

**January 2012**



a publication of First Lutheran  
Community Church



Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
who unto man his Son hath given;  
While angels sing with tender mirth,  
a glad new year to all the earth.

- Martin Luther



**Pastor Doug Nemitz**

**Virgil Wood, Pastor Emeritus**

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” — Matthew 2:2

We call them wise, the ones who asked about this birth. How might they have been wise? One of their ways that made them wise was their willingness to ponder the expanse of the heavens. Under the panorama of the night, they contemplated dark and light, movement and mystery. It all meant something; they were sure of it. But what message did the dark heavens hide?

On our journey with Jesus we know that we have our times of darkness. We have more questions than answers, more hopes than certainties. We can say, “I don't know” and “I'm sorry” with ease and truthfulness. We confess the reality of our limitations and humanity. In such darkness, the arrival of light will be truly illuminating and welcome. It will ease our discomforts and embolden our actions.

Discipleship is rooted in this kind of watchfulness, truthfulness, and openness. Time spent in prayer and in the Scriptures help us be honest about the complexity of our questions and circumstances. Time devoted in these pursuits help us define our mission.

Do we really understand who we are in God's eyes—and in this time and place? Do we know those around us—in worship and in the neighborhood—and can we say with certainty what God is asking us to do as we reach toward them?

Scripture can bring light to our darkness as it speaks about the insight and courage that others have had in the face of such questions. Prayer can make us receptive to hearing how we must answer in our own time. Light will appear in our darkness. The star will rise for us too, pointing us toward the place where Christ is engaging the world that he loves.

We are entering the season of Epiphany, the season of light. It begins with the light of a star that brought the magi to the infant Jesus so they might worship him. It culminates with the light of God's glory shining around the adult Jesus on the mountain of Transfiguration.

All of the lights reveal Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior of the world, the Redeemer, and the Light to all creation. Epiphany signals for us that we do not have to remain in darkness. Jesus, the Light, has come to overcome the darkness. He can overcome our darkness, too.

I pray that God will bless us in our seeking and our searching, that we might learn in our darkness to love the Light, that God would use our prayers and reflections as opportunities to encounter God's movement and message for the sake of Jesus, our Light.

Epiphany Blessings,  
Pastor Doug

**Your 2011 Giving Statements will be available in your church mailboxes in January**



Until further notice please do not bring your aluminum cans to the church. We do not have anyone taking care of the project right now. Sooooo..... if you would like to be that person to help us recycle our cans please call Dave or Kelly at the office, 360-876-3901.



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General Budget Update  
November 2011

Expenses YTD-	\$ 382,540
Total Income YTD-	\$ 352,275
Shortage	\$-30,265
Pledged Giving rec'd	\$258,052 or 95%
Unpledged giving/income	\$94,223



**Thank you for your tithes and offerings. First Lutheran is solely supported by your gifts. If you have questions about your giving statement please contact Sonja in the office.**

## News from Noah's Ark Preschool

Happy New Year! Preschool will be back in full swing on January 4. I am sure the children return to school each January about an inch taller and full of zest for learning. They all seem to take off and absorb everything we teach for the next few months. It is another exciting season at preschool!

It is going to be a busy month! Of course, we will start the year by telling and acting the story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. It is heartwarming to see the students solemnly bring their gifts and lay them before the nativity by our Christmas tree. Next week we will move on to learning about shapes, the season of winter, snow and hibernation. At the end of the month we will enjoy special days when fathers and moms that work during the day are invited to attend evening sessions of preschool. These sessions provide an opportunity for parents to experience preschool activities and meet their children's friends. They are busy nights, but very worthwhile ones!

For the past two years, the preschool staff has hosted a lunch after/ during the annual congregational meeting at the end of January. I am pleased to announce that we will again be serving salad, rolls and soups at this year's meeting. As before, the lunch will be provided by preschool in hopes that you will donate to our scholarship fund. Through your generous donations last year, five students were able to stay enrolled at preschool even though their families were having financial difficulties. It is a blessing to be able to help families that see the importance of preschool for their children. Thank you! We hope to see you at this year's lunch and meeting!



