

Walking Together

Pastor Julianne

"I am with you. I have called you by name, I have ransomed you."

God knows each person by name. Together, as a congregation on our Journey 2012, God will continue to cross our path with those whom God wants to touch, encourage and gift with love. The book of names is for this list of people God touches through our obedience to God's leading and guidance in our everyday lives. This growing list of names helps us to see how much God is at work in our lives and for good in the lives of those around us.

Here are some guidelines:

- Enter the first name of the person you know God touched. You can use a pseudonym if you wish to protect confidentiality.
- The book will be in the prayer chapel during the week and in the Sanctuary when we gather there. This is a list of God moments so there is no limit to the number one person can enter or the number of times one person can be listed.

Journey 2012 also involves engaging in a relationship with God through the Word and sharing the God moments with each other (let one of the staff know when you have something to share.)

God will continue to use us to touch other people with God's love in Jesus. **God's Purpose** for the world is **Shared** (GPS) when God's people, the whole body of Christ world wide, enter into the promise of life with Jesus as Lord.

¹ *But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you.*

*O Israel, the one who formed you says,
"Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.*

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² *When you go through deep waters,*

I will be with you.

*When you go through rivers of difficulty,
you will not drown.*

*When you walk through the fire of oppression,
you will not be burned up;
the flames will not consume you.*

³ *For I am the LORD, your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour
Isaiah 43:1-3a*

Pastor Aaron's Column

We've been asking some simple questions as part of our GPS Journey 2012. What is God up to in your life? Where and in whom have you seen God at work? These can be tough questions. Sometimes we don't want to think about what God is up to. We may believe God is at work, but sometimes we just don't know how. I believe God works significantly through the connections that we make. Luke 21 tells us that crowds gathered to see Jesus teach every day while he was in Jerusalem. God's Spirit gathered these crowds, not through some kind of subliminal advertising, but through people connecting with other people: simply talking about Jesus and inviting people to see what Jesus is up to. So what do your connections look like? Who could you invite to worship? Who could you offer a GPS book or email to? Who could you invite to your small group? Who could you invite to 'like' First on Facebook? Take the time to look back at what God has been up to in your life, and consider what God wants to do in and through you. In Christ,
Pastor Aaron

*On February 5th, our
regular worship time
will be a Healing Service.
All are welcomed
and encouraged to
attend.*

Connecting With Us

A fabulous resource right in your neighbourhood. Actually, make that two!

In today's modern and fast paced world, information is everywhere: at your fingertips on mobile devices, the radio, television, yelled to you from street corners. In this chaotic muddle, God's touch can be hard to find. Christian principals are overlooked or taken out.

But not to fear! First has a library full of current and traditional resources that have a Christian touch to them. From general materials, devotions, books about prayer, family, parenting, health and humour in the non-fiction section to thrillers, romance, westerns, historical accounts and fantasy in the fiction section, there is a book for everyone. Even for the reluctant readers we have a selection of CD, DVD and VHS material. We have books for children and youth of all ages including board books, a bible written in graphic novel format, books about real life and books that incorporate God into a fictional world.

Stop by our library this Sunday (or any Sunday), and take a look at our shelves. If you have any questions about First's library or would like to donate material, please contact Jessica Blackwell.

If you would like a larger collection of resources, Ambrose University College Library is just a quick jaunt down the road and offers free community member cards. Their catalogue can be perused online at <https://www.ambrose.edu/page.aspx?pid=386> (on the left hand side click catalogue search)

Pete's Worship Corner

Worship begins as a response.

It is not just because we know in our heads that God is worthy of praise, or only something we do on Sunday when we gather and sing songs "of worship." Worship happens when we catch a glimpse of God's character, mercy and grace. Worship happens when we've blown it, and still find forgiveness in the arms of our Saviour. It is also our attitude through the seemingly mundane, living every moment of every day as an offering to our Lord – while we are doing the laundry or volunteering at Inn From The Cold, grocery shopping or meeting for Bible study. **All that we do, except our sin, can be an expression of a heart of worship. And as we continue to catch glimpses of God's character and his love for us and for all people, my hope is that our response will be one of worship – a response that will outlast a song or a service, and will continue throughout our week and into every aspect of our lives.**

Wednesday Youth nights from 6:45-9:00pm. We rotate between various activities, such as: Mission/outreach activities, Worship & Music, Faith Discussion, Team Sports, Artistic opportunities, B.A.R.F. (Bring A Real Friend) and food, of course.

