

# The Messenger

I remember Gerhard Frost’s words during a chapel meditation. “*God has given us memory so that we may have roses in winter.*” What a lovely thought!

He went on to say that the *truly* Christian memory is adept at forgetting what needs to be forgotten and remembering what needs to be remembered. It can sort through the remembrances of a lifetime, tossing out the bad, saving the good. It can discriminate.

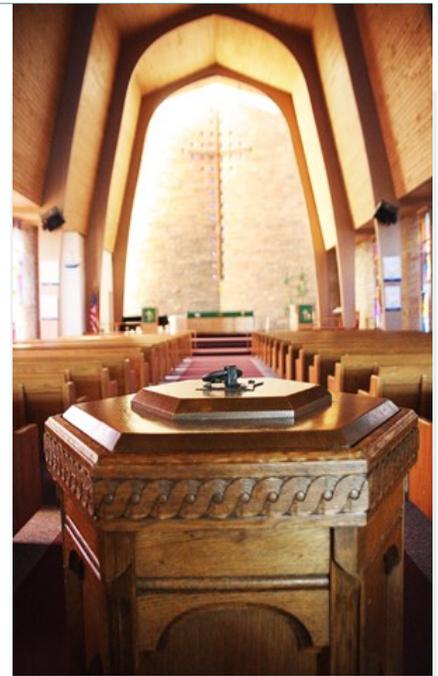
Isn’t it true that we can sometimes regret our inability to remember, but we often ignore our failure to forget? When we fail to forgive, we retain the memories that become intolerable baggage on the inward journey of life. When we cling to resentments and petty jealousies, we cripple ourselves with increasing bitterness. When we refuse to let go of the trivial, or even when we retain the true hurts from the past. Who becomes the prisoner? We sap our strength for shouldering what is essential.

Forgiveness is a beautiful and Christ-centered form of *intentional* forgiveness. And this kind of Christian absentmindedness is heaven-sent. We can’t do it on our own. It doesn’t come as standard equipment! As we grow in age and grace, we want to remember that persons suffer more depression and despair because they can’t forgive and forget/let go.. then because they can’t remember.

When our hearts are gripped with hopelessness or homesickness, it is good to have something great to look back on — a cherished relationship, an unexpected kindness, a friendship that does not falter, a Holy Spirit that keeps on working and nudging us on our journey of life. Memories can do much to steady us in our moments of stress. Our inward and forward journeys are best pursued if we can be nourished by rich and rewarding memories. But it is tragic to live in the past to such a degree that we walk backward into the future.

We live in expectation. We look *forward*, as we remember. This is the habit of the Christian, who is nourished and nurtured by a Lord who went *all the way for us* — in spite of our own failings and brokenness. We are called to forgive as we have been forgiven. Not easy, or natural — but the only way through to a life worth living for and dying for.

—Pastor Alan Berg



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## KFLC STAFF

- Interim Pastor: Alan Berg  
Phone: 783-6108 ext 1
- Child, Youth & Family Ministry  
Director: Erin Husted  
Email: erin.r.husted@gmail.com  
Phone: 783-6108 ext.4
- Church Secretary:  
Melissa Zerb  
office@kennfirstlutheran.org  
Phone: 783-6108 ext. 1
- Treasurer: Lori Tharp  
kflc.treasurer@gmail.com
- Choir Director: Jeff Gilmore
- Custodians: Al & Marta Cristales
- Organist: Susan Eberlein

## 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Greg McMurphy  
mcmurphygreg@gmail.com

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Jan Olsen  
jolsen6789@msn.com

**Ladies Luncheon  
11:30am January 5  
Panera Bread, Richland**

Join a group of us on the first Friday of the month at 11:30 am at a different restaurant each month. No age limit, no jobs to do, no colored hats to wear, nothing to study, strictly social and fun.

**Thrivent Members**

Don't forget to check your Choice Dollars. Sometimes new funds are put in on Dec. 31. You have till March 31 to distribute the funds you earned in 2017.

**Small Catechism study** continues 9:15 Sunday Mornings. We are finishing 10 commandments and moving on to Apostles Creed.

**Multiple Meanings** a 4 part study of Bible understanding starts Jan 25 at 6:30. See Alice with questions. 545-5400

**Opportunities to serve...**

We are in need of help in the following ministry areas! Please prayerfully consider if the Spirit is calling you to help.

- ⇒ Assisting Ministers (training will be provided)
- ⇒ Sound technicians (training will be provided)

Please contact the church office if you can help out in these areas!

**Call Committee**

The church council appointed the following Call Committee to begin the process of calling our next pastor: Ron Lerch, chair; Amber Hanchette; John Martell; Tammi Payton; Rick Shimskey; and Renae Yecha. The committee is currently preparing the Ministry Site Profile describing the characteristics of our congregation and what we, as a congregation, are looking for in our next pastor. This document provides key information to the synod office about us and initiates the call process. The Ministry Site Profile becomes the key document sent to prospective pastors that would be considered for our congregation.

