

FIRST FOCUS

November 1—November 14, 2009



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It's Mission Appeal time

The journey has just begun...

Here are the results of our October 25 Congregational vote on the new building:

- 442 votes cast
- 344 YES votes
- 98 NO votes

The motion has passed with a 78% majority.

It is an exciting time in the life of First Lutheran Church. We can look forward to new and more versatile space, multiple ways to worship and the opportunity to invite others to join our First Lutheran Family.

At the same time we are mindful of the 22% who voted "no" out of their concern for our mission and space. We appreciated their questions and dreams for our collective future. Let us remain open to continuing dialog as we seek to be unified in our mission and work together as the Body of Christ.

Now is the time to turn our attention to fueling the mission and ministries of FLC.



...and the mission continues!

God's work. Our hands.

The Mission Appeal, which began recently, gives us an opportunity to reflect on the values we hold for the various ministries supported by our financial support. Your contributions fuel quality worship, enriching education and meaningful mission.

Two brochures and a pledge card have been mailed to the congregation. The purpose of the brochures is to spotlight the mission and ministry done through the contributions made by members and guests in response to their passion for ministries and in response to God's love.

continued on page 5— Stewardship

Remember:



Sunday, November 1
Set your clock
before you go to bed!

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

God's work. Our hands.



Worship Ministries

If you are interested in a special music offering by the Chancel Choir, please be present at the **11:15 am traditional service on November 1**, when we celebrate All Saints Day. The choir will be sharing four movements from the **Durufle Requiem**, followed by a short pastoral wrap-up. (The entire work will be presented in April.) Additional special music offerings on November 1 include a handbell quartet and a trombone solo at 11:15! The regular message for the day will be presented at both the 8:45 and 9 am services.

Our contemporary leadership team for the Sunday evening SHOUT! Service will lead worship at 9:00 am on November 8 (in addition to the evening 6:30 pm contemporary service.) They have graciously agreed to cover this service to allow the leadership team of the Living Stones a Sunday off. Please come and worship together.

We look forward to hearing John Brumbaugh play cello at the 11:15 service on the 8th.

SPECIAL NEED: Families with at least one 'reader child' of any age from elementary school level are needed to do a small, rather simple Advent Wreath Devotional at each of the three morning services in Advent. We have no volunteers yet for the services on December 6 (8:45, 9:00, & 11:15 am) or on December 20 (8:45, 9:00 & 11:15 am). Please contact Barbara Britton bbritton@triad.rr.com, 282-6891, ASAP, if you can help fill this need. A short devotional will then be mailed to you.

Portable worship gives back, invites in

Portable worship is one great way for the church to leave the building! Since February, we've been recording the 9am and 11:15 am worship services and making them available through the website and CDs to the homebound. FLC currently has about three dozen homebound, nearly all of whom are "Builder Generation" folks who have loved and raised this spiritual home of ours. At this point, CDs only reach about half of them, and most are mailed through the church office on a very small budget. However, a few thoughtful (and thrifty) people have begun delivering CDs instead, with one WELCA Circle including them in visits and care packages twice a year. Along with Homebound Communion, Knitting Ministry, Martha's Meals and other ministries, this is a great "two-fer", letting folks know how we still care and bringing their spirit home to the rest of us! As we look to become the next Builder Generation ourselves, could we also strengthen the body of Christ by reaching out more to those who gave us something to build upon?

Portable worship is also a nice way to discover FLC for the first time. Hilary Bouknight downloads sermons from the website and shares them with several friends. Frank Moore and Community Ministries has commissioned a



compilation of our Advent/Christmas music to share with others as we approach what is always a special season in Lutheran worship. (Details to come in November.) Meanwhile, Grace Reigns Down regularly plays and sings in our community, and a few other FLC music groups venture out every so often.

To learn more, deliver a CD, share a story, or help these ministries in other ways, contact Andy Mitchum at 286-5118 or doctormitchum@earthlink.net.

Administration Ministries

Flu Season is Upon Us!

Due to warnings from public health officials predicting a particularly bad flu season this year, we have taken steps to make hand sanitizer more readily available in our building. You will find dispensers mounted at eye level near each of our 5 entrance doors (east wing, west wing, office, narthex and west side). In addition to these new dispensers, you'll find others in the rest rooms, in the kitchen as well as the parlor kitchenette, and in the children's classrooms.

FOUND - One Gap Jeans white/aqua child's pocketbook, probably left here during Bible School. Contact Janice in the church office to claim.

