

FIRST FOCUS

November 15—November 28, 2009



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Congregational Meeting and Groundbreaking Ceremony Sunday, November 22

Last week we learned that, no matter what lender we ultimately decide to use to secure our building loan, it is extremely likely that our congregation needs to be "incorporated". Since "incorporating" is a change in entity, it does take congregational action. Work on the new addition cannot begin until this action is completed.

Additionally, Rudy Johnson left his Estate to Hospice of Alamance and First Lutheran Church. There are two pieces of property in his estate which need to be sold. Since the Constitution specifies that only the congregation has the authority to sell property, the council would like to be empowered by the congregation to sell those properties in conjunction with Hospice of Alamance.

Therefore, the Congregation Council has called a **Congregational Meeting for November 22 at 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall to vote on these two items.

Following the meeting, which we believe will be over at 10:30, parents need to promptly pick their children up from their classes and everyone is invited to gather on the lawn on the north side of our building between the oak trees and playground. Around 10:40 we'll begin the **GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**. Everyone will have a chance to turn a shovel of earth and join with our children in celebrating with a display of bubbles. Refreshments will also be provided.



**Praise God from whom
all blessings flow!**



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

God's work. Our hands.



Worship Ministries

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORSHIP

- **Children's Choir** at both the **8:45** and the **9:00** services on November 15th (Check out their great song about **Christian Fishing!**)
- **Handbells** team up with **Trumpet** for the special prelude on November 22nd at 11:15.
- Also on November 22nd, the **Youth Choir** is joined by contemporary instrumentalists for their musical offering at the **9:00** service.

Expanding visions for worship through dance! We are hosting a one-hour intergenerational workshop for liturgical dancers from FLC and also from Christ Lutheran Church. Jane Wellford from Elon University will lead participants in learning processional steps and interpretations for hymns, scriptures and prayers. This will include work with flags, Christmas candles, and palms. **Participants invited ...observers allowed!** Wednesday, November 18, from 5-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Here at First Lutheran Church we have so much for which to be thankful! We have eight groups of volunteers who are regularly practicing and preparing to share their gifts of music in worship, and that's just the music makers. On November 8 we highlighted the many task groups and areas of participation related to the worship division ministries; there are so many volunteers involved behind the scenes to prepare our worship settings, train volunteers of children, youth and adults, and then take recordings of services to the homebound. All of our ministries need and are grateful for your support through prayer and financial giving.

Bid & Construction Committee

APPROVED NEW BUILDING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for your YES and NO votes on Sunday, October 25. Your positive support and honest concerns were very appreciated by the Bid & Construction Committee.

As a result of the vote to build the proposed addition to First Lutheran Church, detailed planning activities have begun both inside and outside the church. With regard to the inside of the church, the School for Young Children main office will be temporarily relocated to the library to insure the safety of our children. As for the outside of the church, plans are being made to relocate the playground to a temporary site between the west driveway and Holden Road.

Between November 30 and December 4, construction site preparations will begin. The Pastor Deese memorial tree will be harvested for its wood, and one or two items will be constructed from the wood of the tree to be utilized at FLC. It will also be necessary to remove the three trees on the east side of the new building construction site. The roots of these trees are beginning to undermine the sidewalk and land area.

Finally, plan to attend a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, November 22 at 10 AM. The actual shovel from the groundbreaking that took place in 1969 for the present site will be used.

Please continue to look for future First Focus articles with building updates. Thank you again for your support.

Memorials and Honorariums

Mclver Fund for Special Artists

In memory of Perry Walker given by Dann Burkart and Betty Masters

In memory of Deloris Peterson given by the First Lutheran Chancel Choir, Betty Stubbins, Betty Masters, Glenn Grayson, Goodman and Company, Sound Feet Shoes, Gary Kitts, Duane and Madeleine Dassow, Benny and Teresa Hopkins, Catherine Price Humphrey, Don and Mary Ann Ochs, Doris Hansen, Ginny Gaskin, Anne and Al Vaeth

In memory of George Schlobohm given by Doris Hansen

Emergency Assistance Fund

In memory of George Schlobohm given by Francis and Shirley Kinlaw, Glenn Grayson, Jane Connelly, Barry and Claudia Siegal, and Ann Crittenden, Inc.

