



The First Word

**First Lutheran Church
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www.FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

December 2009

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Christmas Worship

December 24, 4:00 PM


**Family Service
of Lessons and Carols**

December 24, 10:30 PM

**Candlelight Communion
Service**

December 25, 10:00 AM

**Christmas Day Service
with Holy Communion**



**“The Wonder” of Jesus’ Birth
Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 AM**

The children of First Lutheran Church invite you to their annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20, at 10:30 AM in the Worship Room.

Our Cross Walk kids are working hard to share this wonder-filled story with you through word and song.

A free will offering will be received and added to the funds for Tanzania Famine Relief.

Dates to Remember

Tree Decorating.....	December 2
Naomi Circle	December 3
Boy Scout Spaghetti Supper	December 5
Love Auction.....	December 6
Women's Smorgasbord	December 7
Children's Christmas Program	December 20

Advent 2009

We spend a lot of time rushing around getting ready for Christmas. Shopping, wrapping, tree decorating, baking, cooking, going to parties and family gatherings, more shopping, more wrapping, more... . It's exhausting just thinking about it. And it's just as busy in the church! A lot of extra planning and effort goes into getting ready for this very special time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ — the baby born in a humble manger — God coming down to us, becoming human and living among us in the ordinary rhythm of life.

And as we rush around getting ready for this big event, it's easy to focus only on Jesus' birth (the event that has already happened), but forget about his promised second coming, when he will return, the world as we know it will end, and he will establish his kingdom (the event that has not happened yet). And here we live, in this *already, but not yet*, in-between time. Just going about our daily lives, busy with all the things we busy ourselves with.

But in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus warns that it will be at times just like these, when people are busy with the ordinary rhythm of life, when the world is busy with all its business, that Jesus will come again. Interestingly, it was just like this when Jesus came the first time — people were just going about their busy lives when he was born. God came down into the world that first Christmas. And only a few people even noticed.

But when he comes again, Jesus warns, it won't be quiet and peaceful like the first time. There will be fire, lightning and fear. It will be apocalyptic, cataclysmic —the world as we know it will come to an end. And he tells us that when we see these signs, we should LOOK UP. Because in the midst of everything in our world spinning out of control — the end of life as we know it — Jesus comes back down to us and creates a new and different world, a new and different life — for us.

But I don't think his coming again is something reserved only for the end of time — I think that Jesus comes down to us in the here and now, when we least expect it, when the rhythm of ordinary life is broken and life seems turned upside down by things like a diagnosis of cancer, the death of a spouse or child, a divorce, the loss of a longtime secure job, closing of a family business, foreclosure of a house or family farm. Or somewhat more general and less personal, the economic recession, reduced retirement funds, fear of global warming, or even the anxiety created in a church considering approving pastors living in committed same gender relationships.

In times when the rhythm of our lives is broken, when our world is shaken and it feels like everything is coming apart, Jesus invites us to LOOK UP! Look up and see him coming down to us — right here, and right now — to walk with us, carry us in his arms, and give us new life — with him and in him.

As we make all our preparations for Christmas, please take time to consider the wonder of a God who loves us so much that he has come, continues to come and is coming again to make all things new.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. Isaiah 9:6a

Pastor Roy+

We welcomed to our Christian Fellowship through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism **Liam James Richard Garvey**, son of Jeffrey and Crystal (Worrell) Garvey, and **Carter Derek Guymon**, son of Kyle and Jennifer (Baie) Guymon, on November 8; **Samuel Joseph Jaros**, son of George Jaros and Julie Zaborac, and **Addison Skylar Wadle**, daughter of Jacob and Allison Wadle, on November 22; and **Nathaniel George Melandez-Black**, son of Heather and Felipe Melandez-Black, on November 20.