## JANUARY YOUTH NEWS

### SUNDAY AM Junior High Schedule:

1/ 1...Holiday, attend service  
1/8 ...9:30 class at MC  
1/15...MLK holiday, attend service  
1/22...9:30 at MC: prep for  
Youth Sunday  
1/29...9:30 YOUTH SUNDAY

### SUNDAY AM Senior High Schedule:

1/ 1...No Class, attend service.  
11 AM depart for Great Wolf  
1/8 ...9:30: Class w/ Kelly @ church  
1/15...9:30 Class w/ Kelly @ church  
1/22...9:30 Breakfast Club meet @  
the espresso stand  
1/29...YOUTH SUNDAY

### WED. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Due to busy schedules during the week, we are trying something new...We will meet only on the following Wednesdays this month:

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**JAN 11— Skating : meet at SK8  
Town**

6:30 - 8:30, cost \$5 per skater

**JAN 25 - Winter Mini Golf...dress  
warm!** Meet at church at 6:30, back at  
8:30, Cost \$5

If we get rained out, we will go to  
Red Robin.

### H2H for January

**January 8th** - meet at 5:30PM for potluck soup dinner, then class.

**PARENTS, please stay to help, eat dinner  
and for PLANNING MEETING.**

**January 22** –meet at 6PM for class & practice for Youth Sunday

Email: [adventures@wavecable.com](mailto:adventures@wavecable.com) or text 360-340-6117



## JANUARY ADVENTURE NEWS

Our Christmas Musical was a big hit! Thanks so much to everyone for your effort over the past few months to make it one of our best ever. Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and are ready for a great 2012. The elementary kids will start the year by going back to their rotation schedule and begin a study on Moses and the Exodus out of Egypt, while preschool will continue to learn about the life of Jesus.

### Join us on Wednesday Nights for Winter Fun!

January 11th—Adventure Family Skate Night! Meet at Skate Town at 6:30— 8:30 for skating with family and friends. Cost \$5 per skater

February 1st — Kids' Winter Crafts and Movie Night. 7pm at church...dress comfy & join us for a movie, snacks and some winter crafts.

February 15th —Valentine Potluck. Meet at 6:30 in the Fellowship area with a dish to share. Bring a \$5 or less gift and be part of a fun gift exchange. Later we will play games and frost some heart cookies.

Note...Jan 18, Jan 25, and Feb 8th there will be child care available but the Mom's group does not plan to meet those nights.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH FOLLOWING THE 9:30 SERVICE**

Please come to the Annual Congregational meeting and let your voice be heard. We will be discussing general church business and the 2012 budget. A lunch will be provided for a donation by Noah's Ark Preschool.

Prior to the meeting, on **Wednesday January 18th** at 7:00pm there will be an open forum discussion on the 2012 budget. This will be a time to ask questions and discuss the 2012 budget. This is a response to many requests last year to have more time to discuss the budget prior to voting on it at the annual meeting. Questions and discussion will also be taken at the meeting on the 29th.

There will be no 11:00 worship service this day.



**DON'T MISS CHURCH ON  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH!!!  
IT WILL BE A SOUPER SUPER  
BOWL SUNDAY!!**

**Wear your football gear and come for some fun!  
The youth will be selling Soup Bowls which will include your  
choice of 3 soups with a bread bowl and you can even get chocolate chip  
cookies.**

**Also, we will one again be participating in the nationwide Souper Bowl of  
Caring. In 2011 this countrywide event of 15,835 local groups, raising  
funds and collecting food for their local charities, generated over 9 million  
dollars! And all you have to do is throw your pocket change in a soup pot  
to make a difference!**

**See you Super and Souper Bowl Sunday!!!**





*You are invited to a RUN FOR FAITH  
10 AM Saturday January 14th at  
Faith Lutheran Church in Elma, WA*

This is the 3rd Annual Run for Faith and includes 10K run and 5K run/walk and a 1/2 mile Kids' Run. The cost is \$25 and includes a long sleeve T-shirt for the adults and \$10 with T-shirt for kids. For more information or a registration sheet call or email Kelly in the office, 360-876-3901 or [kellyflc@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyflc@hotmail.com).

## **HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

Four years ago this month Kiva Krew was born. I saw Grace and her peanut butter story in Uganda on PBS/Frontline, hearing the sermons "What is your vision for 2008?", and "Micah 6:8: Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God". After these "nudging" events, three families got together and Kiva Krew was born. A goal of 100 loans by July of 2008 was established. That goal was surpassed in 3 months! Since then Kiva Krew has grown to 63 families/groups and has made more than 1050 loans in 54 countries (from Afghanistan to Viet Nam). We can make a difference in the world!



