

# CROSS CURRENTS

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Rev. Kevin Kolander

**Music Director**

Gail Christiansen

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David Dick (volunteer)

**Elders**

Bob Brown

Frank Crow

Justin Morris

William Neebe

Michael Sunshine



Hi First Lutheran Family,

Thought I'd give you a bit of a personal follow up after being gone for awhile while tending to my mom who died in the faith. There are two amazing verses in Psalm 30 the first is a promise: "Though weeping may last through the night, joy will come in the morning." Sin and death are the naughty ones who bring on the first part of the verse, Christ and His blood bought peace cancel out the first and make joy. Thanks dear Lord. The second wonderful verse is that "the Lord has turned my mourning into dancing." This promise is also given to us Baptized kids as the result of our dear Lord Who was raised three days after dying for us and has given us resurrection promises galore! There's another great promise in the Epistles that states that from a child we have been given to know the Holy Scriptures which make us wise through faith in Jesus Christ and train us in Christian living. Again, the first part of this amazing promise is that God uses His Word to create and rivet our faith to crucified and risen One, which makes us smarter than all the world's knowledge and people who don't have Christ. The second part about *training* us from the Word is what I experienced after my mom's death. All the promises and passages that I learned from a child, were my rescue and strength and hope when mom died. Although I read and sang the Scriptures to mom her last weeks, and although my faith probably took comfort in them, my body and mind were in a fog. In fact, during the whole affair, and I wouldn't recommend this to anyone, I hardly read any Scripture on my own, which is not like me as you know, I love the psalms and have a schedule to read/pray through the psalter in all of my Bibles around the house and church. My point though is this, when death bears it's ugly teeth, all the passages of Scripture that spoke to sin, death, resurrection, healing, God's mighty power to resurrect me from the pit of death, etc. are what I . . . waited for. I absolutely knew that the God Who spoke light out of darkness, order out of chaos, the God who adopted me into His family through His Word & water, would also heal this broken heart, breathe life back into these dry bones, lift me up and place me again on a broad path filled with pastures of green grass where His table is set and I would be comforted and rested in the Shepherd's presence. Again! Yes, He does this to all the children of God. Daily. But I tend to notice His uplifting hand especially when the valley is deep and long, the enemy is fierce and there is none to help except my Lord. Like a child who crawls up into the lap of his father when scared and in need of comfort, so the Lord has done to me. I still hate death. Always will. Hate Satan, sin, separation. Hate grieving, loss and loneliness. Hate all the things that were messed up when our first parents ate when God said no. But I delight, even more, in the Lord, who brings joy, dancing and leads us through the valleys, chin up, waiting for His glorious return today, and finally when we and all the redeemed in Christ will celebrate forever in the presence of God who makes all these good things happen. Blessed children of God we are. The Lord is Risen. And to quote Augustine, "We're children of Easter and Hallelujah is our song."

**PS** Thanks to all for the cards, hugs, gifts, smiles, presence, worship time, memorials, and simply for being here with me. I'm so glad God gives us one another, especially folks like you, Christian Lutherans! Blessed be the Tie that binds...

Love and hugs +pastor

*Pastor's Page*

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 — Susan Morris
- 7 — Reed Steiner
- 10 — Michael Smith, Jr.
- 10 — Sharon Timms
- 13 — Rick Goss
- 14 — Will Rosenblatt
- 19 — Leonard Cloer
- 20 — Tom McCaleb
- 21 — Candy Detviler
- 23 — Cheryl Cheek
- 23 — Courtney Rosenblatt
- 23 — Michael Smith
- 24 — Austin Kolander



**AUGUST**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 — Rosemarie Alexman
- 4 — Don Crow
- 5 — Rick Wellington
- 11 — Melony Smith
- 12 — Catherine DiBella
- 12 — Sherman Terry
- 15 — Terri Pinto
- 15 — Jerry Rice
- 18 — Sandra Smith
- 21 — Frank Crow
- 21 — Andrea Hall
- 21 — Luke Kolander
- 21 — Barbara McDermott
- 24 — Pat Crow
- 24 — Melody Anton
- 24 — Hannahlore Tucker
- 26 — Beverly Leckie
- 27 — Rebecca Porter
- 28 — Clayton Haworth

**WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**



**Pray for Our Church Family & Loved Ones**

Emily Reintiz (hurt her back); William Neebe (tests); Harry Harlow; Ralph Purcha; Madeline Dulmatch; Lynn Lipa; Susie Wysong (mom); Erla Cloer (daughter Jan & son Kevin); Ray Knight (daughter Jeanine); Don & Kay Foster (daughter Terri); David Dick (work); Meagan Bergman (teaching/Kuwait); Seminarian Blaise Marin (adopted by the LWML).