Youth schedule for February

- Feb 1** Mission Night: Drug Awareness Session (Friends and Parents Welcome)
- Feb 8** Movie Night: "God Grew Tired of Us"
- Feb 10** City Wide Youth: 7-9pm at Advent Lutheran
- Feb 15** B.A.R.F.: Paintball - 6:45-9:30pm
- Feb 22** Ash Wednesday Worship
- Feb 29** Youth "Leap Year" Event



Power Zone, during the 11am service

Children 3 years to grade 6 are invited to join us for a fabulous opportunity to share God's Word and wonder how His Word is working in your life. Using the curriculum Godly

Play, we will explore stories of the Bible and then be able to wonder and express their meaning through the manner of play and creative expression.

February Lessons

- Feb 5** Parable of the Great Pearl
- Feb 12** Parable of the Sower

- Feb 19** No Power Zone
- Feb 26** Parable of the Leaven

Connecting With Us

Ladies Time Out



Monday and Tuesday mornings
9:30-11:30am
Offering a NEW Zumba exercise class. Ladies, join us for a two hour coffee break and network with others in community. Contact Liz 242-4544 ext. 205

GUYS AND GALS' LUNCH

Work downtown? Looking for Christian fellowship? Gather with others over lunch for laughter and conversation. The next Lunch is on February 21st at the Regency Palace.



Contact Tim at purelycanadian@hotmail.com to be reminded of this monthly event. Everyone is welcome!

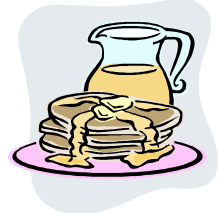
Ash Wednesday

February 22

**Pancake Supper at 6pm
Service to follow at 7pm**

All are welcome to attend. Childcare is available starting at 7pm.

We are looking for volunteers to assist at our annual pancake supper with set up, cooking, tear down and clean up. Grid-dles are needed too! See Liz or sign up on the sheets in the foyer.



Seniors' Lunch

On Friday, January 13th, we held the first Seniors' Lunch of 2012 "Italian Style" with bruschetta to start, followed by home made Minestrone soup and pizza with Italian ice cream and cookies for dessert. Every one had a giggle when we appeared to serve wearing long, white, Italian-waiter-style aprons - just to add to the flavour of the day.

Our next lunch will be held on Friday, February 10th at 11:30am. We are hoping to upstage the Italian lunch with a "Valentine" theme. Come along and join us for some conversation, companionship and a heart-smart lunch.
~ Fran, Judy and Grant.



Family Stay 'n' Play Potluck

February 12th

after the 11am service

Bring a potluck item to share, enjoy fellowship and some free gym time for the those who need to burn off some steam!



Words From Council

How are we living with Jesus inside and out? When I first wrestled with this question, personally and from a council perspective, my answers were limited. Now, it is hard to stop talking about what God is up to at First Lutheran.

- December had excellent attendance & Christmas Eve was the highest attendance over the last four years (766)
- Staff continue to focus on sharing their time, talents and treasures. Recently, Liz opened her duties to LTO and in February, Pete and Pastor Julianne will be doing worship for the Bishop's study conference.
- Council is getting together in the next month to do a visioning session. Some focus ideas have come to the table and the 'Big Picture' Tree from the sanctuary will be present.

Hana Hooper

February Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | 1 Youth Mission: Drug info ses- sion | 2 Boy Scouts: Beavers | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Sunday Wor- ship: A Healing Service-9 & 11am | 6 LTO week 4 | 7 LTO week 4 | 8 Youth Night | 9 Boy Scouts: Beavers | 10 Seniors' Soup Social-11:30am Nooma-10:30am IFTC Citywide Youth at Advent Luth. | 11 Preschool open house-12 to 2pm IFTC |
| 12 Stay 'n' Play Potluck-noon | 13 LTO week 5 Girl Guides | 14 LTO week 5 Boy Scouts | 15 Youth: BARF | 16 Boy Scouts: Beavers | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 No LTO | 21 No LTO Council Meet- ing Boy Scouts | 22 Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper-6pm Service-7pm | 23 Boy Scouts: Beavers | 24 Suzuki recital- 3 to 8pm | 25 |
| 26 | 27 LTO week 6 | 28 LTO week 6 Boy Scouts | 29 Youth Night | | | |

Coming up in March...

Mar 9:

Seniors' Soup

Mar 9/10:

IFTC

Mar 17:

Movie and Games Night

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