



The Torch

Nov. Dec.

2018

“To receive and share Christ’s embrace”

Moving Forward by Faith

With the approaching end of one church year planning for the next begins. As we enter the season of Advent, which begins Sunday, December 2, we celebrate and remember the promise of a Savior and the coming of the Christ child (please see “Advent and Christmas 2018” on page 7.)

We must also pay attention to our financial needs for the coming year. With the success of last year's pledge campaign, we will soon be in the midst of another one for 2019. Thank you all for your faithfulness in this area. Due to your generous and faithful giving, as well as wise stewardship on the part of our congregational officers and ministry leaders, we will end the 2018 fiscal year with a budget surplus.

While, as the ads for investment opportunities say, “records of past performance are not indicators of future success,” I believe we have seen the wisdom of preparing a budget based on financial pledging. So, allow me to introduce our 2019 pledge campaign, *Moving Forward by Faith*.

God has blessed us abundantly this year as he has demonstrated again and again his faithfulness. It is truly a blessing to be part of God's family here at First Lutheran Church.

Hebrews 11:6 says, “*And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*” Faith is simply taking God at his word. Faith is not believing that God can, but that God will. As one author wrote, “*Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.*”

When we take God at his word, whether as an individual, a family, or as a church, we move forward by faith. We step out in obedience as God directs. Nowhere is that more evident than in our giving. Even from a human perspective, it doesn't make sense. Even when from an accounting perspective, the numbers do not add up. As one person said it so well, “*God does not ask for our endorsement of his plan, just our obedience to it.*”

And that takes faith. It takes being willing to take the first step when we cannot see the second step clearly or at all. It takes “*moving forward by faith*”

one step at a time. It takes trusting God to keep his promises to provide all that is needed. Do **you** believe God exists? Do **you** believe that God rewards those who earnestly seek him? Do **you** believe that God will keep his promises to **you**?

If so, will you be a part of those who are “moving forward by faith”? Will you covenant with God, by faith, to give in 2019 as he provides, even if you do not know where the funds will come from? Please take a few moments to read to the end of this letter, then ask God to give you specific direction concerning what you should give in 2019. Finally, please complete the pledge card that is included with this issue of *The Torch* and bring it with you on “Harvest Celebration Sunday,” November 18, 2018.

Remember that your pledge is a commitment you make not to the church or to any committee. It is to God. As you complete the pledge card, you are saying, in effect, is: “*Lord, as you provide, by faith, this is how I intend to give in the future.*” As you covenant with God concerning your giving, please keep our key verse for this year’s stewardship emphasis in mind:

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he reward those who seek him.”

(Hebrews 11:6)

Thank you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for your faithful financial support in the past. Thank you as well for “*moving forward by faith*” here at First Lutheran Church. And thank you for following the Lord’s leading concerning what you should give in the coming year and for bringing your pledge card (see page 9) on “Harvest Celebration Sunday,” November 18, 2018.

Saved to Share,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bill". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Pastor" written in a smaller, more compact style than the last name "Bill", which is larger and more prominent.



**OPERATION SPIRIT FROM THE HEART OF THE
ROCKIES**

**Homemade Cookies Needed – Please!
Chocolate is OK**

**Thank you very much for your generous
donations.**

No more magazines until further notice.

Any cards and letters you would like to send
would be GREATLY appreciated!!

Monetary Donations are also needed to cover
the costs of shipping and purchasing other
supplies and items for the troops. Please make
checks payable to First Lutheran Church and
write "Operation Spirit" on the memo line.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Mark Cunningham, CH(CPT)
James Brown, Anah Kotila, Tim Wilson, Kenneth
Wilson, Thomas Sweet, Jake Engleman, and
Garrett Taylor.

**PACK TROOP BOXES 9 A.M. TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 16TH & DECEMBER 11TH**



*Saturday,
November 10th -
Secret Sisters
Luncheon!*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6th Sharon Blanchard

9th Shelley Stevens

11th Jim Ridgway

27th David Hapl

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

18th Fred & Linda Schmidt

19th Gerald & Linda Gregory

21st Gary & Kathy Martin

27th Jim & Kathy Ridgway

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11th Pam Christiansen

11th Fred Schmidt

18th Peggy Hachmann

20th Tom McConaghy

25th Mike Hayden

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5th Al & Randi Dilley

11th Tom & Jennifer McConaghy

25th Shawn & Lee Shuey

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elders Meeting &

Congregational Meeting 11/4

Starbuck HOA Meeting 11/9

Secret Sisters Luncheon 11/10

PPC Meeting 11/11

Christmas Decorating 11/25

Advent Devotional Lunch 12/5



Kids First Literacy Club

First Lutheran Church

This year has been remarkable for Kids First Literacy Club! It has grown in numbers of students and tutors. We have 10 students from first through fifth grade, and 19 Tutors and Volunteer Staff. Our congregation has shown support with not only donations, but also many have given of their time. We have just celebrated our second Trunk/Treat event, thank you to those who not only gave candy, but also dressed up for the event. Our next planned event is a Happy Birthday Party for Jesus; the children are growing in their knowledge of the Bible, through Paula's teaching of God's love for each of them. It is exciting to see them get involved and share what they are learning. An open invitation to YOU all, to join us on Friday mornings and see what we are all about, breakfast is at 10 and the coffee is on! We are looking forward to adding new outreach programs in the coming months, to make our presence known in the church community of Salida, help us put First Lutheran on the map. Your input and ideas are welcome and needed.

