



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church



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August 2010



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Message from Intern Alex- On the art of Breathing...

Grace and Peace to you, brothers and sisters, from my new desk here with you at 1st English!

I have to start this short introduction with saying since I have arrived, around 11p.m. on Friday the 9th, you and your family here has welcomed me into the community with open arms! For that, I am most thankful. Seeing as this is a short letter of introduction, let us get to it.

I grew up in rural/small town South Carolina. My dad's side had been in the south since before the Revolution and my mom's came to the US as Black Forrest German Glassblowers just before the turn of the last century. I grew up like many small southern Lutheran Diaspora youth being the only Lutheran kid my age in school trying to work out for myself why I was Lutheran and everyone else wasn't. My first real experience of being Lutheran was in Campformation, my week of confirmation camp at Lutheridge. This week was truly formational for me as a youth and later became one of the central starting points for my personal call story.

I went to the University of South Carolina to study biology as a pre-med student. I had learned from my mom and her dad, my Pappy, a spirit of altruism, calling me into a profession of caring for others. I loved science and so the medical field made sense. A year into the program, through prayer, a reconnection with my old summer camp and an epiphany, that maybe God was calling me into serving people through work in the church. After some more thought, I changed my major to Religious Studies, minoring in anthropology and later graduated with that degree in 2007. From there I was off to Seminary.

I began my seminary career at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and transferred after my first year to Gettysburg for some different class options that Philly didn't offer. After my second year, I went home and spent a year serving as a hospital chaplain in residency. There I served as the primary ER chaplain for the year and for my first 6 months was also the chaplain for their cancer center.

Before coming here, I took a short vacation for myself and spent a month between France and Germany. I spent 2 weeks in the Taize monastic community then went to Germany to Frankfurt, Berlin and Wittenberg.

About the title, I have to say I would never have expected my travels and my vocational path to take me to the many places it has. Likewise, faith is not a scenic lookout point we arrive at. It's a constant journey full of ups and downs. All the while, we must remember to breath and remember that its God's grace that gives us that breath. So give thanks for the next breath you take and go do something with it for God's glory.

I look forward to learning and working and serving with you all over the course of this next year!

Peace and Blessings, Intern/Vicar Alex Brown

TELLERS

August

2
Nyle Ruth Leshikar

9
Mildred Butler

16
Dorothy Bohn

23
Melrose Goetz

30
Geralene Schulte

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00a Early Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	2	3 8:30a Staff (WR) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	4 9:30a Quilters (108) 6:30p Heritage Day Mtg. (CR)	5 6:00p BOT (WR) 6:30p BOW (CRb) 7:00p BOCL Meeting (FH)	6 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	7 6:30p Worship
8 8:00a Early Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Celebration	9 9:00a Summer Good Cheer Visits (FH) 5:30p Synod Assembly Mtg. (FH) 6:30p Rachel Circle (CR)	10 8:30a Staff (WR) 9:30a Rebecca Circle (CR) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	11 2:00p Lydia Circle (CR) 6:00p BOEd (CR)	12 9:30a Esther Circle (Rippstein) 6:00p 50 & Fun (FH)	13 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	14 6:30p Worship
15 8:00a Early Worship 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship	16	17 8:30a Staff (WR) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 7:00p Joanna Circle (Gleinser)	18 Newsletter Deadline 9:30a Quilters (108)	19 9:30a Deanery 6:00p Council (CR)	20 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) RSVP Deadline for Zion Lutheran WELCA Bunco Party, Cuero	21 9:30a Al-Anon (CR) Gonzales Shower (FH) 6:30p Worship
22 8:00a Early Worship 9:15a Rally Day (Sanc) 10:30a Celebration 11:30a Hot Dog Lunch (AC)	23 6:00p WELCA of Zion Lutheran, Cuero - Bunco Party	24 8:30a Staff (WR) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR) 5:30p Home Communion (WR)	25	26 9:30a Pericope (CR) 6:00p Intern Mtg. (CR)	27 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	28 6:30p Worship
29 8:00a Early Worship 9:15a Sun. School 9:15a Confirmation Mtg. Parents/Students 10:30a Celebration Bibles given to 3rd Graders/Lunch w/ 3rd grade afterwards	30 6:00p FELCW Board Mtg. (FH) 7:00p FELCW Gen. Mtg. (Hax)	31 8:30a Staff (WR) 12:00p Al-Anon (CR)	FYI: Wednesday Happenings will begin again on September 8th.			

