

## **WINTER 2012 CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

**EPIPHANY** The third season of the Church year (following Christmas) is Epiphany - noted by the green wall parament. Our observance of Epiphany begins on Sunday, January 8 and continues through February 19. Epiphany means "appearing" or "showing". It celebrates Jesus' appearance as God's Son to the whole world; Jew and Gentile alike. Since this appearing began with the Magi or Wise Men from the East, this celebration is often regarded as the "Christmas of the Gentiles". Epiphany is definitely a time to be thankful that God made himself known to us; Gentile sinners!

**ADOPT-A-STREET** It's time again to pick up litter on Smoke Tree Lane. We'll do this the week of January 15. A Sign-up Sheet will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

**INSTALLATION** The 2012 Church Council will be installed into office on Sunday, January 29. The installation will take place after the offering. **All** Councilmen are to come forward at that time. May the Lord of the Church bless them in their labors!

**OPEN FORUM** An Open Forum (for all members of the congregation to ask questions and offer suggestions) will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 10:30AM (during Fellowship Hour). Plan on attending.

**VOTERS' MEETING** The Annual Voters' Meeting of First Ev. Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 22, following the Worship Service (at 10:45AM). Agenda items include acknowledgement of membership changes, approving the final 2012 Church Budget, approving the 2012 Endowment Committee Fund Budget, appointments/ratification of new committee positions, an Endowment Fund Committee Financial Report, and committee reports. All voters are encouraged to be in attendance at this important annual meeting. It's your opportunity to stay informed on the business of **YOUR** Church.

**BIBLE CLASS** The Sunday morning Bible Class is currently going through the People's Bible Series on 1 Thessalonians. Why not make Bible study a regular part of your Sunday morning routine!

**INTERNET WORSHIP** Did you know that past worship services that are broadcast on Access 13 are replayed on the Internet? They are! To play the rebroadcast in your internet browser, go to the link <http://www.access13.org>. Click on the "Videos on Demand" link. In the "All Folders" pull-down list, select the "First Lutheran Church Program" folder. Click to select the desired "First Lutheran Church Program". The video will play in your internet browser.

***SPIRITUAL RENEWAL EVENT*** WELS Kingdom Workers will host the Spiritual Renewal Event "Engaging Christians In Outreach Ministry" on Saturday, January 28, 2012, 7:45AM-4:00PM, at Paradise Valley-Phoenix. For more information, see the poster in the Narthex and pick up a Registration Form from the table under the bulletin board.

***NEW MEMBER WELCOME*** Individuals recently received into church membership will be "welcomed" into the congregation during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, January 29. Make it a point to meet our new members and make them feel welcome!

***OFFERING ENVELOPES*** If you haven't picked up your 2012 Offering Envelope Box from the table by the Office Secretary's door, they'll soon be placed in the back of your Church Mailbox. Take it home and make good use of the envelopes in the new year!

***BLACK CANYON CONFERENCE*** The 2012 Black Canyon Pastor/Teacher/Delegate Conference will be held on February 3, at Grace-Casa Grande, AZ. A Voting Delegate will be needed for this conference. If you'd like to serve as Delegate, talk to Pastor Rothe.

***ALTAR GUILD*** The Altar Guild will hold their Annual Meeting to review duties & responsibilities, firm up a schedule for the new year, and take down the Christmas Tree and interior decorations sometime during the week of January 8. If anyone would like to assist, your help would be more than welcome! See upcoming bulletins for date and time.

***FLOWER CHART*** A 2012 Flower Chart has been posted on the Narthex bulletin board. If you'd like to sponsor altar flowers for a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, memorial, holiday, etc.), sign your name to a Sunday and follow the posted instructions. For more information, talk to a member of the Altar Guild.

***THERMOSTATS*** With the cold weather upon us, the thermostats in the Church, Narthex, and Fellowship Hall are to be set at 55 degrees during the week. When in use, adjust accordingly and reset to 55 degrees when you leave.

***MEMBER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM*** The "System" is complete! The purpose of such a system is getting out information to members (weather cancellation, scheduled funeral, etc.) in a timely manner. The "plan" is to make use of the phone tree (included in this newsletter), but also a mass email. May the Lord bless our communication to one another!

***FELLOWSHIP HOUR*** There's a new Fellowship Hour Host Sign-up Sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. No one has signed up yet in the new year. If this is an area of service that interests you, please sign up ASAP.

