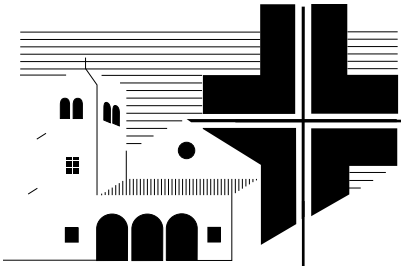


Sunday mornings until September 4th

ONE SERVICE: 9:30 AM



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 7 • SUMMER 2011

First Words

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Picnic in the Park

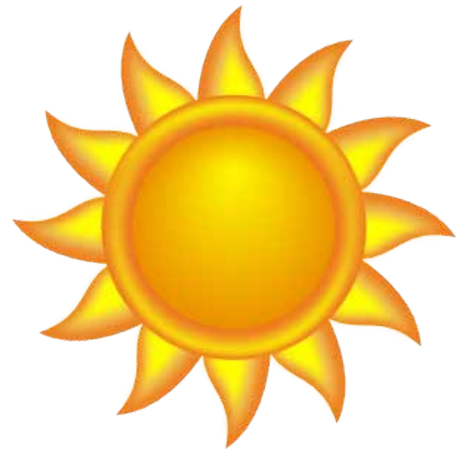
July 8th & 22nd

August 5th & 19th

Gather at 6 pm at Hoover Park

If you haven't been to Picnic in the Park before, you're missing out on something fun! It's a casual get-together in a local park to eat some take-out food (typically pizza) and have a good time.

There's a playground for the kids and grown-up conversation for everyone else. At this time of year it's light until almost 9 pm; take advantage of the daylight and the mild weather!



Welcome into summer!

Welcome into summer dear ones! As we do, I want to share and comment on a few things in our common life together during this time:

First of all, a huge Thank You to the 2010/11 Council and to the officers Allen Simon, President, George Yule, VP, and Maria Cortez, Secretary. They have all served FLC with passion, commitment and insight. They have shared their time, talent and treasure for the growth of this ministry.

Welcome to the new Council and its officers Mark Bogott, President, Holly Pearson, VP, and George Knudson, Secretary. Blessings on your leadership for the coming year. The 2011/12 Council will be installed at the service on Sunday, July 10. I invite you all to come to welcome them into this task.

The summer Sunday schedule has begun. The Sunday School and forums are taking a breather and so too are the choirs. The hope is that we can come during the warm, sunny days of summer and share word and sacrament together at one

service. The time of 9:30 a.m. seems just right. Coffee and fellowship follow. Child-care is available from 9 - 11:30.

The search for a new Youth Director is underway. A task force made up persons from Staff Support and Learning Committees, FLY, parents and myself is reviewing the job description and will interview one or more candidates. We are planning to have this person on board in September.

Once again, Congratulations to the Confirmands: Lindsey Bogott, Annie Harrier and Trevor Varney. Also Congratulations to the graduates, Emily Simon from Gunn High School, and from college Katie Barich and Breanna Grove.

Remember your continued offerings, pledges and contributions during the summer. In these lazy days it's not hard to let our regular giving take a breather too! Plan ahead if you are going to be away. And when you are home, come to worship and put it in the plate. Thanks!

And last but certainly not least, enjoy family and friends, picnics in the park,

Pastor's Ponderings



trips to the ocean and mountains, a hike, a bike ride, a round of golf, reading a good book, or simply sipping a cool beverage as the sun sets! Enjoy and refresh!

Summer time blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Kemp Segerhammar".



The confirmands Lindsey, Annie, and Trevor with Nate and Pastor Kemp



Brita Segerhammar at the Rock 'n' Roll Seattle Marathon

Greetings from the new council

President's Corner

At the June congregational meeting, the congregation elected four new council members and left a position open for a youth delegate. Susan Scott and Dave Heppner are newly-elected members, and George Knudson and I were re-elected after filling one-year terms last year. Madison Valentine volunteered to serve as youth representative and was confirmed by the council at its June meeting.

Also at the June meeting the council elected officers for the coming year. The officers elected are Mark Bogott, president, Holly Pearson, vice-president, George Knudson, secretary, Vince Barich, treasurer, and Karen Krogh, financial secretary.

The council wishes to thank Tami Fletcher and David Holmkvist for their service on the council. Both Tami and David served for a full two full terms (six years) and were therefore not eligible for re-election.

The council also gives a big thank you to Allen Simon for serving as president, leading the council and the congregation for the last two years, and to George Yule and Maria Cortez, who served as vice president and secretary.

