



The First Word

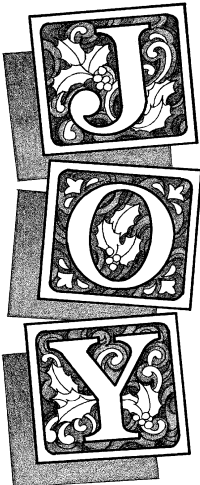
**First Lutheran Church
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January 2009

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Christmas at First Lutheran

**Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM - Family Service of Lessons and Carols

10:45 PM - Christmas Carol Sing

**11:00 PM - The Candlelight Service of
Holy Communion**

**Thursday, December 25
Christmas Day**

**10:00 AM - Christmas Carol Service
with Holy Communion**

Dates to Remember

Book Discussion Group..... January 5
 Family Skating PartyJanuary 11
 Women's Night OutJanuary 15
 Budget Hearing.....January 18
 Annual Congregational Meeting.....January 25
 Congregation Council RetreatJanuary 31

ELCA Presiding Bishop's 2008 Christmas Message

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

— Luke 2:15

Let's go! Now! When angels came to some shepherds with a brilliant message one night long ago, the shepherds had a brilliant idea. Let's go! Let's see what God is doing!

The unknown dangers of the night did not hold them back. Perhaps they knew that some of God's best work is done under the cover of darkness — the creation of all things, wrestling with Jacob, Israel's escape from slavery.

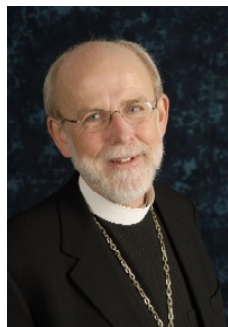
Or maybe they didn't. Maybe all they needed was the announcement of what God was up to this time. This time God would be conducting a rescue like none before — saving the whole world, bringing peace and goodwill. Once again it's an undercover operation — God hidden deep in the flesh and working "under the sign of opposites" (as Martin Luther called it). Arriving as a baby in diapers, God's Son recruited tax collectors and fishermen, social misfits and despised sinners in a rescue mission that culminated in the hidden power of the cross.

What if the shepherds had yawned, "That's interesting, some other time," and remained sitting in the night, in the dirt, in the comfort of predictable hardships and familiar enemies? Would promised joy have found them anyway?

Let's not test that speculation with our lives. Let's go!

Let's see what God is doing!

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Merry Christmas

May love, joy, and peace dwell in your hearts and homes this Holy Season.

From the Staff at First Lutheran Church

Congratulations to DHS seniors **Taylor Hallgren, Paige Partridge, Bailey Russell, Taylor Wallin,** and **Jason Wood** who were recently recognized by the Illinois State Scholar program for outstanding academic achievement.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Ina Johnson** who died on November 26, to the family and friends of **Leonard Alms** who died on December 8, and to the family of **Mildred Borg** (Pastor Erland Borg served First Lutheran from 1945 - 1950) who died on October 2, just days before her 100th birthday. May God comfort those who mourn.

Congratulations to **Richard and Bev Cress** on the celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary on January 11.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped set up the Christmas trees, especially **Bill, Lee** and **Will Todtz; Bill** and **Marilyn Sanders; Harold Grafe;** and members of the Sr. High Youth Group. Thanks also to **Howard Jacobson** for hanging the outdoor wreaths.

Remember our shut-in members and those who care for them as we move into the holiday season. Please be mindful of those members who are unable to get to church and who

seldom get out of their homes. This time of the year may be a good time for each of us to make contact with shut-in members with cards, notes, phone calls, visits, etc.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: **Barbara Lindus, Dawn Marx, Marie Maxwell, Wanda Parsley, Millie Peterson, Barbara Rauman, Wendy Stern, Emmett and Dorothy Youngren,** Carl Funk (father of **Cathy Foelske**), Elaine Lawrence (**Gerry Sanderson's** sister), Christina Setchell (daughter-in-law of **Ron and Jan Setchell**), and Bethany Busse (friend of **Lynn Schmidt**).

