



first lutheran
church

Rest. Heal. Grow. Love. Serve. Belong.

the torch



Volume 9, Issue 10
February 2017

Musings

The Church Is Not a Building...

Some say that throughout the history of the church, its buildings have been a reflection of how Christians see their fellowship . . . or their connection with God and with each other.

In the beginning, when Peter and Andrew, James and John, were still walking this earth, church was held in small intimate settings, in what some call “house churches,” where brothers and sisters in Christ would gather together to listen to the Gospel stories and learn what Jesus did for us on Calvary’s cross. They heard how He calls us to live our lives, be baptized and receive communion. They shared how the Spirit was moving in their lives and how they could help each other.

But a thousand years after that, things changed. The small house churches became gigantic stone structures reaching up toward the heavens. The ceilings were covered with pictures of a white-bearded God the Father who was way up in the sky looking down on us poor mortals.

There were no seats and you had to be very quiet. People had to go outside of the church to have fellowship, talk about their faith lives, and learn how they could help and support each other.

Now, about another 1000 years has gone by and the church is changing once again. Some theologians even say that we might be entering

another much needed Reformation. And church buildings too are changing.

They are becoming smaller, more intimate settings where people can once again, like the early church of St. Paul’s time, come together to hear God’s word, receive His blessings in communion, and praise Him for all that He continues to do for us.

It’s a place to get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ and serve the community around us as His shining lights.

It’s the church found in Matthew, chapter 28, where Jesus instructs His disciples, saying . . .
“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Pastor Mike

**The church is not a building,
The church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place,
The church is a people.**

**I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus all around the world!
Yes, we’re the church together!**

Deadline to submit items for the next issue of The Torch: Wednesday — February 22, 2017

Look Who's Celebrating in February Birthdays

2 Blake Maston	18 Pam Crane	26 Arlyn Matthies
3 Lisa Gross	21 Kate Mackensen	26 Morgan Warren
17 Linda Hixon	23 Liam Efimoff	
17 Alex Myers	25 Jerry Kunde	

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

Believe it or not, Lent is almost here.

Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday

5:30 pm—Community Dinner / Soup Supper
6:45 pm—Ash Wednesday Worship with imposition of ashes

Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5

5:30 pm—Community Dinner / Soup Supper
6:45 pm—Lenten Worship

Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 13—Maundy Thursday

6:45 pm—Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 14—Good Friday

6:45 pm—Good Friday / Tenebrae Worship

Sunday, April 16—Easter Sunday

NOTE: For a full calendar of events, please see Sunday announcements, the online calendar... or contact the church office.



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Our Mission Statement

Bringing the Word of God and Christ's gift of salvation into every life as the hands and feet of Jesus, meeting physical and spiritual needs.

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We Are First Lutheran Church.