**Members and loved ones serving in the Armed Forces** Robert Steiner; Anthony True; Don & Ruth Detviler (son Mike and grandson Adam); Debbie Bergman (nephew); Emily & Austin Reinitz (grandsons); Erla Cloer (grandson in Iraq); Nancy Purcha (three grandsons); Brenda Romanek (brother); Alan & Helene Peterson (son Erick); Mary Gainey (grandson & great nephew); Rick & Francine Wellington (grandson); Jean Eilers (grandson); Andrea Hall (nephew).

**Our Lutheran Pastors** Rev. Rohwer (Muslims) & Rev. Bernard (Haiti; West Indies).

**Our Homebound** Betty Leonhart; Ruby Atkinson; Clara Morgan; Helen Winchester; Virginia Dunn; Guy Hahn; Anna Mevis (San Jacinto).

**Loved ones died** Helen Winchester; Stanley Welchert; Arlene Ponitz

**ATTENDANCE**

MAY	1	8	15	22	29
<b>Worship</b>	108	106	98	93	109
<b>Communed</b>	*		88		
<b>Bible Class</b>	41	<b>Mothers Day</b>	40	33	48
<b>Sun. School</b>	*	<b>Breakfast</b>	*	*	
<b>Offerings</b>	\$4025.	3204.	\$2259.	\$1944. 75	\$2555.

JUNE	5	12	19	26
<b>Worship</b>	107	101	89	96
<b>Communed</b>	92	91	80 *	
<b>Bible Class</b>	39	36	34	*
<b>Sun. School</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>Offerings.</b>	\$3366.	\$2121.	\$2002.	\$2823.

**ASCENSION DAY, JUNE 2**

<b>Attendance</b>	40
<b>Offerings</b>	\$975

\*—denotes not listed



**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

## LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE



### Mite Boxes - How They Began



Perhaps inspired by the various "cent" or "mite" societies of the early 1800s, the Woman's Mission to Woman (Baptist) urged members in its first circular letter in 1871 to use their new mite box to raise funds. The entire family was encouraged to contribute. The garnet-colored paper box had an opening on the top and the words, "Woman's Mission to Woman," in gold letters on the side.

Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6651.31 in 1930.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and bylaws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.

At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through voluntary offerings. Instead of "mite boxes" some societies called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thank offering boxes." The first Mite Box design had space for districts to imprint local messages. In publications and speeches, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:

- ◆ *Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day*
- ◆ *Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted*
- ◆ *Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day*

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

### Times and Mite Boxes Change

Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Districts still retain 75% of mite offerings for the work of the LWML at that level. National mites fund over \$1 million in mission grants.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE LWML EVENTS

October 1—Cranberry Tea and Fall Rally  
November 4 & 5—Craft Faire

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5—Willaim & Lezlee Neebe  
5—Jim & Linda Warner  
14—John & Candy Detviler  
14—Ralph & Nancy Purcha  
30—Dave & Debbie Anderson



### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

9—Maurice & Susan Kaneshiro  
12—Bud & Betty Leonhart  
17—Kevin & Christina Kolander  
18—Don & Ruth Detviler  
18—Pat & Kelly Kyle

### CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

July—Anton and Kyle  
August—TBA

### BAPTIZED

Easter Sunday—April 24, 2011  
Jude Alan Morris

### CHRISTIAN BURIAL

May 15, 2001  
Werner Welchert

**REFRESHMENTS****JULY**

**3rd** Andrea Hall  
Marion Schmedake  
Sharon Timms

**10th** Cheryl Cheek  
Beverly Christiansen  
Delores Zegestosky

**17th** Shirley Brown  
Erla Cloer  
Jamie Wilson

**24th** Joline Terry  
Christina Kolander  
Lore Tucker

**31st Potluck**  
Ida Williams  
Susan Kaneshiro  
Melody Anton

**AUGUST**

**7th** Susan Morris  
Karol Steiner  
Kim Sunshine

**14th** Bonnie Harlow  
Frieda Bartsch  
Debbie Bergman

**21st** Dana Davidson  
Ruth Dtviler  
Jean Eilers

**28th Potluck**  
Sandra Brannon  
Maurine Hahn  
Heather Haworth

## LUTHERANS IN MISSION

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, JOPLIN, MO

Harold and Harriet Fritz were two of dozens of volunteers from across the country to help with tornado relief at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Martin Luther School in Joplin, Mo., over Memorial Day weekend. "It's the least we could do," said Harriet. "Here they need help in every direction there is." For nearly a week, the retired couple has traveled the 60-miles from their Nixa, Mo., home into Joplin to help with disaster relief efforts. They have unloaded and sorted water, food and material goods for victims of the May 22 tornado. On Sunday, Harriet rode in a Gator to areas greatly damaged and passed out cold water to people digging through the rubble that once were their homes. "We will come back [to Joplin] until they tell us there isn't a need," said Harriet.



