



first lutheran  
church

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

# the torch



Volume 9, Issue 3-4  
July-August 2016

## Musings

### Are You All Ears?

In the past few months, because of external and internal stresses and strains, challenges and fears, both perceived and actual, I've found myself reacting in what my past professors and instructors would call... "not the healthiest manner."

During times like this, I tend to go back and review certain areas of my training ... which brings me to the concept of listening. Striving to be a good, active listener is one way that we can be a blessing to ourselves as well as others.

Now, some people may be saying, "What in the world is he talking about? I listen every day to a whole mess of people – at home, at work, at school... it's easy. What's the big deal?"

However, being a good listener is a purposeful act that takes practice. For instance, how many times have you ever needed to share your feelings, to relate something that happened to you and how it affected you? Meanwhile, the person you're telling about it doesn't even look at you, but just nods and



says, "Unhunh, that's nice..."? It's like their mind is miles away from you.

When that happens, how do you feel? Angry, sad? That you seem to have absolutely nothing worthwhile to say and no one cares? We may put on our "brave face," but the result is hurt feelings and a sense of not being valued.

A couple was being interviewed on the occasion of their 50th anniversary was asked, "What is the secret of being married so long?"

"That's simple," one of them answered. "One of us talks and the other one doesn't listen."

That may be the world's way of "listening," but it's not the way the Lord would have us listen.

The simple act of truly listening to someone helps you to reflect caring Christian love to those we encounter every day. So stop what you are doing and pay attention to what people are saying to you. Give them the sense that you care about what they are relating to you. It just may help them to get through a situation that they are dealing with.

Listening is important in our relationship with the Lord as well. The Bible tells us, "Listen and receive the blessings of God... listen to God and live in safety, without fear and at ease.

The Scriptures also give us this great hope saying that God listens to all who, through faith, endeavor to do the Lord's will in their time here on earth.

Let's all try to honestly listen to each other and walk alongside one another, doing and living out the will of Christ in our lives.

*Pastor Mike*

Deadline to submit items for the next issue of The Torch: Wednesday — August 24, 2016

## L.W.M.L. CHATTER

Is it a coincidence that the massacre in Florida the first part of June shared the same topic found in the summer quarterly of the Lutheran Woman's Missionary League Quarterly magazine?

The Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender topic is uncomfortable and we prefer to avoid it; however, what are our reactions if one of our members or family is coping with the problem? Read the article by Donna Pyle.

We have studied her lessons on the "Armor of God" and heard her speak at the convention in Sacramento, and she is on target. There are no easy answers. She quotes Jesus when He spoke to the disciples the same night He instituted The Last Supper: "A

new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13, 34-35).

The same commandment applies to our speech. The evening news featured a dad with a shaven head and a scar tattooed on his skull. His tattoo mimicked the real scar on his son's head. The son had survived brain surgery and his schoolmates called him names. Yes, words can hurt, but kind truthful words can and do heal.

Pick up the Quarterly in the patio room and remember "to put your brain in gear before putting your mouth in motion." Have a great summer!

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## Christmas Trivia

Did you know that one of our beloved Christmas carols makes no mention at all of Jesus or Christ's birth?

Attend this year's Advent by Candlelight and find out which one it is. The theme is "**Sing We Now of Christmas**" and we'll be looking at the history of some of our favorite carols and see how they came to be.

See Juanita Eddings or Barbara Franckowiak for further information.

*"Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing His praise in the congregation of the  
faithful!"*

Psalm 149:1

SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, December 2, 6:55 pm**  
in the Fellowship Hall

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## Six Tiny Stories with Great Messages

{1} Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's **FAITH**.

{2} When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. That's **TRUST**.

{3} Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake us up. That's **HOPE**.

{4} We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's **CONFIDENCE**.

{5} We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's **LOVE**.

{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence: "I am not 66 years old. I am sweet 16 with 50 years experience." That's **ATTITUDE**.

Live your life like the six tiny stories!

May you always have love to share, health to spare  
and friends who care.

[Thanks to Gail Clutter]

## National Night Out

First Lutheran is observing “National Night Out” on **Tuesday, August 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.**

Here’s what you can expect ...

- Gail Clutter is planning a craft area for kids
- A bounce house obstacle course
- Free hot dogs and snow cones

- Visits from the police and fire departments, and city officials
- The Reuben Comfort Dog Zone

If you can help with set up, clean up, or any of the stations or zones, please sign up as soon as possible.

**Come out, meet the neighbors and have some fun!**



## EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendars

We will continue Wednesday Community Dinners at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. (If you would be willing to help cook, please see Pastor Mike or check the sign-up sheet. We can also use people to clean up the dining room and wash dishes.)

On Tuesday, August 2, 5:30-8:30 pm, we will be observing "National Night Out" in our parking lot [see article on page 3].

Monday, August 22, 6:30 pm  
"22" Veterans Support Group with Reuben (in our Patio Room)

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

## Serving at FLC

### Readers

#### 8:30 am

July 24 **Barbara Swift**  
July 31 **Ellen Hackerd**  
Aug 7 **Buck Foster**  
Aug 14 **Diane Grindstaff**  
Aug 21 **Rose Wood**  
Aug 28 **Barbara Swift**

#### 10:30 am

July 24 **Sandy Denley**  
July 31 **Barbara Franckowiak**  
Aug 7 **Diane Jaeger**  
Aug 14 **Sandy Denley**  
Aug 21 **Tim Dorcy**  
Aug 28 **Gail Clutter**

### A/V Techs

#### 8:30 am

Aug 7 **Dylan Efimoff**  
Aug 14 **Jackie Kiesow**  
Aug 21 **Steve Marshall**  
Aug 28 **John Olivera**

10:51 am—**Shellody Efimoff**

## Look Who's Celebrating

### Birthdays

July 18 **David Denley**  
**Shaylyn Matthies**  
July 20 **Cheryl Lang**  
**John Olivera**  
July 22 **Len Close**  
July 29 **Darlyn Close**  
**Bonnie Sloan**  
July 30 **Brenna Standard**  
July 31 **Dylan Efimoff**  
Aug 1 **Linda Barnhart**  
Aug 4 **Nancy Davis**  
Aug 10 **Shawn Matthies**  
Aug 18 **Brandon Coupe**  
Aug 20 **Barbara Franckowiak**  
Aug 27 **Al Vannett**  
Aug 30 **Tony Ettl**

### Anniversaries

July 20 **Eric and Kate Mackensen**  
July 27 **Al and Karin Vannett**  
July 29 **Jerry and Lisa Gross**  
Aug 4 **Steve and Nickie Hutton**  
Aug 21 **Lorin and Bonnie Grahn**



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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.**