

First Words

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Coming up in September

Becky Langholz preaching September 4th

On Sunday, September 4th, our preacher will be Becky Langholz! Becky has just completed her internship in Minnesota and is visiting family in the Bay Area. She looks forward to seeing the FLC Family.

Homecoming Sunday at FLC September 11th

8:30 Early Eucharist—meditative and simple

9:15 Rally Day for Sunday School classes for all ages.

Meet, greet and eat 9:15–9:35

Off to meet teachers/classmates 9:36–10:15

Choir gathers at 10:00 to warm up and welcome worshippers

10:30 Choral Eucharist - musical and rich liturgy

Service of Prayer for Peace, Reconciliation & Healing of the Nations

4 pm A service of prayer, chant and choral offering in honor of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. All welcome.



Homecoming Sunday and other cool things

Pastor

The first Monday of this new month we celebrate Labor Day. From Wikipedia we learn that the first Labor Day in the United States was observed on September 5, 1882, in Boston, by the Central Labor Union of New York, the nation's first integrated major trade union.

It became a federal holiday in 1894, when, following the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the U.S. military and U.S. Marshals during the Pullman Strike, President Grover Cleveland put reconciliation with labor movement as a top political priority.

Our good friend Becky Langholz and her infant son Alec will be visiting family over this long weekend and has graciously offered to preach on Sunday the 4th. How cool is that! Becky just completed her internship at Augustana Lutheran Church in Saint James, MN and will soon take the next step toward ordination in the endorsement process. Welcome Becky!

The new program year begins on Homecoming Sunday, September 11th. On this day we resume the normal schedule, the Christian Education program rallies together meeting new teachers, finding new rooms. The Choir resumes its season

of musical offerings. It's a noisy, joyous day of "coming home" to our communal liturgical, learning life in Christ!

This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attack upon our nation, known as "9/11." As this significant anniversary falls on a Sunday, the Worship, Arts & Music committee has planned a community wide Service of Prayer for Peace, Reconciliation and Healing at 4 pm. You and friends are cordially invited to join the Choir in this prayerful time of readings, chant and prayers for peace, reconciliation and healing.

We give a hearty welcome to Jeremy Serano as our new Youth Director. How very cool is that! He's written a brief bio on page 4 of this issue and looks forward to being with us in ministry. Welcome Jeremy!

Mark your calendars for the Blessings of Animals and All Creation, Sunday, October 2nd at the 10:30 Eucharist. You are invited to bring your pet (controlled) or a picture or a stuffed animal (proxy) to the service for a blessing. How cool! Christians have observed this practice in conjunction with the honoring of St. Francis of Assisi, who's feast day is October 4th.



With the Psalmist we say as we gather in community and begin the season:

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together unity!...For there the Lord commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

- Psalm 133

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Kemp Segelmann". The signature is written in a cursive style.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I CAN SAY ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?
POWER? TONGUES? GIFTS?
NO.
FELLOWSHIP!

YES, FELLOWSHIP IS THE DEEPEST WORK OF GOD'S SPIRIT.
THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS DRAWING US ALL OF THE TIME
INTO A COMMON LIFE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

THAT IS THE CENTRAL WORK OF GOD'S SPIRIT—CREATING COMMUNITY.

—TREVOR HUDSON
CHRISTIAN, SOUTH AFRICA

New year, new blessings

It is my pleasure to inform the congregation of a gift from Jill and Don Knuth for a new “state-of-the-art, distortion-free” audio system. It is also their intent that it provides a “loop” system for worshippers who wear hearing aids.

The Worship, Arts and Music committee will research other churches recent approaches to similar projects and identify and lead a sub-committee in its planning and implementation. The council and the congregation render a heartfelt thank-you for this generous gift.

The Property Task Force is working with a consultant who will help them provide a full analysis of the expense and revenue likely to be realized in the multiple schemes/alternatives that they’ve identified for the Homer and Webster properties.

In doing so, we will have a clearer picture on how our properties will work for us within our Mission and the stewardship

of our congregation. The council hopes to have a preliminary report regarding this effort at the September meeting.