We also remember in prayer our servicemen who are serving our country:

Michael Huck
(son of Ken and Julie Huck, former members; stationed in Iraq)

LCpl Huck, Michael 2nd Plt
Task Force MP's 1st BN
12th Marines Charlie Btry
Unit 44120
FPO AP 96607-4120

Mike & Mark Lofthouse
(grandson's of Al Kranz)

Ann Hart Pearcy
(daughter of Paula McDowell; Ann has been deployed to an unknown location); her home address: is:

20328 SE 37th St
Harrah, OK 73045-6019

Eric Peterson

(son of Jim and Donna Peterson; moving to Columbus, MS this December)

Austin Sanderson

(son of Tarryn Thaden; stationed in CA)

LCpl Sanderson, Austin T
3/4 India Company
Weapons Platoon
29 Palms CA 92278

Special Thanks

Dear First Lutheran Family,

This "THANK YOU" is for all that you have done in supporting my return to good health. Everyone's thoughts, prayers, cards of well wishes meant so much to me and my family.

A very special "THANK YOU" needs to also be conveyed to Pastor Marilyn and Pastor Roy for the many prayers and visits while I was in the hospital.

May God Bless You All!
James (Jim) M. Johnson

Newsletter Deadline

Just a reminder, the deadline to submit articles for The First Word is on the 20th of each month. Articles should be brief and may be edited. Articles for the February issue should be in **by January 20.**

Christmas Program Thanks



The Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14 was a wonderful collaboration between

our Sunday School children, their teachers and parents, the Handbell Choir, some of our young musicians, and many other volunteers. *Jahmaul's Story* was written by **Jan Womack**; she designed and created the camel costume and did the staging and costuming for the program.

Many thanks to Jan and the following people who shared their time, energy, and talents: **Kelly Buhk, Mike Bauling** and **Teresa Lange** for cueing the kids backstage; **Mike Bauling** for setting up the scenery; **Karen Sjolund** for serving as our piano accompanist; **Judy Neumann** for working with the Handbell Choir, and **Jean & Ed Callary, Sara Ann & John Feken, Judy Neumann, Debra Quinn** and **Jan Womack** for playing bells; our youth who shared their musical talents: flutes - **Kate Metzler, Liz Peregrine** and **Hillary Taylor**; clarinets - **Nicole Fisher, Zack Riel** and **Brittany Todtz**; violin - **Jacob Marx**; piano pre-service music - **Aaron Russell**; **Stephanie Corn, Debbie Kish** and other parents who helped kids don their costumes; the Learning and Growth Ministry Team for organizing and serving the lunch after dress rehearsal; **Mary Bradtmueller, Pastor Marilyn, and Ben Nelson** for filling the gift bags; **Gerry Sanderson** for handing out the gift bags after the program; **Jim Womack** for taking pictures; **Rob Kerschke** for working the lights; **Ben Nelson** for working the sound board.

An offering was collected and \$272.00 will be given to God's Global Barnyard program. As part of the ELCA World Hunger ministry, animals such as cows, pigs, fish, goats, turkeys, and chicks are provided for families, with the goal of ending the cycle of hunger and poverty. You can check the ELCA's website for more information.

Living Advent Nativity

The children's messages during Advent included a "Living Advent Nativity" and the opening of a gift each week. Thanks to the following children for portraying the characters around the manger: **Raelyn and Ella Colvin; Travis deOliveira, Linnea, Ryan and Audrey Kothrade; Calla and Ben Nelson, Abbi Smith; and Cameron Taylor.** Many thanks also to **Bill Colvin** for hand crafting a small manger for one of the gifts.

Family Fun in 2009

Come one, come all...and bring your skates!! Join us for an afternoon of Family Fun on Sunday, January 11 at 2:00 PM at the new ice skating rink in DeKalb!! For more information, call the Church Office.

Sunday School Reminders

There will be **NO** Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 21 or 28. Sunday School resumes on January 4.