From the Green Team

Decoding 'Fair Trade'

"Fair Trade" is a term that is becoming increasingly popular. In fact, Fair Trade Certified products in the U.S. accounted for an estimated \$1.1 billion in 2008, according to TransFair USA.

But what does "Fair Trade" really mean? The Fair Trade Label guarantees products have been manufactured under strict social, economical and environmental guidelines. Certifications in the U.S. are currently available for coffee, tea and herbs, cocoa and chocolate, fresh fruit, flowers, sugar, rice and vanilla.

Throughout the month of October, companies linked up with community organizations, student groups, faith-based initiatives and other non-profits to raise awareness of Fair Trade Certified products and the farmers and farm workers who produce these items.

TransFair USA also celebrated Fair Trade Month with its "31 Days, 31 Ways" campaign. Each day, TransFair USA posted a new fact about Fair Trade and a simple way in which consumers can support it. The organization also gave away prizes via Twitter (@fairtradeusa).

"By dedicating an entire month to promoting Fair Trade Certified products, we helped to grow product sales, which benefited retailers, companies with licensed products, and most importantly, farmers and farm workers around the world," said Paul Rice, president and CEO of TransFair USA. "This is a great example of how our individual purchasing power can empower farmers from some of the world's poorest countries."

Youth Ministry

5th-12th GRADERS (& FAMILIES) of FIRST LUTHERAN
Come share YOUR GIFT as we prepare for GOD'S GIFT
this Advent season!

We Invite ALL YOUTH to be a Part of This Year's youth-led Nativity play, "Unto Us A Child" Whether you enjoy 'acting out a part' ('no lines') or would rather 'help behind-the-scenes' - *there is something for all talents!* Plan to meet Analyse Triolo, this year's director, near the youth board (library) just after Contemporary Worship on Nov. 1 and turn in your part selection! Questions?? Contact, Analyse - aktriolo@uncg.edu

PRACTICE & PERFORMANCE DATES (meet in Worship Room)
Please --check your calendar before signing up for a role!

- [November 29 - 1PM - 5:30 pm - only for Mary, Joseph & Lead Angels]
- Sunday, Dec 6 AND 13 - practice begin 1 PM SHARP! & end by 5:30 pm
- Thursday, December 17 - Tech & Dress rehearsal - 6 PM - 8:30 pm
- Friday, December 18 - performance - 5 - 9 pm
- Saturday, December 19 - performance - 5 - 10 pm (includes a cast Christmas party)

ADULTS! TRULY PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE!!!

We need adult & parent helpers to guide and coach our youth as they lead, plan & present this Christmas tradition. The Director will need help with practice supervision & youth will need tech, lighting, costumes, props, backstage, promotion, hospitality and Christmas Cast Party support for this event.

North Central Cluster Fall Rally "Doing the Word"

Saturday, November 14 from 10 am - 3 pm
Here at FLC!

ALL YOUTH (Gr 5- 12) are invited to come be 'doers of the word'! Meet new friends, hang out with old friends and help serve a people shelter and an animal shelter in the community! Cost - \$15 for mission supplies and lunch. Sign up on the youth board. Make checks payable to FLC - memo line- Cluster event - place in Carol's box. Parents interested in helping support and be a part of this event (no charge for you) - let Carol know (carol@firstlutheran.com)!

5th & 6th Graders & Parents - Martin Luther on Sunday Mornings Nov 1, 8, 15

At 10 am in Room 110/112 downstairs.

Parents - Don't forget to join us for this special faith sharing time with your child. You should have received a letter explaining the details in early October - if not, please pick up a copy on the youth board - under the 5-6 grade heading.

7th & 8th Graders & Parents - please note that your
Sunday 10 am Class will meet in room 2 (upstairs) on
Nov 1, 8 and 15 - thanks!

Our Church Family



...to Bonnie Whitley on the death of her mother, Hazel Cluff on October 10
...to Martha Walker on the death of her cousin on October 10
...to Liz Bulla on the death of her aunt, Ebbie Gurganus on October 11

...to Rich, Jane, John and Anna Schlobohm; Jane Connelly and Charles Connelly III, Carrie Conklin and Caroline Kinlaw on the death of their father/grandfather, George Schlobohm on October 16

Congratulations!