Regarding the congregational vote for the task force to identify and purchase a parsonage at this time, this process has been slowed due to difficulty in identifying a willing lending institution.

Upon further review of the budgetary impact of purchasing another property, the council provided direction to the task force to make sure that the purchase is budget neutral.

Also, based on feedback from the council, the task force will include the parsonage purchase in the overall review and analysis of the church properties.

School has started again and we look forward to Rally Sunday when a new year of church programs begins at FLC. We are excited that Jeremy Serrano will be joining us as our new Youth Director. Please

President’s Corner



welcome Jeremy to First when you have an opportunity.

– MARK BOGOTT

Karen Krogh's family would like to express its sincere thanks to all of you for your loving support.

Thanks to the Simons for being the default hosts for this summer’s Picnic in the Park.

Palestine in the Arab Spring

“The Arab Spring: the Promise and the Illusion” presentation by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb of Bethlehem, Palestine

Learn what is happening in Palestine during this time of the Arab Spring.

The speaker, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, a Bethlehem native, educated in Germany, is an author, educator, visionary, and peace-maker. His topic will be “The Arab Spring: the Promise and the Illusion.”

In 1995, he led the small Christmas Lutheran Church in assessing the needs of

the Bethlehem community. Sixteen years later the little town of Bethlehem has a grade school, high school, a health and wellness center, an elder care program, a young families program, a leadership program for young adults and a four-year college – Dar al-Kalima College – specializing in the practical arts, film-making, computer graphics, tourism and design. These programs have enrolled students from all three faiths: Muslim, Christian, and Jewish.

This will be an outdoor event with live Palestinian music, Middle Eastern food,

Social Ministry

prize winning student documentaries and a souk (gift bazaar). It is open and free to the public. Raffle and Souk proceeds will benefit three Lutheran charities in Bethlehem, Ramallah and East Jerusalem.

This event will be held in the courtyard at Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, on Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 2:30 – 5:30 pm.

– MARTHA MEYER

A note from the new youth director

Well, I bet y'all are wondering who the new guy is. My name is Jeremy Serrano and I am the new Youth Director here at First Lutheran.

I have been in Youth and Family Ministry for ten years. I began leading youth groups at the age of 20 at St. Peter's By The Sea Lutheran Church in San Diego. During this time I received my Bachelors from San Diego State University in Religious Studies.

I then moved to the Los Angeles area to attend Fuller Theological Seminary where I received a Master of Divinity degree. While there, I ministered to Lutheran Church In The Foothills as the Youth and Family Minister.

I am currently in the ELCA Candidacy process with my twin brother Joshua and will attend PLTS this year. He's already been to PLTS, so if you think you have seen me around campus, or in another place up here, it was probably him.

Ministry is not the only thing I started young. I have been married to my best friend Jessica for 11 years. We have three children-Caedmon (6 yrs), Levi (4 yrs), and Benjamin (6 Mo).

We moved up here because my wife is teaching deaf and hard of hearing chil-

dren in the Alameda School District. We live in Hayward, and are still getting used to the Bay Area so any tips you have would be great.

I believe certain things about Youth and Family ministry.

First, youth are not solely the church of the future; they are the church now and should be involved in it.

Second, the Word of God is transformative. Therefore, I am all about getting young people into the Bible and worship to hear it and be changed by it. Just as Jesus transformed those whom he came into contact with, the written and preached Word transforms us today.

Third, youth group should be a fun place where young people feel comfortable bringing their friends. In my experience young people are the best evangelist because they have no qualms bringing their friends to a hospitable place where they can encounter God.

Lastly, Youth Ministry is a team sport. It takes more than just one person to do it—Like other ministries, it is a community endeavor. I will be asking for your time, resources, and talents.

Okay, that's enough about me. I can't wait to get to know y'all better and join in



the ministries that you have. I am available for coffee, dinner, or a chat over the phone. It will take me while to get your names so please be patient—y'all have one name to remember, I have a hundred or so.

Let's walk together in worship, prayer, and ministry to see what God has in store.

