

# The "A life worth living with a God worth visiting"

**First Lutheran Church of Northridge**  
September 19, 2008

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## **Rebirth and New Identity**

Rebirth and new identity go hand in hand. What do birth, baptisms in some traditions, and most marriages have in common? A new identity is acknowledged with a new identity name. In the message last Sunday, and in a letter sent out to our church community this week, we describe an exciting and important step in our rebirth and renewal process: A new identity name.

While we will officially remain "First Lutheran Church of Northridge," and of course, continue our affiliation with the ELCA, our new identity name allows us to position ourselves in the surrounding community in a fresh and relevant way. Both church and the schools will use this identity name.

Go online for further information at [www.firstlutheran.org](http://www.firstlutheran.org).

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ALPHA Starts Sunday, October 5th at 5:30 p.m.

ALPHA is for everyone!

The Alpha Course is a FREE 8-week practical introduction to the Christian faith, in a safe environment to explore the big questions of life. Alpha is a place of helping others through learning and laughter. Alpha offers an opportunity to get to know people and make new friends.

What happens at ALPHA?

Each week we sit down to dinner together at 5:30 PM for great food and fellowship, followed by a thought-provoking, humorous talk about Christianity. Following the talk, we break into small groups to discuss the topics of the night.

This is an excellent opportunity to invite a friend. It is about as welcoming an event they can experience in a "church" setting. This is also a way for you to make progress in opening yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit, becoming more open to sharing Jesus with others.

Childcare is available. To register and for further information, contact Lorraine Brown at lmdocs@att.net or 818-345-3766.

### **S.O.S.**

#### **Need Chocolate & Friendship**

The Women in Minsitry Team invite you to participate in an evening of prizes, fun, fellowship, scripture, friendship and chocolate on Saturday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. Our guest speaker for the evening is Charisse Williams. Charisse will share with us the importance that God has placed on us as friends. This is open to all women, bring a friend and share in this fun evening.

Cost for the evening is \$10.00. Call the church office for more information or to purchase a ticket.

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#### **Prime Time (Older Adult Ministry)**

Wednesday, September 24: Pastor Dana will present part III of the study of *The Trinity Today*

Wednesday, October 1: Kelsey Mahoney, along with her grandmother and aunt (Donnice and Abigail Brown) will share the slides and stories of their mission trip to Lima Peru.

Prime Time begins with fellowship at 10:30. Lunch is served at 12:15 for \$6.00.

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#### **All Youth & Family Night Wednesday, September 24th 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for an evening of fun, food, worship & games ...a "kickoff" of the youth programs at FLC. All information regarding children's, middle school (IMPACT) & FLY (High school) ministries will be featured. We are looking forward to seeing all families there!

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#### **IMPACT! Calendar**

9/24 YOUTH & FAMILY night 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

\*Looking ahead to November: Middle School Youth Gathering , Nov.14,15 & 16

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#### **FLY Calendar**

9-24 YOUTH & FAMILY night 6:00 - 8:00p.m.  
9/28 FLY & PARENTS MEETING 10:30 - 11:30

\*Looking ahead to October : High school youth gathering @ Cal Lu October 17,18,19

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#### **Thursday Night Adult Bible Study**

Pastor Dana is guiding us through the Gospel of Luke and 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.

#### **Alpha Graduates and Beginning Alpha Guests**

Are invited to the

"Alpha Holy Spirit Saturday"

October 25th @ 9:00am to 8:00pm

Being held in Huntington Beach\*

Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

For a cost of \$40 person

\*Robinwood Church of Huntington Beach is hosting the day. Pastor David Housholder is main teacher. Please come and join this wonderful opportunity to really know the Holy Spirit and how He works in your life.

RSVP by Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> Alpha Contact: Lorraine Brown – 818-345-3766 .

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#### **Do You Know Someone who is.....**

Stressed: Feeling Down? Needs Encouragement? Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. It is Christ-Centered.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis – large or small, contact Pr. Dana, or Stephen Leaders Buzz Brown, Geri Brown, Dave Damien, or Carol Shelly.

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#### **Carl's Jr. Night September 26<sup>th</sup>**

- This year the preschool has decided to stop asking our parents to sell for fundraising. We decided that a eating out with friends and family may be more fun. So with that in mind we decided on a monthly dinner at a local restaurant that is willing to support the school. We are starting on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Northridge Carl's Jr. located at Reseda and Nordhoff. Please grab a flyer from the church office, Information Center, or the preschool and join us from 2:00 – 8:00. The school receives 25% of the sales, and we can have a great time.

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#### **ANOTHER IDOL (OR THREE) BITES THE DUST**

Stewardship Article

Don Meyer

There were three big events that have dominated the news in these past five days. The first one was Hurricane Ike's destructive force in Texas. The second was the horrific train accident locally in Chatsworth. The third was the sudden sag in the stock market. All three were ugly in different ways.

Hurricane Ike wounded not only physical property like homes, office buildings, refineries, and electrical power. Perhaps worse than all of these was the human suffering that it caused. People were uprooted like trees and forced from their homes. Jobs were lost. There was separation and perhaps even isolation from family and friends. The future for thousands of people was bleak at the very least. It will be a long time before things will be recovered (if ever).

As of this writing, it appears that text messaging at the wrong time resulted in the deaths of over 20 people and serious injury to dozens more. There was also a horrible toll on the families of the dead and wounded. It never should have happened. Unlike Ike, this was preventable. But, just like Ike, there was nothing the victims could do about it.