Each month First English Lutheran Church sends each of the following organizations a donation toward their ministry. These donations help thousands discover or renew God's call for their lives and provides hot noon meals for hundreds along with some financial assistance and prepare a new generation of leaders for service in the world. Each organization sends a monthly thank you to FELC. God Bless You, **Christ's Kitchen (\$41.67)** **ELCA World Hunger (\$100.00)** **Lutheran World Relief (\$70.00)** **Habitat for Humanity (\$41.67)** **Cross Trails Ministry (\$183.33)**

I would like to thank Pastor Wirtley and your very gifted Intern Derek for giving Leonard Kovar such a beautiful service. We both missed being able to attend services these last few years. His health problems just wouldn't allow it. To our many friends, I wish to thank you for all your concern, your prayers, cards and phone calls during our very difficult time. To Dee Harper who always came to visit and bring communion, for the Good Cheer Ladies who came and brought gifts from time to time, for all the delicious goodies the various ladies prepared for the luncheon on the day of the funeral and for all the beautiful flowers, plants and memorials that were given as a loving tribute to Leonard, I thank you so much. And last but not least, for always accepting me - you made me feel welcome each and every time. Through Leonard, I became friends with so many of you during the times we were able to attend services. Leonard was a wonderful, kind human being who loved people. He will be forever missed. With Love, Alice Kovar

Thanks for the blankets you made for us during Vacation Bible School. That was very thoughtful of you. We enjoyed the pictures. Thank You From Project Linus "The best kind of sleep under heaven above, is under a blanket, handmade with love." Coordinator, Billie Stehling



A huge THANK YOU to Gail Norris, Joyce Teinert, Geralene Schulte, Pat Schweke, Renee Hassel, Donna Heinold, Amarylis Tschirhart, and Ruth Heller for completing the kitchen inventory on June 26th. With many ladies present we were able to complete the counting of all the items in the kitchen and we now have a current record. Many thanks again to all of you! Sandy Muegge

Cotton & I would like to thank the BOCL for the ice cream freezer that we won at the Ice Cream Social. We were really surprised. Cotton and Mary Evelyn Hillmer

Mickey Maxey has agreed to serve as the new deacon, replacing Larry Bruchmiller. Mr. Maxey has been serving as an usher in Mr. Bruchmiller's usher crew. Thanks goes out to Mickey Maxey for agreeing to serve as Deacon.

THANK YOU – The Coast Bend Swim League appreciates being allowed to use the conference room again this summer. We hold one large meeting a year immediately following our city swim meet. During this meeting we select the fastest local swimmers to represent our Victoria League in the Region Meet. Thank you again for allowing us this space.

I would like to thank Pastor Jerry, Pastor Paul and Intern Derek for their visits during my recent Hospital stay. I want to thank all of you who visited me, called sent cards and expressed your concerns for my recovery. I thank all of you for your prayers. God Bless you all, Franklin Stoeltje

I want to thank the Pastors for their prayers and concern, the Good Cheer ladies for the beautiful flowers. Also, thanks to the members for the cards during my hospital stay. God's Blessings to all. Sincerely, Leo Westerman & family

ADDRESS UPDATE

Address Update for Derek & Jessica: Derek and Jessica Harkins, 497 Blair Ct., Dubuque, IA 52003

Special Prayers:

Mydra Kolle, Roland Thieme, Estelle Janssen, Clint Caughman, Royce Church, Arden Norland, Max Mayer, Robert "Bob" Brand, Annabelle Pagel, Gary Grosenbacher, our troops, and for all people in need.

Congratulations:

William and Laura Johnston on the birth of a son, Alexander James, born Tuesday, July 6th.