Kiva--[www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)-- connects people through lending, to alleviate poverty via the internet. The website contains hundreds of stories of people around the world seeking our help. It has been gratifying to read their journal entries. Of the more than \$265 million lent to more than 694,00 entrepreneurs in 201 countries through Kiva since November of 2005, almost 99% have been repaid. More than 652,000 people from 217 countries have loaned money to Kiva. FYI 80.5% of the loans are to women.

Contact Richard at 876-5287 or [rcandkc@wavecable.com](mailto:rcandkc@wavecable.com), if you would like to be part of the Kiva Krew.

**O.W.L.S. (OLDER WISER LUTHERAN SENIORS)  
BY PASTOR DOUG  
MONTHLY MEETINGS, SECOND TUESDAY, NOON**

**Tuesday January 10th                      12:00NOON**

Hi there OWLS friends! Bring a potluck dish to share and  
be ready to have a great time with friends!

**HELP WANTED!!!** We need you!!

**Wedding Coordinator Needed!**

Its so fun and easy! We only have around 3-5 weddings a year. All you have to do is get the date on the calendar, help them through the rehearsal, and get them through the wedding ceremony. Kris Courteau would be happy to give you the details.

**Button Pusher for the 9:30 Worship Services.**

Its really that easy!

Just once a month we need someone to run the Big Screen computer during the 9:30 service. The presentation will be ready and all you have to do is advance the slides. Please contact Kelly at the office if you could help out.



## **DID YOU KNOW THIS About the 12 Days of Christmas? Dec 25 thru Jan 5**

By Richard Courteau\*

As the legend goes: Once King Henry VIII broke with Rome over the issue of divorce, catholics in England could not practice their faith openly. During this period, beginning in the sixteenth century, the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written. Tradition has it that the song was actually a secret catechism lesson for young Catholic children. In singing the song, children recited a creed of their faith's main tenets. The "partridge in a pear tree" is Jesus Christ, and the 12 gifts of Christmas are symbols for Gifts from God:

Two turtle doves—the old and New Testament.

Three French hens—Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Four calling birds—the Four Gospels.

Five golden rings—the Five Books of Moses.

Six geese a-laying—the six days of Creation.

Seven swans a-swimming—the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord

Eight maids a-milking—the eight Beatitudes of Jesus.

Nine ladies dancing—the nine classifications of angels.

Ten lords a-leaping—the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping- the eleven faithful apostles.

Twelve drummers drumming—the twelve beliefs stated in the Apostles' Creed.

\*Courtesy of "Sacred Origins of Profound Things" by Charles Panati

### **FREE MONEY FOR YOU TO GIVE AWAY!!**

Can you believe this? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has allocated Choice Dollars in all Thrivent members' names for you to give away to the non-profit organization(s) of your choice (FLCC could be one). Thrivent members have until March 13, 2012 to designate the their Choice Dollar giving. The Choice Dollars are just money that has been matched by Thrivent based on the amount of Thrivent products you have or have purchased, its totally free to you to give this money from Thrivent away. You can donate your Choice Dollars by going online to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) and clicking on "Thrivent Community" and then "Thrivent Choice", or you can call 1-800-THRIVENT (1-800-847-4836). If you have questions please contact Bob Arper at 360-692-1465 or your Thrivent Financial representative 360-308-8239 Silverdale office.

# First Life

and



## PARI SH NURSING

Parish Nurses are registered nurses who can assist with health related concerns or questions and can help with seeking and utilizing community resources. Please contact the church office at 876-3901 or Karen Schneider, RN at 876-2304 or Tina Soete, RN at 871-1322, Kathleen Nenninger, RN at 253-853-4663, Marcy Crebs, LPN at 360-620-9487.

## BLOOD PRESSURE/DIABETES SCREENING

How is your blood pressure? You can have your blood pressure checked on the last Sunday of every month in the Fellowship Hall in the Ruth Room #3 before and after the 9:30 a.m. services.



## FIRST DRIVERS

Transportation can be provided during the day for those who need assistance to keep medical, dental, or therapy appointments. You must be able to get in and out of a car with minimal assistance. You can call the church office at 876-3901 or Karen Schneider at 876-2304.



## CASSEROLE CONNECTION: MEALS THAT HEAL

Meals are offered on a short term basis for those who may be experiencing post hospitalization, illness, trauma, or families with a newborn. Please call Kathy Posey at 871-5692 or the church office at 876-3901.



## FIRST CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

If you are taking care of a loved one and would like to meet with others who are caregivers in a caring support group, please join us. The group meets on the last Wednesday of every month in the old church library. The meeting this month will be on January 25 at 11 am. For more information, call Dixie Douthit at 876-5270 or Linda Helmer at 253-858-5703.