Congratulations to **Al and Otta Ritzman** on the celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary on December 4, to **Darrel and Barbara Henson** on their 40th anniversary on December 6, to **Darryl and Paula Rolland** on their 45th anniversary on December 23, and to **Don and Pat Johnson** on the celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary on December 29.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Jesse Cole, Corinne Johnson, Barbara Lindus, Rebecca Looney, Rodney Lothson, Brad Manning, Al Ritzman,**



New Quilt on Display

Have you stopped in the Social Hall and seen the new heritage quilt on display? This quilt was lovingly crafted by **Anna Diab** and **Evelyn Worrell**. It is now beautifully mounted in a display case built by **Jim Worrell** from trees cut down on Evelyn's father's farm. Excellently crafted, the frame has dovetailed corners and is made so that the quilt itself hangs from magnets.

Special thanks to each of them for this labor of love that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Ruth Smith, Diana Vonderheide, Nancy Abrams (sister of **Debra Burgin**), and Elinor Robbins (**Kathy Aase's** mother).

Thanksgiving Thanks

Thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful

Thanksgiving for many. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner was fantastic, as always. Special thanks to **Ann Lindahl** for organizing the event and to the many willing workers she recruited to set-up, serve, and clean-up. Thanks also to **John Feken** for leading us in another fine hymn sing.

**Cross Walk Sunday
Workshop Updates**

Rotation 4 – The Birth Narrative

On December 6, January 3 and 10, Cross Walk students will learn about Jesus' birth through Salvation Stadium (games), Cornerstone Computer Lab, and Cookin' with Jesus. We are looking for people to lead Cornerstone Computer Lab and Cookin' with Jesus.

Rotation 5 – The Baptism of Jesus

January 17, 24, and 31 will find the students learning about Baptism — why and how we baptize people — through Jesus' Baptism. Students will experience this workshop through Cornerstone Computer Lab as they play the computer game, Jesus in Space. In Scripture Cinema, they will view an animated version of his Baptism in *Jesus, Son of God*. The children will learn how Baptisms are performed through puppetry in Peter's Theater. We are still in need of workshop leaders for Scripture Cinema and Peter's Theater during these weeks.

Please consider leading our little disciples through one of these fun workshops. Sign up in the Atrium or contact **Stephanie Corn** with any questions.

A big thank you to our Rotation 3 workshop leaders: **Karen Sjolund, Paul Letheby, Kristin Bayle, and Cathy Foelske**. The children had unique experiences during these workshops as you helped teach them God's word. We couldn't have done it without you!

Tanzania Famine Relief Fund — We are continuing to give our Cross Walk offering to Tanzanian Famine Relief. As of last Sunday (November 22), we have

raised \$210.26 so far to help feed the hungry families of Tanzania. Way to go, Cross Walk!

Cans for Tanzania



Keep those aluminum cans coming! This is a simple way to support our brothers and sisters struggling with the terrible famine in Tanzania. Please bring rinsed out cans to the back of the kitchen. Ask your friends and neighbors to save their cans, too. Together we **CAN** make a difference! Thanks to **Al Fisher** for taking the cans to DIMCO. As of November 23, \$47.76 has been raised.

More items needed for workshops: frosting and sprinkles for cookies. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the church. Thank you!

Greeting Schedule — The First/Second Grade class is scheduled to be greeters before the 9:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, January 17.

**Cross Walk Wednesday
Advent Family Time**

Please join your child as we learn about and experience the wonderful story of Christ's birth. Join in a craft project, help direct a skit, lead a scavenger hunt, sing with us — there are a variety of ways you can participate. No advance preparation is necessary; just come and be willing to jump in.



**ADVENT
Family Time**

On **December 2** we'll do a **Family Kindness Klub Project** that involves

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

even the youngest kids. We'll fill mason jars with a hot chocolate mix, make decorative covers for the jars, and tags to attach to each jar. The tags will include our service times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thanks to **Cathy Foelske** for coming up with this idea and guiding us through the project.

