



The Lectern

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.firstlutheranlorain.org

January 1, 2012

Congregational Meeting

On

Sunday, January 15

9:15am

One hour to decide our new Council:

We need to fill:

Four 3 year terms &
Two 1 year terms

Nominated by Council are:

Krell (Andy) Anderson
Frank Bailey
Diane Eswine
Brad Hoffman
Diane Jones
Matt Vosniak

& those nominated from the floor

One hour to discuss:

The Endowment Fund
The state of the Church
Strategic plans for the future

Two Epiphany Opportunities

Friday, January 6, 7:00pm

At First Lutheran's building

Worship service of Holy Communion



Sunday, January 8, 7:00pm

At Church of the Redeemer's
building

647 Reid Avenue

Evening Prayer and Feast of
Lights

Epiphany party to follow



EPIPHANY

Celebrate Baptism on January 8 -10:30am Service

Parents of children baptized in 2011
and adults baptized last year,
bring your children and their baptismal candle
to the 10:30am service.

We will have special prayers, a relighting of their candle and
a renewal of the promises we all have made



*For in the one spirit
we were all baptized
into one body.*

1 Corinthians 12:13

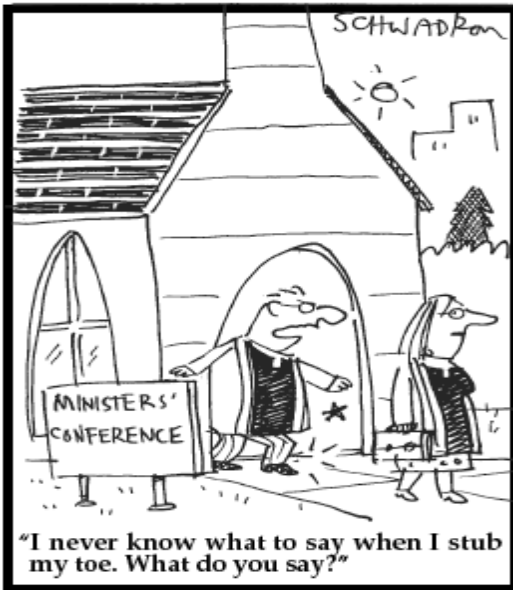
**Join our Ecumenical Worship on
Sunday, January 15 at 2:30pm.**

Sacred Heart Chapel

4301 Pearl Avenue



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Hats Off

- ◆ To those who decorated the church building for Christmas
- ◆ To Dan Bihary and Diane Jones for creating the Christmas Tree Trail at GSC

Marci asks for help. Can you make dumplings? If you can, will you make some and let Marci Thiery (288-4786 know how many you will prepare? The dumplings are needed for the January 12 hot meal for the needy. Thanks.

The Kitchen Task Force
will meet on Monday, January 23 at
7:00pm in the church lounge.

Did you see the mitten tree?

You donated 540 hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. We were able to give something to all of the 218 children in the commodities food program Thank you and praise God for the blessings of faith.

The Pastors systematically pray for the congregation. They invite you to join them each week. Please keep these members and their families in your prayers for January.

Week of Jan 1 Daniel & Elfrieda Malek, Jill Mann, Phyllis Marquez, Judith Marshall, Linda Martin, Roxie Martin

Week of Jan 8 Sandra Matuzek, Eileen May, Judy Mays, Evelyn McCue, Dennis & Gloria McGee, Duane Meiser

Week of Jan 15 Steve & Linda Mendiola, Patsy Mendlik, Jeff & Janet Meyers, Neil & Betty Meyers, Bill & Agnes Miadock, Martha Milas

Week of Jan 22 Michelle Milchen, Bill & Linda Milchen, Jim & Linda Miller, Jennifer Miller, Pastor Laurie Miller, Bob & MaryAnn Miller

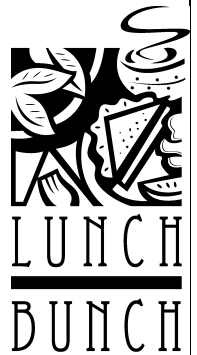
Week of Jan 29 Sterling & Elisabeth Miller, Joyce Millikan, Stephanie Mitchell, Nancy Mittendorf, Julia Montanez, Matt Mowrey

January Anniversaries

1/4	Doris Garber & Terry Cook	12 yrs
1/11	Rich Linda Koltas	47 yrs
1/18	Charles & Rose Koachway	26 yrs
1/24	Linda Wickline & David Cheyfitz	8 yrs
1/26	Janice & David Smith	21 yrs

JOIN THE FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

On January 20
for a meal at Reuben's Deli
by Midway Mall.
Meet at the church at 11:15am
or at Reuben's at 11:45am.



