

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Sunday School Begins  
September 15th*

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# THE FLARE

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Sunday School  
Begins  
Sunday, September 15th

*September 2013*

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

## From Our Pastor . . .

Dear People of God,

I pray you have had a good summer. I hope you have had opportunities to visit family and friends and get a little rest and relaxation. The Hickman's enjoyed some vacation time to do some camping, go to the beach and visit family. I, and sometimes Kyle, enjoyed some great hiking in our own Cascade Mountains. Soon the Ellensburg Fair and Rodeo will be here and then the school year begins. I know most kids don't like to think about school during the summer time. But school always arrives in September, like it or not, and life becomes more structured once again.

It's been a hot thirsty summer. By the middle of August I'm always tired of dragging around sprinkler hose in order to keep the grass, garden and flowers from burning up in the heat. I always look forward to cooler days in September and cooler nights for better sleeping. It seems like I'm always thirsty in the summer and usually have a glass of cold water nearby.

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35. Are you thirsting for the word of God this summer? Are you thirsting for Jesus the Word of God? Just as we need to drink plenty of H2O in the summer heat to stay healthy, we also need to drink often of Jesus, the water of life.

Perhaps it's been a bit of a spiritually dry summer for you. If so, I invite you back to the water coolers of worship and Sunday School and Bible study and Christian fellowship in September.

Sunday School for adults starts at 8:45 AM on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> in the chapel room. The Adult class will continue studying the Gospel of Luke on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome to the Thursday morning Bible Study. We begin at 9:00 AM with prayer and then read and discuss the Bible lessons for the coming Sunday. Our confirmation ministry will start up again on Wed. Sept 11<sup>th</sup> with a pizza party and orientation. Women's Bible Study continues at 7 pm on Wednesdays. If you need to be out of town on a Sunday or have to work or want some more spiritual food and drink, we do offer a Wednesday morning holy communion service at 7:00 AM. This is an informal 30 minute worship service of songs, Bible readings, prayers, a brief message and the Lord's Supper. Coffee and fellowship afterwards, of course!

Remember to eat and drink often of Jesus, the bread of 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  
  
Laura Gorman  
Kandice Halferty &  
Aimee Stinson

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

Education

Youth

Congregational Life  
Outreach

Property Management  
Stewardship

### Non-Council Positions:

Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
South Property  
Facility Coordinator

Min Meseck  
James Stolte  
Glenn Madsen  
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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*Jerry Hickman (Dennis' dad), Esther Lygre (David's mom, broken hip), Mary Aho (at the death of her father), Harry Kukes (bone cancer), Lovelia Case (recovering from heart bypass surgery), Ginny Krekling and family at the death of her Father, 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~*

## Divine Forgetfulness

For humans, forgetfulness can be frustrating and worrisome. Yet it can be a blessing to be able to forget certain things.

The late professor and author Gerhard E. Frost noted that “forgiveness is a beautiful form of forgetfulness” — a heaven-sent absent-mindedness.

For what is failure to forgive but the refusal to release a memory of someone's hurtful actions? Only by releasing old grudges and choosing to forget past wrongs can we find peace. For help, we can look to God as the ultimate example of “forgetting” sins.



and the living water. And remember to invite others to dine on Jesus. He is true nourishment for our hungry, thirsty spirits.

Serving Christ with all of you,

Dennis Hickman, pastor



## Confirmation Pizza Feed Wed. Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents who are interested in our Confirmation ministry are invited to a pizza feed and information time from 6:30 to 7:30 pm on Wed. Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be a good time to ask questions, get an overview of the year and sign up to be acolytes and parent helpers. We don't have the Lutherhaven Counselors this year, but we are thinking that we can do a home-grown version of the fun-nights every second Tuesday of the month. On Sept 11<sup>th</sup> we will also walk through what you do as an acolyte on Sundays. Actual confirmation classes will start on Wed Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. This year we will be studying the Old Testament and the 10 Commandments.

Please let pastor Dennis know how many from your family are coming to the Pizza Feed on Wed Sept 11<sup>th</sup> so he orders enough food. 925-2844 church, 933-2605 home.

Ninth graders who are ready to be confirmed this Fall, we'll start meeting Sundays after worship in October to get going on your faith statements. (Now is a great time to finish up any missing assignments and/or worship notes!) Your actual confirmation Sunday will most likely be October 27<sup>th</sup>. Families, please let me know if that date works or does not work for you.

Pastor Dennis

## FROM THE BISHOP. . .

God's Beloved People,

Several of you have written or called asking about the "flavor" of the Churchwide Assembly and the meaning of our election of Pr. Elizabeth Eaton as presiding bishop. As I write the election news is still very fresh so there may be more to be said in the days ahead. For now I'll just say a curious cluster of events came together to account for this surprising result. As many of you know Bishop Mark Hanson had indicated his willingness to be elected for a third term. I certainly expected him to be reelected.

