

The Visitor

“Expanding God’s Kingdom in the next generations”

First Lutheran Church of Northridge

June 20, 2008

Help Is Always Near

I recently spoke of “Christians who love each other too much.” Here is a section of the message-

“You see, when we hang out with each other so much, we don’t want to go out and “play.” We don’t really feel like meeting new friends. All the things we like about being the Church- worship, sharing life together, learning together, caring for each other- these are all good things. Jesus designed us this way.

But the two most important reasons Jesus designed the church can’t be practiced inside. The most important purposes for the church according to Jesus, are blessing others outside of the church, and telling his story outside of the church.”

We know from human dynamics that in order to really make a change in your life, it usually has to be so painful to remain as you are that change is absolutely necessary. Even then, it doesn’t always motivate. I read the other day that over 80% of all open-heart surgery patients go back to their former diet and exercise life 2 years after their surgery!

When Jesus says his reasons for coming to earth are to “seek and save the lost,” how does that connect to those who are already saved by Jesus? It may not even be a conscious thought day to day for the average Christian.

On our human terms and desires this doesn’t bode too well for those who don’t know Jesus. Without trust in him they face eternity without him. We have a hard time being that concerned about their fate. Two things work against us.

1. We don’t see the value in every person
2. We don’t sense the urgency

Looks hopeless. It is without someone else being involved.

Luke 25:49 *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*

You know what Jesus wants. You know what you need in order to do what Jesus wants. All you have to do is ask.

“Fill me Holy Spirit.”

“More power, Lord.”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMING THIS SUMMER!

June 23rd-June 27th (9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.)



This summer we are going to discover Jesus' miraculous power at the "Power Lab"! You won't want to miss it...It will be oozing with excitement and exploding with fun! We invite all pre-

kindergarten through graduating 5th graders to come and have a blast. We always need volunteers so 6th grade through Prime Time, come and join the fun and help these kids discover Jesus' power. Mark your calendars! Any questions, please contact Jan Cuadra or Jeanne Luther.

Sponsor a Child Program

First Lutheran Church has always been a generous contributor to the Sponsor a Child program. We would love to see that tradition continue.

The Sponsor a Child program enables families to have financial assistance so their child(ren) can attend a Christian School. The child(ren) not only gets a great academic education but also learns, most importantly, about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The new school year will soon be upon us. So, please consider contributing to our Sponsor a Child program. If you are still interesting in help to support families who would love to have the children have a Christian education, please prayerfully consider Sponsoring a child at our school.

A Great Big Thank You Hug to First Lutheran Baking Ladies

Now that you've put away your cake tins and pie pans, let me take a moment to thank you for all that you did to make the "Laugh Yourway to a Better Marriage" evenings so special, memorable *and* delicious!

God loves it when we serve Him with gladness (Psalm 100:2) and I think you'd agree, we girls had a *great* time whipping up desserts for all the attendees of our recent special event. If the Lord were penning this, He might even say, "*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God*" (II Corinthians 9:12). On behalf of the Women in Ministry team, God bless you for your service.

Francie Lorey

The Class of 2008

Congratulations to the following First Lutheran Christian School Graduates. Each of these students are going to their high school of choice.

Alex Askew – Los Angeles Baptist High
Garrett Brunsch – Chaminade High
Emily Dolezal – Canoga Park Magnet
Seanna Downey – Champs
Gaby Gormley – Cleveland Magnet
Mallory Greenberg – Louisville
Katharine Kleinschmidt – Reseda Magnet
Ranger Rightmyer – Bishop Alemany
Naomi Samarasinghe – Bishop Alemany
Renee Sifri – Reseda Magnet
Octavio Silva – Bishop Alemany
Elizabeth Stallings – Grant Magnet
Thomas Taylor – Bishop Alemany
Justin Vega – Chatsworth High
Kelli Waldorf – Highland Hall

Congratulations are also extended to the following family and friends of First Lutheran Church who have graduated this spring as well

Eric Jusko – Notre Dame High School
Kayla Kilpatrick – Chaminade High School
Jeff Layfield – Southwestern Law School
Kevin Lienhard – Granada Hills Charter High School
Danielle Lienhard – F. I.D.M.
Danielle Morrill – Nobel Middle School
Anya Lienhard- Western University Medical School
Melissa Lienhard – Fresno State University
Lyndsey Mahoney – Reseda Magnet High School
Meighann Mahoney – Welby Way Magnet Elementary
Lauren Williams – Hillcrest Christian High School
Amanda Primes – University California, Santa Cruz
Justin Washuck – Los Angeles Baptist High
David Kaub – Pepperdine
Meghan Yeager – Chaffey College
Sarah Rollins – California State University, Chico
Zachariah Rollins – Northridge Academy High School
Melissa Sanchez – Los Angeles Baptist High School
Michelle Sanchez – California State University, Northridge
Lisa Plattenberger – Chatsworth High School
Bethany Anderson – Chino High School
Michael Muranaga – Cathedral High School
Annie Elias – Los Angeles Baptist High School