Job Opening

First Lutheran is seeking to hire a part-time Children's Education Coordinator to begin work on January 15, 2009. To apply, please stop by the Church Office and pick up an application form. Application deadline is Wednesday, December 31.

Jr. High Events



Calling all Junior Highers – a forum for YOU is held each Sunday morning during the Education Hour.

“Faith Lens,” a resource of the ELCA, is the curriculum which seeks to connect the scripture readings of the day with current event stories.

Movie Night – Sunday January 18, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM — we will order pizza for dinner, and watch a choice of Princess Bride, Labyrinth, or Happy Feet.

Sr. High Events

Meal and a Message continues to meet every Wednesday night (except December 24) beginning with a meal at

5:30 PM. Please plan to join the group as often as you can. At Meal and a Message on January 28, we will make a meal for Lutheran Campus Ministry. We will need youth to deliver the meal, as well as one or two parent drivers. Plan on Meal and a Message lasting until 8:30 that night.

Cosmic Bowling at Mardi Gras Lanes - Saturday, January 3, 8:00 - 10:00 PM. The cost is \$5.00 per person; sign up by December 30. Bring your friends!

Service Project at Heritage Woods Assisted Living Community on Sunday, January 4, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM.

Synod Ski Trip in January – On January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) the youth will participate in a fun day of skiing with other youth from the synod at Chestnut Mountain near Galena.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of First Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday morning, January 25, at 10:00 AM, immediately following the 9:00 AM worship service. Primary items on the agenda will be the adoption of the 2009 budget and the election of council and committee members, as well as Synod Assembly voting members. At the Annual Meeting this year you will be asked to vote on a bylaw change to separate our Finance/Stewardship Committee into two separate committees. The proposed wording for the two committees is as follows:

Finance Committee – This committee shall exercise oversight of all the financial affairs of the congregation to make sure they are being conducted efficiently and ensure that an annual audit of the congregational records takes place. The treasurer of the congregation shall be an “ex-officio” member of the committee.

Stewardship Committee – This committee shall take responsibility for stewardship education and programming throughout the year. The financial secretary of the congregation shall be an “ex-officio” member of the committee.

All confirmed members of the congregation are eligible to vote at this meeting. Committee reports to be included in the Annual Report are due in the Church Office by January 1. A budget hearing will be held the Sunday before, on January 18, at 10:20 AM in the Social Hall. All are invited to participate.

Chase the Winter Doldrums Away!

Bring the family for an evening of fun at First Lutheran's

► ► ► VARIETY SHOW ◀ ◀ ◀

Sunday, February 22, 2009

6:00 PM

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Snacks and beverages will be served.

This is an event for the entire family. Children and youth are encouraged to participate in the show. Do you sing or play an instrument? Tell jokes? Tap dance? Perform magic tricks? What does your family do together that might be entertaining to others?

The goal is to build community through groups of people sharing their talents; individual acts are welcome, too. We are looking for fun and creative entertainment that is not limited to polished performances by trained musicians. So put on your thinking caps, let your imaginations soar, and let's have fun together! For more information, please contact **Jean Nelson** at 815.517.0551 or music@firstlutherandekalb.org



Mothers of Preschoolers

Our MOPS group had a wonderful month during December as we prepared for the Christmas season. At our "Book Day" on December 1, a staff member from 4-C presented ideas on picking books for our children and ways to teach pre-reading skills. Every MOPPET was given a free book to take home after a story time presentation! Our Christmas meeting had a theme of "Favorite Things" – we shared favorite recipes, gadgets and traditions from our family! We've had a wonderful semester together as mothers of preschoolers and are looking forward to starting up again in January. We are excited to have several new moms looking to join our group in the New Year.

We would especially like to thank the volunteers from First Lutheran Church who have helped our group this past semester. Your support of this ministry has made a big impact on many moms in the community and we appreciate the help you have provided! If anyone else is able to help with childcare for our group on a one-time or regular basis (our group meets twice each month for two hours), please contact Kim at 815.901.0210.