Even if your children do not regularly attend Cross Walk Wednesday, your family is welcome to join us for Advent Family Time. Bring your friends and neighbors, too.

Operation Christmas Child

WOW! Our goal was to fill 50 boxes - and we filled 72! Thank you to everyone who participated in this international effort to provide gifts to needy children around the world. It was fun to hear stories of people who took their children or grandchildren shopping to select items for their boxes. Your generosity is proof of God's love for all his children.

Our boxes were taken to a collection site in Sycamore; from there they will



Jean Nelson, and Don & Pat Johnson
delivering the shoeboxes

be sent to Rockford, then Minneapolis, and then around the world. In 2008, almost eight million shoebox gifts were collected in the US and ten other sending nations!

Please continue to pray, not only for the children who will receive gifts, but for the thousands of volunteers around the globe who help collect and deliver these gifts. Most of all, pray that God will use Operation Christmas Child to bring many children and families to faith in Jesus Christ.

Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 AM

Does the month of December get so crazy busy that sometimes Jesus gets pushed out of the picture? Our children's Christmas Program tells the story of Benjamin, a young boy who would rather sketch pictures and wonder about the things that are happening in Bethlehem than help his mother get her inn ready for the arrival of visitors. Mama is so busy that she can't see the wonder of the baby born in her very own stable.

Our Cross Walk kids, Tiny Tots through Sixth Graders, are working hard to share this wonder-filled story with you through word and song. Please take time to slow down and savor the incredible wonder of God's greatest gift for YOU.

Please join us on Sunday, December 20, at 10:30 AM.

Kindness Klub News



The Kindness Klub has been working on several projects. In October, we decorated 100 pumpkin gourds to put on display throughout Kishwaukee Community Hospital. In November, the Second thru Fourth Graders made Christmas ornaments for Elder Care Services. The Fifth and Sixth Graders made jewelry to put in boxes along with socks and antibacterial soap to give to children whose parent is in prison. We also collected many books (thanks to all of you) to give to Hope Haven, Safe Passage, and Prison Ministries.

On Wednesday, December 2, we are having Family Night to make “hot

chocolate in a jar” gifts. The jars with cocoa will be sold at the Love Auction on Sunday, December 6, and on the following two Sundays before Christmas. We would like to sell the hot chocolate for \$5.00 a jar. The money will be added to the Tanzania Famine Relief Fund. You may purchase the jars to be given out to your friends or neighbors as a love gift to remind them of the Christmas services at First Lutheran. If you have any questions, contact **Cathy Folske** or **Jean Nelson**.

Support Our Scouts

Troop 33 will hold their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, December 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM in the Social Hall. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children age 12 and under, free for pre-school children. The menu includes salad, all-you-can-eat spaghetti, bread, beverage, and dessert. Tickets are available at the door or from any Troop 33 member. The proceeds help the boys pay for their Scouting activities.

Love Auction

“Going once, going twice ... sold!” Please join us in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 6, at 10:20 AM for our annual Christmas Love Auction. It is a good time to get your holiday cookies and sweets by bidding on the various plates of goodies. **Bil Johnson**, assisted by **Stan Lindahl**, will keep us bidding and laughing to raise as much money as possible for the Ketumbeine Parish in Tanzania.



In addition to the live auction, several members have donated items that can be used in your home or as Christmas gifts. These will be sold in a silent auction. Those items will be on display on Sunday, November 29 so that you can see and think about what you would like to bid for. We know the good causes for which the money will go. In the past the money raised has been used for building materials, Sunday School materials, land to start a new congregation, etc. Please remember that we are “blessed to be a blessing” and even in our slowed down economy we have far more than our sisters and brothers in Tanzania. All are welcome to our auction for fundraising and fun.



On Thursday, December 3, the Youth Group will be hosting the **Westlakes Captive Free Ministry Team**. The group (two women and three men) will stay in the church overnight. The Youth Group will be responsible for providing dinner and breakfast for the team. In return, the team has agreed to do an informal concert for our youth group. Both Jr. and Sr. High students are encouraged to attend the evening. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM and the informal concert will follow.