**MEMBERSHIP MANUAL/DIRECTORY** It's that time of year again to update our congregation's Church Directory. If you have a new address/phone number/E-mail address (or know of someone who does) and would like it included in the new Directory, please notify the Church Office by Sunday, February 12. It is hoped to have the 2012 Membership Manual/Directory in your Church mailbox the first part of March. Thank you for your assistance.

**LADIES LEAGUE** The Ladies League meets on the second Tuesday of the month, at 1:30PM. If you're interested in the activities of the Ladies League, stop by their bulletin board in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall. All ladies (by virtue of their membership of the congregation) are invited to be a part of Ladies League.

**OWLS** The Tri-city OWLS group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 12:00PM. The day's activities begin with a Potluck Meal and is followed by a brief business & guest speaker/fun & games. All WELS seniors and retirees are encouraged to attend. The January OWLS meeting will be here at First.

**LENT** The fourth season of the Church year is Lent. It is depicted by the purple paraments. Lent "officially" begins with Ash Wednesday (February 22) and climaxes on Good Friday (April 6). Lent observes Jesus' suffering and death for the sins of the world. Jesus didn't have to suffer and die for anything that he had done. He willingly went the way of the cross because of what mankind had done (sinned). Jesus bought mankind back from sin by perfectly fulfilling the Law and by making the perfect payment for sin with his innocent, precious blood. And what is our response to be for God's grace and mercy? Appreciation! Show your appreciation by making faithful use of the Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:30PM. A Soup Supper will be served on Ash Wednesday from 5:30PM-6:15PM). A Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services will also be held at Christ-Prescott Valley, at 4:00PM and at Hope-Chino Valley at 7:00PM. Pastor Hein, Pastor Rothe, and Pastor Henning will be exchanging pulpits and preach under the theme "*See His Cross - Surprising Words From Our Savior's Passion*". May God bless our worship this Lenten Season and always!

**LARGE PRINT WORSHIP FOLDERS** The office secretary is still making up 3 Large Print Worship Folders (which includes bulletin, liturgy, and hymns) for the Sunday Worship services. If this is something that will assist you in worship, please pick up a folder (and then return when finished) from the small table by the organ. May this worship "tool" benefit your worship.

**CHURCH WEB SITE** Have you checked out our Church Web Site lately? The Web site's address is <[firstlutheranprescott.org](http://firstlutheranprescott.org)>.

**THRIFT SHOP** Another innovative way to support Arizona Lutheran Academy is by setting aside unused clothing and/or house-hold items for the ALA Thrift Shop. Classroom #1 has been set up as a collection center and is ready to receive these items (put your items inside the white lines). Someone, in turn, will deliver them to the ALA Thrift Shop. Not only will your donation help the less fortunate, you'll also earn a rebate!

**"OPEN FOR BUSINESS"** The First Ev. Lutheran Church Memorial Garden is "Open For Business". Niches are available to congregational members (and members of the tri-city WELS congregations). Cost of a single niche, which stores two sets of cremains, is \$500. This includes all costs for the urns, copper nameplates, and engraved niche covers. Cost of a half niche for a single set of cremains is \$250 and includes a single urn, nameplate, and half of the engraved niche cover. If you'd like more information or would like to receive an application form, contact Kurt Stinebrink or Donna Jacobs in the Church office.

**BACK BULLETINS** If you weren't able to make it to Church on a given Sunday, but would still like to stay informed, bulletins from the past 4 Sundays are available from the top row (right side) of the Church Mailboxes in the Narthex.

**COLLECTIONS** There are a number of "collection" projects that are on-going. On the large table in the Narthex is a box to collect eye wear (glasses/sun glasses) to benefit individuals whose eyesight is "less than perfect" and on the small table (under the Narthex bulletin boards) is a box to collect past issues of Meditations to benefit Prison/Institutional Ministries. On the table in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall is a basket to collect personal care products (unused small bottles of shampoo, lotion, and bars of soap - like you'd receive from a hotel stay) to benefit area shelters. Keep saving and collecting!

**SOUP SUPPER** The Ladies League will be hosting a Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, from 5:30PM-6:15PM (just prior to the Ash Wednesday Lenten Service which begins at 6:30PM). Won't you join us?