In honor of all Mobile Meals volunteers given by Ginny Gaskin

In memory of Perry Walker and Hazel Cluff given by Albert and Helen Lochra

In honor of Betty Stubbins given by Albert and Helen Lochra

Kim Freitag Memorials

Given by Joseph and Kathy Joyce and family

Pastors' Discretionary Fund

In memory of Agnes Bahrs given by Marion Bunge

In memory of Adeline Hoch (Rudy Hoch's mother) given by John and Sandy McCulloch, Hoover and Barbara Harelson, Carolyn Myers, Wayne and Kristine Bingham, Rudy and Phyllis Hoch

In memory of George Schlobohm given by Albert and Helen Lochra, Bob and Laura Gobble

In memory of Perry Walker given by Bob and Laura Gobble

Endowment Fund

In memory of Houston Payne (son of Para Lee Payne) given by Edwin and Martha Thorne

In memory of Adeline Hoch given by Bernice Hoch and Shirley Manzi, John and Susan Peterson, Jim and Frances Cooper

In memory of Hazel Cluff given by Jay Patel, Mary Thompson, Debbie Reynolds, Paula Ward and Pat Kimel

Knitting Ministry

In memory of Houston Payne given by David and Patty Vannoy

In memory of Dot Heise given by C. Jilcott



Administration Ministries

GENEROSITY REPORT

Mission & Ministry Budget

October '09	Goal	Receipts	%
	\$76,874	\$65,560	85.3%
2009 Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$307,049	\$304,311	99.1%

Building Fund Gifts as of October 30th: \$1,493,312

All payments to benevolent organizations, such as Greensboro Urban Ministry, continue to be up-to-date as are transfers to our Property funds. We are slightly below budget expectations at 99.1%; expenses are also below budget at 96.6%.

By now you should have received a pledge card for 2010 in the mail. You may return these to the church or communicate your pledge to **Janice Eberenz** in the church office by calling her at **292-9125** or emailing her at Janice@firstlutheran.com.

As you consider your pledge for 2010, check to make sure that your 2009 pledge is up-to-date. Call or email **Janice** with any questions or concerns. **We appreciate your generous support!**

Youth Ministry

Unto Us a Child—Grades 5–12

PRACTICE & PERFORMANCE DATES (meet in Worship Room)

- [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, 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. Space may still be available. Contact Carol McPeeters (carol@firstlutheran.com)!

5th & 6th Graders & Parents - Martin Luther on Last Sunday meeting—November 15

At 10 am in Room 110/112 downstairs.

Parents - We’ve had a great 2 weeks. Come join us for this last session together with our children.

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

Sunday School Schedule Update

ATTENTION PARENTS & TEACHERS:

- **November 22 -- Groundbreaking at approximately 10:40 AM:** (see front cover for SCS details)
- **November 29 -- Thanksgiving Weekend:** Enjoy worship and family, and we’ll give the Sunday School teachers a break. No Sunday School classes for children and youth.

Our Church Family



...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.

...to Kathy, David and Michael Peterson on the death of their mother and grandmother, Deloris Peterson on October 24.

...to the family of Anne Byrd on her death on November 2.



...from **Bill Branham**, who writes, “During my recent surgery and recovery you were a godsend for me. The flow of cards, messages and goodwill was beyond expectation and I am most appreciative. Those who visited will never know how much just seeing them meant to me, then and now. You gave my wife, Melissa moral support as well through telephone messages and visits. She needed you and I appreciate your efforts. During the period prior to hospitalization and during the days immediately following entry, I was unaware of what was going on. Though Melissa and our daughter Susan tried to tell me, I though they were pulling my leg. Not until I thanked Pastor Charlie for two visits and he corrected me—there had been three—did I realize the truth. So you understand I had and have a great deal to be thankful for and I am. God looked after me and helped my church and family do likewise. Thank you with love.”

...from **Hank and Susan Klaiber**, “Dear First Lutheran family, It has now been five months since Hank and I were in the car accident. There are not words to describe how much we appreciate your kind thoughts and prayers as we continue to recover from our injuries. Your ongoing care and concern for us is felt every day. Hank and I know that God definitely has something special in mind for us as we continue to live each day in His name.

GIFTS OF GRACE!

Dear First Lutheran members and guests,

Check out this short list for possible ways to be generous. There are many possibilities other than these, of course.