Peace,

— JEREMY SERRANO

Starting off with something different

September Ladies' Night Out will be on Tuesday, Sept. 20. Let's start off the Fall with something different: Indian.

Junnoon

150 University Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94301

(650) 329-9644

<http://www.junnoon.com/>

6:30 - gather for pre-dinner beverage

6:45 - try to be there! Official reservation time...

7 pm - order dinner

RSVP to reh@stanford.edu - bring a friend!!

Ladies' Night Out



Who are these kids?

Can you help identify the children in the third grade Sunday School class?

Bob Zander is the teacher, and the picture was taken on Easter Sunday, 1940.

It gives us a good view of the old entrance to the Parish Hall before the present ramp and porch were built.

The children from left to right:

1. unknown

2. John Phillip Carlstrom

3. Richard Salsman

4. Marilyn Salsman

5. unknown (girl with dark skirt and jacket)

6. Joyce Helm

7. unknown (girl with Easter bonnet and purse)

8. Richard Stark

9. unknown (boy with dark hair and short pants)

10. unknown

Social Ministry

Let me know if you can identify any of the unknown children. They'd be in their 70s now.

– JILL KNUTH



First Words

welcomes all submissions and letters from readers.

Email firstwords-editor@flcpa.org.

Lutherans Concerned annual meeting

Lutherans Concerned/San Francisco Bay Area will hold its annual meeting at First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 25th, 2011.

Reports will be received concerning the Reconciling in Christ Program, the recently completed Church Wide Assembly,

and our response to our Visioning day retreat as we plan for the future.

Executive Committee elections will be held for the 2011/2012 year. Refreshments and a light lunch will be served.

– CHUCK LEWIS



2011 Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions

The Twelfth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held Aug. 15-19, 2011, at the Orlando World Center Marriott. The theme was “Freed in Christ to Serve.”

- ELCA Malaria Campaign officially launched
- “Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” social statement adopted
- Review process for social statements adopted
- Living into the Future Together implementing resolutions adopted
- 2012-2013 Budget proposals adopted
- Memorials and constitutional changes adopted

For more information on the work of the assembly, including daily legislative updates, videos and a news blog, visit www.elca.org/assembly.

Fall 2011 choir preview

“Music is the art of the prophets and the gift of God.”

Martin Luther

Fall is a time of harvest, of gathering in and celebrating the abundance of riches God has provided. Few of God’s gifts bring more happiness than music—to those who create it on the written page, to those who interpret it and bring it to life, and to those who hear it.

After a summer of individual musical pursuits, the First Lutheran Choir will gather again beginning September 8th. It will be our joy to contribute once again to the beautiful Sunday 10:30 liturgy, and to devote our individual and collective talents to worshipping through the sung word.

The music for 2011–12’s liturgies will include a host of musical gems, including anthems by Guillaume Dufay, Herbert Howells, Samuel Scheidt, Richard Shepherd, Virgil Thomson, and Christopher Tye, choral arrangements of hymns by Max Sinzheimer & Martha Shaffer, and Warren Martin’s stunning setting of the spiritual Great Day.

We will celebrate Reformation Sunday with Bach’s joyous motet Lobet den Her-

rn and honor the 400th anniversary of the death of Tomás Luis de Victoria by singing his setting of O Quam Gloriosum est Regnum on All Saints’ Sunday.

The First Lutheran Choir will sing Benjamin Britten’s Ceremony of Carols on Christmas Eve, assisted by renowned Bay Area harpist Dan Levitan.

Special events this year will include a service for Peace, Reconciliation & the Healing of the Nations at 4 pm on September 11th, Advent Lessons & Carols at 4 pm on November 27th, and Christmas Lessons & Carols at 10 am on Christmas day.

Singers in all voice categories are welcome to join us for rehearsals on Thursdays (7:30–9:30) and services on Sundays and special feasts such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week.

Anyone interested in joining the choir is encouraged to call or email me (415-509-4870; music@flcpa.org).

And make sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us at 4pm on October 23rd as we kick off the 2nd season of the 4@1st Concert Series with an organ recital given by First Lutheran’s own organist Dr. Andrew Chislett.