The first ballot was the nominating ballot and, as expected, Bishop Hanson received the most votes. I didn't expect a first ballot win (it takes 75%) but some will probably look back and say it was a surprise that Bishop Hanson didn't receive a stronger vote. I attribute that—and the results of the second ballot—to the fact that many of us wanted this election to be an open conversation about the state of the church and our place in the rapidly changing landscape. Since we vote for Bishop so seldom—every six years—it is important that we have open and wide-ranging conversation as part of the election process. If a winner is declared too soon, that chance for conversation is lost.

Persons nominated on the first ballot must withdraw by the second ballot or be committed to the length of the process. There were many who received 1 vote and many removed themselves right away. Strangely enough, with four votes, which I attribute to some affectionate "favorite son" sentiments, I finished in the top 20 candidates. As I was signing the withdrawal papers it was possible, reading upside down on the ledger the secretary was working with, to see that many who finished in the top 20 were withdrawing. I took a step back to reconsider, not because I thought I was qualified, but because to my way of thinking that meant the chance for the big conversation was melting. I finished withdrawing and walked away disappointed that a couple of bishops who I know to have strong feelings about the future of the church had withdrawn.

Others stayed in the hunt and by the third ballot it was clear that instead of gaining votes, Bishop Hanson was stalled. For me that was the first indication that something new might be in the air. To their credit three bishops had decided to stay in the process and I knew



## Annual FLCW Rummage Sale

Fri., October 4th ~ 9:00-4:00

Sat., October 5th ~ 9:00-1:00

**The Annual FLCW Rummage Sale is coming right up, in October!**

**Items may be brought to the church beginning Sunday September 29th until noon on Thursday, October 3rd.**

~ Please, no magazines, computers, or exercise equipment. And make sure all appliances and clothing are clean and ready for use.

~ We will need help marking items and organizing the donations. Please drop in during the week to help when you can.

~ We need lots of help the day and a half of the sale and help with loading leftovers into pickups Saturday at 1:00 p.m.



~ We will also need many pies and bread! **BAKERS**—Please bring your baked goods in by Friday morning!

Any questions? Please call Linda Strand 929-1816 or Diana Lien.

# FLC Youth & Family News

## **Beginning of Sunday School Celebration September 15**

The first day of Sunday School classes will be September 15 beginning at 8:45am. Children age 4 to 5th grade meet in the Bible Adventure room with Carla Bergman, Cookie Ringe, and Danielle Koss. Middle school/high school will be in the youth room off the gym with Joe Johnson, and adults meet with Pastor Dennis in the Chapel room.

After the worship service, we'll have a celebration! Sunday School children and youth are planning to serve "Sunday Sundaes" after worship. All are invited to make and enjoy a sundae complete with toppings and whipped cream during fellowship time.

So please come and celebrate the beginning of Sunday School classes on Sept. 15!



that they, too, had a strong desire for reflection together. Another quirk in the process soon appeared. As the field reduced to seven candidates it became clear that three of the candidates were not present in the hall and likely weren't even in Pennsylvania! When the ballot was presented each of them had sent a note indicating that they would not continue in the process and confirming that by declining to fill out the more extensive biographical information that was required for this ballot. This further eroded the capacity of the process to produce strong and clear reflection as we had four voices to answer prepared questions instead of the expected seven.

After that it was a simple process of elimination as candidates fell away because they received the fewest votes. I thought Bishop Hanson represented himself well, but at this point it was clear that the voting members were open to new leadership. Bishop Eaton is very, very good on her feet, bright, a little brash, irreverent, and funny. She is also competent and faithful. Alongside her I'm afraid Bishop's Hanson's responses looked tired.

Bishop Hanson was very honorable in closing remarks. He insisted that the process was about call and that it was now clear that another person had been called to leadership. Bishop Eaton admitted that she had not expected to prevail but outlined some beginning thoughts and encouraged the church to look ahead. She will face the same steep learning curve that Mark Hanson faced 12 years ago. Today we begin another key election process for Secretary.

Yesterday was an exhausting and emotional day. My first thoughts are for Mark Hanson and his family. He had every reason to hope for reelection and our church owes him a deep debt of gratitude for leading us through tumultuous years. His leadership, particularly in difficult assemblies, was even-handed, faithful, and kind. He will not be lost to us, but it will be some months while he collects himself and prepares for new service. A day has been saved in the fall conference of bishops calendar—October 5—for an installation service at Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of The University of Chicago. Come, Holy Spirit!

Bishop Martin Wells

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## **Outreach**

Starting in September, the Outreach Ministry is encouraging kids to bring a can of food for FISH once a month. The food will be placed in a wagon - which will be pulled up as children go up for "Kid's Time" during the service.

A reminder will go out a week before this will happen each month. It would be fun if each child could pick out a food that he/she really likes (when the family is grocery shopping ) and bring that to the service.



# The Bulletin Board

## Dinner at F.I.S.H. Food Bank September 7th

It is First Lutheran's turn to cook and serve dinner at our FISH Food Bank on Saturday, September 7th. 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.