Thursday Night Adult Bible Study

Thursday Night Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Dana. This is an ongoing study of the Gospel of John that you can join at any time. Doors open at 6:00pm and study begins at 6:30 - 7:45. Bring a "sack" dinner and dessert/beverages provided. Childcare needed? Call Lorraine at 818-345-3766.

I'M A ONE TOO!

Don Meyer
Stewardship

Surprise, surprise! A Stewardship article that doesn't talk about money, budgets, or pledges! What is this world coming to?

Martin Luther (you know, the guy we are named after) was once asked what he wanted to be found doing the moment Jesus returned. His reply was: "Planting a tree." Don't you find that odd? You would think that he might have said "praying mightily" or "worshiping in church" or any number of other religious activities. Planting a tree?!

Martin Luther saw all of us not only as worshipers and readers of the bible. He also saw us as primarily *stewards* of God's creation. Yes, stewardship is more than just writing checks. It also means that we have the great privilege of giving our time and our effort. The question is, "how"? How do I do something meaningful with my time when I am so pressed with other things clamoring for my attention? You know, in some ways it is easier for me to write a check than it is to take time out of my schedule to do something to further God's purposes.

Well, here is something meaningful you can do with only a small amount of time. Recently I was introduced to a program simply called: **ONE**. Briefly it is a program for all Christians to give us a way to participate in 8 lofty goals (Millennium Development Goals): eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, etc), ensure environmental sustainability, and create a global partnership for development. Sounds pretty ambitious doesn't it?

Here's how we can do this. When you sign up for **ONE** you can receive various e-mails that will alert you to opportunities to share your thoughts with elected representatives when there is proposed legislation. For example, you might write your federal legislator and advocate that they direct an additional one percent of the US budget to address extreme poverty. Ok, you're just **one** person. But, can you imagine the impact if just one half of all Christian voters e-mailed their representatives about this? It would be a political avalanche! So, the more the merrier.

This is one of the ways you can apply the *stewardship of your time* to help take care of God's world and its people. With the click of a mouse, you can create a lion's roar. I and a couple of other folks in my office are all sporting white wrist bands with the simple word **ONE** on it. It goes nicely with my red "Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity"

band and my WWJD band. I invite you to consider this stewardship opportunity and join with us in finding new ways to help move God's purposes forward. Oh yeah, it doesn't cost anything either (see the first paragraph).

Want more information? Go to www.one.org and check it out. You can also get information on www.elca.org/one.

Pray for our family and friends

HEALING

David

Erin

Callah

Araceli

Varsha

Patty Greene

Jeff Snee

Nickie S.

Art G

Geri

Dianne

Liz K

Jan T

Al J

Troy Pfleger

Ken N

Matt Mc Hale

Valerie Johnson

Collin Bowen

Tom Young

Katie Hollis

Evelyn Brown

Kee Schilling

Eugene Hansen

Helen Polk

DIRECTION

Marion

Raffy Family

Chris & Noreen

Todd

PROTECTION

Jorge

Carlos

SAFE TRAVEL

Hahn, Nagel & Rushton family

Jeff Smolik

COMFORT

Xcalli & Itzia

Calendar

SUN 6/22	
9:00 10:30 2:00 p.m.	Worship Annual Meeting Pool Party
MON 6/23	
9:00 a.m.	Vacation Bible School
TUE 6/24	
9:00 a.m.	Vacation Bible School
WED 6/25	
9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Vacation Bible School Prime Time (Field Trip)
THU 6/26	
9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Vacation Bible School VBS Ice Cream Social
FRI 6/27	
9:00 a.m.	Vacation Bible School
SUN 6/29	
9:00 & 10:45 a.m.	Worship
FRI 7/4	Campus Closed

Look Who's Having A Birthday!

- 6/22 Joanne Montieth
- 6/24 Kathy Swantko
- 6/26 Trish Dallas & Cherrie Schilling
- 6/27 RJ Kilpatrick & Michelle Sanchez
- 6/28 Joyce Primes
- 6/29 Tom Christopher
- 6/30 Nicole Stotler
- 7/1 Doreen Bostrom & Martha Butler
- 7/3 Erin Askew & Kee Schilling
- 7/4 Audrey Saute & Robyn Vega