

The Visitor

“Expanding God’s Kingdom in the next generations”

First Lutheran Church of Northridge
July 7, 2008

Compassion and Freedom

The church is designed by Jesus to be people who bless the community they live in and connect people to the saving freedom of trust in Jesus. What this looks like varies, but the system Jesus sets in place is the same.

1. Have compassion for everyone. Pour out your love and blessing on them.
2. For people who are receptive, share the good news of Jesus.

This sounds so basic. Actually it is profound. In the case of compassion, the word “everyone” is the key. Jesus said, at another time, anyone can be gracious and compassionate with those they love, those who are “attractive,” and those who are close to them. But we are different. Jesus said we are to have compassion for the stranger, the one who is different than us, the one who is “unattractive;” even the one who considers him/herself our enemy.

In the case of sharing the good news, the word “receptive” is the key. When we spend time trying to connect the unreceptive to Jesus, we are not using our time, energy, and heart for those who are receptive. We also bug them.

God honors human choice so much that he doesn’t run after the unreceptive who don’t know him. God also respects those who turn away from him. Reread Luke 15:11-32, popularly called, “The parable of the prodigal son.” See how the father acts. When people return to the Lord or turn to him for the first time, he lavishly pours his love and joy upon them.

Compassion and Freedom- a powerful source through which God’s love pours.

GOD IS ACTIVE IN THEIR HEARTS!

On Sunday, June 22, Pr. Dana along with Stephen Leaders Dave Damien and Carol Shelly commissioned six Stephen Ministers who completed their 100+ hours of training. Martha Butler, Mary Ann Hensch, and Cherrie Schilling have completed the Northridge Hospital medical procedures, training and orientation, and are/will be Volunteer Chaplains. Martha will be serving in the Trauma Unit which has never had a Volunteer Chaplain before. Cherrie and Mary Ann will be visiting and praying for patients in all units except Pre-Surgery which is served by Jim Heglund, Dick McGlone, and Bob Pflieger.

John Helgager is on his way to New York to join his wife (also a Stephen Minister) Nanette Helgager. John will minister to members of the Indian Tribe where he will be living and working. The statement is true that "once a Stephen Minister – always a Stephen Minister. Stephen Minister Training includes *Life Skills* that can be applied anywhere at any time.

Sal and Suhad Haddad will be receiving individual assignments in our congregation and community. Pr. Dana in his sermon on Sunday June 29, called us, challenged us to focus on Christ's mission to us to "save souls and care for the poor." If you feel the call to be a Stephen Minister, just talk to anyone wearing the blue name tag. Buzz Brown

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO SHOP! (FOR YOU OR FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!)

For several years, First Lutheran has set up a table display to sell art and crafts for African Team Ministries. This year we will have a table set up before and after services on **Sunday July 20 and 27**. All items, including beautiful handcrafts, magnificent jewelry and art are made in Kenya. First Lutheran has generated thousands of dollars over the years to help this Synod approved ministry. All money collected goes to Churches in East Africa who help orphans go to school, support the training of 5,000 lay elders (men and women) in Kenya for the AIDS prevention ministry, help displaced people in Kenya who have been forced from their homes do political and violent unrest, provide food, blankets, shelter and support for people to return to their homes. Support also goes to orphans whose parents have died of AIDS. Education a dream for many becomes real with the help of African Team Ministries. Please "stop and shop" for the beautiful African items. Credit cards are accepted. Call Buzz Brown for more information or answers to questions.

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.

Women in Ministry to Pair up With Soldiers Angels!

We had such a great response and a lot of fun at our Women in Ministry's Blanket event that we will plan to continue meeting every 3 months or so. We had 16 women and 2 children show up and completed 17 blankets. We still have a lot of fleece to work on that is in various stages. Call or email Beth Yaros [818.709.6489 or bethyaros@sbcglobal.net] if you want to work on some at home. Remember anyone can make these, you don't have to be "crafty" and working on the Blankets counts as service credit for various organizations.

We have had more requests for blankets. We initially made them for the Red Cross Disaster Team and now Soldiers' Angels (Kathleen McCray) and a prison ministry has requested some.

As you see fleece on sale, pick some up (1½ to 2 yard increments) and keep it until the next event. Rotary cutters and rotary mats work very well.

Save the date...be sure to be at church on Sunday, July 27 @ the 9:00 service...

We are excited to have Dave Scherer (Agape) with us for worship on Sunday, 7-27 . Don't miss out....this will be a worship experience you won't forget !

Agapé (Dave Scherer) has inspired youth from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Spokane, WA with his relational ministry "Hip Hop Outreach." Using Rhythmic American Poetry (rap), he is able to reach the young people of today in a way that they really "get it." He combines dancing, rapping, storytelling and his fluency in Spanish to captivate his audience and challenge them to explore their faith in God. With his passion for diversity, he invites people to bridge the gaps that exist in today's society. He has produced two CDs and travels across the country with his ministry.

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 discussion begins at 6:30 - 7:45. Bring a "sack" dinner and dessert/beverages provided. Childcare needed? Call Lorraine at 818-345-3766.

Pray for our family and friends

HEALING

Dave Damien

Jody S

Jim & June

John

Sheila

Leti

John

Susan

Dorothy B

Sarah K

Duane Judisch

David

Erin

Callah

Araceli

Varsha

Nickie S.

Jan T

Al J

Troy Pfleger

Matt Mc Hale

Valerie Johnson

Collin Bowen

Tom Young

Evelyn Brown

Kee Schilling

Eugene Hansen

Helen Polk

DIRECTION

Theresa D

Raffy Family

Todd

PROTECTION

Lidieth

Jorge

Carlos

Come to the Living Waters –

Women of the ELCA

Southwest Synod Convention

October 17-19, 2008 - Simi Valley

More information to follow or contact Beth Yaros –
818.709.6489 – bethyaros@sbcglobal.net

FLY

7-13 MANDATORY WSYG meeting @ 10:30 ...parents & FLYL

7-13 Lunch & a Movie....11:00 - 2:00

7-19 GODCHICKS UNPLUGGED @ Oasis , leaving @ 4:30 ..

7-20 Lunch & a Movie ...11:00 - 2:00

7-27 AGAPE ...HIP HOP WORSHIP ! 9:00 a.m. SERVICE

7-28 WSYG....meet @ train station 7:50 a.m.

SUN 7/6	
9:00 & 10:45 11:00 a.m.	Worship FLY Lunch and a movie
TUE 7/8	
5:30 p.m. 7:00	PALS Council
SUN 7/13	
9:00 & 10:45 a.m. 11:00 12:00	Worship FLY Lunch and a movie WIM: Soldiers Angels
SUN 7/20	
9:00 & 10:45 11:00 a.m.	Worship FLY Lunch and a movie

Look Who's Having A Birthday!

7/5 Bill Stevenson
 7/6 Kelsey Ward
 7/7 Greg Adreus & Gary Spraggins
 7/9 Sierra Stonrr
 7/10 Heidi Christopher, Char McGlone, Grace Nagel & Alex Vega
 7/11 Jaime Belden & Matt Lee
 7/13 Lorraine Brown & Phyllis Glaser
 7/15 Margaret Challgren
 7/16 Tyler Waldorf
 7/19 Isabella Gormley
 7/20 Patrick Henry, Ramona Revheim & Justin Waldorf
 7/21 Marian Johnson
 7/22 Danielle Morill
 7/24 David Hankowski

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Jan Cuadra

Director, Kids and Family Ministries

Mark Holmstrom

Music Director

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