One element of the Ministry Site Profile is to identify the top five ministry tasks for the new pastor (i.e., the primary focus areas we as a congregation see for the new pastor) and the key talents or strengths for the new pastor in performing this ministry. In January, we will be seeking input from the congregation on these two questions through either a paper or electronic survey. Hardcopy surveys will be provided on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Electronic copies will be emailed to those that have provided email addresses on January 5<sup>th</sup>. (if you receive the Messenger electronically we have your email address on file). **We invite the congregation to meet with the Call Committee in the Sanctuary between services on Sunday, January 7 to discuss the survey and call process.**

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as we move forward in calling our next pastor.

**Come meet with the Call Committee  
Sunday, January 7  
9:00 – 10:15am  
Sanctuary**

**Recommendation From the Library:**

Recently the best selling author, Alexander McCall was a featured speaker at the Columbia Basin College/Mid Columbia Reads. He is known for his great storytelling and his series: The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series. It involves mystery, relationships, the African culture, remarkable characters and a sense of humor. It is a different type of detective novel. We have 10 of his books in our library! Check them out!!!

## From the Bishop

Blessed New Year to you all!

At our Synod Council Meeting in September, it was decided that we would discontinue the Net-Worker program developed under our “Way Forward” task force. The positions will no longer be funded after January 31, 2018.

This was not an easy decision to come to. The idea of the Net-Workers was an example of the innovative, out-of-the-box thinking that I hope will become one of the hallmarks of the EWAID synod. The position was finally gaining some traction as the Net-Workers hit their strides, and congregations were starting to understand how to interact with and utilize them. We were seeing results, and those results were positive.

So why did we elect to discontinue the Net-Worker program? One reason is because it was inherently unfair to the Net-Workers. We were compensating them for 10-hours a week, but they were working many more than that to do the work we needed them to do. In some cases, the 10-hours per week barely covered the travel time it took a Net-Worker to work in their territory. As a Synod, we were balancing the deficit in our staff budgeting on the backs of the Net-Workers. We were also utilizing grant money from the SHARE fund to cover their salaries—and while that was an action that supported the congregations through these Net-Worker positions, it was never considered a permanent source of funding because it decreased the amount of money the Synod had to use to support congregational mission & ministry.

The Net-Workers came into being when we realized the Synod could no longer afford an Assistant to the Bishop. We took that position, and divided it between four geographic Network Areas. The idea was the four quarter time individuals would be more affordable than one full time individual. And while the cost math worked out, the responsibility math did not. The time/compensation allotted for the work may be cut into fourths, but often times the work itself was not.

I would like to thank Dave Kappus, Phylis Stromme, Barb Harrison-Condon, Kristin Koskella, Linda Howell, and Jim Peterson for the time they gave to support the work of the synod. They spoke to hundreds of people, compiled data, worked call processes, and helped congregations discuss future directions for ministry.

Their work, and their dedication to it are deeply appreciated. In my hoped-for synodical future we could re-engage these positions as a way to further increase connectivity between congregations, the synods, and the churchwide expression of the ELCA.

But the Synod needs to look in different directions for staffing. Here are some of the things we are looking at for the future:

- As you read this we will be in the process of finding a new, full-time Director of Evangelical Mission. This position is funded through our Churchwide partner as a support of the mission and stewardship work that happens within congregations in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. We hope to have this new leader identified and in place by Lent.
- We will be working within our current structure to help address some of the gaps in staffing — specifically utilizing cluster Deans to take more active roles not only in their cluster, but also in the synod. The cluster Deans serve at the request of the Bishop, and are not financially compensated for their time. If your pastor is a Dean, please thank them for their time given on behalf of the Church, and model understanding and supportive behavior of this responsibility to those who feel the pastor’s time belongs to the congregation alone. If you do not know what cluster your congregation is in, talk to your pastor.
- We will be asking more of Synod Council members—asking them to represent the Synod in their clusters, the way they represent their cluster to the Synod Council. We will be asking them to bring information to you, and report information back to the Synod Council. Each cluster has a representative on the Synod Council, and the Synod Council also has several “At Large” positions. New Council members are elected each year at the Synod Assembly, and the Council is made up of clergy and lay people. If you would like to be part of the Synod Council, please talk to Patty Cowan (Synod Nominating Committee) about how you can be a part of this important, passionate, thoughtful group. Contact the synod office for Patty’s contact info.

