

# The First News

January 25, 2012

“Our purpose at First Lutheran is to unite in hearing the good news of Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service in order to encourage spiritual growth, personal witness, and a concern for others.”

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Paola, KS 66071 913-294-3476 Website – [www.firstlutheran-paola.org](http://www.firstlutheran-paola.org)  
Mary Ginkel, DCD.....[dcdmary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcdmary@sbcglobal.net)  
Sandy Arens, Admin. Assistant & Editor:.....[FLCsecretary@att.net](mailto:FLCsecretary@att.net)  
Don Siders, Deacon

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Lutheran Hour Worship Radio Stations and Times: Sunday morning @ 8:00am on 710AM and on 1320AM @ 8:30am, or listen online anytime @ [www.lutheranhour.com](http://www.lutheranhour.com). Woman to Woman can be heard on either KCMO 710 or KGGN 890, for more information go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

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### Attendance for the Month of January:

January 1: 126  
January 8: 168  
January 15: 168  
January 22: 141

Avg. Attendance YTD: 151

Home	\$15,486.41
TIM	\$110.00
Missions	\$100.00
Birthday	\$162.00
Endowment	\$10.00
Christmas Eve	\$10.00
Christmas Day	\$10.00
LUMA	\$25.00
Building for the Future	\$3,690.00
Average Weekly YTD	\$3,871.60
Needed Weekly	\$6,337.83

### BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Amount received to date: *\$497,121.11*

God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9: 7b-8.

### FIRST NEWS” DEADLINE FOR MARCH:

All articles for the “First News” are due by Monday, February 27, 2012 at 5:00pm. The newsletter will be mailed out on Wednesday, February 29.

### Ablaze! Fan Into Flame

In the last reported quarter, First Lutheran members gave \$390 to the LCMS Ablaze campaign of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. These contributions are used to provide financial support for new local, regional, nation and international Ablaze! mission projects. Blessed by the Holy Spirit, funds gathered during this campaign will assist our congregations and partner churches around the world to share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Of the \$390 for the reported quarter, \$52.65 has been returned to our congregation for use in mission work in our community and \$52.65 has been sent to our Kansas District LCMS for mission work in our state.

### GUESTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

January 1: Amber & Pam Otten; Michele Weaver

January 8: Pastor Tom & Miriam Krause; Tim Krause and family; Trevor Ward; Elizabeth DuPont; Mackenzie Getz, Michele Weaver

January 15: Pastor Jorge & Olga Groh; Ezekiel Sanders; Kevin Diehm; Mackenzie Getz; Elizabeth DuPont; Trevor Ward

**January 22:** Pastor Ron & Ruth Ann Flentgen; Trevor Ward; Aaron Maxwell;

### **GUEST PASTOR/DEACON SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY:**

**February 5:** Ron Flentgen

**February 12:** Earl Zimmerman

**February 19:** Pastor Richard Pingel

**February 26:** Josh Simons

### **LENT SERVICES SCHEDULE:**

**February 22:** Don Siders and Dean Lovig

**February 29:** Don Siders and Curtis Long

**March 7:** Don Siders and Bob Gardner

**March 14:** Don Siders and Andy Brown

**March 21:** Don Siders and Dean Lovig

**March 28:** Don Siders and Curtis Long

### **RUTH CIRCLE**

Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, February 6 at 7:00pm. Jody Brown is hostess and topic leader. Please bring your Winter Women's Quarterly and a Bible.

### **MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE**

Mary-Martha Circle will meet on Monday, February 6 at 1:00pm. Glenda Moore will have both the devotions and the topic for the month. The hostess is Jeanette Norton. Please bring your Winter Quarterly and Bible to the meeting. Tacking Comforts will be on Monday, February 13 @ 1:00pm.

### **LWML**

The LWML meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9 @ 7:00pm in the church basement. The hostesses for the month are Lois Moore and Jean Kaiser. The topic of the month is 2012 Day of Prayer Service by the Christian Growth Committee. The Mission of the Month will be the PACA Food Pantry. Remember to bring only non-perishable food items.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING**

On Saturday, February 18 the First Lutheran Church Council will have a planning meeting from 9:00am – noon. All Church boards and their members need to be at the meeting. Anyone else that would like to attend and help plan the next year is welcome to come.

### **SONSHINE PRESCHOOL UPDATE**

What a wonderful start to 2012, the weather has been wonderful and the children have gotten to enjoy some outdoor time this month!

In January we learned about some of our cold weather friends, the penguins. Had lots of fun wearing our black and white and walking like a penguin. We studied the letters O-Q and had a walking trip to the Paola Library.

### **WINTER WEATHER ALERT**

With winter weather on our doorstep remember to be safe. If the roads are not safe to travel on please stay home. We do not want to see someone in an accident trying to come to church. If we need to cancel church or other events please watch Fox 4 or KCTV 5 for cancellations. If you are still not sure you can call either Dean Lovig @ 294-2083, Mary @ 731-7123, or Sandy @ 731-2847 or the church office @ 294-3476. Please use your good judgment before attempting to travel.