Those who have been in the hospital this past month :

Leo Westerman, Royce Church, Dana Buck, Kelly Park, Raymond Weischwill,
Roland Thieme, Laura & Alexander Johnston, D'loris Evans

Our heartfelt condolences and love is poured out to the family and friends of:

Hazel "Earlene" Juenke 7/20/10 (Sandra Post's mother)



Our Lutheran Campus Ministry News

The Victoria Community College and the University of Houston Victoria (UHV) campuses is about to experience a *huge growth potential*. UHV is expanding to a full four-year program this fall, and will have residential housing. Our Campus Ministry is a partnered ministry with the United Methodist, Presbyterian, and Disciples of Christ Churches. It is officially called "United Campus Ministry." United Campus Ministry provides meals, Bible studies, fellowship, occasional worship services, book studies, holiday celebrations, birthday parties, Christian concerts, movie nights, retreats, Crop Walk, Relay for Life, faculty/staff appreciation breakfasts, mission trips, and Spiritual Growth and Leadership Development. And, most importantly we have a very active and dedicated campus pastor, Rev. Wanda Ritchea. Please help students within our congregations be aware of this ministry!

We provide for this ministry through our congregations' conference dues, individual gifts, congregational gifts, fund-raising, gifts-in-kind, providing meals, and volunteers. Thank you for your ongoing support, especially as we are about to experience a *huge growth potential*! If you are interested in helping in some capacity, for the best and most current information, call Pastor Wanda Ritchea, 649-2904.

Pastor Paul Muehlbrad, UCM Lutheran Board Member

Drive for School Supplies Now through August 31st

The Board of Education has committed to spear-heading a congregational drive for collecting school supplies for children fostered by Lutheran Social Services. This "collection" will continue until August 31, 2010. Supplies may be placed in the container designated for the items in the Church Narthex. Monetary gifts are also welcome and may be placed in the yellow envelope labeled Lutheran Social Services attached to the collection box. Your Board of Education thanks you for your support of L.S.S. and the children and families whose lives they enrich.



Brothers Bring Home Swimming Medals

*Dawson Carroll was awarded a Gold Medal in the 100 yd Free Relay and 1 Silver in the 50 yd Free and he will swim both at state at Waco in August.

*Mason Carroll was awarded 3 Gold Medals at the region meet in Corpus on July 11. He placed 1st in the 100 yd Individual Medley, 1st in the 50 yd Back, & 1st in the 200 Free Relay & he will swim all three at state at Waco in August.

Newsletter Deadline/Webpage Info - August 18th

The newsletter deadline August 18th for September News, articles, thank you notes, etc. You can send us info. in the mail, drop it by the office or you may email us at: office@FELCVictoria.com.

The church website www.FELCVictoria.com is updated regularly. Check it out during the month for any late-breaking important news between newsletter mailings.



Coupons Needed

Our military families overseas can use coupons on base up to 6 months past their expiration date, so as a service project we ask that you share your unused coupons. (Please no coupons that are store specific..such as Target, HEB, etc.) Put your clipped coupons in the corresponding envelopes located under the flower chart, one is marked food & one is marked non-food. Once a month we will send the collected coupons to be shared with the other military families.

Newsletter Abbreviations

(CR) = Conference Room/Office (CRb) = Conference Room B/Office (WR) = Workroom/Office (FH) = Felger Hall
 (Comm) = Commons (Sanc) = Sanctuary (AC) = Activity Center (MP) = Men's Parlor (BOD) = Board of Deacons
 (BOED) = Board of Education (BOCL) = Board of Congregational Life (Hax) = Hax Parlor (BOE) = Board of Elders
 (BOSC) = Board of Social Concerns (BOS) = Board of Stewardship (BOEV) = Board of Evangelism
 (BOY) = Board of Youth (BOW) = Board of Worship (ABC) = Adult Bible Class (BOT) = Board of Trustees



Backpack Blessing - August 21st & 22nd

Saturday, August 21st and Sunday, August 22nd August is here! For many families that means school is just around the corner! Shopping for school supplies, books, and fall clothes becomes a part of everyone's schedule. Here at FELC, on Saturday, August 21st and Sunday, August 22nd, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of another school year. Students, preschool through adult, bring your backpacks or lunch boxes to worship services at 6:30pm Saturday, 8:00am or 10:30am. The services will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year.