And then, on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>, the world's economy received a knee buckling shot when venerable and presumably indestructible Lehman Brother's financially folded like a deck of cards. Unthinkable. Was it preventable? I don't know. Like the first two events I wrote about, there was nothing you or could do to prevent this economic disaster. If you felt like your financial life was about to be snuffed out, you were not alone.

But, let me remind you that this is not the first nor will be the last time creation and man will conspire to shatter our confidences. We will all feel the awful pain of helplessness and fear like some of us have just gone through. I just refuse to believe that God is behind all of this. Nature is just that- nature. Human beings make mistakes and innocent people die because of that negligence. Greed and stupidity will eventually cause financial meltdowns.

It has even happened in the Bible. Let's talk about the Great Flood in Genesis. That Flood makes Ike look like a summer breeze! Afterwards, God tells his people that he will put a rainbow in the sky to remind everyone that He will be faithful to us regardless of what is dished out to us and, in some cases, caused by us. He will never abandon us. In short, the gods that are not gods will fail us every time. Safety, deliverance from all evil, and money

will never be able to take care of our deepest need: the need to be loved and accepted by God.

That need has been taken care of. Jesus reminds us every Sunday that he did not die in vain. He died to make sure we could have reconciliation with the Creator. We are going to be OK. It's not just a promise. It's a fact!

That's what we give thanks for. Remember that the next time you write out your checks to First Lutheran.

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### Calendar

<b>SUN 9/21</b>	
9:00 & 10:45	Worship
<b>WED 9/24</b>	
10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Prime Time All Youth Family Night
<b>THU 9/25</b>	
6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
<b>SUN 9/28</b>	
9:00 & 10:45. 10:30 a.m.	Worship FLY Parent Meeting
<b>WED 10/1</b>	
10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Prime Time IMPACT! FLY Bible Study
<b>THU 10/2</b>	
6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal
<b>SUN 10/5</b>	
9:00 & 10:45 10:15 a.m.	Worship New Identity Name Selection

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### Think Scrip:

Think Scrip for Albertsons, Gelsons, Hows, Smart & Final, and Vons. We also have Macy's, Starbucks, Arco and many more stores. For more information or a listing of available retailers, stop by the Scrip table following services on Sunday.

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Blankets of Belief – EVERYONE INVITED

The last time we got together to make blankets for the Soldiers – we turned in a total of 29 blankets from our efforts. It's time to do it again. First Lutheran Women's Ministry, in conjunction with Soldiers' Angels, will have two (2) opportunities for you to help make blankets to show the Soldiers that WE BELIEVE IN YOU!!!!

We will be in Natterstad Hall on Friday, October 3rd from 3:30 pm to 8 pm and on Saturday, October 4th from 9 am to 5 pm. Come any time during those hours. Remember anyone can make the blankets, you don't have to be "crafty" and working on the blankets also counts as service credit for various organizations. Reminder, if any of you took fleece home from the previous event to work on – please return it on October 3rd or 4th. We are also accepting donations to pay for the fleece already purchased or you can bring fleece (two 2-yard lengths coordinated in Red, White, and Blue, and/or Patriotic Themes ONLY). Please bring: straight pins, rotary cutters, cutting mats, scissors and a snack to share. There is a free will offering for lunch and dinner. If you have any questions or IF YOU NEED CHILDCARE, contact Beth Yaros 818.709.6489 or [bethyaros@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethyaros@sbcglobal.net). Hope to see you there.

### **Kids and Family Ministries is COOL\*!!!**

Yes our kids at First Lutheran are Cool but more importantly they are children of our Lord. Our Sunday school has adopted the name COOL\* (Children of our Lord) and COOL T- shirts will be coming soon! Please help us make the name stick. Why?...Because we are COOL\*!

### **Look Who's Having A Birthday!**

9/21 Adam Mc Leod  
9/24 Rosetta Kurmann & Beth Yaros  
9/26 Duane Cirks & Larry Franson  
9/28 Glenn Rasmussen & Marillyn Sanchez  
9/29 Barbara Cirks  
First Lutheran Church of Northridge  
18355 Roscoe Boulevard  
Northridge Ca, 91325  
(818) 885-6861  
[www.firstlutheran.org](http://www.firstlutheran.org)

#### **Staff**

**Dana Hanson**

*Senior Pastor*

**Sheree Spraglin**

*School Principal*

**Kristie Godin**

*Preschool Director*

**Vickie De Blasio**

9/30 Steve De Blasio & Scott Dunmire  
10/1 Matt Smith & Dana Smolik  
10/2 Greg Hanson & David Hanson  
10/4 Seanna Downey

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*Pray for our family and friends*

#### **COMFORT**

*Jan Thomas and family mourning the death of her husband, Ken*

*Missy Andrews and family mourning the death of her father*

#### **HEALING**

*Michelle Pena*

*Liz K*

*Korey Arnold*

*David Stroud*

*Ron S*

*Matthew Walker*

*Bud*

*Bob Jensen*

*Matthew Wheeler*

*Al J*

*Troy Pflieger*

*Valerie Johnson*

*Evelyn Brown*

*Kee Schilling*

*Eugene Hansen*

*Helen Polk*

#### **DIRECTION**

*Doug Risdall*

*Raffy Family*

#### **PROTECTION/SAFE TRAVEL**

*Carlos Aguirre*

*Chris Haley*

*Congregational Coordinator*

**Buzz Brown**

*Director, Small Groups and Caring Ministries*

**Missy Andrews**

*Director, Youth and Family Ministries*

**Jan Cuadra**

*Director, Kids and Family Ministries*

**Mark Holmstrom**

*Music Director*

**Matt Smith**

*Worship*

**Gloria Hahn**

*Financial Administrator*