Presently First Lutheran is involved in the following very important Missions:


Operation Spirit- once a month boxes are sent to 8 service men and women. Comforters- recently Sharon Blanchard and Jonnie McConaghy delivered 20 quilts to Alamosa Pregnancy Center held their Annual Fund Raiser and 190 people attended! The Grainery- needs our support for the upcoming winter season. As 2018 winds down and we look forward, to what 2019 will bring to First Lutheran, will you be a part of this Ministry? I invite you to get involved, we have a wealth of talent in our congregation let us put this talent to Work!

Blessings,
Gerrie Johnson

NEW GREETING CARDS

A fresh batch of greeting cards is on the way and will soon be available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale of these cards goes to support our district Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) as well as projects here at First Lutheran Church. For example, we will be helping our Comforters Ministry with the purchase of supplies. Funds can be available for other church projects as well. Remember to check out our selection of cards when you have correspondence needs. They are inexpensive and all include passages of Scripture.

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11:30a Elder Meeting 				1	2 9a KFLC	3
4 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School 10:30a Congregational Meeting	5 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	6	7 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 1p Bell Choir 9a Comforters	8 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	9 9a KFLC 5:30p Starbuck HOA Meeting	10
11 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School 11:30 PPC Meeting	12 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	13 9a Circuit Meeting/ 9a Packing for Troops	14 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 1p Bell Choir 9a Comforters	15 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	16 9a KFLC	17
18 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	19 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	20	21 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 9a Comforters 1p Bell Choir	22 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	23 9:00a KFLC	24
25 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	26 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	27	28 9a Comforters 1p Bell Choir	29 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	30 9a KFLC	

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<div>2</div> 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School 11:30 Elders Meeting	<div>3</div> 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	<div>4</div> Circuit Meeting	<div>5</div> 9a Comforters 1p Bell Choir 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting Advent Lunch	<div>6</div> 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	<div>7</div> 9a KFLC	<div>8</div>
<div>9</div> 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	<div>10</div> 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	<div>11</div> 9a Packing for Troops	<div>12</div> 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 9a Comforters 1p Bell Choir	<div>13</div> 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	<div>14</div> 9a KFLC	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	<div>17</div> 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting 9a Comforters 1p Bell Choir	<div>20</div> 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	<div>21</div> 9:00a KFLC	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Bible Class & Sun School	<div>24</div> 7:00p – 8:00p AA Meeting Christmas Eve	<div>25</div> Christmas Day	<div>26</div> 9a Comforters 1p Bell Choir	<div>27</div> 8:00a Men's Breakfast HRRMC Cafeteria	<div>28</div> 9a KFLC <div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>31</div> 9:15 Worship & Communion 10:15 Fellowship

❖ Advent and Christmas 2018 ❖

The Advent season is fast upon us, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child nearly two millennia ago. The theme for this year's observance is "Your King Is Coming," a series of three devotional sermons based on the unlikely kingship of Jesus. When we think of a kingdom, we may envision regal ceremonies wrapped in great pomp and circumstance. The king may be approached only by the most highly regarded of his subjects; the upright, the innocent, the exalted. But that's not the King we celebrate. Jesus is the king of shame, the king of guilt, and the king of the low.

Unlike previous years, there will be no evening services for Advent. Instead, we will meet at 11:30 AM in the church fellowship hall (a.k.a. the basement) for a devotional service based on the *Lutheran Service Book's Service of Prayer and Preaching*. A potluck lunch and a time of fellowship will follow. The Ministry of Elders made this change in order to make these services more attractive to our members who do not like to drive at night.

Christmas Eve this year will be a bit more traditional with two traditional evening worship services. Each service will follow Lessons and Carols format for the beginning and conclude with the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the singing of *Silent Night* by candlelight.

Our Advent and Christmas schedule is as follows:

Advent Devotional Lunch

Wednesday, December 5, 12, and 19 at 11:30 AM

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM



Decorating for Christmas

Under the leadership of the Elders – well, make that the Elders' wives – we will decorate the chancel and sanctuary for the Christmas season after the worship service on Sunday, November 25. The outdoor manger scene will also be set up. Many hands make for light work, so please plan to stay and help if at all possible.

Music Program

Due the resignation of Dale Kettering as our Music Ministry Director we've had to make some temporary changes in our music program. Until further notice there will be no adult choir, unless some talented member of our congregation wants to step forward to lead that effort. This precisely what has happened with JuBELLation, our bell choir, where a group of members has organized a self-led bell choir to enhance our worship music. Many thanks to Kathy Martin and Linda Schmidt for leading this effort. They will meet on Wednesday's at 1:00 PM in the upper meeting room with the goal of performing once a month.



Liz Riley will continue to support our Sunday worship services on piano until such time that the Ministry of Elders can identify and hire a new Music Ministry Director. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please tell an Elder (Gary Martin, David Geu, Michael Meyer, or Jim Ridgway).

First Lutheran Church

Salida, Colorado

“Moving Forward by Faith”

Pledge Card

Harvest Celebration Sunday, November 18, 2018

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ CO, Zip _____

Please bring this card with you on Harvest Celebration Sunday

By faith, as God enables me, I will:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of First Lutheran Church.
- Attend worship services and seek to interest others in attending with me.
- Be available to follow God's leading in working in and through my church.
- Give to support the work of the Lord in 2019:

General Fund \$ _____

Missions: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please indicate how you plan to give the above amount:

\$ _____ per week \$ _____ per month

\$ _____ per year.

First Lutheran Church



Sunday

9:15	Worship
10:15	Fellowship
10:30	Bible Class

Pastor Bill Cate

Phone: 719-539-4311

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Website: www.flcsalida.org



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