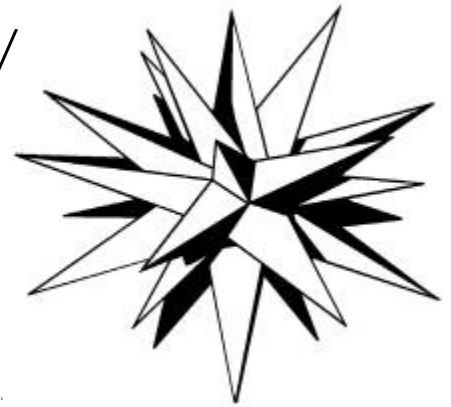


# First Words

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## Epiphany



The Epiphany Season continues through Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, when we celebrate The Transfiguration of our Lord.



## Ash

## Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be two services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes, at noon and 7 pm.



Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm with Vespers at 7 pm using the order of Holden Evening Prayer.

# Inspiration, transformation, transition **Pastor's Ponderings**

The visit from the delegation from Rios was inspiring and more than we could have imagined!

Not only was our sister parish relationship deepened in the sharing of our ministry stories, but also as we learned more about the impact of the scholarship program on the lives of eighteen students and their families.

The spirit of this visit will live on as we use the Latino Setting Seven in the ELW and begin to be more intentional in shaping our liturgy on the fourth Sunday.

The Outreach Committee will explore good ways to inform and welcome the wider Latino community to join with us for worship in a Latino flavor.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege to preach and preside at the Noon Eucharist at Grace Cathedral.

The day was the celebration of The Conversion of St. Paul, and the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

What a story of radical transformation of

Saul of Tarsus, a rabid persecutor of the followers of Jesus suddenly jolted by the risen Christ to become the greatest of Christian witnesses.

God doesn't give everyone such a spiritual jolt and so clear a directive, but in our baptism into Christ the very same brilliant light of God is ignited within us and, if we let it, we too might do things that bring transformation in the lives of others.

During this month we make a big transition. We move from the Epiphany visit of the Magi to Bethlehem with seasonal themes of the spreading light of the Christ to the nations to a leaning into Lent.

The Lenten season is the yang to the Epiphany yin, that is, Lent has an introspective and reflective posture and direction, very different from an external directed taking the bright light of Christ into the world!

Ash Wednesday falls on February 22<sup>nd</sup> this year, and calls us into forty days of personal reflection on our life in relationship with God's redemptive activity in the per-



son of Jesus.

I invite you into this transitional journey for your spirit's refreshment and renewal.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pr. Kemp Segelmann".

## This 'n' that

- The new FLC Memorial Garden continues to develop. Two name plaques have been mounted on the inside wall of the front patio in memory of Karen Krogh and Bruce Lundeen.
- Thanks to Karan and Vince Barich for pressure washing the patio furniture, ramp and entry staircase to the sanctuary. What a nice beginning to the year.

- Please check the kitchen for your serving plates, plastic cake containers, and other items that need picking up!
- Nice to see David Johnson at worship January 22<sup>nd</sup>. David, son of Dick and Ann Johnson, noted he was baptized in '53 and confirmed in '68 at FLC. He now lives in Mount Vernon, WA.
- The lovely Epiphany star again shines in the sanctuary during this season. You may remember it was a gift to us from the family of Benjamin and Friederike Schaeffner in 2010.

- Bishop Mark Holmerud will have surgery on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. We keep him, his surgeon and his family in our prayers for healing and strength. During his six-week recovery time, Pr. Nancy Feniuk Nelson, Bishop's Associate, will act on his behalf.
- The Schoenholtz family sends their thanks for all the prayers and cards and greetings for Elizabeth during her recent hospitalization. She is home resting and getting ready for the liver transplant. Keep her in prayer.

## FirstWords

welcomes all submissions and letters from readers.

Email [firstwords-editor@flcpa.org](mailto:firstwords-editor@flcpa.org).

## 2012 Stewardship campaign concludes

Your stewardship committee is pleased to report that 60 pledges totaling \$281,978 have been received, a 4% increase over 2011!