If you are interested in joining our group, or if you know of a mother of preschoolers who would like to meet new friends, we are now accepting registrations for our next semester. For more information, contact Kristal at 815.787.8653. Registration forms will be available at the Church Office.

Book Discussion Group to Meet in January

The Book Discussion Group will meet next in the New Year. Why not start the year out with a New Year's Resolution to join the group for excellent conversation and reflection? The group will meet on Monday, January 5, at 12:00 NOON in the Community Room. Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Relin will be discussed.

All those attending are invited to bring a sack lunch and join in the discussion of this great book!

A New Year's Resolution ... Make "Prelude" Part of Your Week!

Women, come join us for a Bible study on the second and fourth Thursday mornings of each month. This Bible study, geared especially for women, will meet in January on the 8th and 22nd, beginning at 9:00 AM. Our January topics will focus on Rachel's story (Discovering Value Within) and Esther's story (on Leadership Formation).

The group meets in Classroom A, coffee and goodies are always served, and newcomers are always welcome. Check us out!

Women's Night Out!



Women's Night Out

'Women's Night Out' is back by popular demand! The group will meet next on Tuesday, January 15, at 6:00 PM at O'Leary's in downtown DeKalb. These dinners are based on the simple

concept that we just want to get together for fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Women of all ages are invited. Please call the Church Office by noon on the 15th if you plan to attend

Anniversary Gift Thanks!

What a great day it was on December 7 when Bishop Gary Wollersheim joined us to celebrate 150 years of ministry and mission here at First Lutheran. And how wonderful it was to give him our gift of \$35,109.56 for starting a new mission congregation somewhere in the Northern Illinois Synod.

"THANK YOU for your outstanding generosity! When the Sesquicentennial Committee took on the project of raising a 150th anniversary gift for starting a new mission congregation in the synod, they asked every member of the congregation to give 150 of something (150 coins, dollars, tens, 100's, shares of stock, you get the picture...) for this gift.

And BOY, did you respond! Many of you tossed coins and bills into the big jar in the Narthex. And many of you brought your 150 of 'something' into the Church Office. And when we counted up all those gifts, we had \$35,109.56! WOW!! Your generosity is much appreciated by the Bishop, who said that one of the healthiest things a congregation can do is to start a new church.

Thank you for extending the kingdom of God by helping start a new mission congregation.

JANUARY

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM Children's Choir	29	30 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	31	1 Happy New Year — Church Office Closed	2	3 8:00 - 10:00 PM Sr. High Youth Event - Cosmic Bowling at Mardi Gras Lanes
4 Food Pantry Donations 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education 11:20 AM SS Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Children's Choir	5 12:00 NOON Book Discussion Group 12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM Intern Cluster Meeting at Immanuel, Rock Falls 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	6 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Learning/Growth Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings	7 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation	8 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	9	10 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Sr. High LYO Gathering at Light of Christ, Algonquin
11  Sr. High Can Collection 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education 11:30 AM Children's Choir 2:00 PM Family Fun at the Ice Rink in DeKalb	12 9:00 AM Mothers of Preschoolers 6:00 PM GED Classes 6:30 PM Mutual Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	13 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council	14 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes	15 6:00 PM Women's Night Out at O'Leary's 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:20 AM Christian Education 10:20 AM Budget Hearing 11:30 AM Children's Choir 5:00 - 7:00 PM Jr. High Movie Night	19 Church Office Closed Sr. High Ski Trip to Chestnut Mountain, Galena	20 Newsletter Deadline 8:30 AM Project Group 9:30 AM Pastor's Conference Meeting at Joyful Harvest, Johnsburg	21 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes	22 9:00 AM Prelude - Women's Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Annual Meeting 10:20 AM Christian Education 11:30 AM Children's Choir	26 6:00 PM GED Classes 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	27 8:30 AM Project Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM LCM Board Meeting	28 6:45 AM Red-Eye Bible Study 11:00 AM Clergy Text Study 5:30 PM Prime Time Wednesday Meal & A Message 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM GED Classes	29	30	31 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Church Council Retreat