Not that we don't already have great admiration and respect for their efforts; I'm sure the new officers will learn to appreciate more and more what they've done as we become fully immersed in our new roles.

At the congregational meeting we received the reports from all of the various committees. These reports let us all know the tremendous breadth of activity and

participation there is here at First. Please take time to look through these reports and thank those committee members who participate.

One of those committees, the New Property Task Force, brought a motion to the congregation to invest the pastoral housing fund into real property. After much discussion, the congregation approved the motion to spend up to one-million dollars on a home for the use of our future pastor.

Until we have a pastor that needs this housing, this property will be used as a rental. The congregation will be called upon to meet and approve the specific property that the task force identifies and recommends.

During these months of July and August, I hope you are able to enjoy the time away from hectic school year schedules. For Robin and me, this summer means having our house full again with our two college students home (working!), and enjoying each other's company.

I also look forward to having one service on Sundays, at 9:30, to have a chance to connect with those who now find the 8:30 service so popular. I like the idea of growing our church with two Sunday services, but I submit that one service during the summer will have great benefits.

Picnic in the Park is back again this summer. With the ongoing youth movement in our congregation, I'd like to remind all the young families that PIP was originally created to cater to young families to give them a night out together with other families.



Our family enjoyed this event for many years, and occasionally still does. Although it more intergenerational now, it is still a great opportunity to get together as the families of First.

Even though summer is slower at First, be aware that plenty of planning is going on for the fall and beyond. Much preparation and planning are going into Rally Sunday, Sunday School and '4 at First', just to name a few.

With more time on your hands this summer, maybe you'd like to give a hand to one of these events—let one of us know so we can guide you in the right direction.

Whatever you plan to do or where you plan to go this summer, enjoy yourselves, but don't be a stranger around First!

– MARK BOGOTT

FirstWords welcomes all submissions and letters from readers.

Email firstwords-editor@flcpa.org.

Update on Rios visit

The following excerpt is from a letter of June 4th from Pastor Vilma of our sister parish.

Beloved sisters (and brothers), The Spirit of God is so large that when there is crisis or problems God is present in our minds and hearts...

And He surely was as we made a difficult, but promising decision to move the visit from the Rios delegation to a later date. Our plan and intention was to host the delegation in a few weeks; however after much discussion and prayer, we moved the dates to the first two weeks in January.

This new date affords a better schedule for the students who are visiting, more time to secure visas, and an opportunity for lower airfare. It is hard to describe here God's hand in all this, but to God be the glory for guiding us to this new date.

Our committee is thrilled to be planning this Epiphany celebration and fellowship with the 6-person delegation, but it is your involvement that will truly make this a meaningful and spirit filled journey for all.

In the coming weeks and months, you will be given opportunities to get involved in their visit and I hope that you will. The sharing of faith, struggle, love, and community will enrich us all.

Please let me know of ideas you may have for their visit whether it be a faith-sharing ladies night out, a sight-seeing trip idea, church or community event, etc. for the first two weeks of January.

Hasta mañana, Su hermana en Cristo Jesus

– TAMI FLETCHER

Rios Task Force



Changes ahead for First Kids Choir?

Congratulations to First Kids Choir for another wonderful year. Although we had only six loyal singers, they carried the year providing music for Santa Lucia, Christmas, Easter, as well as monthly offerings.

They also performed many premieres this year. The score for "Where is Your Treasure" was accepted by Augsburg Fortress and will be published in the coming year. I will be submitting some of the other new works First Kids performed for publication in the coming months.

So what's up for next year? The older First Kids want to continue and possibly

transition into a First Youth Choir (6th-12th grade).

Do you have a FLY who would like to join this older group? If we made this split four of our current singers would be part of FYC leaving two children to be part of First Kids.

Are there younger kids who would like to join them (grades K-5)? Please contact me so we can see if a new configuration can work. We can be flexible with the rehearsal time/day as well.

Wishing you all a restful summer. See you in the fall!

– JULIA SIMON

First Kids Choir



Announcing the 2011-12 4@1st Concert Series



October 2 Andrew Chislett, organ

First Lutheran's own maestro in a recital of keyboard masterpieces.

January 22 Clerestory: Resolutions



The ten men of Clerestory greet 2012 with a kaleidoscope of madrigals, elegies and more by composers as diverse as Josquin, Vaughan Williams and Steven Sametz.