On Sunday, December 20, the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group will meet at the Huskie Den in the Student Center to play pool. The event is free, but students need to bring their own money to play video games and get food. Drop off and pick up will be at the Huskie Den.

Meal and a Message will meet on December 2, 9, and 16. On the 16th we will have a little Christmas party where we will watch Elf. Sunday School will meet on December 6.

Coming March 2010: Women's Luncheon ... Save the date for the second annual Women's Luncheon on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Our keynote speaker will be Patrice Spiro. She will give a talk called "Grace Filled Girl Talk" dealing with body image and God's purpose for us to have a healthy body image.

A big note of congratulations to **Hillary Taylor** and **Liz Peregrine**. According to the District 428 website: "Several DeKalb High School vocalists were asked by the choir director to



participate in a blind audition for a choral festival held every other year sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association. The Central Region covers four states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. A total of 153 students submitted audition tapes and of these applicants, only 80 students were selected for the 2010 ACDA High School Honor Choir. Eleven of the 80 students accepted are from DeKalb High School. The DHS students are now eligible to join the students at a convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in February, 2010." Way to go, Hillary and Liz!!

Angel Tree Gift Tags will be up after Thanksgiving. Please take a tag off the tree and return it unwrapped to the Narthex by December 13. If you have any questions please talk to **Liz Botts**.

Christmas Poinsettias

It's that time of year to order your poinsettias for the Christmas season. The plants will come from Yaeger's Greenhouse in a choice of three colors (red, pink or white) at a cost of \$11.50. All orders must be received by Monday, December 14. Checks should be made payable to Altar Guild.



The Flower Chart for the year 2010 is now posted in the Narthex.

The altar flowers will come from Glidden Florist and will cost \$40.00 for the two arrangements. Please sign up at your convenience.

December 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM NO Cross Walk Sunday Activities	30 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	1 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings 8:00 PM Executive Committee	2 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM NO Choirs 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM Tree Decorating 6:00 PM GED Classes	3 2:00 PM Naomi Circle 5:30 PM Youth Group hosts Westlakes Captive Free 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	4 5:30 PM LCM Advent by Candlelight at Bethlehem Lutheran Church	5 5:00 - 8:00 PM Boy Scout Spaghetti Supper
6 Food Pantry Donations 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Cross Walk Sunday Activities 10:20 AM Love Auction	7 10:00 AM Love INC Volunteer Training 6:00 PM Women's Christmas Smorgasbord 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	8 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council	9 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM Praise Kids and Joyful Noise Choirs 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek 6:00 PM GED Classes	10 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal	14 Poinsettia Orders Due 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scout Holiday Party	15 8:30 AM Project Group 9:30 AM Northeast Conference Pastor's Meeting at First Lutheran, DeKalb	16 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 4:30 PM Praise Kids and Joyful Noise Choirs 5:30 PM Cross Walk Wednesday 5:30 PM Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Faith Trek	17 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	18	19 9:00 AM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
20 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program 6:00 PM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Activity at Huskie Den	21	22 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	23 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study No Cross Walk Activities	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service of Lessons and Carols 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service of Bells and Carols with Holy Communion Merry Christmas Church Offices Closed for Holiday	26
27 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM NO Cross Walk Sunday Activities	28	29 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	30 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study No Cross Walk Activities	31	1 Church Offices Closed for Holiday Happy New Year!!	2

Highlights of the November Council Meeting

- Formally received with joy the following new members : **Robert Himan, John Baccheschi, Mary Burke, and John Clemetsen.**
- Designated the Ina Johnson memorial of \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund of the congregation.
- Set the Christmas Eve services at 4:00 PM and 10:30 PM. There will also be a Christmas Day service at 10:00 AM.
- Reviewed progress made on the council's 2009 mission goals:
 1. Implementing and following-through on the Bridgebuilding process
 2. Expanding our involvement in local/global ministries
 3. Increasing our outreach efforts through heightened visibility of our education programs
- Heard progress reports from the council Stewardship and Leadership ad hoc committees for the Bridgebuilding process. They discussed church fundraisers, staff job descriptions, role of the Church Council and the Constitution and Bylaws. Of note, the First Lutheran Constitution is now available in the church Library for those interested in reading it! Two copies are on hand to check out.



