



Luke 18:9 (Jesus to some) who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else.
Titus 3:2 Show true humility to all persons.

There is a place for criticism, there is a place and time for judgment and condemnation. At my former congregation, a Bible class teacher parodied and mocked a certain kind of person. Sitting in the front row were the parents of such a person. We never saw those faithful members again.

It is very easy for you and me to slip into despising (i.e. looking down on people who are "different" in some way). What I am talking about is attitudes, thoughts, words and actions that devalue the humanity, intelligence, or any importance of "others" . . . people who don't think or do or even look like us

Recently (not at Shepherd) I have heard things said in sermons and conversation that discourage and disrespect people that are unchurched, doubters, or unbelievers. This is a major blockage in reaching people with Christ. People who are outside the church can sense this from miles away. The truth is that many of these "outsiders" outdo us in intelligence, generosity, and accomplishments.

Beginning with our own thoughts and attitude and moving into our words and actions, God called us to the ministry of respecting and loving all persons, especially these "others" who are somehow different.

Pastor Ron Kraft

UPDATE:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Once upon a time – long, looooonng ago, First Lutheran Church of Spirit Lake, Idaho sent out an appeal for assistance in building a new church. You responded in the spirit of our Lord and of the church in Corinth when Paul called for help for the Jerusalem church – for which we can never properly thank you.

You may have been wondering what has happened with those plans. Well, here's a brief synopsis of our adventures:

We suffered internal conflict, which resulted in the sudden departure of the deacon serving as our pastor. Several congregants left with him, including the engineering couple who were heading up the building project. God was not done with us though. Our congregation pulled together and is once again growing. Several members shouldered the mighty burden of re-starting the project, learning as we go. A local pastor came out of retirement and has infused us with new vigor. In short, we are not only charging ahead, but have actually started work. We do not have enough resources on hand to complete the entire project, but are determined to succeed without incurring a mortgage at all.

How? Over the next few months we will erect a weather-tight shell of the building: concrete slab, exterior walls, windows, doors, roof, and all embedded electrical and plumbing. Then we'll step back, take a deep breath and attack each smaller finishing project one at a time. This will probably take several years, but we will not be burdened with debt and are willing to trade time for money.

And YOU have enabled us to succeed. From now on, if you want to track the progress of this adventure, you may find pictures on our web site: www.firstlutheranspiritlake.org

The Congregation of First Lutheran Church

(Ed. Note: Proceeds from last year's Holiday Craft Boutique were sent to help this church.)



PASTOR RON: Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday – 9am to 12:30pm
and Saturdays by appointment.

PASTOR ALLEN: Monday & Friday -
9 am to 12:30

Pastor's Office Hours



OCTOBER IS Pastor Appreciation Month: If you haven't taken the opportunity lately to say "thank you" to our pastors, this is a good time to do so, with a card or whatever, expressing your appreciation for all that they do.

HELLO EVERYONE FROM THE QUILTING GROUP!

It seems not long ago that we started our year of quilting now we are coming to the end for this year. September the 26th is our last meeting and items are to be completed for sending off to Lutheran World Relief. We will assemble our school and personal care kits on Saturday, October 10th. Blessing at church of all items including quilts for world relief and for Parkview NICU will be on Sunday Oct. 1st. We will be delivering them to Lord of Life on October 23rd where they will begin their journey to all point of the globe. We have been very busy this past year with lots of other items on our plate but we will meet our commitment.



A very big thank you to all who support our efforts and have continued to donate to our group. This is what makes it possible for us to completed all the items we make. Thank you to each and everyone of you. I have been asked not to mention each and everyone by name that donate so from now on I will only include your name if you ASK me to otherwise you will be referred to as one of my Special Angels. That is between you and GOD only and I truly understand. Many of you are so dear and precious to us and I will not do anything to make you unhappy. This policy starts with this newsletter. Thanks a million Angels! Remember to bring your camera on Oct. 11th if you want pictures of our quilts. Please keep our group in prayers as we close for this year. Thank you again so much. If you would like information about us or our group call Linda Olson 276-0373 or pop in at our meeting and see us at work. Don't forget - no meetings in November and December.

HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUTIQUE

We are really excited about this year's Holiday Boutique and hope you are all getting prepared and making that special something. We have 12 vendors this year and are now offering outside space, people love Shepherd! Lee's special Apple Butter recipe was added to our collection of famous jams, so get there early as supply is limited!

We need helpers for set up help on Friday, Nov. 20th starting at 1 pm, then workers the day of the Boutique - Saturday, Nov. 21st. We need folks help with check-out, re-stocking the tables, cooking and selling the hot dogs and chips, then on Sunday, we need help closing up shop after the second service. And of course, we need all those delicious baked goods to sell! Sign up sheets will be in the announcement folder to let us know you want to help. Our proceeds this year will help pay for the new tile in the sanctuary. Many blessings and see you all in November!



Paula Winn, Marge Clark and Laurie White.

First Service:

Second Service:

Oct. 4 Josh Hamann
Oct. 11 Mike Olson
Oct. 18 Bud Kenefick
Oct. 25 Gerry Klepps
Nov. 1 Gerry Klepps
Nov. 8 Josh Hamann
Nov. 15 Mike Olson
Nov. 22 Bud Kenefick
Nov. 29 Gerry Klepps

Jim Wilson
Drew Covert
Abby Covert
Marvin Niles
Jim Wilson
Abby Covert
Marvin Niles
Drew Covert
Drew Covert



If you need to change your schedule, or have any questions on how to run the system, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or lcms-drew@roadrunner.com. Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!

Hello once again everyone! This month we are continuing our look at same sex marriage. I have compiled some common challenges leveled by pro same sex marriage advocates and offered a response. These are just a few of the most common challenges. If you have others you have heard and would like me to respond to them, please let me know and I will do what I can to help you out. So, without further ado, here they are:

They said the same thing about interracial marriage:

This objection is sounds powerful on first hearing, but lacks substance when we look at it a little deeper. It's true that some people used to object to interracial marriages, but that doesn't mean the principle behind the objections are the same. Race has nothing to do with marriage. Sex and procreation have everything to do with marriage. As we talked about in the last article, governments have a vested interest in promoting unions that produce the next generation of citizens. Also, this objection could be used to justify any relationship that is currently outside the law (polygamy, polyamory, incest). Would it make sense to argue that incestuous relationships should be allowed because interracial relationships were once banned?

Marriage is about love:

Our culture places a premium on our happiness and feelings, but marriage is not about love. Shocked yet? Let me explain. Marriage is what keeps people together when the feelings of love aren't always present. Those of you who have been married a long time know that you are not always deeply passionately in love with your spouse every moment of every day. If people felt like that all the time, there would be no need for marriage. Marriage exists to keep couples together when they don't feel like they love each other. There would be no "for better or worse" in the marriage vows if marriage were all about love.

Marriage is constantly being redefined:

Actually, marriage has not changed as much as people would like us to believe. Virtually every culture in history has recognized marriage as between a man and woman. Even certain societies that celebrated homosexuality still reserved marriage to unions involving men and women exclusively. There have been variations on the theme (i.e. polygamy), but the common theme has always been men and women in the marriage union.

Jesus never said anything about same sex marriage:

First, this is not an accurate statement if one believes in the Trinitarian view of God. If we believe the Bible is the word of God, and that Jesus is a member of the Trinity, then everything the Bible has to say about homosexuality is what Jesus said or thinks about it. But if we needed a clearer view of what Jesus thought about marriage, we can reference Matthew 19:4-6. Although the context has Jesus answering a question about divorce, His statement should not be discounted: "He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'"

Even if it were true that He never spoke about same sex marriage, this quite simply is an argument from silence. Are we therefore to believe that any behavior Jesus didn't specifically condemn, He automatically approved of? I can think of many examples off the top of my head of actions to which Jesus' opinion is not recorded, but it would be safe to say He would object to. Jesus never specifically said I shouldn't go to my neighbor's house and hit them in the head with a waffle iron, but I feel comfortable saying that He would not approve of such an action.