# PLEASE COME!!

## Open Forum Discussion on the 2012 Budget

On Wednesday January 18th at 7:00pm there will be an open forum discussion on the 2012 budget. This will be a time to ask questions and discuss the 2012 budget. This is a response to many requests last year to have more time to discuss the budget prior to voting on it at the annual meeting. Questions and discussion will also be taken at the Annual Congregational meeting on January 29th.

The First Friday Readers will meet on January 6. The book group will meet this month at the Peninsula Retirement Residence in Gig Harbor. The residence will be providing transportation from the church to the residence. The book selection is the American classic "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" by Betty Smith. It is a moving story of childhood and family relationships in the first part of the 20th century. The February meeting will be at the Senior Vista Apartments in Port Orchard, our usual meeting place. The book review will be "Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok. New readers always welcome! For more information, please contact Linda Helmer at 253-858-5703 or Kris Courteau at 876-5287.



**GLOBAL WARMERS:** 9:00 Wed. the 4th and 18th, in the Fellowship Hall.

**MARY CIRCLE:** 7:00 Mon. the 9th @ the Ministry Center

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Tue. the 10th at 9:30AM at church. Childcare available.

**SHALOM CIRCLE:** Tuesday the 10th at 7:00 PM at Patty Lester's house.

**STAMPING AND SCRAPPING on Saturday the 14th!\*\*\***  
from Noon to 5pm at the Ministry Center.



## *January Birthdays*

- 01/01 John Erickson, Tierra LaBresh  
01/02 Brian Cox  
01/03 Gary Douthit, Brian Garton  
01/04 Bob Messner, Liz Tomasch, Kyle Witt, Sheryle Geister, Jaime Fitch  
01/05 Jason Hassebrock, Renea Olmstead, Chris Billings, Cindy Schmidt,  
Kaitlyn Huber, Chip Pierson  
01/06 John Johnson, Julia Ratmeyer  
01/07 MacKenzie Niemi, Jared Speake  
01/08 Maury Nestby, Don Hobson, Gary Lyman,  
Deanna Wybenga, Devin Cruz  
01/09 Michelle Pierson  
01/11 Garrett Fisher, Isaac Perdue, Kaden Cruz  
01/13 Carl Armstrong, Taylor King  
01/14 Donald Krizan, Anne Nestby, Anna Dorris  
01/16 Darren Feulner, Timothy Matz  
01/17 Tom Henderson, Amanda Hals, Matthew Dorris  
01/18 Lisa Speake, Christopher Nenninger, Tabitha Nunley  
01/19 Herb Thieme, Norma Pagel, Cindy Mitchell,  
Matthew Adams  
01/20 David Pedersen, Neil Armentrout, Dan Mundle, Leah Zimmer  
01/21 Michael Weatherford, Jennifer Bryan, Megan Horn  
01/22 Marvin Earles  
01/23 Corey Austin  
01/24 Steven Reed, Angelina Johnson, Caitlin Crebs  
01/25 Jon Brady, Garrett Lyman, Mitchell Henderson  
01/26 Madison Martin  
01/27 Samuel Stivers  
01/28 Sheilagh DiCicco, Jeanne Bushnell, Carson Rader  
01/29 Carey Proctor  
01/30 Nancy Berg, Cheri Lyman  
01/31 Mim Krabler, Ned Plank, Gary Tomasch, Andrea Nelson,  
Andrew Cole



(If you find a missing or incorrect birthday  
please call Kelly @ the office, we love getting  
new information for our family!)



**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00

Nursery available at 9:30 & 11:00am

**Contacts**

Ministry Center: 876-3901

Church Building: 876-2613

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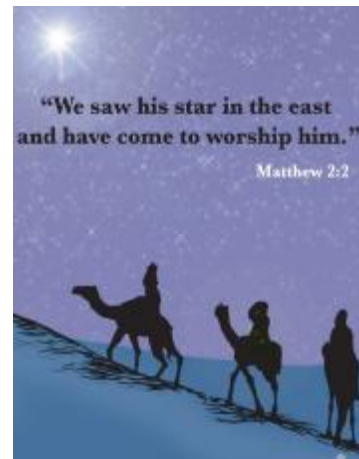
**Noah's Ark Childcare Center**

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**Church Website**

[www.firstlutheranpo.com](http://www.firstlutheranpo.com)



**ALL ARTICLES ARE  
SUBJECT TO EDITING**