On October 20, The Triad Retirement Living Association held "The 2009 Caregiver of the Year" awards luncheon at The Grandover Resort & Conference Center. Ten elder caregivers from all over the Triad were finalists who had given much time and love to others in their caregiving. Included in this group was Ray O'Neal who was honored for his caregiving of his wife Jerry for so many years until her death. During Jerry's illness, and to this day, Ray continues to preside at monthly support group meetings for families of Alzheimer's victims. During the luncheon, the Honorable Yvonne Johnson, Mayor of Greensboro, proclaimed this week "Caregiver Recognition Week," After the festivities, the "2009 Elder Caregiver of the Year" was announced, and the winner was....our own Ray O'Neal! Congratulations, Ray!



...from Dann Burkart. "Today I got my mail from my mailbox and I read the card from all of you about my loved one (aunt) Thanks to all of you who signed it! God bless you all. My family is very small but all of you in this church are

my extended family. I am thankful that my mom got me started at First Lutheran when I was a baby. I'm now 54! I know my mother and sister are looking down from heaven at me."

Protecting hospital patients

Moses Cone Health System and High Point Regional Health System ask for your help in protecting patients who are very vulnerable should they catch the flu. **Unless your children are seeking medical care, please keep them out of hospitals.** This includes patient rooms, waiting areas and lobbies. Also, do not come into hospitals, unless you are seeking care, if you have flu-like symptoms which include fever (in the last 24 hours), muscle aches, runny nose, headaches, sore throat and cough.

Written prayers For Confirmation Youth requested!

Join the prayer chain! Find colorful strips of paper on the youth board-choose one - write a prayer to the current 30 confirmands - and place it in Carol McPeeter's Office box to be added to the growing chain of prayers from youth, family and faith friends. It will be displayed in their meeting room!



Coming November 1—November 14 at First Lutheran

Sunday, November 1

8:45 am Traditional Worship
 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
 10:00 am Faith Formation
 11:15 am Traditional Worship
 1:00 pm Daughter Safe
 4:30 pm Youth Choir
 6:30 pm SHOUT! Service
 7:00 pm Annie Ray Moore Circle
 7:30 pm Bible Study
 7:30 pm Luther Brass

Monday, November 2

1:00 pm Chrismon Class
 1:30 pm Spirituality Group
 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
 5:00 pm Grace Reigns Down
 7:00 pm Sullivan Huddle Circle

Tuesday, November 3

Election Day

9:30 am Knitting Ministry
 10:00 am Chair Yoga
 1:00 pm Spirituality Group

Wednesday, November 4

10:00 am Bible Study
 10:00 am Mary Martha Circle
 6:15 pm Handbells
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 5

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

Sunday, November 8

8:45 am Traditional Worship
 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
 10:00 am Faith Formation
 11:15 am Traditional Worship
 1:00 pm New Beginnings
 6:30 pm SHOUT! Service
 7:30 pm Bible Study
 7:30 pm Luther Brass

Monday, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 10

10:00 am Chair Yoga
 11:00 am FACEOUT
 1:00 pm Spirituality Group
 7:00 pm Living Stones

Wednesday, November 11

10:00 am Bible Study
 10:00 am Crocheting Christians
 6:15 pm Handbells
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 12

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

Saturday, November 14

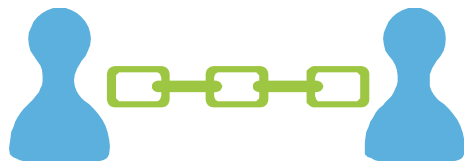
10:00 am Youth Cluster @ FLC

Worship Attendance

<u>October 18</u>		<u>October 25</u>	
8:45	87	8:45	114
9:00	190	9:00	193
11:15	135	11:15	146
6:30	53	6:30	51

Have you...

- Read about what's coming up in worship in November? (see page 2)
- Noticed the antibacterial hand sanitizer available throughout the church? (see page 2)
- Started purchasing items for Operation Christmas Child (boxes must be returned to the church by November 15; see page 5.)
- Prayerfully considered your response to First Lutheran's Mission Appeal (see cover and page 5)
- Written a prayer to add to the prayer chain for the Confirmation Youth? (see page 3)



Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate



On the 2nd Sunday of each month* Bonnie Heaton and Pat Robinson will be selling Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa (both baking and drinking) and CHOCOLATE! Yes, chocolate is back! During the warmer months we cannot order chocolate because risk of melting in higher temperatures. Please read the Green Team's article on page 2 explaining the importance of supporting fair trade sales.