Teachers, aides, principals, administrators, secretaries, cooks, librarians, janitors, and bus drivers come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work! Join us for this Celebration Sunday! Everyone is encouraged to bring school supplies to church also. These school supplies will be given to the Victoria Lutheran Social Services.

Rally Day - August 22nd, 9:15 a.m.

To join the Board of Education on August 22 at 9:15am in the sanctuary for Lava Lava Island Rally Day. Come sing some Lava Lava Island songs, meet this year's adult, youth, and children's Sunday School teachers and substitute teachers. Join us for a hot dog lunch following 10:30 a.m. service. We are looking forward to a great year.

Third Graders to Receive Bibles - August 29th

The annual 3rd grade Bible presentation will be August 29th at the 10:30 worship service followed by a special lunch and Third Grade Bible Blast. Come have lunch with Pastor Jerry, his family, and the Board of Education. Then we will look into how to read the Bible. We invite the parents and the third grader to come. Child care will be provided so you can spend time with your third grader. If your child is entering the third grade, you would like for them to receive a Bible, please contact the office and leave the name of the child and how many adults will be attending on August 29th.



Heritage Day

Thanks to everyone who made last year's Heritage Day program ad sales a success. \$1,300 was raised from last year's sales. We are now beginning the sales for this year's program booklet section titled "Christians Serving the Community." Your business can be associated with this important event for the modest contribution of \$25 per business card space (which is a tax-deductible business expense and goes toward charitable purposes). Also, purchase of a space for a personal message is available. We have only a limited number of ad spaces, so take advantage of this great opportunity. For an order form, contact an Ad Sales Committee Volunteer (Dee Harper or Belinda Kinkade) or the church office. **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED** – Well folks, it is that time of year again and we are asking for your help with donations for the silent auction. Items can be new, gently used (furniture, jewelry, etc.) or an antique, but if not new please clean it up before donating it. If you think it will be of use to someone else, we would love to have it. We appreciate all donations. Call 575-7251 or cell 550-2971, leave a message. Please bring your item(s) to the Church office or if you cannot bring it we will be happy to pick it up, just give us a call - James and Cathy O'Connor.



Beth Moore Coming via Simulcast - September 18th

Beth Moore will be coming to Our Saviour's Lutheran via Simulcast September 18th. Are you ready to have some fun, fellowship and inspiration with thousands of women all over the globe? The one day event will be held at OSL Church from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Ticket cost is \$25.00 per person and may be purchased at Our Saviour's or Bible Book Store. For more information contact the church @ 575-4305, Bible Book Store @ 575-7451 or Tammy Hartman @ 575-5730. You can also visit www.lifeway.com for more details.

Date/ Time	Greeters	Lay Readers	Deacons/ Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Altar Guild
Sat. 6:30p 7/31	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	L Fabian J Fitzgerald V Waida B Kelly	Ollie Flowers		
Sun. 8:00a 8/1	Margaret Vrana Mildred Slaughter	Laurel Graham	Muegge	Louis & Sue Boldt	Natalie Boldt Heidi Schoenherr	
Sun. 10:30a 8/1	Kathy Svetlik Esther Wehlmann	Bryan Serold	Schulte	Joyce Thormahlen Sue Raaz	Charis Wirtley Meagan Fishbeck	Mary Gleinser
Sat. 6:30p 8/7	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	L Fabian J Fitzgerald V Waida B Kelly	Ollie Flowers		Kirsten Eppinger
Sun. 8:00a 8/8	Dorothy Bohn Larry Bruchmiller	Joycelyn Onken	Sproles	Tracie & Zach Depine	Megan Depine Shelbie VanBeveren	Steph Godfrey
Sun. 10:30a 8/8	Ann Garza Chuck & Mary Gail Moody	Mary Gleinser	Heinold	Rhonda Hildebrandt Renee Hassel	Morgan Schmidt Erin Hildebrandt	Melrose Goetz
Sat. 6:30p 8/14	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	L Fabian J Fitzgerald V Waida B Kelly	Ollie Flowers		Karen May
Sun. 8:00a 8/15	Sue Raaz Ruth Heller	Edna McDonald	Maxey	Bobbie Guinn Katherine Schuelke	Lorin Merklinger Heidi Schoenherr	Joyce Thormahlen
Sun. 10:30a 8/15	Joyce Thormahlen Gail Norris	Aaron Muegge	Hartman	Margaret Vrana Collin Metting	Logan & Caitlyn Lassmann	
Sat. 6:00p 8/21	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	L Fabian J Fitzgerald V Waida B Kelly	Ollie Flowers		
Sun.. 8:00a 8/22	Harvey & Edna McDonald Mildred Butler	Pat Rickman	Schulte	Nyle Ruth Leshikar Tony Wilhelm	Shelbie VanBeveren Elizabeth Hanselka	
Sun.. 10:30a 8/22	Aileen Lott Ed & Melrose Goetz	Sherry Podolak	Hermes	Randy & Sandy Muegge	Briana Butler Kolton Shilling	
Sat. 6:00p 8/28	Kay Waida	Lynette Klages	L Fabian J Fitzgerald V Waida B Kelly	Ollie Flowers		
Sun.. 8:00a 8/29	Melvin & Fern Roessler Dalton & Janie Metting	Dalton Metting	Heinold	Jerry & Danielle Alvarez	Natalie Boldt Megan Depine	
Sun.. 10:30a 8/29	Jennifer Hartman Marge Rode	Janet McCrea	Sproles	Tracy & Dennis Hermes	Mallory Hermes Haley Kinkade	