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and financial commitment to our mission.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead as we as a congregation consider the stewardship of our property, our natural resources, and the tremendous human capital at FLC.

Your stewardship committee,

– JOHN ALLURED, CHAIR

GEORGE KNUDSON, JUDY  
LARSEN, STEPHANIE  
LEONG, JOYCE RICE,  
PASTOR SEGERHAMMAR



## Sunday School news

After a Christmas and New Years break teachers and kids have returned!

Sandra and Diana from Rios de Agua Viva visited the Upstairs Sunday School and FLY kids on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

We had a great English and Spanish discussion and question session, and learned about their country and the children in their church.

Aya was a great help with the Spanish translation! Sandra and Diana brought a beautiful friendship bracelet craft for everyone to do.

The Sunday School plans to stay in touch with our Rios friends!

– BARBARA ERICKSON-KELLY



## Learning

## Parents' night out fundraiser approaches

This is an opportunity for parents to go out and have a worry-free evening while leaving their children with us.

Whether it is having some time to yourself, partying with friends, or going out on a date, you can be assured that your children will be having a good time.

There will be pizza for dinner (6:15 pm), crafts, games, and we will top it all off with a movie that is appropriate for all audiences. February 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm–9:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Please sign up ASAP with Jeremy by sending Jeremy an email at [youth@flcpa.org](mailto:youth@flcpa.org)

with the following info: parents' names, children's names and ages, and emergency contact numbers.

This event is a fund-raiser, your donations will be appreciated.

– JEREMY SERRANO

## Youth

## Remembering Kenneth Bergmann

From the Archives

Kenneth Bergmann served First Lutheran, Palo Alto, as a seminary field worker in 1976. This was the period between the retirement of John Arthur and the installation of Ron Shonk.

The photograph of Kenn Bergmann and his wife Louise, was taken in May, 1976, at a farewell reception. Louise Bergmann was active in the musical life of the congregation.

– JILL KNUTH

### Divinity Degree Awarded

Kenneth E. Bergman, a member of the First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, has received the Master of Divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley.

When he receives a call to a parish, he will be ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church of America at First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto.

Bergman is a graduate of Indiana University and a retired officer in the United States Air Force. During the past year, he served as a vicar at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in San Francisco and was active in the youth ministry of the San Francisco pan-Lutheran community.

– Palo Alto Times, 28 June 1977



### Kenneth E Bergmann—Obituary

The Reverend Kenneth E. Bergmann, Major, USAF Retired, and previous Pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church ELCA, Oxnard, died Nov. 22, 2011, of complications from a long-term heart condition, at the Lexington, Ventura.

He was born Jan. 29, 1930, and lived his early life in Oak Park, Ill. He was a loyal Chicago Cubs fan.

He is survived by Mrs. Louise N. Bergmann, spouse; Mrs Linda Anne Berg-

mann-Chambreau, daughter, Tijeras, N.M.; Robert K. Bergmann, son, Greeley, Colo.; and four grandsons.

He was a graduate of Indiana University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkley. He was pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Carson City, Nev., where he also was a chaplain for the Nevada legislature and he was a Rotarian.

He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Oxnard for 27 years and was president 1993-1994. He received the Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary Club's Lifetime

Achievement Awards. He was president of the Ventura County Council of Churches for several years.

A celebration of his life and ministry will be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, ELCA, 905 Redwood St., Oxnard, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will be appreciated. Viewing, at the church, will be before the service.

*Prayer Ventures* was unavailable at press time.

Read it online at [elca.org/prayerventures](http://elca.org/prayerventures)

## Inquiry class is beginning

Anyone curious about FLC, and the Lutheran church and its theology and praxis, is welcome to meet with Pastor Segerhammar at Noon on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in the parish Library.

Whether you are seeking to transfer your current membership to FLC or would like

to know more about that possibility or ask the questions that have been brewing in your mind about the Christian faith, you are welcome to this session.

Call the parish office, **650.322.4669** or visit our website **www.flcpa.org**.



