

# FIRST FOCUS



February 14—February 27, 2010

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## "The Week That Changed The World"

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) through April 4 (Easter Sunday)

Our Lenten Journey at First Lutheran Church will take us back in time to explore that pivotal and climactic "Last Week" in Jerusalem for Jesus and his disciples. Over time, the events of that week became what Christians now call "Holy Week", culminating in one of Christianity's major festivals and biggest celebrations -- Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of our Lord. What really took place in that last week? Why did Jesus die, and who killed Jesus? What were his last and most urgent teachings for his followers, knowing that his time on earth was short? And of course, what are the implications for our faithful following of Jesus in Greater Greensboro and the world in the year 2010?

Together we'll experience and read about Holy Week, one day at a time, using the Gospel According to Mark as our major source. The earliest of the four New Testament gospels -- written about 70 AD -- Mark presents a unique account of that infamous week through his combination of both "history remembered" and "history interpreted". Our pastors and other leaders will also be utilizing Marcus Borg's and John Dominic Crossan's book "The Last Week" as a resource for preaching, teaching, devotions and reflection.

You are invited to join the journey in a number of ways, including:

- ✠ Weekly Sunday Sermon series, beginning Sunday, February 21
- ✠ Mid-week worship, reflection and conversation on Tuesdays at 11 AM, and Wednesdays at 7 PM, including Holy Communion
- ✠ Daily Devotional Guide written by Pastors Jay, Charlie and Brady Faggart, for use from February 21 through April 4
- ✠ Children's Sunday School classes that follow the Holy Week story
- ✠ Weekly Take-Home materials for families for sharing faith in the home
- ✠ Some of our adult classes on Sunday morning will discuss the weekly themes

You are invited to join the Lenten Journey as we experience together  
*"The Week That Changed The World."*

### February 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

*First Lutheran is a partner in the NC Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*God's work. Our hands.*



## Worship Ministries

### Special Worship Events

- Confirmation Youth lead worship at 9:00 and 11:15 on February 14
- Confirmation Service at 11:15 service
- Handbells and Trumpet for prelude at the 11:15 on February 21
- Children's Choir Song of Praise at 11:15 on February 21
- Ash Tuesday Service on February 16 in Fellowship Hall (and following weeks at 11:00)
- Ash Wednesday Service February 17 at 7 pm (and midweek services each Wednesday during Lent)
- Healing Services combined with Maundy Tuesday/Thursday on March 30 and April 1

### Special Music Events to put on your calendars:

- Requiem* by Durufle with Chancel Choir, soloists, organ and small orchestra on **Good Friday**, April 2 at 7 pm
- Special Music Service on April 25 with both traditional adult choirs at the 11:15 service (regular service in Fellowship Hall at 8:45 am with no choir)

The next **Worship Ministries** division meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 28 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm in the Luther Cafe. Some of the items for discussion include weekly communion, updates on the new building, and acolyte and crucifer training. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact Karen Brown, Maryellen Paton or Pat Bergen.

## Mark your calendars!

Karen Brown celebrates her  
**10-year anniversary at FLC this month!**  
(Her actual anniversary date is February 14).



We are grateful for Karen's ministry of music which has enriched our worship for over 1200 services!!

Please join us for a reception in her honor on February 28 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to write a note or card for Karen on this special occasion, please leave in the church office for Maryellen Paton or bring with you on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Children's Ministry

### Parents: Do you talk to your kids about sex?

On Sunday, February 21 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall, we are offering a forum for parents to discuss when, how and why as Christians do we talk to our children about sex. Dr. Rob Harmon will lead us in discussion about how to answer tough questions and when is the timing right. Please join us. Bring a friend.

### Children's Ministry Planning Meeting

**Sunday, February 28 at 10:15 am in Room 1**

(or immediately following reception for Karen Brown)  
Anyone interested in planning for Children's Ministry please join us as we plan for the 2010-2011 year.

### Attention youth, grandparents, parents and anyone else who enjoys spending time with babies and toddlers...

Can you spare an hour of your time in our nursery? We are in desperate need of help! We currently do not even have enough volunteers to fill our monthly schedule. The most needed times are 8:45 -10 and 10-11:15. Please email Libby Fortin at isabellalane@hotmail.com or call her at 317-2645 if you can help. Just one hour a month would be a tremendous help. This is a very simple (and fun) way to give of your time and talent to the church.