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

July 22, 2010

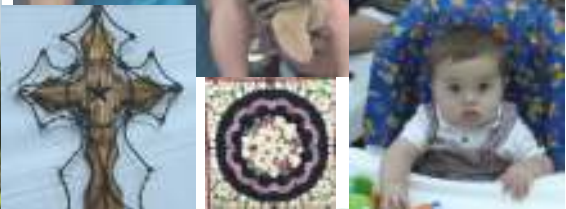
Motion was made by Larry Svetlik, seconded by Byron Serold, that the Minutes of the June 10, 2010, Church Council Meeting, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Alice Childress, seconded by Randy Muegge, that Delores Harper and Bobbie Guinn, be ratified as members of the Board of Worship. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Larry Svetlik on behalf of the Board of Trustees, seconded by Bryan Serold, that FELC proceed with the repairs to the Education Building as well as the modification of the two bathrooms on the first floor of the Education Building to make them handicap accessible and ADA compliant with the cost not to exceed \$10,000.00, with the funds to be taken out of Building & Property Improvement Fund, and if the two upstairs bathrooms can be made handicap accessible and ADA compliant within the \$10,000.00, that the Board of Trustees has the authority to do them also. If the cost exceeds \$10,000.00, the Executive Committee shall consider authorizing the additional cost. Motion carried.

Pastor Wirtley reported that Young Life, a non-profit organization which reaches out to high schools, requested FELC to allow them to use the Hiller Activity Center, on September 16, 2010, for a banquet, with a discount on the rental fee. A discussion was held. The Church Council decided to adhere to the Building Use Policy Fee Schedule.

FELC Pictures of June Happenings - Office Paint Day and Ice Cream Social





FELC Pictures of Sr. League Mission Trip & Camp Chrysalis



FELC Pictures of July Happenings at Camp Chrystalis



“Building and Nurturing Relationships for Christ”

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

More News

August 29th at 9:15 a.m. ... there will be a Confirmation Meeting for parents and students. For more information call the church office.

August 30th at 6:00 p.m. ... there will be an FELCW Board Meeting in Felger Hall and at 7:00 p.m. FELCW will hold the General Meeting in Hax Parlor.

Worship tidbit from Pastor Jerry:

It was brought to my attention at a gathering that some of the things we do in worship or around the church might need a little background information. One of these is the passing of the peace. This use to be done at a different time in the service, at the beginning and people have asked me, why can't the peace be at the beginning so we can greet people during the peace? Well the answer is it can, but we put it before communion for a very good reason. If you look in Matthew 5:23-24 you will see a passage concerning anonymity between brothers and sisters, and coming before the altar. This passage says if you have something against, or your brother has something against you, go and make peace, then come to the altar. That is why before we come to the altar to receive the most precious gift God can give us, we make and give peace to our brothers and sisters, Jesus told us to! So may the peace of God which surpasses all understandings guard our hearts and minds.