## News from Bethlehem

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Announcing Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb of Bethlehem, Palestine as Winner of the International Award "Deutscher Medienpreis" for 2011

The official announcement of Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb as recipient of the 2011 prestigious international award "Deutscher Medienpreis" was made in Germany Friday, January 13, 2012. Launched in 1992, the award is primarily granted to heads of state, including the German Chancellor Angela Merkel (2009), the Dalai Lama (2008), King Juan Carlos of Spain (2006), Kofi Annan (2003), Queen Rania of Jordan (2002), Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (2000), Bill Clinton (1999), Nelson Mandela (1998), King Hussein of Jordan (1997), Boris Yeltsin (1996), President Arafat

(1995), Yitzhak Rabin (1995), François Mitterrand (1994), and former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (1993). In addition other people that have been selected include Sir Richard Branson (2010), Steffi Graf (2007), Bono (2005), and Rudolph Giuliani (2002).

The decision of the jury to give the award to Rev. Dr. Raheb was based on his tireless work in creating room for hope for his people, who live under Israeli Occupation in Bethlehem and the West Bank. Dr. Raheb's vision has founded and now built institutions of excellence in education, culture and health over the past 17 years.

He was also recognized for his strong advocacy and stance on Palestinian culture and dialogue for civil society and religion. Dr. Raheb is President of Diyar Consortium, Bethlehem, Palestine and Bright Stars of Bethlehem, NFP, US.

Three other recipients were included in this year's awards. Stanislaw Petrow, Russia, for his work in preventing potential nuclear war in 1983; Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, Afghanistan, for her enduring work for women's empowerment in Afghanistan; and Dr. Denis Mukwege, Congo, Africa who assisted thousands of rape victims during the Congo war.

The official awards ceremony will be held in the city of Baden-Baden in Germany on February 14, 2012. The keynote speaker during the celebration will be the former



German President and now Professor, Roman Herzog.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb expressed his delight in receiving this prestigious award, as it represents international appreciation and recognition of the positive effects his work has made on the local, regional and international levels.

For more information, go to:

[www.diyar.ps](http://www.diyar.ps)

[www.deutscher-medienpreis.de](http://www.deutscher-medienpreis.de)

[www.brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org)



## Rios visit a sweet success!

The visit of the four delegates from our Salvadoran sister parish, Ríos de Agua Viva, proved to be fruitful, informative, inspiring... and fun!

We had opportunities for sharing and fellowship in many different venues and with many different groups.

Pastor Vilma Rodriguez, Ana Rivera, Sandra Argueta, and Diana Cornejo were able to share the life of the Rios congregation, and their leadership roles, and we at FLC shared with them the life of our congregation, on many different fronts.

We all had a chance to get better acquainted with these wonderful women of Ríos, and the challenges faces by our sisters and brothers in San Mauricio.

As well, all the exchanges were made more complete and more meaningful thanks to the translating expertise of Maria Cortes, which we all appreciated! Arriving January 3<sup>rd</sup>, each day provided opportunities to renew and expand our friendship and mutual support, including

- lunch and Bible study with the ladies of FLC at Channing House
- introducing the ministry of Rios to Nancy Nelson, our synod's Bishop's Associate
- a visit to San Francisco, complete with a walk on the Golden Gate Bridge, cable car ride, and dinner at Chinatown
- celebrating the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> with a potluck dinner, the crowning of the three kings, and prayers for peace
- breakfast with the FLC men's group, a tour and picnic at Mt. Cross camp, driving home via beautiful Highway 1
- wonderful sharing during Education hour with Adult Forum and the Youth class, then bilingual worship, with Pastor Vilma preaching, followed by lunch with Salvadoran pupusas
- a tour of Stanford hospital and Stanford University with Susan Scott

- a fruitful visit with staff at PLTS, planning possible educational exchanges
- meeting with Social Ministry committee to look to the future of our relationship
- a heartwarming visit to the Palo Alto Food Closet, and a dinner meeting with the FLC church council
- festive Salvadoran dinner with the LNO bunch

not to mention time for some shopping, Facebook-ing, and informal, personal conversations!

We have discovered that there is no substitute for face-to-face encounters to "know" and understand each other more fully, in "real time".