The LCMS church and school, located just a half block from areas of major destruction, has become a disaster response hub for the community according to Jeremy Schamber, principal of Martin Luther School. "Donations of food, water, clothes, toiletry, medical supplies, etc. are being collected at school," wrote Schamber in an email update.

Besides acting as a donation center, the school is serving as a medical clinic with a small pharmacy staffed with doctors and nurses from Farmington, Mo. Volunteers are providing meals for emergency personnel and local families, and delivering meals to disaster stricken areas. They have been involved in search and rescue and helping families salvage personal belongings. Staff and volunteers also provided pastoral care for people in devastated areas and those who come to the school.

Rev. Jon Olson of Pipestone, Minn., and Rev. Mark Mumme from Hardwick, Minn., traveled to Joplin May 23 to provide pastoral care. Working with the church and the Red Cross, the pastors delivered food and water to victims and workers.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care's Rev. Glenn Merritt (Disaster Response) and Rev. Carlos Hernandez (District and Congregations) arrived in Joplin May 25 to assist with needs assessment and provide pastoral care. "These folks at Immanuel are the absolute best. They are living examples of mercy and compassion in the church," said Merritt. Merritt praised the church's "complete involvement in the life and needs of their community since the moment the tornado hit until now."

"Pastor Greg Mech and his entire staff ... are giving so much right now even though they've lost so much themselves," said Merritt. Twelve church families lost their homes in the tornado. Eight school families and three teachers also lost their homes. Even more church and school families' homes were seriously damaged. The parsonage was damaged, the church needs a new roof and the school may need a new roof and other repairs.



"We know Martin Luther School will be used all summer long to help our families and the community," said Schamber. "We are in this for the long haul."

LCMS World Relief and Human Care is supporting Immanuel with grants, recruiting volunteers, facilitating material aid and offering pastoral care according to Merritt.

# DON CROW

Don Lee Crow was born in Long Beach, California on August 4, 1954 to Frank and Patricia Crow. Don is the oldest of two. His brother, Gary Crow, was born two years later in 1956. Until 2001, Don lived most of his life in Long Beach, except for brief periods in which he lived in Las Vegas, Nevada and Denver, Colorado. While in Las Vegas, his father worked on the atom bomb experiments at the Nevada test site area there. Don witnessed an atom bomb explosion with his family when he was three, although he doesn't remember much about it.



Don graduated from Banning High School in Wilmington, California in 1972. He later attended Northrup University in Inglewood California where he obtained an Airframe and Powerplant License in 1982. This is an airplane mechanics license. He graduated second in his class and was offered a teaching job, but turned it down because he wanted to work on real planes. Unfortunately for Don, before he graduated President Reagan deregulated the airline industry and there weren't many jobs available. Fortunately, he still had a job at the Lucky's grocery store (which was later bought out by Albertsons) where he worked for thirty-two years. He retired on disability in 2004 due to serious arthritis in his knees.

Three years after high school graduation, Don married his first wife, Debra Wallrich, with whom he had three sons: Richard, Eric, and Keith. Don's marriage with Debra ended in 1990, which resulted in him being estranged from his children until they became adults. Don is very close with his eldest son, Richard, and will officiate at his wedding in July. Don remarried in 1992 to Rebecca Santiago. Don and Rebecca were separated in 2001, although divorce has not been pursued. After the separation, he moved in with his family in Lake Elsinore.

Don's only church experience as a child was occasionally attending his grandmother's Methodist church where his parents would sometimes drop him and his brother off for church services. His mother would always give them each a dime to put in the collection plate. Don's dime found its way into the donut fund, so he and his brother could get donuts. His mother found out and told him that he was "stealing from God", and they never got donuts again.

Before Don and Debra were married they attended a Foursquare Church called Shekinah Fellowship where they answered the altar call at the end of the service. They began attending Shekinah from that point forward. The Shekinah Fellowship was a Pentecostal church, whose main services were divine healing services. Don and Debra attended Bible studies as well as the weekly healing services there. Don often volunteered as a "catcher", which involved standing behind people as they were touched by the minister and were "slain by the spirit." This would often result in someone falling backward and they would need someone to "catch" them. This became unfulfilling for Don and he left the organized church for more than twenty-five years. According to Don, he never lost faith in God, just church. For a while after leaving Shekinah, he looked into some forms of Eastern mysticism, but that never

## FLOWER SCHEDULE

### July

- 3—
- 10—
- 17—**Lore Tucker**  
Birthday Blessings
- 24—**Mary Gainey**  
Baptism Birthday
- 31—**Phyllis Werner**  
For Harry