Love and Support of First Lutheran

First Lutheran Church is a body of people who have enjoyed the hearing, sharing and living of God's word for over 150 years. We as a congregation have been generous in our sharing with many different ministries. Now we have to consider our own financial health as well. This is why we are making this plea for sharing to our General Fund. In support of our General Fund any donations you are able to give will be welcomed. On Sunday, December 13, 2009 the congregation is invited to share a special offering to our General Fund. The need for this plea is so we will not have to stop or reduce funding to our programs and ministries, as well as be able to support our staff personnel.

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Make Ministry Happen

At November's council meeting it was confirmed that, as of the end of October, there is a shortfall of over \$50,000 between giving and the actual expenses of making ministry happen here at First Lutheran this past year. This is the second consecutive year we find ourselves facing this situation. I am asking you to prayerfully consider giving generously to help reduce the current shortfall between giving and ministry support. Give knowing that through your generosity, you are showing love for your neighbor as we do God's work of sharing with the poor. Trust that God does and will provide for your daily needs. God is doing wonderful ministry through us here at First Lutheran! The needs of our community and of the world are great. I hope that you see giving generously as helping to make ministry happen. Thank you.

Pastor Roy+

Women's Smorgasbord

The Women's Christmas Smorgasbord will be held on Monday, December 7, at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall. This is a wonderful time of the year to join other women from First Lutheran as we prepare for the holiday season. Meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish or two to share with the group — sign up on the chart in the Narthex. The program for the evening, "The Meaning of Christmas Symbols," will be given by Jean Callary.

Mark the date on your calendars now and plan to attend and bring a friend! We hope to see many of you for an evening of fun, fellowship, and great food.

Naomi Circle to Meet



Naomi Circle will meet on Thursday, December 3, at 2:00 PM for their annual Christmas Party. A special program of music and treats is planned. You are

invited to come and get in the Christmas Spirit. Guests are always welcome. Naomi Circle will not meet again until March 2010.

Women, Join Us in December ...

Start the Advent season off right! Come and join a group of women who are studying the New Testament book of Romans. We will meet on the second Thursday of December, beginning at 9:00 AM. Bring your favorite translation of the Bible for the study. We will meet in Classroom A (upstairs in the new addition). Coffee and goodies will be

served. Newcomers to the study will be warmly welcomed. In January, we will resume our regular schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of the month.

Book Discussion Group to Meet



The Book Discussion Group will meet next on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 12:00 NOON in the Community Room to discuss Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

"In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza was 22 years old and home from college to spend Easter with her devout Catholic family, when the death of Rwanda's Hutu president sparked a three-month slaughter of nearly one million ethnic Tutsis in the country. She survived by hiding in a Hutu pastor's tiny bathroom with seven other starving women for 91 cramped, terrifying days. This searing firsthand account of Ilibagiza's experience cuts two ways: her description of the evil that was perpetrated, including the brutal murders of her family members, is soul-numbingly devastating, yet the story of her unquenchable faith and connection to God throughout the ordeal uplifts and inspires. Her account of the miracles that protected her is simple and vivid. Her Catholic faith shines through, but the book will speak on a deep level to any person of faith."

All those attending are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion.

Meals on Wheels Thanks

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with Meals on Wheels this year. November is normally a busy time of year and these people took time out of their busy schedules to help deliver meals to the area shut-ins.