### **LENT SUPPERS AND SERVICES**

Lent Worship begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. The theme for our worship this year is "Words that Last Forever!" by Arden Mead. Worship begins at 6:30pm, with a Lent supper served from 5-6:15pm. The menu for Ash Wednesday is Sloppy Joe's, salads and desserts. Plan to come for supper and stay to worship. All Lent Suppers are free will donation.

### **VALENTINE DINNER**

The Sunday School and Children's Worship children will be hosting and serving a Valentine Dinner on Sunday, February 12, after worship. This meal is a free will donation and everyone is welcome to attend. A sign-up sheet is on the First News Board, if you plan to attend, you would sign up by Friday, February 10. If you would like to donate a food item

to this dinner, please do so. There is a second sign-up sheet posted for food donations on the same board. Thank you. Family Ministry team

## **YEAR-END REPORTS**

The year-end reports need to be in the church office by Monday, February 13. Please leave them on Sandy's desk. Also, if your report needs to be audited please let Sandy know.

## **DARE TO READ – Like a Lutheran**

*(The Essential Lutheran Library.)*

Build the church library or order individual titles. Special offers available on select titles and on the whole set! There are the books that every Lutheran should have in their home. Take the challenge to read like a Lutheran with *The Essential Lutheran Library*: a collection of best-selling Lutheran works that provides the tools, prayers, and texts needed for today's daring Lutherans. Build the church library or stock up on the titles you need to complete your own. Sign up on the church bulletin board today. All orders will be sent in on Monday, March 26.

## **CONDOLENCES**

Condolences to the family of Janet Panner Lewis, the mother of Gregg Lewis, who passed away on Tuesday, January 10 in Osawatomie.

## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone for all the wonderful Christmas gifts to Sophia and myself. We pray that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will have a great 2012. Sandy & Sophia Arens  
PS. The same for Mary too.

**Attention Thrivent Members:** We have recently been informed that you must re-register in 2012 for the Thrivent Choice Dollars to be allocated to your charitable entity. Please call 1-800-847-4836 or go on line to [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) and designate where you want your Choice Dollars sent. Thank you to all who have chosen First Lutheran Church – we have received over \$4,500 since the program started about 1½ years ago.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERING**

In the past, congregations have supported Kansas District missions and ministry through the Ash Wednesday offering. This year, the District Board of Directors has designated the Ash Wednesday offering to be divided equally between two special funds of the District – the Scholarship Fund and the Education Loan Repayment Fund.

The **Scholarship Fund** supports students pursuing a career in professional church work at an LCMS university or seminary. Over \$22,000 was distributed to twenty-eight students in 2011, with amounts varying from \$525 for freshmen to \$1,360 for seminary students.

We want to encourage more of our members to become church workers, but the high cost of education can be overwhelming. The average cost of **tuition only** at a Concordia university is about \$24,000. School scholarships may possibly cut that figure in half. Adding books and room and board leaves students with a significant amount to finance.

The **Education Loan Repayment Fund** supports professional church workers who carry indebtedness from their college and seminary education. Thirty-seven applicants in 2011 reported loans totaling over \$1,253,000. Of the pastors that applied for a grant, the average current loan outstanding was \$36,021 (range - \$279 to \$214,000); of the teachers - \$30,013 (range - \$5,500 to \$152,955); of the DCEs - \$26,048 (range - \$5,685 to \$60,029). All applicants received a \$700 grant toward their indebtedness in 2011.

Please make checks payable to the church. We will then forward the entire Ash Wednesday offering to the Kansas District for the Scholarship and Education Loan Repayment Funds.

## **Romans 10:13-15**

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

## **Relay For Life June 8-9, 2012 at Osawatomie High School**

Survivors, Caregivers, Family and Friends wanted!!

First Lutheran Church will have a team if interested please contact Maria Worrell, 913-731-5043, [maria.worrell@hotmail.com](mailto:maria.worrell@hotmail.com) or Judy Doherty.

## LUMA LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout 2011, Lutheran Mission Urban Agency (LUMA) was greatly blessed by the generosity of many – including you, and we are truly thankful! God used the faithfulness of supporters like you to provide our monthly needs, which gives us a great start to 2012!

We send heartfelt thanks for your financial generosity. Your gifts totaling \$315.75 in 2011 allowed LUMA/Mission of the good Shepherd to continue to be a blessing to those placed in the care of our ministry throughout this past year!

Some of the many blessings received in the past 12 months are:

- The election of a new Board of directors, representing the six Kansas City pastoral circuits in Missouri and Kansas,
- Receiving an abundance of items to serve 305 families at our Christmas Store in December! These included personal gift items, a Bible, quilt or blanket, a box of food plus a turkey, toys, socks, gloves and more! We were able to be a blessing to over 1,200 individuals!
- Service groups (youth and adults from KS< MO< and NE) spent wonderful hours helping us to serve better our community and the needs of others!
- Supplied Health Kits, Back to School Kits, and hosted Vacation Bible Schools.
- The near completion of the LUMA Ministry Center basement level including the kitchen, thanks to the work of Wayne Peil and his team of volunteers.
- Receiving support from over 70 congregations and organizations in eight states!
- Continued our English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes at Immanuel Lutheran, KCKS, as well as our weekly Food Pantry at 31<sup>st</sup> and Mercier!
- The calling of Rev. Dr. Jorge Groh as our Urban Mission Strategist, and the wonderful news of his coming to lead our ministry once his visa is approved!