*NOTE: In November only fair trade coffee tea, cocoa and chocolate will be sold on the **THIRD Sunday, November 15**. Come support fair trade!

Community Ministries

Thanks to all CROP Walk participants!

Wow! About 100 First Lutheran walkers took part in the Oct. 18 CROP Walk. Here are some more highlights:

- About \$5,000 has been raised which means we are eligible for a \$1,000 supplement from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thanks Thrivent!
- About 200 cans of food were contributed at the Children's CROP Walk.
- The School for Young Children also collected cans the week after the walk.
- Many people came for the first Chick-Fil-A night on Oct. 14.
- Youth helped with the Children's Message, the Coffee Klatch and at the Children's Walk.

Remember to bring your completed sponsor packets to Frank Moore's office or put in his mailbox in the church office. To contribute, make checks to CWS/CROP Walk, put CROP Walk on offering envelope.

Operation Christmas Child underway!

Yes, it seems too early for Christmas, but a mid-November deadline means starting on Operation Christmas Child for overseas shipping!



For those unfamiliar with OCC, the idea is to get a shoebox or a similarly-sized plastic container and fill it with items such as school supplies, small toys and toiletries.

For more details, see brochures near narthex, Care Card table and in cafe. Shoeboxes are available in Frank Moore's office. Once you're done, put the shoebox into collection boxes at Frank Moore's office and around the church.

Each box must have a check for \$7 to cover shipping costs or you can use an online method explained in the brochure. PLEASE include the \$7. We simply don't have the funds to cover a large number of boxes for postage. If you prefer not to do a box, but want to help, please make checks to First Lutheran and put "OCC" or "shoebox" on your offering envelope so that items and/or postage can be funded.

Deadline: Sunday, Nov. 15. This is a great way to teach children about sharing God's love. Questions? Contact Amy Schenck, aschenck73@gmail.com, 540-8395.

In the community

- **FLC team helping with home repair:** Thanks to Rudy Hoch, Tom Wood, Tom Rice and Phil Barry, who are helping to repair a home through Housing Greensboro. FLC contributed \$2,500 to help with this repair. This project is part of First Lutheran's emphasis on ending hunger and homelessness. For more information on this agency, go to www.housinggreensboro.org.
- **Translators needed** for a free dental clinic Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7 at First Presbyterian Church. Want to volunteer or support this ministry? Contact: Lelia.moore@mosescove.com, 832-8604. Also, we need support of \$10 per client served. To help, please make a donation to FLC. Put "dental" on your offering envelope.

- **Book fair a great success:** La Vela Mission Center joined with Barnes & Noble on Oct. 10 to celebrate Latino Heritage Month with "Libros para Ninos" (Books for Children), according to Pastor Emeritus Brady Faggart, chair of the La Vela board. With the cooperation of FLC member Cecilia Adams and Guilford County Schools, more than 100 children came with parents, teachers and volunteers to receive a free book. Many were excited because they had never been in a bookstore before. About \$1,100 was given to provide the books, and English as a Second Language teachers encouraged students to participate.

COMING SOON: Angel Tree and Honor Cards! Stay tuned for details.



Greensboro Urban Ministry 2009 Honor Card

Stewardship

from cover

Pledge cards help the Council to make a more accurate estimate of income for ministries to be done. It is understood that people can sometimes not meet a pledge because of unexpected events. Please call Janice Eberenz so she can adjust a pledge confidentially.

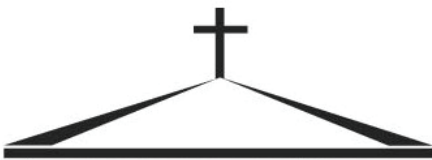
Please turn in your card at the altar on Nov. 22, which is Generosity Sunday, or to Janice by mail or email.

Take a look at these questions and reflect on how they might influence your decision to give.

- How do you feel most deeply connected to First Lutheran?
- What are you most enthusiastic about in terms of serving in the congregation? Community?
- If you do not feel connected to either the congregation or the community, how would you like to be connected?

Any staff person or divisional chair would be happy to talk about interests you may have in Community, Congregational, Worship, Administration or Stewardship ministries. "Unwrap Your Gifts" booklets, which offer ministry descriptions, are available around the church or from Frank Moore. Also, please keep in mind that donations can be done though a bank draft. Contact Janice for details.

Annual Reports for July 2008-June 2009 are available online and in hard copy on the credenza in the narthex and the table in the hall outside Frank's office.



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Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday, November 4

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