Highlights of the December Council Meeting

- Welcomed Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop of the NE Conference, to our meeting to discuss the Bridge building Process for congregations.
- Set January 18 at 10:00 AM as the date of the Budget Hearing and January 25 at 10:00 AM as the date of the Annual Meeting of the congregation.
- Approved the recommended bylaw change regarding committees for presentation at the Annual Meeting (see annual meeting notice for details)
- Approved the hiring of a part-time Children's Education Coordinator.
- Set the annual Church Council retreat for Saturday, January 31.
- Approved combining the Custodial/Maintenance position into one and making it a 30-hour a week position.
- Appointed an Audit Committee: **Glenn Moody** (1 year term), **Kathy Hott** (2 year term), and **Loren Foelske** (3 year term).
- Set the housing allowances for both pastors.



Love Auction Thank You



Our thanks and appreciation to all of you who supported First Lutheran's Companion Parish, Ketumbeine in Tanzania, by your participation in the November Love Auction: the members of the Social Ministry Committee for organizing the event; 19 wonderful bakers of tasty holiday treats; **Jeanette Gommel** for her beautiful display; our brass trio of **Pastor Roy** with **Ben Nelson** and **Brittany Todtz**; **Bil Johnson** for auctioneering; **Jean Callary** for ensuring all had a close look at the baked goodies; **Bob Snow** and **Jack Cress** for running the cash register; and certainly all of you who raised your hands to bid.

With \$1,660.00 in bids, \$300.00 anonymous matching funds, and Thrivent's \$800.00 in supplemental funds (our \$2.00 for their \$1.00), the auction proceeds totaled \$2,760.00. Also added will be income from **Jack Cress'** Ketumbeine calendars, the Coffee Hour 'treats table' donations for the weeks hosted by the Social Ministry Committee, and the proceeds from **Tarryn Thaden's** 'Doggy Treats' creation. The final total is just over \$3,000.00!!

Sharon Wadle also sold \$53.00 in jewelry and \$10.00 in Ketumbeine women's craft. That \$63.00 will go to the Women's Ministry in the Diocese of Arusha Region, our Northern Illinois Synod's Companion.

Consider Giving a Year End Gift to Help Make Ministry Happen

At December's council meeting it was confirmed that, as of the end of November, there is a shortfall of about \$50,000 between giving and the actual expenses of making ministry happen here at First Lutheran this past year. Now, I know that we are living in uncertain economic times and that we are all being more careful with how we spend our money. That is true here at church as well. This year, we have kept actual ministry expenses to about 10% under the 'faith budget' which enthusiastically passed at the last annual meeting. And you have responded generously, by increasing your giving by 10% over the prior year. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, we are still facing the reality of a \$50,000 shortfall between giving and actual ministry expenses. And that, frankly, is pretty scary.

But as our Bishop, Gary Wollersheim recently wrote, it seems that how scared we get in the midst of an 'economic crisis' has a whole lot to do with where we put our trust. *"As Christians, we put our trust in God. We believe that God does and will provide for our daily needs. We recognize that compared to most of the world, even in an economic crisis, we are wealthy. And we are reminded of the words of Scripture: "to whom much is given, much shall be required", so we respond to God's graciousness with continued generosity."*

So I am asking you to prayerfully consider giving generously to help reduce (or even erase) the current \$50,000 shortfall between giving and ministry support. Give as an act of worship and praise to our generous and loving God. Give out of joy and thanksgiving for the many blessings you have received from God. Give, trusting that God does and will provide for your daily needs. Give in order to continue the work of ministry and mission in the world that Jesus has entrusted to us.

God is doing wonderful ministry through us here at First Lutheran! The needs of our community and of the world are great. And, as such, our need for fully funded ministry and mission is great. Your generous gifts, in any amount, are graciously received toward relieving this \$50,000 shortfall between giving and the cost of doing ministry and mission. Your gifts go directly toward our specific ministry needs. I hope that you see giving generously as helping to make ministry happen. Thank you.