– Your partner in mission, Frank Moore

LOCAL



GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY: GUM helps the poor and needy through a wide partnership of faith-based communities. The kickoff for their annual fundraising campaign is the Feast of Caring, Nov. 20, 5-7 p.m. First Baptist Church. For details, call 271-5959, www.greensborourbanministry.org

In addition, FLC serves 70-100 weekly through a **Friday breakfast team**, and there is also FLC support for a Thursday team. To help financially, make checks to First Lutheran, put Friday (or Thursday) breakfast on offering envelope.

ANGEL TREE: Help children through Salvation Army, children and mothers at Mary's House for women in recovery, members of this congregation or some community residents. The trees go up around Thanksgiving through mid-December.



HONOR CARDS: Cards to support Habitat for Humanity and Greensboro Urban Ministry are available during the week in Frank Moore's office. They will be available also on Sunday mornings around Thanksgiving through early December. Donation of \$5 suggested for each card.



SANTA FOR SENIORS: Senior Resources of Guilford provides items to older adults in our community. For a list of needs, check www.senior-resources-guilford.org, 373-4816. Also, about 40 FLC volunteers deliver Mobile Meals to homebound persons monthly through this agency. For info, contact Jo Fleck, 664-0480, flecks@aol.com.

Also, First Lutheran has **specific funds** in many areas such as Endowment, Worship, Congregational, Community, and Administration/Property. In addition, the School for Young Children has two funds, one for scholarships and one for enrichment activities. Contact Janice Eberenz, Janice@firstlutheran.com, 292-9125, for details on funds.

INTERNATIONAL

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Boxes will be collected between November 1-November 15. Brochures that list needed items and instructions for boxes are around the church. Shoebox collection boxes are in front of Frank Moore's office. Please include \$7 shipping fee.



ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America uses multiple strategies such as relief, development, education and advocacy to address root causes of hunger and poverty and is one of the most cost-effective funds available. For details, contact www.elca.org/hunger or 1-800-638-3522.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS: This catalog lists many ways in many price ranges to support the ministries of the ELCA. The ELCA has a project similar to the Heifer Project called God's Global Barnyard. Copies are on literature table near the narthex or Care Card table across from Frank Moore's office.

FAIR TRADE: FLC provides **coffee, chocolate and tea** on the second Sunday monthly or items can be bought in Frank Moore's office during the week.



STATE

You can support ministries such as Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Lutheran Services for the Aging, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Agape+Kure Beach Ministries, Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries and Twin Lakes Community. For links, go to www.nclutheran.org, click on Faith in Action button on left.

Stewardship

God's work. Our hands.

As you reflect on supporting the ongoing Mission Appeal, please consider the concept of proportional giving, which is giving in relation to income and in response to God's blessings with thanksgiving. Typically, the focus here has been that stewardship is a response to God's love, being thankful for God's gifts to each of us, especially the gift of God's Son, Jesus, in whose name we gather and whose mission we seek to carry forward.

On a practical level, the average pledge to churches nationally is 2.6 percent of income. Maybe that's a good place for someone to begin, or maybe you're at a different place and can increase 1-2 percent. The 2010-2011 mission and ministry plan projects a 5.9 percent increase, partially spurred by the operating cost of the new building. In addition, ministries cut in the current budget need to be restored, if possible. Pledge cards are on the literature table and Care Card table. Please respond to both sides of the card and either return the card to Janice Eberenz in the office, 292-9125, or bring to the altar on Generosity Sunday, Nov. 22.

Thank you for your generosity and support of First Lutheran's mission and ministry!

—Frank Moore

From the Green Team



FIGHT GERMS NATURALLY

It's that time again; cooler weather, cozy sweaters, football games, and ...germs. These days kids are bringing home more than homework. Here's some basic ways to fight germs naturally without all the harsh chemicals.

WASH YOUR HANDS - According to the Mayo Clinic, hand washing is the simplest thing you can do to prevent getting sick. Always wash your hands after going to the restroom - and remember, chances are that that the toilet handle was not disinfected just before you went in.

As far as antibacterial products, there's controversy over whether they're more effective than regular soap and if they're making germs more resistant. While they are convenient, conventional antibacterial products and hand sanitizers contain harsh chemicals, and some people can be sensitive to them. So use plain old regular soap or hand sanitizer made from plant essentials.

Reminder: while hand sanitizers are great in a pinch, they are no substitute for a good hand washing.