March 4 Family Concert: The Viva Opera Ensemble



Daniel Lockert

Soprano **Claire Kelm**, contralto **Katherine McKee**, tenor **Colby Roberts** and bass **John Bischoff** will sing you stories from the world's funniest, scariest and most romantic operas, accompanied by the incomparable **Daniel Lockert**.



John Bischoff

June 10 First Lutheran Choir: Heaven's Gates

The First Lutheran Choir, directed by Katherine McKee, finishes the season with music of celestial beauty, featuring Fauré's Requiem accompanied by organ and chamber orchestra.

FLC CHOIR 2011-12 SNEAK PREVIEW!

The music for next year's liturgies will include a host of musical gems, including anthems by Guillaume Dufay, Herbert Howells, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Samuel Scheidt, Richard Shepherd & Virgil Thomson as well as Bach's joyous motet *Lobet den Herrn* and music for All Saints' day by Tomás Luis de Victoria in honor of the 400th anniversary of the composer's death.

Fond farewells

This summer, we bid a few fond farewells.



First, we say “until next year” to Kathy McKee and the choir, taking a well-deserved summer rest after a spectacular season of music. They’ll be back on September 11th. (above)



Second, we say *bon voyage* to Irene Gronwall, who departed in June for her new home in Florida. There was an impromptu reception for her at coffee hour. (right)



Finally, we say goodbye to Nathan Winterhof, our youth director of two years. He and his wife Sara are leaving for northwestern Wisconsin, where they have calls from congregations in nearby towns.

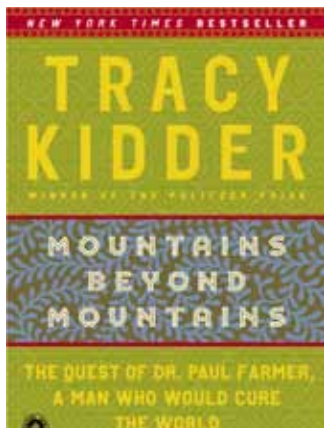
(left) Nathan preaching the children’s sermon.

(below) The First Kids Choir singing their own thank-you to Nathan at a reception honoring him on June 12th.



Book group talks compromises

Book Group



FLC Book Group’s “summer read” is *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, written by Pulitzer-Prize winner Tracy Kidder.

Group on Monday, September 12th, 7–8:30 pm, to discuss this unforgettable and compelling story.

It is the fascinating true story of the life and work of Dr. Paul Farmer, called a “modern-day Albert Schweitzer” for his work fighting disease and promoting public health in one corner of impoverished Haiti and beyond.

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

“Inspiring, disturbing, daring, and completely absorbing”. (N.Y. Times) Come to the September meeting of the FLC Book

July and August birthdays

	July
1	Colin Holbrook, Emma Souders
3	Muriel Herhold, Bonnie Fullerton, Katie Grote
4	Russ Grove, Eric Varney
8	Nancy Nuckolls, AnaCena Zander
9	Gwen Adams
10	Ernst Hansch, Ingrid Steinbergs, Sara Willrich
11	Phyllis Chrisman
14	Nick Molari
15	Jill Knuth
17	Marjorie Lundeen, Natasha Parker
20	Bruce Gaya
21	Alemayu Kassa
24	Yoichi Hariguchi
27	Erickson Valentine

	August
1	Kathy Dechow
4	Ron Biehler, Joe Haletky
5	Karan Barich
6	Andrew Schmoller
8	Athena Parker
9	Omni Mielikainen
10	Larry Hogle, Victor Varney
17	Annette Speed
19	Mark Bogott, Mary Lawry
20	Christa Compton, Allen Simon
22	Edward Molari
24	Michael Fletcher
26	Aino Mielikainen
27	Maria Cortez
28	Irene Gronwall, Chris Willrich
29	Calvin Bertelsen, Barbara deGery
31	Aya Cortez, Alex Gaya

Prayer Ventures was unavailable at press time.

Read it online at www.elca.org/prayerventures

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

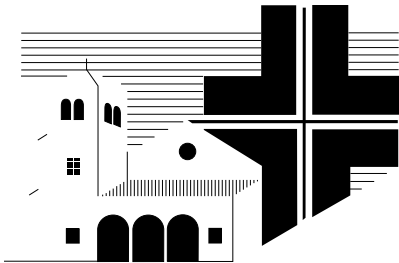
Staff:

P. Kempton Segerhammar Pastor
Katherine McKeeChoir Director
Julia Simon.....First Kids Choir Director
Andrew Chislett.....Organist
Karri Haddeland Childcare
Karen Krogh..... Financial Secretary
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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