Special thanks to **Barbara Anderson, Don and Dee Anderson, Charlotte Bross, Bill Colvin, Joyce Davidson, Al and Debbie Fisher, Cathy Foelske, Don and Phyllis Franzene, Joyce Gardner, Elsa and Rob Glover, Heidi Hietanen, Don and Pat Johnson, Jim and Colleen Johnson, Perry and Edythe Larsen, Ethel Moline, Shelly Peterson, Jan Setchell, Keith Setchell, Mike and Sharon Wadle, and Jim and Jan Womack.**

Feeding the Hungry

Thanks to all who have responded to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by making a contribution during World Hunger month. As of our November 22 offering, we have received \$4,606.75 for 2009. This is great! Many people will be fed and nourished because of your generous gifts. Thank you to all who have contributed! If you haven't yet made a gift to World Hunger and would like to do so, it's not too late! Gifts will be graciously received through the end of the year.

Endowment Fund News

The Endowment Committee recently received a request from the Social Ministry Team for \$400.00. This was to complete the congregation's pledge of \$1,000.00 to the Thrivent Build with Habitat. Request granted. The Social

Ministry Team has been responsible for the Habitat Build program and we might add — has done an excellent job! When we work together, good things get accomplished.

Endowment Committee

A Property Ministry Faith Story

An ugly beige door at the bottom of the steps beside the church Library was covered in yellow paper in an attempt to make the entry to the Sunday School area appear more inviting. Because that door is a fire door and should perhaps not be covered in paper, the Property people decided that it should be painted. **Jan Womack** went out and bought yellow spray paint but when she asked for help removing the door so it could be sprayed outdoors, **Bob Schmidt** offered to take it to his automotive shop. While the door was at the shop, Jan painted the frame in blue (to match the stripe in the hallway) and when the door came home, Property Ministry attached a message telling the children (and adults) "Jesus Loves You."

An Invitation Suggestion from the Evangelism Ministry Team

The Advent/ Christmas Season provides a wonderful, easy time to invite family, friends, and neighbors to church to see and hear about Jesus. Most visitors come because someone they know invites them. Pray and then invite. If every family invited someone, the church would be packed and the angels would be rejoicing!



Advent by Candlelight



Lutheran Campus Ministry is hosting their annual “Advent by Candlelight” dinner on Friday, December 4, at 5:30 PM.

This year’s dinner will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The evening will begin with hors d’oeuvres followed by dinner and a short program. The suggested donation for this LCM fundraiser is \$30/person. If you would like to attend the dinner and/or decorate a table for this Advent event, please contact Pastor Diane Dardon at the Lutheran Campus Ministry office at 815-756-7700. Reservations are needed by December 1.

Commitment of Giving

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted your completed commitment of giving forms for the year 2010. As of November 23, we have received 121 pledges totaling \$279,105 for the 2010 budget. (Last year on this date we had received 95 pledges totaling \$228,822.)

We are thankful for every single one of these pledges. However, there are close to 250 giving units who have not yet completed a commitment of giving form. Please consider submitting your commitment today if you haven’t already done so — submission by **December 7** will be greatly appreciated!

Lynn Schmidt
Financial Secretary

Getting to Know Our Members

Harold and Sue Grafe have been First Lutheran members since they retired in 2006. They visited several Lutheran churches in the area and chose First Lutheran because of the friendly congregation, beautiful music, the children and youth ministry, and the speedy and friendly attention of Pastor Marilyn... “She was the first of the pastors to visit us.”



Harold and Sue Grafe

Harold grew up in Indianapolis and spent many summers on his grandparent’s farm. Sue grew up in Toledo and Port Clinton, Ohio. Harold and Sue met at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. They married in 1963 and Harold went to Trinity Seminary in Columbus. Harold served 40 years in the ministry, serving congregations in Indiana and Illinois. His last parish was in Crescent City, Illinois. Sue has served in a nursing home, as a home health nurse, and as a parish nurse.