HAND TOWELS, CHANGE THEM REGULARLY- Ideally hands are germ free when being dried but let's face it, kids count to 25 pretty fast when suddzing up. Oh, and please remember to turn the water off while scrubbing up-this should be a no-brainer. Put fresh hand towels by the bathroom sink a few times through the week. Cute finger-tip towels can be costly and all that detailing doesn't hold up well with regular washing. An alternative is to use wash-cloths for hand towels. Buy a bunch, nicer ones in colors of

your decor, roll up the extras and keep them in a pretty bowl by the sink. Fresh towels will be stacked up ready for use, just like in the spas.

WASH YOUR WATER BOTTLES-By now hopefully your family is using stainless steel water bottles and minimizing your plastic consumption. Please break the habit of just filling those bottles back up. They do need to be washed. Each person in the family should have at least two: one for the current day's use while the previous day's bottle is waiting to be washed. Hand wash thoroughly on the outside where hands have been all day, then the inside rim and the lid. Unless it was filled with something other than water, than water, no need to dump a bunch of soap inside though a bottle brush once in a while on the bottom will ensure you haven't missed anything.

TOOTHBRUSHES- Do one of two things. Either include them in a load once a week in the dishwasher or soak the heads in a small glass with hydrogen peroxide for several hours. Peroxide quickly begins to oxidize bacteria making it effective as a disinfectant and antimicrobial agent. If you're using an electrical toothbrush without a detachable head, you'll have the skip the dishwasher and stick with peroxide. I know "they" always tell you to throw out a toothbrush after you've been sick, but toothbrushes are expensive!

LIP BALMS, GLOSSES, AND LINERS-Rule #1, are all you teenage girls listening? NO SHARING...EVER!!! Aside from the obvious, it wouldn't hurt to take a facial tissue dabbed with some alcohol around the tops of these every once in awhile. A cotton ball will work but will leave cotton stuck on the top.

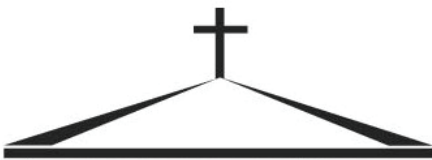
DOOR KNOBS- Now here's one you probably haven't thought of. Armed with a rag and a bottle of vinegar and water (50:50), clean each door knob paying extra attention to the door knob of the bathroom because, well...no one washes their hands until *after* they've come out of the bathroom. By the way, when cleaning toilets, don't forget to disinfect the handle. Light switches, phone receivers, and computer keyboards are other "high touch" items and could use a wipe down regularly. Computer keys are small and you don't want liquid getting down in there. Q-tips dabbed in alcohol are great to wipe each key with. Have some dry ones on hand too in case you accidentally over do it.

And there you have it. May you have a happy, healthy season.

Women of the ELCA

First Lutheran Church women of all ages are invited to attend The Advent Brunch on December 5, 2009. Brunch begins at 9:30 and a wonderful music program will follow. Set aside your cards, shopping, wrapping, decorating, baking, entertaining and holiday hustle and bustle. Take time for yourself! Begin the Christmas season with a relaxing and inspirational time for reflection of the true meaning of Advent. Invite a friend or neighbor to enjoy this special tradition. Registration begins in the narthex or at the rear entrance November 15 and continues through Nov. 29. Cost is \$5.00. Questions?? Call Leslie Pipan 273-6076.





First Lutheran Church
 3600 W. Friendly Avenue
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 www.firstlutheran.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday, November 18

Coming November 15–November 28 at First Lutheran

Sunday, November 15

Fair Trade Coffee/Tea/Cocoa Sale

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

Monday, November 16

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

Tuesday, November 17

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

Wednesday, November 18

- 10:00 am Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Liturgical Dance Workshop
- 6:15 pm Handbells
- 5:30 pm Core Visioning Team
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 19

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

Sunday, November 22

- 8:45 am Traditional Worship
- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 am Faith Formation
- 11:00 am Peer Ministry
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship
- 3:00 pm Worship Ministries Comm.
- 6:30 pm SHOUT! Service
- 7:30 pm Bible Study
- 7:30 pm Luther Brass

Monday, November 23

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

Tuesday, November 24

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

Wednesday, November 25

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

Thursday, November 26

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!
 OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 27

OFFICE CLOSED



Worship Attendance			
November 1		November 8	
8:45	87	8:45	114
9:00	190	9:00	193
11:15	135	11:15	146
6:30	53	6:30	51