Those are just a few of the challenges that are used to promote same sex marriage. I hope you found the responses helpful. Next month I will be talking about the reformation project. If you have never heard of the reformation project, it is an organization started by a self-identified gay Christian who believes that the Bible teaches that committed same sex relationships are allowable, and is training like-minded people to "evangelize" their position to the Church. We'll take a look at his arguments and see if the Bible really supports his position. See you all next month!

Yours in Christ,
Drew Covert



SUNDAY SCHOOL for kids preschool through high school meets on Sundays at 9:30 am. We need more teachers and students. If you are interested in getting involved in this wonderful ministry, please call the church office.

CONFIRMATION CLASS on Sundays at 5 pm in the conference room with Pastor Allen.

JR/SR HI YOUTH meet Sundays at 6:30 pm in the youth room with Drew

NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS

November 5 - 8 for Men and November 12 -15 for Women

Cursillo is an organization serving the Lutheran churches of Southern California to develop leaders in the Lutheran church through training and spiritual renewal. There is no cost to you to attend a weekend but you must be a baptized member in good standing at a Lutheran church. You will be paired with a sponsor who has been through a Cursillo weekend and have your pastor endorse your reservation request. We recommend praying about it first, then talk to your pastor or others who have attended Cursillo (Pr. Deinert, Alexanders, Johansens, Helen Bedford, Marge Clark, Eunice Kang, Vicky McKay-Cannon, Janet Riccardi and Laurie White) about what you may be able to gain from attending a Cursillo weekend before applying. Check their website for more information: www.lcsocal.org.

PRESCHOOL NEWS: Fall Fun

Our school is off to a great start. We still have several openings in the preschool area but kindergarten is full. We have a wonderful staff including some new faces. First is our teacher for the "Exploring Zebras" class, 2 year olds. Her name is Mrs. Natalie Jackson and she is a wonderful example of God's love for His little ones. She is new to the Moreno Valley area and has two children of her own, one who attends our school. Her husband is the Youth Pastor at Discovery Church. Another shining star added to our school is Ms. Sindy Zamora. She is teaching 4 year olds in the "Bright Bears" class. Sindy is a long time resident of Moreno Valley with over 25 years' experience at KinderCare. We are blessed to have her with all her experience working with God's children.

October is a busy month for the school and just the beginning of all the upcoming holidays! First, we have the children singing in the 2nd service on October 11th followed by school & church potluck picnic. This is a great opportunity for the church and school to come together.

At the end of October we have our "Harvest" costume parties in the classrooms and "Trunk or Treat." We would love to fill the top parking lot with trunks full of treats for our children! All edible treats must be individually wrapped please. If you or someone you know is available please come participate in this fun filled morning of handing out treats to our children. You can decorate your trunk and yourself if you'd like!



We still have room to add one more classroom. If you know of anyone looking for a great experience for their child please refer them to SVLS. We accept students two years old and fully potty trained through kindergarten age. Keep some of the church/school business card size ads in your wallet or purse to hand out to people you meet that might be blessed by our church and/or school!

Upcoming events:

- Oct 5-19 "Midland" catalog fundraiser (Monies to go to classroom improvements)
- Oct 11 Children sing @ 10:45 church service
Potluck Picnic 12:30 –
- Oct 15 Great California Shakeout 10:15 am
- Oct 28 Pumpkin Patch (pumpkins for all the students)
- Oct 30 Costume Harvest Party / Trunk or Treat - 10:00am -set up for students to arrive at 10:30am

Have a blessed October and please continue to keep our church and school in your prayers.

In His Service,
Linda Williamson, Director



LWML Zone 18 Fall Rally - "The Seasons of a Woman's Life" Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Saturday October 24, 2015
at

Faith Lutheran Church, 4785 Jackson St., Riverside

Registration is at 8:30 am - Rally at 9 am
\$5.00 Registration Fee at the Door & includes Lunch served at noon

RSVP by October 16th to Susie Fairfax (951) 359-7514





BEST OF IRELAND TOUR

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For a brochure & more information contact Marge at:

Tel: (951) 924-4688 Email: svlc@juno.com

All are welcome to join us!