Sue and Harold have four children and nine grandchildren: Tim and Karen (Nico and Elena) in Edina, MN; Luther and July (Abby and Ben) in Deerfield, IL; Wendy and Ron (Courtney, Caitlyn, and Rylie) in Somonauk, IL; and Beth and Dave (Allison and Nicole) in Franklin, TN.

Harold named The Beatitudes as his favorite scripture and “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*” as his favorite hymn. Sue especially likes Psalm 46:10 — “Be still and know that I am God.” Her favorite hymn is “*I Love to Tell the Story*.”

Sue and Harold agree, “We find ourselves spiritually nourished by the sermons, children’s sermons, music, and our friends in this congregation.”



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 2. Marian Larson
Gary Skinner
Will Todtz | 8. Mark Yaeger
Janis Nelson
Robert Rosene | 20. Kayley Aase
Bill Freeland
Maxwell Lange |
| 3. Nancy Jones
Pam Larson | 9. Russell Cook
10. Carole Johnson
11. Jessica Marx
Paula McDowell
Karen Sjolund | 22. Erin Martin
Ben Nelson
23. Diane Bark
Audrey Bowden
Scott Meier
Ruth Smith |
| 5. Madison Bauling
JoAnn Nordeen
Karen Schramer | 12. Ronald Johnson
Angela Listy
Donna Peterson | 25. Hannah Pumfrey
27. Holly Peifer
28. Jenna Levine
Michael Wadle |
| 6. Lindsay Franzene | 15. Grace Bauling
Ethel Moline
John Pickens
Jason Wood | 29. Renee Olsen
Roger Votaw |
| 7. Karen Hart
Mark Hartman
Katie Mooney
Andrew Taylor | 16. Anna Fell
Carol Stubbs
17. Margaret Marten
Joyce Nelson
18. Barbara Henson | 31. Heidi Hietanen
Joyce Listy
Wanda Parsley
Heidi Peterson
Sarah VanderBleek |

Comptroller Report for October 2009

	October Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	October Budget
Income	\$34,711.52	\$334,759.32	
Expenses	\$33,411.22	\$388,768.13	\$41,942.75
Ahead/(Behind)	\$1,300.30	(-\$54,008.81)	

Capital Building Fund Loan Balance - \$473,140.77

One day's interest on mortgage - \$75.69

Attendance Figures for October 2009

	9:00 Sunday
October 4	189
October 11	192
October 18	201
October 25	207

First Staff

Senior Pastor

Marilyn G. Hanson

Pastor@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Associate Pastor

Roy Nelson

RevRoy@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Administrative Assistant

Financial Secretary

Lynn Schmidt

Office@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Comptroller

Matt Morfoot

Support@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Liz Botts

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Cross Walk Sunday Coordinator

Stephanie Corn

Education@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Music Ministry Coordinator

Cross Walk Wednesday Coordinator

Children's Music Director

MaryJean Nelson

Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Organist

Mark Mackeben

Organist@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Adult Choir Director

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

Custodian

Bill Colvin

Security

Howard Jacobson

Congregation Council

President

John Longeville

Vice-President

Bob Snow

Secretary

Cathy Foelske

Treasurer

Bill Sanders

Barbara Henson

Kayla Kittleson

Trent Lange

Paul Letheby

Stan Lindahl

Caroline Peregrine

Tarryn Thaden

Ministry Team Chairpersons

Endowment

Arlyn Strike

Evangelism

Mary Colvin & Sue Grafe

Finance

Dorothy Thorsen

Learning/Growth

Personnel

Jill Olson

Property

Keith Setchell & Jan Womack

Social Ministry

Jack Cress & Harold Grafe

Stewardship

Gerry Sanderson

Worship/Music/Fine Arts

Jean Nelson, Music Coordinator

Youth Ministry

Caroline Peregrine