



first lutheran
church

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

the torch



Volume 8, Issue 9
January 2015

Musings What the New Year Holds

Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters at First Lutheran Church! It is my privilege to be able to serve you in any way I can during Pastor Mike's recuperation period. It's a real pleasure I look forward to.

January is an exciting month. For starters January 1 is my birthday. Did you know that in Japan the New Year is celebrated for three days and most workers have it off? I like that tradition.

January 3 is another important day for me. It is National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day. Of course you are aware that on January 5, 1956 was the first day that the cartoon character Snoopy walked on two legs.

For the Church, January 6 is the celebration of Epiphany, coming from the Greek word *epiphaneia* (επιφανεια) meaning "an appearing." It is a festival in Christianity commemorating in the Western Church, the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, and in the Eastern Church, the baptism of Jesus; thus it is the showing forth of Jesus to the Gentiles. The dictionary defines epiphany as the manifestation of a supernatural or divine reality.

And how many of us would like to forget that on January 9, 1799 the first income tax was initiated. Most of us are old enough to remember that on

January 28, 1986 the spacecraft Challenger exploded.

We will be electing a new president this year and the race will be in the news most every day. It is so important for every Christian to vote. Our nation faces some real challenges these coming years. 2015 continued to expose the battle between the forces of evil and those of God. Let's pray for God's protection and guidance for all those involved in the security of our nation – police, firefighters and all those in the military. As Christians, in spite of stress we may experience from all that the forces of evil can bring, we know that nothing happens without God's approval. We know who is really in control, and we can find peace in the fact that in Christ our future is secure.

We continue to be His voice and His example to this fallen world. We know that all things work for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Let us hold to this truth as we face the challenges that lie ahead in this coming year that may bring some tough times.

My wife Chareise and I wish you all of you a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Rich Prickett
Browns Valley

NOTE: Pastor Mike is recovering nicely from his heart valve replacement surgery. His plan is to be back in the pulpit the first Sunday in February—we'll keep you posted.

Deadline to submit items for the next issue of The Torch: Monday — January 27, 2016

February Escape

It's January and winter has definitely set in. But winter isn't the same everywhere...

That means it's time to start talking about attending the Best Practices for Ministry conference in Phoenix, AZ—February 18-20, 2016.

Ministries at First Lutheran Church have benefitted every year from our attendance at BPM. We have started new ministries (K-9 Comfort Dog, for example) and gathered ideas for improving existing ministries.

It's a wonderful way to network and recharge for ministry. We meet Lutherans from all over the U.S. Registration topped 1,100 in early December.

And it takes place in Phoenix in February—odds on, the weather will be lovely. As we said, winter isn't the same everywhere.

If you'd like to join us, contact Ellen at 673-8894.

Comfort Dog Arrives!!

The official "Passing of the Leash" ceremony will be held in both services on Sunday, February 14.

There will be a reception after the second service in the Fellowship Hall. We will need hors d'oeuvres and/or snacks to serve at the reception. Please bring something to share if you can.

Please join us for the celebration!

Thank You, Sean

Our Director of Youth Ministries, Sean Jones, has been hard at work during Pastor Mike's absence. He has preached one Sunday so far as well as both Christmas Eve services.

However, much of what he has done so far is behind the scenes in the church office. He has helped keep us afloat, making sure that we have folks to run the projector at services and being available for hospital calls, should the need arise.

In coming weeks, you'll be hearing him preach for most of the month of January.

Offering Envelopes

We will NOT be using preprinted offering envelopes in 2016. Only about 16% of members used them regularly.

Giving is easily tracked in other ways. If you use a check, we can track giving using the information on the check. If you prefer to give cash, use a green pew envelope and simply write your name on it. Online giving is tracked by the profile you provide.

Year end giving statements for 2015 will be emailed by January 15, 2016. If you want a paper copy, please let the office know at ellen@flcyc.org or 673-8894.



*Rest.
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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.

EVENTS + Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Valentines Day

PASSING OF THE LEASH

Our K-9 Comfort Dog officially arrives in February. A “Passing of the Leash” ceremony will be held at both services on February 14. We will hold a reception after the late service in the Fellowship Hall. Hors d’oeuvres and snacks will be served, along with a very special cake! Please join us for the celebration. (And bring snacks or hors d’oeuvres-type foods to share if you can.)

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



Serving at FLC—January 2016

Readers

MONTH OF JANUARY 2016

8:30 am	10:30 am
Jan 3 Rose Wood	Diane Jaeger
Jan 10 Barbara Swift	Barbara Franckowiak
Jan 17 Ellen Hackerd	Sandy Denley
Jan 24 Karin Vannett	Tim Dorcy
Jan 31 Diane Grindstaff	Gail Clutter

Communion Preparation	A/V Tech
John & Barbara Swift	8:30 am— John Olivera
	10:51 am— Shellody Efimoff

Look Who's Celebrating in January!

Birthdays

8 Betty Fisk	30 Brianna Putman
8 Jerry Gross	30 Sierra Putman
8 Grace Spoor-Reeves	30 Tracy Titus
13 Chase Ransom	31 Steve Marshall
14 Zane Millang	30 Shelby Kiesow
20 Ralph Clutter	30 Katie Saavedra
24 Larry Jones	30 Britta Holland
28 Ruby Rodda	31 John Eddings

Anniversaries

20 Ed and Cheryl Lang
24 Chuck and Debbie Cantando