The program will include works by Jan Sweelinck, César Franck, Johannes Brahms, Louis Vierne, Kenneth Leighton & Peter Maxwell Davies. A reception will follow the performance.

Admission is \$5 for children under 12, \$12 for everybody else. Or buy 4 tickets for \$40 to use for any 4@1st concert. Advance sales begin September 9th at coffee hour and can also be obtained by sending a SASE with your check to First Lutheran Church.

– KATHERINE MCKEE



The choir was last seen in late June celebrating a successful season.

June Forum topics

Adult Forum is held in the Library on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. The 2011–2012 schedule starts on September 18th (but come to Homecoming Day on the 11th).

September 18th

We will start the year off by discussing what has become for some a dirty word: COMPROMISE.

Forum will define Compromise; try to identify what makes compromises acceptable or unacceptable; the difference, if there is one, between compromises on secular and sectarian issues; and some of our experiences with compromise.

September 25th

COMPROMISE, PART 2: Forum will put itself in the role of being part of a diverse

Christian group given the task of creating a statement of faith—using the Apostle’s Creed, what parts of the Creed would be acceptable to compromise and what parts would not be acceptable.

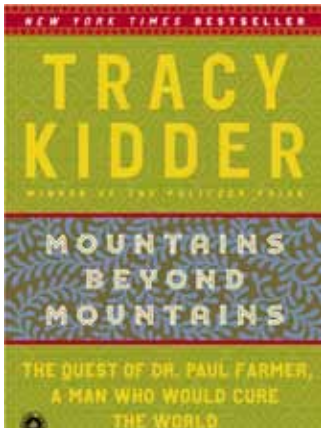
If you have an issue that you would like Forum to take up, whether you would like to develop information and lead a discussion or have a suggestion for others to follow up on, please contact Ken Schreiber (talk to him before or after Forum, call him at 650.853.1049 or email him at krsplan@mindspring.com).

– KEN SCHREIBER



Adult Forum

New season, more great books!



All book lovers are invited to join the FLC Book Group and enjoy monthly discussions of notable and interesting books, including fiction and non-fiction.

We will convene on Monday evening, September 12th, at 7–8:30 pm upstairs at the church to talk about the summer reading of *Mountains Beyond Mountains: the quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a man who would cure the world*, by Tracy Kidder.

Please also bring book ideas for future reading. See you there!

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

Book Group

September birthdays

3	Breanna Grove, Rowan Washburn
4	Lisa Krogh
5	Matt Bogott
8	Alice Robinson, Martin Moshfeghi
9	Lindsey Bogott
12	Dori Shimer
13	Beth Schmoller

14	Gillian King
18	Alison King
19	Ricardo Hariguchi, Sam King
26	Alzora Carlstrom
28	Nate Winterhof
30	Nick Larsen

Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Weekday entries are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 Pray for all ELCA schools as the school year begins, for teachers, students, administrators and staff as they work together to support learning and growth in the community.

2 Give thanks for the ministry of the Larson family, Gary, Ruth, and their four children, in Bangladesh. Gary is a lecturer at the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh.

3 Pray for those who experience poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity even amid great wealth and abundant resources, and for the growing gap between rich and poor.

4 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Gracious God, look with favor upon the people of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia and Montenegro that, in the midst of great change, they may find hope and peace.

5 Give thanks for meaningful work and God-given vocations. Pray for all who are unemployed or underemployed and for those who suffer from unfair labor practices and unjust wages.

6 Pray for ELCA Campus Ministries across the country that they may continue to support the lives of faith of young adults.

7 Pray for the Rev. Dirk and Sarah Stadlander who serve in Linguere, Senegal. Dirk is pastor of a Pulaar-speaking congregation of the Lutheran Church of Senegal and is an advisor to the church's

evangelism ministry among the Fulani people. Dirk and Sarah also provide support for the ministries of Lutheran Development Services of Senegal.

8 Pray for those who struggle to read and those who lack educational resources today on International Literacy Day, recognized by the United Nations.

9 Pray for the Conference of Presidents gathering of the Women of the ELCA who gather in Chicago, Illinois, September 9-11.