Pastor Roy+

Custodial Position

First Lutheran is seeking to hire a church custodian/maintenance person to begin work on January 2, 2009. This will be a 30-hour a week position with some flexibility in hours. To apply, please submit an application to the Church Office by December 22.

A Year of Remembrance



The year 2008 has been a year of remembrance for First Lutheran Church. We have remembered our past, recognized our present, and planned as we look to the future. On December 25, 2008 we mark the anniversary of 150 years for First Lutheran Church.

A little over a year ago planning began for the sesquicentennial year. Many ideas were presented before we selected the ones to be part of the year. It began with the Sunday School program in 2007 using some of the ideas from early programs. A Swedish smorgasbord was enjoyed by former pastors, their spouses, members, and guests in July. This event was held at Kishwaukee College. 'Fishsticks' from Milwaukee presented the program. Printed ribbons were given as a keepsake. Snippets from our past appeared monthly in The First Word.

Tedd King, former organist and choir director, returned in November and played for our morning service as well as for the afternoon vesper service. Bishop Wollersheim brought the message to the congregation on December 7. At that time he was presented with a check from the congregation for \$35,109.56 that could be used for mission development. A brunch was held in his honor.

Other events that were certainly a part of the festivities were the Harvest Blessing in September, blessing of the pets in August, and a loan reduction

activity. These events were funded by selling of calendars, hymnbook angels, and crosses made from pieces of stained glass that had been removed from church windows.

The Sunday School program, the St. Lucia festival on December 21, and the Christmas services will bring the year to a conclusion.

Thanks go to the Sesquicentennial Committee: **Dick Anderson, Paul Engstrom, Jane Fay, Corinne Johnson, Kayla Kittleson, Ann Lindahl, Ethel Moline, Judy Neumann, Pat Smith, Jan Womack, and Pastors Hanson and Nelson.**

My heartfelt thanks to the committee and the members of First Lutheran for your participation in these events. It's been heartwarming to work with all of you and see your smiles and gifts come forward. May God bless you and your families. I appreciate and love each and everyone of you.

Yvonne Johnson
Sesquicentennial Committee Chair

Lucia Day Celebration

Winding down the celebration of our Swedish heritage and 150th anniversary, Sweden's Lucia Celebration, a family event, will be held on **Sunday, December 21**, in the Social Hall following our worship service. Santa Lucia, wearing a crown of candles, accompanied by the star boys will begin the celebration of Light followed by traditional sweets of luciabatter, pepparkakor, rice pudding, and pickled herring, too.

Much of the Santa Lucia story is lost in

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(Continued from page 12)

myth and legend but we do know that in the year 284 a baby girl was born to a prosperous family of nobility in Syracuse on the island of Sicily. She was christened Lucia, a name meaning light.

Unfortunately Lucia died at age 20 for refusing to renounce her faith in the new Christian religion that was spreading from Rome to the far reaches of the empire.

How did this information get to Sweden and become a family tradition? Do some family research and read Lucia Child of Light by Florence Ehstrand or check in our church Library for a list of great books, CD's, and websites on Santa Lucia and Swedish traditions.

Bring your family and join us on December 21 for the Lucia Celebration of song and food!

Did you know...

... that 36-year-old Pastor Erland Carlsson from Chicago, who officiated at the founding of our own Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in December 1858, became one of the most prominent and admired leaders of the Augustana Lutheran Synod?

... that born in Småland, he left for America in 1853 to join the other two Swedish (State Church) Lutheran pastors living in the Middle West at that time? This area had been the "New Frontier," but was now a popular destination for European immigrants.

... that arriving in Chicago two days before his 31st birthday, he was asked to take the pastorate of the Immanuel Lutheran Church on the near northwest side (36 members)? Also, by aridly assisting other newly-arrived Swedes (voluntarily meeting boats, etc.) he composed an Immigration Guide which became popular back in Sweden.