Our faithful staff and clients are blessed by your regular and faithful support! Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we begin this New Year!

Cordially, in the name of the Good Shepherd;

Pastor Tom Krause

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2011:

<b>BALANCE:</b> .....	<b>\$22,775.13</b>
Offerings.....	\$18,739.43
Other income.....	\$1,079.91
Total Income.....	\$19,819.34
Expenses .....	\$26,236.56
(This includes all utilities, salaries, LCMS commitment withholdings, office supplies, etc.)	
<b>Ending balance</b> .....	<b>\$16,357.91</b>

Average Sunday offering .....	\$4,684.86
Needed each Sunday for General Budget.....	\$5,463.62

**LOAN PAYMENTS FROM RENTAL PROPERTIES:**.....\$1,256.58

### BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE ACCOUNT

<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$8,870.64</b>
Pledges & donations.....	\$4,199.00
Loan Payment & Principal paid out.....	\$1,453.61
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$11,616.03</b>



**BOARD OF STEWARDHIP**

Envelopes	\$575.00	\$575.00
Com/Stewardship Program	\$100.00	\$100.00
Checks	\$95.00	\$95.00
ACH Account	\$120.00	\$120.00
Tax Forms	\$50.00	\$50.00
Business Manager	\$7,680.00	\$7,680.00
Upgrade Payroll Support	\$375.00	\$375.00
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$8,995.00</b>	<b>\$8,995.00</b>

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Custodial Services	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Insurance	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Office Machine Repair	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Telephone/Internet	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Trash Pick Up	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Electricity	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Water	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Property Tax	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
Capital Improvement Repair		\$10,000.00
Mortgage – BFTF (126,000)		\$17,443.32
Mortgage 408 E (86,000)		\$10,207.44
Mortgage 410 E (47,000)		\$4,871.52
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	<b>\$59,900.00</b>	<b>\$102,422.28</b>

**BOARD OF FAMILY MINISTRIES**

## Children's Ministries:

Sunday School	\$300.00	\$300.00
VBS	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Baptism Project	\$400.00	\$400.00
Children's Worship		\$250.00

## Confirmation Ministry:

Education Resources	\$250.00	\$500.00
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## Adult Ministries:

Adult Education	\$200.00	\$200.00
Adult Devotional Material	\$150.00	\$150.00
Miscellaneous	\$200.00	\$200.00

## Family Ministries:

Training/Workshops	\$150.00	\$150.00
Activities/Miscellaneous	\$250.00	\$975.00

*(Thanksgiving Dinner, Valentine's Dinner, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Ice Cream Social, etc.)*

## DCD:

Salary	\$16,936.00	\$20,000.00
SS/Medicare Tax	\$1,296.00	\$1,530.00
Worker Benefit Plan	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Conferences /Workshops	\$200.00	
DCD Call		\$3,000.00
DCD Resources	\$250.00	\$50.00

**TOTAL BOARD OF FAMILY MINISTRY 30,147.00 \$36,905.00****FLC TOTAL****2011 Budget****2012 Proposed Budget****Board of Elders Total \$158,366.00****\$162,841.00****Board of Mission & Evangelism Total****\$26,700.00****\$26,700.00****Board of Stewardship Total \$8,995.00****\$8,995.00****Board of Trustees Total \$59,900.00****\$102,422.28****Board of Family Ministry Total**

	<b>\$30,147.00</b>	<b>\$36,905.00</b>
<b>FLC TOTAL</b>	<b>\$284,108.00</b>	<b>\$336,363.28</b>

**CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES from January 19, 2012**

- Ended the year with a plus of \$16,357.91 in the general budget.
- Building for the Future ended the year with a balance of \$11,616.03.
- Board members discussed what was successfully accomplished in 2011: Trunk or Treat, Minute to Win It, house at 410 E. Piankishaw, new porch on the Mission House, also able to pay down on loans, and have almost \$20,000 in an account to be used for calling a pastor, worship services have continued to be successful even without a pastor, six young members were confirmed, the pre-school is almost full, 94.7% of the Building for the Future pledges have been collected.
- In 2012 we need to be more unified with clear goals and objectives. Need more support for the Evangelism Committee.
- All Lent Services will be held at 6:30pm and led by the Deacon and Elders. Palm Sunday will be a blended service at 10:00am. There will be two services on Easter morning.
- Evangelism team plan on having a float in the Miami County Fair, and bottled water will be handed out. We will also continue with the ad on cable.
- Trustees have several jobs that need to be completed, so if they call for volunteers to help complete the projects please think about saying yes!
- The pre-school has added two new students since the start of the second semester. They are also looking into buying some new toys for the playground and new benches.
- Mary is working on sorting through things and organizing her office in preparation for her retirement and has repainted the room.