An extra Gift

As you have noticed in the Sunday bulletin, we have been running a deficit for the past few months. If you can give an extra gift to the Church to help the Support Committee manage the budget, it will help immensely. If you are behind on what you expected to give at this point, please try to make up that which is behind. If you are caught up with where you planned on being, an extra sacrificial gift would help our congregation.

A Day in the Life

Mercy Of Akrampa



Dear Friends, "Afe Hyiapa" ('Let the New Year be good and full of blessings!') In Ghana, this wish and 'prayer' will continue to be exchanged for many days, sometimes till the end of January. May it be so for all of you, Amen!

This month and next, I will be writing to you about Mrs. Mercy Abbeyquaye, whom the villagers affectionately call 'Adom Kuraba', which means 'Cup of Grace'. Mercy has been with us from the beginning of the Mission in 1995. She was instrumental in helping choose the village of Akrampa for our Mission. She has the people of Akrampa very much in her heart and mind. She cares about them so much, and they love her for the commitment she has shown over the years!

Mercy became the obvious logical choice to be my assistant when the issue of dialect and language impediment became an issue from the start. I speak a different dialect of the same ethnic group, whereas Mercy speaks the dialect of the people of Akrampa. Mercy is originally from Winneba, one of the major towns of the Efutu tribe, with which the people of Akrampa share similar cultural beliefs and practices. But Mercy has lived in Akrampa since her husband retired from the Ghana Police Service and returned home to be with his people. Mercy's husband's ancestry was of Akrampa. The former village chief of Akrampa (now deceased) was the maternal Uncle of Mercy's husband.

Mercy is now widowed and her four children live and work away from her home. But she gives to God and our mission with all of her heart. Next month, I look forward to telling you more about Mercy and how she has helped the mission so much over the years.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

Parish Personals

Known to have been hospitalized or having procedures since the last *Lectern*: *Michelle Greenberg, Cheri Page, Linda Mendiola, Molly Truxell, Ethan Price, Lois Clark, Elinor Jabbusch* and new daughter, *Sophia* and *Consuelo Kikola* and new daughter, *Adriana*.

We grieve with *Russ Tabak* at the death of his wife, *Karen Tabak*.

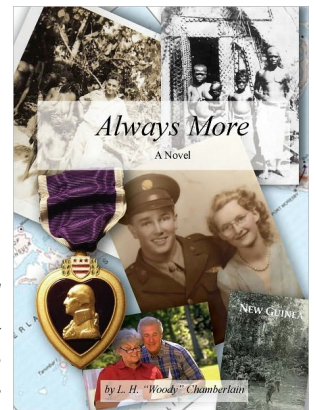
We celebrate with *John and Ellen Luca* at the birth of their grandson, *Samuel John Luca* and with *Pastor Woody* and *Peggy* at the birth of their granddaughter, *Abby Rose Chamberlain*.

Linda Martin sends her thanks for the cards, calls and concerns at the death of her sister, *Sandi Bruhn*.

Marci Thiery gives a hearty thank you to *everyone* who helped with the commodities Christmas meal. It was a great success.

Pastor Jimmy, Pastor Woody and *Peggy* send their thanks for the gifts of money, food and presents at the Christmas season.

Pastor Woody publishes through Barnes & Noble



Pastor Woody's novel, *Always More*, "the fictional story of a grieving widow, accusations of wartime infidelity and suicide by snow shove, is being offered as an e-book (for laptop or desktop computers, smart phones and Nook e-readers) through Barnes & Noble.

You can read an overview about the story plot line and an editorial review by going to BN.com and typing in Pastor Woody's real name - *Linwood Chamberlain*. Double click on the picture of the cover.

If you would like to download a free reading application or order Pastor Woody's book, there are directions at the church to make it easy for you. You can even get the free reader app and just read some of the free books that they offer, just to see if you like reading electronically.

The Lectern is a monthly newsletter of First Lutheran Church of Lorain, Ohio.