Your Social Ministry Committee will be meeting to discuss the future of our sisterhood, and our "next steps", and will keep you all informed.

And, we are thankful for all those who helped make this visit possible—and "sweetly successful"!

– **CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR,  
AND THE RIOS VISIT  
PLANNING COMMITTEE:  
KARAN BARICH, ERIN GUHR,  
AND ALICE ROBINSON**

## Rios Task Force





12 January 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Rios de Agua Viva,

*“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem...” Matthew 2:1.*

Epiphany blessings to all of the Rios de Agua Viva congregation! As we celebrate the Light of Christ this Epiphany season, we of First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, California, feel as if we have been visited by “wise women from Central America!”

What a joy it has been to welcome Pastora Vilma, Ana, Sandra, and Diana. These committed, experienced and learned women have come and have brought gifts of *gold*: themselves, and their faith; *frankincense*: the warmth and beauty of their lives; and *myrrh*: the ointment of praise, gratitude, and passion for ministry!

Our congregation has been touched deeply by their presence with us. They have had opportunity to meet with many different age groups, from our seniors to the young babies, and for that we are most grateful. Our parish-to-parish relationship has been greatly deepened and renewed!

We thank you for sending them to us! We are grateful for the energy they shared in order to come to us and inform us of the hopes and dreams and visions for Rios and for our Sisterhood in the years to come.

May the light in the sky over Bethlehem, that illumined and guided shepherds and magi to the Light in the manger, continue to illumine and guide our congregation’s ministries of Word and Sacrament, education, service and fellowship.

God’s Blessings to you, and to Bishop Medardo!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kemp Segerhammar

and the Congregation and Council of First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto

# AUGUSTANA SYMPHONIC BAND PACIFIC COAST TOUR 2012



James Lambrecht, *Conductor* | Augustana College | Rock Island, Illinois

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012 at 4 P.M.**  
**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, California**

*A freewill offering will be accepted*  
For more information, please call **309.794.7306**

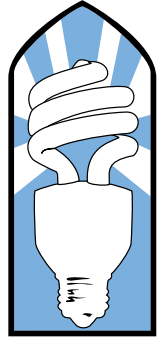
**Augustana College**



# California Interfaith Power & Light

## Cool Congregations Workshop

**University Lutheran Church  
1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto, California  
Saturday, February 11th, 1-4 pm**



**Are you the “green sheep” in your congregation?  
Do you need tools for taking the next step in leading your congregation’s  
response to climate change?**

**Join CIPL for a Cool Congregations Workshop!**

You will become a trained leader and receive a tool-kit for this unique stewardship program.

The Cool Congregations program will provide you with the tools you need to make a difference in your home, congregation, and community. Research shows that small group models provide the best opportunity for real and lasting change. Faith communities have used the small group model for centuries! Find out how you can use this time-tested method to lead your congregation’s response to climate change.

Participating households and congregations:

- Invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Save money on bills
- Prevent carbon emissions that contribute to climate change

Participants accomplish this by attending a series of small groups led by a trained leader to:

- Measure their carbon footprint
- Explore ways to reduce their footprint
- Make a faith-based pledge to reduce their footprint
- Meet to celebrate their successes and build community!

**RSVP online at: [www.interfaithpower.org/coolcongregations](http://www.interfaithpower.org/coolcongregations)**



You will bring back to your congregation:

- Cool Congregations Manual
- Resource CD
- Cool Congregations Carbon Calculator
- Energy and ideas to start your own program!

Questions or for more info: Call Rachel at 415-391-4214 or email [rachel@interfaithpower.org](mailto:rachel@interfaithpower.org)

## February Forum topics

Adult Forum is held in the Library on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:15 am.

### February 5<sup>th</sup>

Forum will discuss Options for Dealing with Sin.

Recent Forums have discussed moral hazards (consequences that can occur when an individual or organization does not take the full consequences and responsibilities for its actions) and how moral hazards were a notable part of actions, many of which were sinful, that resulted in the mortgage foreclosure problems in this Country.