10 Give thanks for the witness of the 50 participants in Young Adults in Global Mission who completed orientation and are now moving into one-year positions in Argentina, Uruguay, Jerusalem/West Bank, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa and United Kingdom. May God guide and keep them as they work side by side with companions in social ministry and community initiatives.

11 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gracious God, we remember the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011.

Bless those who continue to mourn. Strengthen those who live in fear of violence. Work your reconciliation and justice throughout the world.

12 Pray that the churches of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania may be your instruments of reconciliation, both locally and in the wider world.

13 Pray for Kristen and the Rev. Brian Konkol as they coordinate the Young Adults in Global Mission program in South Africa and facilitate the well-being, support, and guidance of the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers.

14 Give thanks for The National Council of the Churches of Christ USA and the Canadian Council of Churches and their efforts toward unity in the church.

15 Give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Kwanza Yu who has concluded service as pastor of St. Paul International Lutheran Church in Tokyo. Having lived in Japan previously, the Rev. Yu brought unique experience and gifts to this parish setting.

16 Pray for the summit between the ELCA and African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) to be held in Salisbury, North Carolina, on September 16-17. The summit will offer a unique opportunity for the two church bodies to prayerfully consider ministry together.

AME Zion Senior Bishop George W.C. Walker Sr., and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will lead worship together at St. John's Lutheran Church during the summit.

17 Pray for those who work toward preservation of the environment by walking instead of driving a car, for those who take public transportation, and for those who call for an end to the wasteful use of the earth's resources.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

18 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We give you thanks, God of the ages, for the long history of the church in Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Grant wisdom, strength and grace to the continued witness of the churches and to the people of Belarus, struggling with a government marked by political repression and corrupt leadership.

Continue to guide the companion relationships among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States and the ELCA Central States and Northwest Washington Synods.

19 Pray for the advancement of the political, economic, social and cultural development of our societies.

20 Pray for Alan and Marie Krahn who are engaged in Theological Education at the Escola Superior de Teologia in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil. May their witness and teaching be a source of joy and empowerment for both the leaders in training and the churches that will receive them.

21 Pray for an end to violence and injustice throughout the earth on this day, the International Day of Peace, recognized by the United Nations.

22 Pray for those who are recovering from natural disasters and for those who live in fear of storms, especially during the Atlantic Ocean's hurricane season.

23 Pray for Kristen Opalinski who works as the Information and Communica-

tions Officer for Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa).

24 Pray for the ELCA State Public Policy Offices as they advocate for families struggling in tough economic times and for the support of health and human services during a time of significant budget crises.

25 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God of all kindness, gather the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia into your protective arms, especially as they face numerous challenges in their lives.

26 Pray for Stephanie Schmeige and her ministry in the North-Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Stephanie serves on behalf of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod as a teacher at Kibeta English Medium Primary School, supporting the synod's commitment to Christian education within its companion diocese.

27 Pray for the responsible stewardship of all of God's creation: soil, air, water and all of God's living creatures.

28 Give thanks to God for the gifts of the Rev. Kathryn Warn who serves as a pastor-in-residence with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone.

Kate helps build bridges between the church in Sierra Leone and its companion synod, the ELCA Northern Texas-North-

ern Louisiana Synod, while providing key support in the areas of leadership development, worship and community.

29 Pray for the fall meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, which meets in Chicago, Illinois, September 29 through October 4.

30 Give thanks for the work of Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg as Steve continues to reactivate medical dispensaries in North Maasailand in Tanzania, and as Bethany Works with Maasai women to create and market beadwork internationally.

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

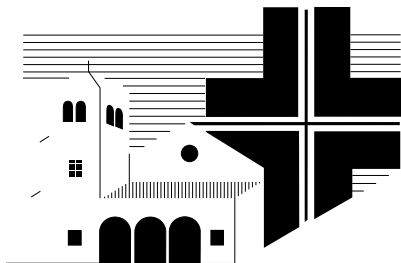
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Jeremy Serrano.....Youth Director
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The Rev. P. Kempton Segerhammar, Dean, Peninsula Conference

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



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