We welcome you to Worship and Holy Communion on Sundays at 8:15am, or 10:30am with Sunday School at 9:15am.

Nursery provided at 10:30am service.

440.244.6286

www.FirstLutheranLorain.org
info@FirstLutheranLorain.org

Co-Pastors:
Rev. Jimmy W. Madsen and
Rev. Dr. Linwood H.
Chamberlain Jr.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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LORAIN, Ohio 44052-1497

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**Housing needed for
Wittenberg Choir**

The Wittenberg Choir is returning! They will be here on Sunday, February 26 to sing at our 10:30am service and to give a **FIRST·music** concert at 3:00pm in the afternoon. The choir will be arriving on Saturday and the 38 students, accompanist, and director will all need places to stay on Saturday night (and something to eat while they're here!).

Would you be willing to house some singers? Would you be willing to help serve a meal for them at church? If so, talk to Brian, or watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



Choir Tour
stops at First Lutheran

If you are going to spend more on Super Bowl treats, shirts and office pools than you are going to give this month, then **maybe** you are spending too much on sports and not enough on God.

Catechism Students and Parents

Honor your father and your mother, the fourth commandment, will be studied at Catechism on January 8. Parents, please attend with your students as we try to grasp why God made this part of the big 10.



Catechism

Final Youth Quake deposits are due by January 8, 2012.

Words to start 2012

“Why is a car’s windshield so large and the rearview mirror so small? Because where we have come from is not as important as where we are going.”

“Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, “It’s just a bend, not the end.”

“The wise person has learned that today’s roses are far more fragrant than yesterday’s faded laurels.”

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 2.

A Seminarian to join with us

for worship on

Sunday, January 22.

Join us to celebrate their call
to ministry.

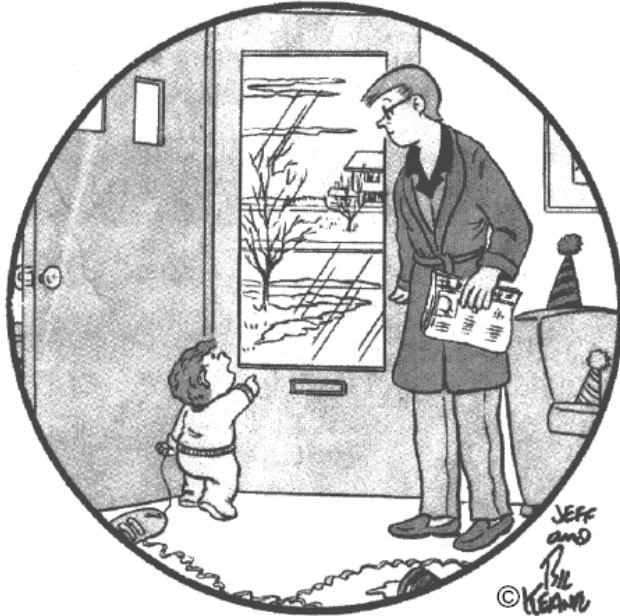
What is your committee

planning that you want members to attend? Send a description with date, place and time to

PastorWoody@FirstLutheranLorain.org

and he will put it into the *Lectern*. They won't show up or participate if they don't know.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"I thought it was gonna be a New Year?
This looks just like the OLD year."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Volunteers for Sacristy

As Pastor Woody says every year, his mother taught him that if you eat a meal you help clean up after the meal. Everybody who eats at our Communion meal is invited to take a turn cleaning up. The 2012 schedule is on the board and we'd like to see it filled up soon. If you are eating a meal here, please consider cleaning up afterwards. *Sign up at the office bulletin board.*



Needed:

Sharon Kopronica needs volunteers to help select hymns for Sundays. If interested, call her at 985.1555.

Please note the two calendars

on the hallway bulletin board. One set is labeled "Event," and is to be used for committees to record the dates and activities that they are planning for the 12 months to come, e.g. caroling or VBS. The other set is labeled "Fund Raiser," and is to be used to keep more than one fund raiser being planned on the same day. Please check (and use) these calendars so we don't double book any particular date.

Back to our regular worship schedule

January 1- 8:15am & 10:30am.

Sunday Church School resumes on January 8 at 9:15am.

The adults will be discussing Walt Wangerin's video presentation on how to conquer our fears of death.