## Youth Ministry

### 24-Hour Hunger Lock-In Event Rescheduled!

All Youth Grade 7-12 are welcome to join!

Friday, February 26, arrive at FLC at 7 pm

Event ends Saturday, February 27 at 1:30 pm

Cost- \$13 (covers t-shirt and supplies & 'break-fast' meal)

Fasting Time - by the honor system begins at 12:30 pm Friday\*

Sign Up (or re-confirm your participation) and join in a different type of 'lock-in' experience. You'll create a tent city indoors and learn about how other children and youth around the world survive with very little food. During the lock-in you will also help bring awareness to the issues of famine and help collect food to feed the needy in our community. For T-shirts - Please Sign Up by February 14, 2010.

\*Our 24-Hr Fast event will begin at 12:30 pm on Friday by the honor system and ends with a celebration meal on Saturday. During the lock-in, everyone will be monitored closely, encouraged to drink plenty of fluids and eat food if needed. A consent form must be signed in order to participate. Healthy foods will be available for those youth not able to fast for 24-hrs but interested in participating.

### GUM NIGHT for all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth & Families Thursday, February 25 5:45-8 pm

Put it on your calendar and join the serving team! Since we expect to serve close to 150 homeless guests during this very cold season - we are counting on YOU!! Homemade Chicken Tetrizzini was successful last time so we are trying it again. We are requesting that interested FLC members prepare a 9x13 casserole ahead of time. Sign up will be on the youth board. Grade 7-8 & Families will be asked to provide desserts and/or rolls plus the people power to prepare & serve the meal.

# Women of the ELCA

**Bunko Night—Fri., Feb. 19 @ 6 pm**

Please sign-up on the WELCA board. All females are welcome ... any age as long as they can keep up with the play ... bring a friend! Looking forward to seeing you there!



## Birthday Bash Planning

The Women of First Lutheran Church want to plan a Birthday Bash for May and are looking for people who would like to be on the planning committee. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Leslie Pipan, 273-6076 or lopipan@aol.com.

# Natural Church Development

The overview of the NCD process which was to be held on January 31 at 10 AM in the fellowship hall has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 21 at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The information about Natural Church Development in last month's newsletter is still available online on the News page by opening the January 17—January 30 First Focus and scrolling to page 3.



# Deese Tree Photo Winner(s)

After all the voting has been tallied, THREE of the pictures tied for being your favorites. They were numbers 2, 6 and 7. A composite of the three will be posted on the bulletin board and copies can be made upon request. Thanks for voting!



# From the Green Team

Lent is a good time to examine our values and priorities as God's faithful people. Go to [http://www.firstlutheran.com/Tread\\_Lightly\\_For\\_Lent\\_2010.pdf](http://www.firstlutheran.com/Tread_Lightly_For_Lent_2010.pdf) for a calendar with ideas of things we can do each day to be good stewards of all that God has given us.



# February 14—February 27 at First Lutheran

## Sunday, February 14—

- Confirmation Sunday**  
 8:45 am Traditional Worship  
 9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
 10:00 am Faith Formation  
 11:15 am Traditional Worship  
 6:30 pm SHOUT! Service  
 7:30 pm Luther Brass  
 7:30 pm Bible Study

## Monday, February 15

- 1:30 pm Spirituality Group  
 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study  
 5:00 pm Grace Reigns Down  
 6:45 pm Council

## Tuesday, February 16

- Ash Tuesday**  
 10:00 am Chair Yoga  
 11:00 am FACEOUT—Ash Tuesday Svc.  
 1:00 pm Spirituality Group  
 7:00 pm Living Stones

## Wednesday, February 17

- Ash Wednesday**  
 10:00 am Bible Study  
 6:00 pm Handbells  
 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

## Thursday, February 18

- 10:00 am Bible Study  
 7:30 pm Fellowship Choir

## Sunday, February 21

- 8:45 am Traditional Worship  
 9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
 10:00 am Faith Formation  
 10:00 am Sexuality Parents' Forum  
 11:00 am Natural Church Dev Forum  
 11:15 am Traditional Worship  
 4:30 pm Youth Choir  
 6:30 pm SHOUT! Service  
 7:30 pm Luther Brass  
 7:30 pm Bible Study