Continued on next page

- We have asked the cluster Deans and Synod Council reps to work together to schedule cluster meetings at least twice a year. Please encourage your Dean and your Council Rep to get these scheduled as quickly as possible, and to let me know when those meetings will be. I would like to be able to have those scheduled far enough in advance that I can be present for at least one cluster meeting per cluster in a year. (\*\*Deans, Reps: Get on it! ☺ \*\*) Also, make the time to attend the Cluster meetings. Clusters are one of the key ways our Synod forges connections between leaders, congregations, and the synod. If you're feeling disconnected from what is happening at the synod and churchwide level: attending Cluster meetings is an easy fix.
- We will also be taking a serious look at the wisdom and feasibility of calling an Assistant to the Bishop. We have learned the work this position oversees is invaluable to both the Bishop and to the Synod. We are still in conversation about funding for that position, but there is a feeling that this position is an investment into the healthy future of the Eastern WA-ID synod, and is worth serious consideration.

We are in this staffing deficit because of decreases in mission support from our congregations. While giving from congregations has remained steady (thank you!), the number of congregations existing to contribute mission support has decreased. This is one of the realities our synod has to grapple with—synodical leadership is grateful for the support given, and seeks to be good stewards of the gifts our congregations give. This is leading us to explore new staffing models, and investigate new ways of funding for staffing needs. The reality is that with fewer congregations contributing to the synod financially through mission support: the more changes that will have to happen. I don't see this reality as a bad thing. I see it as a challenging thing. It will force us to make decisions about what is truly important to the Synod, because there is no fat in the budget. But I also know it is in times of scarcity that we tend to rely more heavily on God. So I ask you to pray for our Synod—pray that God would lead us into the future planned for us; pray that we would be given a strong curiosity and rich imagination for where solutions might be found; pray that our leadership would be enlivened with joy and passion for the work the synod does in partnership with the congregations; pray that we would be wise stewards of all the gifts that God has given us as individuals, congregations, and as a synod. Because ultimately, when you pray for the Synod: you're praying for yourselves as well. The Synod does not exist without you.

I am energized by the challenges we face, because I know that we do not face them alone. We face them together. Called together by God to be the people of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, we will seek to follow the call of the Spirit in the direction She has for us.

At the Bishop's election in May I spoke passionately about my conviction that God is not done with the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, that we have overseen, continue to oversee, and will oversee in the future important and valuable ministries throughout the congregations and ministry sites of our synod. I reminded those in attendance that change (while scary) is not inherently bad—but is a sign of life and vitality. When we truly believe what we say when we say we trust God: then there is no fear—only transformation (which is one of our Synod's guiding principles).

Eight months into this call as Bishop, I still believe in the future of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. I know clear down to my bones that God is calling us to a life of ministry and vitality. I also know that it will not look like what has gone before— and that's OK. No matter what: we are the People of God, called to do the work of God in our daily lives, gathered together as the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I'm excited to partner with you as we live into the future God has for us, whatever that may be, however it may look.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
+Bishop Kristen



A heartfelt thank you to KFLC for the support of Little Treasures Preschool's O'Christmas Tea. Because of your generosity and that of our tea attendees, the preschool made over \$3,000!! Thank you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff and board of LTP!

# January 2018 Readers' Leaves

A quote from Albert Einstein..... "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." – Albert Einstein

**Happy New Year!**



\*\*\*\***Leaving** by Karen Kingsbury is the first of the Bailey Flanigan series with Bailey leaving Bloomington for the adventure of a lifetime. She has won an audition for the ensemble of a Broadway musical in New York City. She's determined to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but not sure she really ready to leave family and friends for the loneliness of the city. Love, loneliness, big opportunities, and even bigger decisions are highlighted that also features members of the popular Baxter family and also completes an earlier Bailey Flanigan/Cody Coleman story. AF/KIN

\*\*\*\* Janette Oke, the author of **Dana's Valley** writes a story of family triumph in the face of adversity, and how love and hope can overcome even the hardest times. Erin Walsh thinks her family is as close to perfect as a family can be. But when a grim diagnosis is all it takes to shake them to the core, she wonders if things can ever go back to the way they were. F/OKE

\*\*\*\***Eat This Book** by Eugene H. Peterson is a conversation of the art of spiritual reading. Found on a Barnes and Nobel website is a description of the book: "Eugene Paterson is convinced that the way we read the Bible is as important as that we read the Bible. Do we read it for information about God and salvation, for principles and truths? That we can use it to live better? Or do we read it in order to listen to God and respond in prayer and obedience? Publishers Weekly also describes it as: "Rich, generous, and wise, Petersen will help readers at every stage of faith to live their faith more deeply." 220/PET

\*\*\*\***The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work** by John M. Gottman, PHD was reviewed by Nicky on [Good/Reads](#): " Great advice/insight/information for couples whether they're engaged, newlyweds, been married 10 years or 40. He explains the best way to build a strong