**2011 OFFERING BREAKDOWN** The Elder/Stewardship Committee is vitally concerned with the spiritual life of the membership. This includes the exercise of their Christian Stewardship. A breakdown of the 2011 offering giving units will be available from the Church Office upon request (after January 31). May our Lord continue to bless our stewardship so we continue to "grow in this grace of giving".

**KYCA - 1490AM** In the event of inclement weather and a Church activity needs to be canceled, listen in to KYCA, 1490 on the AM dial. We'll try to get the announcement on the air in a timely manner.

**FORMS** For those of you who participated in the 2011 Arizona Tax Credit Program, forms 301 & 302 are available from the table by the Secretary's office door. These

forms need to be filled out in order for donors to properly claim their 2011 Tax Credit if they are filling out their own taxes. Forms are also available on the State of Arizona website at: [www.revenue.state.az.us](http://www.revenue.state.az.us). Click on "forms & instructions" and then click on "credit forms". Thank you for participating.

**VALENTINE'S DAY** Even though Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) doesn't appear on our Church Calendar, it is a day for showing love. Why not make use of the holiday to show love to our congregation's shut-ins? Send a card reminding them how much they are loved by the Lord (and you) and that they're in your prayers. The following is a current list of our congregation's shut-ins: Carol Bernhagen- 823 Havasu, Chino Valley, AZ, 86323; Gladys Erkel- Good Samaritan-Willow Wind, 3191 Aster Drive, Prescott, AZ, 86305; Irene Gifford- Granite Gate, 3850 Hwy 89, Prescott, AZ, 86301; Jean Kovach- Good Samaritan-Prescott, 1030 Scott Drive, Prescott AZ, 86301; Betty Mooney- 1747 Sarafina, Prescott, AZ, 86301, Don Petersen- 1510 Linwood Avenue, Prescott, AZ, 86305, Lorraine Petersen- Las Fuentes, 1045 Scott Drive, Prescott, AZ, 86301.

**USHERS' MEETING** There will be a brief meeting of all Ushers, immediately following the worship service on Sunday, February 19 (before going in to Fellowship Hour). The purpose of the meeting is to review duties/responsibilities, offer the opportunity for constructive suggestions, and welcome new ushers into this area of service. Please try to make it to this "Annual Meeting". The meeting will be in Church.

**PRAYER CIRCLE MEETING** There will also be a brief meeting of the Prayer Circle participants on Sunday, February 19 (after going through the Fellowship Hour line). If anyone is interested in joining the Prayer Circle, please talk to Office Secretary, Donna Jacobs, and plan on attending the meeting. The meeting will be held in classroom #4.

**GREETER MEETING** The Worship Greeters will hold their "Annual Meeting" on Sunday, March 18, immediately following the worship service (before going in to Fellowship Hour). They'll meet in Church and review duties/responsibilities. All Greeters are asked to be in attendance.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE** Holy Week begins with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (April 1) and climaxes with his resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 8). The Holy Week Schedule looks like this...

<i>Palm Sunday Worship</i>	<i>9:30AM</i>	<i>April 1</i>
<i>Maundy Thursday Communion Worship</i>	<i>6:30PM</i>	<i>April 5</i>
<i>Good Friday Worship</i>	<i>6:30PM</i>	<i>April 6</i>
<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	<i>8:30AM</i>	<i>April 8</i>
<i>Easter Festival Worship</i>	<i>9:30AM</i>	<i>April 8</i>

**POSTCARD INVITES** The Evangelism Program Committee will be making available Postcard Invitations. It's a special invitation to join us in worshipping the resurrected Christ on Easter Sunday. The added bonus is that they can also join you for Easter Breakfast. Postcards are available from the table by the organ.

**EASTER BREAKFAST** An Easter Breakfast will be served from 8:30AM-9:15AM on Sunday, April 8. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board to make known what you're planning to bring.

**EASTER** The fifth season of the Church year is Easter. It begins on Easter Sunday and continues through the observance of Ascension (our Sunday, May 20 worship service). Christianity bases its faith and hope on one single fact; the miracle of the ages - Christ's resurrection! May our observance of the Easter season strengthen our faith and hope in the great resurrection of the last day!

**VICTORY CROSS** We will again be decorating a Victory Cross during Holy Week; in celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death! You are invited/encouraged to share this Good News by assisting in the decorating on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Once the Victory Cross is decorated with flowers, it is planned to display it outside for all to see. Bring one or more artificial flowers to these worship services and help decorate our Victory Cross.