 7:1-3, 15-18 Ps. 149 Eph. 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31	November 17, 2013 Mal. 4:1-2a Ps. 98 2 Thess. 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19
November 10, 2013 Job. 19:23-27a Ps. 17:1-9 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	November 24, 2013 Jer. 23:1-6 Ps. 46 Col. 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43



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.....Nov. 3, 10, 17
 Worship on Wednesday.....Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27
 Bible Study, Fellowship, Prayer Group.....Nov. 7, 14, 21
 Church Council Meeting.....Nov. 11
 Men's Lunch.....Nov. 12, 26
 All Ministry Meeting.....Nov. 10
 December Flare Deadline.....Nov. 15

Change of Address



If anyone is going to be away for the winter, please let the office know so we can either hold your Flare for you or mail it to your temporary address. Thank you!

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Jeanie Lusk | 16 Don Ringe |
| 4 Rita Sparks | 17 Arlein Anderson |
| 5 Natalie Idler | 17 Matthew Ferris |
| 6 Theresa Widner | 19 Robert Case |
| 10 Marian Black | 19 Michael Luvera |
| 11 Megan Burfeind | 22 Bonnie Smith |
| 11 Dewain Lien | 24 Joyce Weekes |
| 13 Patricia Swearingen | 25 Virgil Thovson |
| 14 Donna Morris | 28 Kim Dawson |
| 15 Janet Hodges | 29 Ethel Jones |



Alfred & Estelle Johnson
 11/10/1956
Joseph & Lynn Blazek
 11/17/1979
Ian & Bonnie Smith
 11/22/1975



calendar

calendar