## Choir Resumes Thursday, October 3rd



It's time to start singing so get those pipes warmed up for choir rehearsals which will be Thursday, October 3rd in the Sanctuary at 7p.m.. Of course, we at First Lutheran sing in church every Sunday, (and sing very well, too) but we love to have our choir sing anthems to help celebrate what God has done for us. Please consider joining the choir this fall we would LOVE to have all the chairs in the choir area filled each week. Anyone with a love of singing is welcome.

## Stewardship Stu

Stewardship Stu here with a request instead of a question this time. Please include in our prayers our teachers and professors as they return to their class rooms this fall, that they may nourish and challenge the minds of their students, and find satisfaction in their calling. Thanks, see you in church. Stu

## Churchwide Celebration

There is to be a special church-wide celebration beginning on Sunday, Sept. 8th. Our church, along with 4 million members, nearly 10,000 congregations, and 65 synods, will be marking the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The theme is, "God's Work. Our Hands." ELCA members (that's us!) are encouraged to engage in service activity in their community. First Lutheran will have such activities from Sept. 8 through Christmas.

People who attend our church are encouraged to think of needs we can be involved with in our community. As well, the ministries of the church will be sponsoring service projects. One obvious example is under the title of "hunger." Of course, there is FISH food bank. There is also another food bank called "Apoyo" which mainly offers help to Latinos. We can help both of these food banks - as well as the clothing center at the United Methodist Church. "Homelessness in Ellensburg" is an area we need to know more about - starting with a speaker who can inform us. Habitat for Humanity is a busy activity. Perhaps some of us can provide meals for the builders. Also, individuals may need help.

Put your thinking caps on and think of more ways we can be of service to others!

Let's celebrate!  
Outreach Ministry



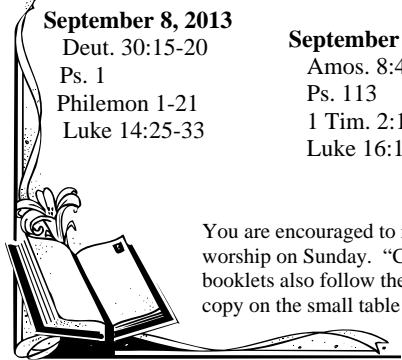
## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ELCA Sunday Sept 8, 2013

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is being encouraged as a celebration of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 25 years ago the LCA (Lutheran Church in America), the ALC (American Luther Church) and the AELC (Assoc. of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) combined to form the ELCA. The theme for the anniversary is "God's Work: Our Hands." Congregations across the U.S. are encouraged to do hands-on service projects in our communities as a way of celebrating "God's Work: Our Hands." First Lutheran will be cooking and serving the Saturday night dinner at our FISH Food Bank on September 7<sup>th</sup>. And we are open to other good service project ideas to help celebrate "God's Work: Our Hands." We don't have to accomplish everything by Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. We can easily keep going through the fall. Ideas?

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**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

<b>September 1, 2013</b> Prov. 25:6-7 Ps. 112 Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14	<b>September 15, 2013</b> Exod. 32:7-14 Ps. 51:1-10 1 Tim. 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	<b>September 29, 2013</b> Amos. 6:1a, 4-7 Ps. 146 1 Tim. 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
<b>September 8, 2013</b> Deut. 30:15-20 Ps. 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	<b>September 22, 2013</b> Amos. 8:4-7 Ps. 113 1 Tim. 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	



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.....Sept. 1, 8, 15, 29  
 Worship on Wednesday.....Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25  
 Bible Study, Fellowship, Prayer Group.....Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26  
 Church Council Meeting.....Sept. 9  
 Sunday School Begins.....Sept. 15  
 Men's Lunch.....Sept. 6, 20  
 All Ministry Meeting.....Sept. 8  
 October Flare Deadline.....Sept. 15

**Adult Ed. Class**

Adult Sunday Class begins September 15 at 8:45am in the Chapel Room. We'll continue in the Gospel of Luke where we left off last May, Luke 17. Newcomers and everyone is welcome to join Pastor Dennis.

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Charlene Watterson | 20 Delores Vietzke     |
| 4 Jennifer Johnson   | 20 Marissa Wickerath   |
| 6 Karen McLean       | 21 Taylor Dawson       |
| 10 Ann Ringe         | 21 Kari Ponchene       |
| 10 Lois Sorenson     | 23 Geraldine Childress |
| 10 Howard Swearingen | 23 Henry Sorenson      |
| 11 Greg Beach        | 24 Micah Barnhart      |
| 12 Gese Gruber       | 28 Jacob Ferris        |
| 15 Jim Ayers         | 28 Donald Wanless      |
| 18 Harry Kukes       |                        |



*Leroy & Doreen Day*  
9/2/67

*Andrew & Karen Schock*  
9/11/82

*Ken & Carrie McNamee*  
9/27/86



calendar

calendar