2015 FLOWER CHART

If you'd like to donate flowers for the altar, sign up on the board hanging in the church lobby. Indicate what the flowers are for - anniversary, birthday, in honor of or in memory. Take a slip with ordering instructions. Flowers are ordered by you from Bradley's Florist (242-1519) and they deliver them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small bouquets for the altar are \$19 each. Questions? Call the office.



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) Food Bank

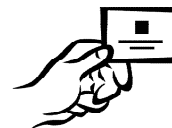
Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.



DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR CAP - Moreno Valley's Community Assistance Program EACH SUNDAY! Thank You!

JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud) voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastors, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

Business cards are available in packets of 10 in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to friends and neighbors who need a church home or a preschool for their children.

NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES:
Magazines and greeting card fronts.
Bring to the church or office.

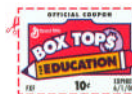
SPECIAL NOTICE

Your pastors, your lay ministers and the church office want to know when someone is hospitalized or home bound. There have been instances of not finding out for several days. We would rather hear from several sources than none at all so, PLEASE - PLEASE pick up the phone or e-mail us whenever there is an opportunity for ministry to members or to family or friends.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
Presented by Suzy Langhorne
Certified Instructor
FREE! Please join us.**

SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



Specially marked box tops are worth \$.10 each when redeemed from Box Tops for Education. Encourage friends & family, near & far to help, too. Thanks for taking the time to help our school.

The sponsors appearing on the back cover of the newsletter help defray the cost of printing the Shepherd's Staff, please give them your consideration when possible.

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~~Clean House~~
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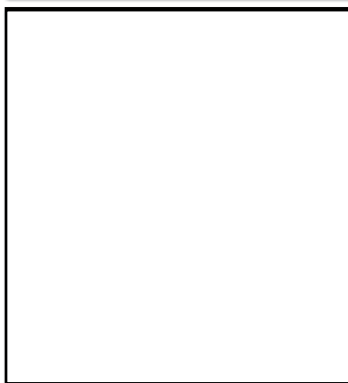
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Thank You.

October 2015

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)	2 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	3 7:30 AM LSS Walk to End Poverty starting at Hope in Riverside 8:30 AM Cursillo Training (MOO)
4 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y)	5 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)	6 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 6:00 PM School Board (O)	7	8 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	9 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	10 8:30 AM Cursillo Training (Grace, HB) 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H) 9:00 AM LWR Kit Assembly (H)
11 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM ANNUAL PICNIC (SVLC) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y) BP Screening between Services	12 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff (O)	13 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)	14	15 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)	16 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 5:00 PM Craft Workshop (H)	17 8:30 AM Cursillo Training (MOO)
18 8:00 AM & 10:45 LWR Quilt & Kit Blessing (S) 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y)	19 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)	20 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)	21	22 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	23 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	24 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 8:30 AM Cursillo Training (Grace, HB) 9:00 AM AMLWML Fall Rally @ Faith, Riverside
25 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y) BP Screening between Services	26	27 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)	28	29 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	30 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 10:30 AM School Trunk or Treat (PL)	31 



The Shepherd's Staff

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**RON KRAFT & ALLEN DEINERT, INTERIM PASTORS
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

OCTOBER 2015

THE CONGREGATION in an unanimous vote at the Pastoral Call Meeting on September 27th, has extended a Call to be our pastor to
Rev. Michael Giddings,
currently serving in Crosspointe Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota.
Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide this process.



CHURCH AND SCHOOL PICNIC SUNDAY - October 11th!

It will be held here at Shepherd following the 10:45 service.

Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided.

SIGN UP SO WE HAVE ENOUGH BURGERS & DOGS!

The sign up sheet will be available to RSVP and to bring something for the potluck - a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

If you would like to help with games and activities,
mark your attendance card or contact the office.

Mr. Porkpie's Magic Show for the kids will be back again this year!