On the 5th, Forum will discuss Biblical guidance for addressing widespread sin using the mortgage problems as a framework.

### February 12<sup>th</sup>

Ken Schreiber will lead a discussion of Syncretism, the combination of different forms of belief systems. Syncretism is not only a notable Biblical issue but a current challenge: How should the ministry of First Lutheran Church relate to the diverse multi-cultural Silicon Valley environment?

### February 19<sup>th</sup>

Ken Schreiber will lead a discussion on religiosity in America focusing on those who take the position that: "I'm not religious, but I am spiritual."

### February 26<sup>th</sup>

Martha Stillman will lead a discussion of life in 1<sup>st</sup>-Century Palestine at the time

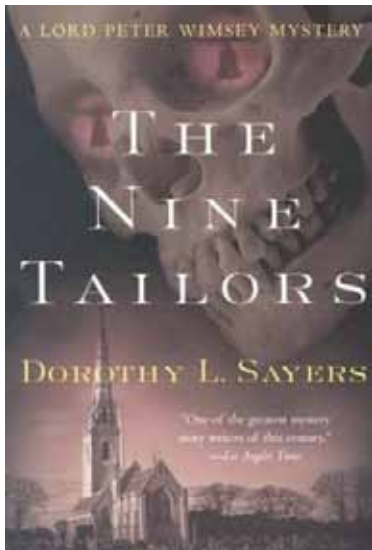
that the Gospel of Mark was being written.

Aspects of everyday life (e.g., how people earned a living, government, the military, role of slavery, role of woman, education) were important contexts for the Gospel that influenced the content of the Biblical text.

*If you have an issue that you would like Forum to take up, whether you would like to develop information and lead a discussion or have a suggestion for others to follow up on, please contact Ken Schreiber (talk to him before or after Forum, call him at 650.853.1049 or email him at krsplan@mindspring.com).*

– KEN SCHREIBER

## February detectives for the Book Group



The FLC Book Group will resume its discussion sessions on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012, with Dorothy Sayers' classic mystery, *The Nine Tailors*.

Possibly her finest detective story, it is set in the fen-country of East England and concerns a dead body and how it got that way, family, personal honor, and the fascinating art of bell tolling at an ancient country church.

We'll meet at 7 pm upstairs at the church and all are welcome!

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

## Ladies' Night Out

Mardi Gras!

The February Ladies' Night Out will be our Pot Luck Mardi Gras

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>—6:30 pm at FLC Fellowship Hall

Dress up! Bring something with a little Creole flavor.



RSVP to Robin ([reh@stanford.edu](mailto:reh@stanford.edu) or 650.533.3431) with your beverage and/or dish!

– ROBIN HOLBROOK

## February birthdays

2	Mary Gundelach, Britta Kajimura, Gary Lindgren, Sarah Youngquist
3	Lindsey Harris, Carrie Souders
9	J.J. Campbell
10	Andrew Chislett, Amber Valentine

14	Michelle Garcia, Andrew Lundeen
15	Beverly Grove, Jim Puls
21	Gary Giffra
25	Linda Hogle

**First Words** is a publication of First Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, California.

**Officers of the congregation:**

Mark Bogott ..... Council President  
Holly Pearson.....Vice President  
George Knudson ..... Secretary

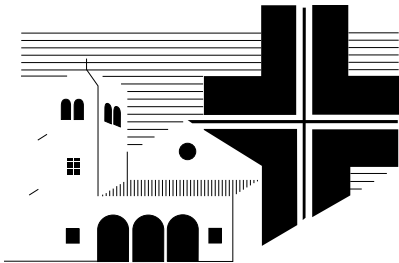
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Katherine McKee .....Choir Director  
Julia Simon.....First Kids Choir Director  
Andrew Chislett.....Organist  
Jeremy Serrano.....Youth Director  
Karri Haddeland ..... Childcare  
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Maria Soria..... Custodian  
Patricia Kerr ..... Office Manager

The Rev. Mark Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod  
The Rev. P. Kempton Segerhammar, Dean, Peninsula Conference

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Visit our website at <http://www.flcpa.org>.



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