## Monday, February 22

- 1:30 pm Spirituality Group  
 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study  
 5:00 pm Grace Reigns Down

## Tuesday, February 23

- 10:00 am Chair Yoga  
 11:00 am FACEOUT—Lenten Svc.  
 1:00 pm Spirituality Group  
 7:00 pm Living Stones

## Wednesday, February 24

- 10:00 am Bible Study  
 6:00 pm Handbells  
 7:00 pm Lenten Service  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, February 25

- 10:00 am Bible Study  
 7:00 pm Bid and Construction  
 7:30 pm Fellowship Choir

## Friday, February 26-27

- Youth Hunger Lock-In  
 (rescheduled—see page 2)

## Saturday, February 27

- 7:00 pm Grace Reigns Down  
 Concert (see page 5)

## Worship Attendance

1/31		2/7
Services	8:45	80
cancelled	9:00	235
due to snow	11:15	169
	6:30	38

# Community Ministries

## THANKS! YOU DID IT!!

We passed our goal of 100 cans of food for older adults, 100 jars of jelly for Urban Ministry breakfasts and \$600 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal on SOUPER Bowl Sunday! Stay tuned for actual totals in the next First Focus.

## GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD - February 21- April 4



What is full of "cheeps" and you can buy for \$10 each? CHICKS ... FOR CHANGE!

The children and adults of First Lutheran are seeking to provide 100 chicks during Lent through God's Global Barnyard, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chicks make a big difference for families! Within a few months of birth, chicks begin laying eggs. Eggs make nutritious meals for growing children, and the extra eggs generate income to grow a small business.



Special displays/collection points will be set up in the church beginning in mid- to late February and will end on Easter, April 4. Please make checks to either First Lutheran Church or the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and put "chicks" on your offering envelope.



Thanks to Amy Schenck, 540-8395, aschenck73@gmail.com, for coordinating this project to help children see how small steps can mean big changes.



Write a check for chicks and hatch some hope!

## STRETCHING TO SERVE

Seeking a way to serve others in a short-term yet meaningful way? Check out these possibilities!

- Food Assistance: Sort, pack food on third Friday. Delivery persons also needed. Details, Dawn Barry, 852-8476.
- Night Shelter meal: Serve on fourth Thursday at Urban Ministry. Details, Carol McPeeters or Frank Moore, 292-9125.
- Thursday/Friday breakfasts: Serve Weaver House residents. Details: Kimberly Embry, 332-3359 or Todd Herman, 282-4538.
- Mobile Meals: Deliver meals to homebound adults on fourth Monday. Details: Jo Fleck, 664-0480, Ginny Gaskin, 218-8406.
- Grocery store food drives: Collect food in March and September. Details: Bob Meacham, 855-7396, or Christina Weaver, 540-0891
- Soles4Souls: Collect and sort shoes for local, world needs in June. Details: Want to help?
- Gleaning: Collect surplus food from farms monthly. Details: Frank Moore, 292-9125
- Agents of Grace: Serve a community need on a Saturday TBA in August. Details: Jan Swanson, 638-7759.
- CROP Walk: Fight hunger in community, worldwide on Oct. 17. Details: Louise Lampron-Welker, 856-1532.

# Stewardship

*The following is an edited excerpt from an email series by the Rev. James Howell of Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, www.mpumc.org.*

Stewardship is a spiritual practice? It feels more like the business side of the Church, bills to pay, budgets to meet and yet with a personal edge: How much do they really need? Is there enough transparency to feel my money is put to good use? Do I support what they are doing?

Jesus seems to have thought up the idea of stewardship, and he didn't manage a budget or provide payroll. When he taught, he stood and pointed to real vineyards his listeners could see, in which many of them worked. Every vineyard was owned by a rich person who didn't do manual labor. He hired a steward who didn't own the vineyard, but his task was to prosper the owner, and to be sure all the workers had enough food to keep working; his delight was in the good of the owner, and for those who needed the vineyard to survive.

This is what stewardship really is. God owns the vineyard ...You exist to prosper God and those who need what's in God's vineyard to survive - not yourself.

Our society lifts up [money](#) as its ultimate idol ... Money is a powerful instrument, and much good can be done with it! - but money is God's most arrogant rival. When we part with it for God, and for those in dire need, we shed layers of insulation between ourselves and God. Generosity gives birth to a more spiritual heart.