... that when the infamous cholera epidemic appeared, he remained with his dead and dying parishioners, even though he caught the disease himself? He was also known to have built some of their caskets as the emergency worsened.

... that Pastor Carlsson was also a leader in educating young people? Within a month of his arrival, he had added a parochial school at Immanuel Lutheran. In 1860 he was one of the founders of the Synod, and he composed the constitution that established the seminary — first located in Chicago.

... that later (1869) his congregation built a larger church just two years before the 'Great Chicago Fire' burned both the church and his parsonage to the ground? Of 340 families in his congregation, 320 lost everything. The despair was "beyond belief" he later stated. What then? (see the next issue of The First Word)

Corinne Johnson
Sesquicentennial Committee Member



- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jon Sjolund | 8. Julia Gommel | 19. Macy Stach |
| 2. Norma Johnson | Paul Grosklags | 20. Robb Bowman |
| McKinley Moore | Emilie Schramer | Daniel Franzene |
| 3. Ken Barshinger | Shawn Smith | Taylor Nelson |
| Charlotte Bross | 9. Brennen Rader | 21. Alexia Corn |
| Pam Pickens | 10. Barbara Anderson | Carli Schmidt |
| 4. Joyce Davidson | Luke Anderson | Bob Snow |
| Sara Ann Feken | Rickie Engelsman | 23. Paul Engstrom |
| Alayna Gersic | Cameron Taylor | James M. Johnson |
| Nichole Motsinger | Dana Varga | Wendy Stern |
| 5. Richard Anderson | 11. Ann Lindahl | 24. Deborah Hartman |
| Nancy Dashner | Marc Schmidt | Jeanne Smith |
| Linda Sanderson | 13. Gerry Aase | 25. Brad Johnson |
| 6. Andrew Kuhns | Grant Olsen | Ken Seim |
| Christian Kuhns | 14. Sarah Rauman | 26. Todd Motsinger |
| Matthew Listy | Jordan Wellman | 27. Jan Setchell |
| 7. Jessica Bradt | 16. Barbara Dienst | 28. Nancy Long |
| Paul M. Yamber | Jay Primrose | Evan Taylor |
| | Joshua Taylor | 29. Kimberly Kitchen |
| | 17. Candy Anderson | Keith Setchell |
| | Jeffrey Carson | 30. Jason Hatton |
| | John Longeville | 31. Mary Lawson |
| | 18. Wenke Hansen | Kenneth Pumfrey |
| | Donald Johnson | |

Comptroller Report for November 2008

	November Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	November Budget
Income	\$35,268.30	\$403,545.40	
Expenses	\$42,515.73	\$457,269.90	\$47,182.63
Ahead/(Behind)	\$7,247.43	(-\$53,724.50)	

Building Fund Principal Balance: \$581,577.36

One Day's Interest: \$80.77

Attendance Figures for November 2008

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
November 2	12	223	235
November 9	—	210	210
November 16	20	209	229
November 23	15	232	247
November 30		193	193

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

Music Ministry Coordinator

Children's Choir Director
MaryJean Nelson
Music@FirstLutheranDeKalb.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Liz Botts
liz_botts@yahoo.com

Adult Choir Director

John Feken

Bell Choir Director

Judy Neumann

Nursery Attendant

Cindy Hammil

Custodian

Richard Seitz

Security

Howard Jacobson

Congregation Council

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Kayla Kittleson

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Caroline Peregrine

Karen Schramer

Bob Snow

Committee Chairpersons

Endowment Committee

Bob Snow

Evangelism Committee

John Longeville

Finance Committee

Matt Morfoot

Learning/Growth Committee

Tammy Carson & Nicole Henke

Personnel Committee

Jill Olson

Property Committee

Bill Sanders

Social Ministry Committee

Jack Cress

Stewardship Committee

Debra Burgin

Worship/Music/Fine Arts Committee

Trent Lange

Youth Ministry Committee

Deb Benson

Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church ...

*Hearing, Living, and
Sharing God's Word
Together*