### August

- 7—**Don and Kay Foster**  
In Memory of Sandi
- 14—**Pat and Kelly Kyle**  
Anniversary
- 21—**Tom McDermott**  
For Barbara's Birthday
- 28—**Hahn/Haworth Families**  
For Clayton's Birthday

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

- E-Prayer**—Pastor Kolander
- H.O.P.E. Basket**—1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday—McCaleb's, Gerry Connellan & Delores Zegestosky
- Ladies Prayer Chain**—  
Bev Leckie
- Newsletter**—Ruth Denviler
- Publicity**—Maurine Hahn
- Greeters**—Contact person  
Melody Anton

**BIBLE STUDIES  
AT  
FIRST LUTHERAN**

**Sunday 9:00—10:00AM**

Praying the  
Book of Psalms

**Wednesday**

**10:30 AM—12:00 Noon**

Book of Matthew

**Friday**

Chain the Cat

6:00 PM—Supper

6:30 PM—Prayers

7:00 PM—Bible Study



**FIRST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

600 West Sumner Avenue  
Lake Elsinore, CA 9250

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went very far. He felt the need to be a part of a body of believers and even considered the Catholic Church.

He is very thankful that he found First Lutheran Church. Here he has “learned the full message of the Gospel” and what the Bible teaches in its entirety. He says he “was attracted to First Lutheran by the Pastor who seemed so down to earth while being so knowledgeable” and by the members “who were (and still are) so friendly and welcoming.” He “loves the Liturgy and the simple message of grace given freely.”

What people may not know about Don is that he is really Dr. Rev. Don Crow. A couple of years ago, he found a website that offered free ordination. He applied and became ordained. And for only \$25 more he received a Doctor of Divinity from the same online church. The ordination is recognized by the state and federal government and it is what will allow him to officiate at his eldest son’s wedding in July.

Don has had one knee replacement and one more that still needs replacement. He enjoys computers and helping others with their computer needs. He is also a voracious reader and often has at least two books going at any given time.

**Courtney Rosenblatt, FLC Roving Reporter**

✠ The **Scott Worth** family have transferred to Our Savior Lutheran Church (LCMS) at 301 South Pine Street Cabot, Arkansas 72023.

✠ **Chain the Cat** will continue to meet during the summer except for July 15th and July 22nd.

✠ The **Wednesday Morning Bible Class** will also continue to meet during the summer months.

✠ **Message from Gail Christiansen:** “Choir will be taking a break for summer. It has been a real pleasure to work with this devoted group of singers. We’ll be back in action in September. Maybe there’ll be some special music before then. Blessings abound”

✠ **Vacation Bible School** will be held in July. The date is pending .



**WE GIVE THANKS FOR GOD’S FAITHFUL SERVANTS**

We give a very special thank you for many years of loving and dedicated service to their Lord and their church to:

✠ **Bud Leonhart** who has retired from his many years of service on the Board of Elders.

✠ **Mary Gainey** who retired from her dedicated years of service on the Board of Trustees.

✠ **Maurine Hahn** who has retired from her position as Evangelism Chairperson.



God has richly blessed First Lutheran with their faithful and constant service to our church. May He continue to bless each of them as they have blessed us.



# CROSS CURRENTS

Newsletter of First Lutheran Church  
600 W. Sumner Avenue  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

The Rev. Kevin L. Kolander, Pastor  
Church Office (951) 674-2757  
e-mail: [pastor@firstluth.com](mailto:pastor@firstluth.com)  
Web Page: [www.firstluth.com](http://www.firstluth.com)  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:00 AM.



## SOUTH DAKOTA CONGREGATION RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, S.D., was selected as one of 15 national recipients of the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award from out of 4,049 nominations submitted. It is the first church ever to receive the award.

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

In February, St. John's received the Department's *Pro Patria* Award in South Dakota for its support of its senior pastor, Rev. David Gunderson, who is a lieutenant colonel in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Gunderson returned in May after a year's deployment to Afghanistan with the Sioux Falls-based 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

According to a press release from the Public Affairs office of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, when Gunderson "declined to accept any pay during his deployment, the church elected to use the money to support his military mission while he was serving in Afghanistan."

The congregation provided school supplies, blankets, baby quilts, clothes and shoes (more than 1,000 pairs, according to the Public Affairs Office of the South Dakota National Guard) for humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. The congregation also supplied copies of Lutheran Service Book that Gunderson used in worship and devotions. For his fellow soldiers, the congregation provided care packages that Gunderson distributed or left in the Soldier Care rooms of the bases to which he was assigned.

St. John's, with a confirmed membership of more than 900, has 15 members on active duty or attached to a Guard or Reserve unit, with several having been activated at least twice.

The congregation and the other 14 recipients will be recognized Sept. 22nd in Washington, D.C., at the annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Ceremony.