We give to the Church, not to pay bills, or because it needs money, but because we need to grow closer to God ... Stewardship is a spiritual practice, and attending to its place in our heart is a key to growth in faith.

## Generosity Report.

<u>Mission &amp; Ministry</u>	<u>Budget Goal</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>%</u>
January 2010	\$76,140	\$69,145	90.8%
2009-10 Fiscal YTD	\$580,792	\$554,035	95.4%

Building Fund Gifts as of December 31: \$1,675,704

All payments to benevolent organizations, such as Greensboro Urban Ministry and Mobile Meals, continue to be up-to-date as are transfers to our Property funds.

NOTE: Services were cancelled on Sunday January 31, so January's totals reflect one less Sunday than anticipated. We hope to make up this shortfall in February.



## Administration Ministries

### SIGN AT HOLDEN ROAD ENTRANCE

Now that we have a clearly visible sign at our Friendly Avenue entrance, we need to increase our visibility from the Holden Road side of our property.

When we purchased the Friendly Avenue sign from Design Systems, they were kind enough to refurbish our old sign while we were waiting on the new one. When the new sign was put in place, we saved the old sign, intending to use it at some point in the future. With the construction company on site, an opportunity to do just that has come.

In addition to the refurbished sign, we also have stone from the back of our building that was removed in the construction process. Using this stone and our former sign, we are planning to build a structure for this sign on the Holden Road side which should be finished sometime this summer. It will be similar to the sign formerly on Friendly Avenue.

The location of the new sign, which will be visible from both the north and south, has been marked off by red flags on the south side of the Holden Road driveway. Our construction crew has offered to pour the foundation for the sign with leftover concrete from the building project.

By the time our new building is completed, people should have no trouble finding us from either Holden Road or Friendly Avenue. Invite your friends and neighbors!

## Our Church Family



...to Misty Kulle on the death of her mother, Billie Ann Zawacki on January 25  
...to Doris Cline on the death of her father, Herbert Borgelt on January 23  
...to David Clark on the death of his father, Rev. J. Harvey Clark on January 28

...to Barbara Willard on the death of her sister, Betty Jo King on February 1

Like to cook?

Want to support Greensboro Urban Ministry?

Thanks to all those who prepared casseroles for the January Urban Ministry meal. It was such a success, we are doing it again! If you like to cook - here is a great way to support FLC's once-a-month dinner commitment to Greensboro Urban Ministry!

We need cooks willing to pre-make a chicken tetrazzini casserole (in a 9 x 13 disposable pan) for our next GUM dinner. Please e-mail Carol@firstlutheran.com or see the youth board near the library for details & the recipe. We will need them in our church refrigerator by Wednesday, February 24. There is an increased number of people in our local shelters and we want to make sure everyone has a warm filling meal! The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth & Families will be preparing, serving and providing the rest of this dinner on Thursday night, February 25.

## LYO stands for Lutheran Youth Organization!

On February 19- 21, ELCA youth from around North Carolina will be meeting in Greensboro. At this State Youth Assembly, teens lead other teens in devotion time, they listen to testimonies from young adults, have great fellowship and worship time and they elect representatives for the 2010-2011 year. Please pray for FLC's 15 youth and 5 adults participating at this year's LYO Assembly.



## Chrismon Class



Have you ever admired the Chrismon Tree and wished you could make those ornaments yourself? Now's your chance! Margaret Alsobrooks and Dawn Barry will be teaching a class starting Monday, March 8 through Monday April 26 from 1:00-3:00. If you are interested please call Dawn at 852-8476 and get the information on the

supplies. Space is limited, so don't delay!

## Grace Reigns Down in CONCERT!!!!

Saturday, February 27—7 pm



Bring the family for an evening of  
Christian Music  
and help support  
Greensboro Urban Ministry  
all at once!

Bring canned food for admission,  
and make sure to tell  
your friends!!!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday, February 17

**FIRST FOCUS**

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**2009—2010 First Lutheran Church  
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 Secretary: Edgar Jaynes  
 Communications Coordinator - Kacy Newton

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 Kimberly Embry—Community Ministries  
 Jackie Freeman—Administration Ministries  
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 June Simpson     Kathy Brinke  
 Donalyn Johnson     Doris Hansen