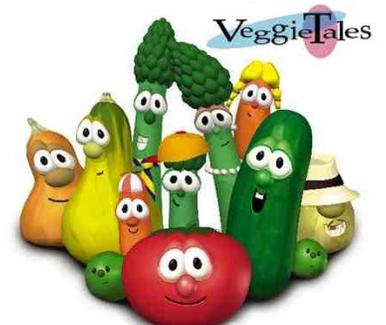
marriage and the best way to overcome conflict, based on decades of research". Principles 1: Enhance Your Love Maps, 2: Nurture Your Fondness and Admiration, 3: Turn toward Each Other Instead of Away, 4: Let Your Partner Influence You, 5: Solve Your Solvable Problems, 6: Overcome Gridlock,7: Create Shared Meaning 306/GOT

## Children

\*\*\*\***Uri and the Busy Day** by Lucy Bell shows Uri has a fun day ahead and she doesn't want to miss a thing. But soon all the fun gets to be too much! Parents will recognize the signs of an over stimulated toddler as they follow Uri through her busy day, and children will learn ways to calm down when the day gets too busy. Frolic picture books help young children solve common childhood challenges with biblical solutions, and won a 2016 Moonbeam Children's Book Award for Best Picture Book Series. B/BEL

**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon** by Mike Thayer is a wacky, fun book told from a small child's viewpoint before his first visit to the school library. Rumors about the librarian and her domain are recounted with humor and imaginative illustrations. J/THA

**Veggie Tales: God Wants Me to Forgive Them**  
DVD#206 and **The Ultimate Silly Song Countdown**  
DVD#207



January 2018

FLC SUNDAY SERVANTS

**Acolytes (8:00)**

7 Jacky Koelzer

14 Noah Smurthwaite

**Acolytes (10:30)**

7 Emma Hinrichs, Emerson Hanchette

14 Kaylee Comstock, Rebecca Kadinger

21 Joshua & Jacob Lundberg

28 Zoe Sleater, Parker Lydeen

**Altar Guild**

7 Tammi Payton

14 Donna Smitt

21 Erin Hultgrenn

28 Marjory Serier

**Communion Assistants (10:30)**

7 Lindy VonDohlen, Amber Hanchette

14 Renae Killmer, Sharon Hickman

21 Jerry Johnson, George Schwantes

28 Karen Recher, Dawn Kirt-Bowen

**Lay Assistants**

7 Ted Homme, Tom Vertress

14 Barbara Mannion, TBD

21 Cheryl Patton, Jan Anderson

28 Brady Black

**Readers**

7 Doug Chenault, Lorri Ledgerwood

14 Brady Black, Gary Henne

21 Judy Robbins, Amber Hanchette

28 George Hunter

**Sound Techs**

7 Troy Lydeen, Mark Eberlein

14 John Luebke, Greg McMurphy

21 Mark Eberlein, Keith Johnson

28 Troy Lydeen

**Tellers**

7 Bryan Tharp, Trudy Lye

14 Wayne Miller, Greg McMurphy

21 Scott Comstock, John Luebke

**Ushers (10:30)**

7 Don Sherwood, Del Bareither, Lorane Becker,  
John Martell

14 Renae Killmer, Keith Johnson, Walt & Sue Swita

21 Gary & Donna Smitt, Trudy Lye, Glen Allison

28 Rick, Logan, Landon Shimskey, Rod Gilge



Annual Congregational Meeting and potluck will be January 28, 2018. We will have **one** congregational worship service at 9:30AM, to be immediately followed by brunch and our annual meeting.

**From the Church Office...**

- ◆ **2018 offering envelopes** are now available soon in the narthex. Did you know...you do not have to be a member in order to have offering envelopes. Please check to see if a box has been assigned to you. If you would like to have offering envelopes, contact the church office and one will be assigned to you!
- ◆ Annual committee reports are due Monday, January 15, 2018. Please EMAIL your one page reports to the church office@kennfirstlutheran.org

# JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 Church Office Closed 9am A-Team</p>	<p>2 10am Book Grp 6:30pm Stephen Minis-try</p>	<p>3 Noon Bulletin Deadline Text Study 1pm Library is open 7pm Choir</p>	<p>4 9am A-Team 5:30pm Call Committee</p>	<p>5 11:30am Ladies Lunch @ Panera Bread</p>	<p>6 1PM Victor Sands Memorial Service</p>
<p>7 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Noon King's Kids</p>	<p>8 9am A-Team</p>	<p>9 10am Book Grp</p>	<p>10 Noon Bulletin Deadline Text Study 1pm Library is open 6:30pm Council Mtg 7pm Choir</p>	<p>11 9am A-Team 1pm Deacon's Fund Mtg</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Noon Education Mtg</p>	<p>15 Annual reports Due! 9am A-Team</p>	<p>16 10am Book Grp 5:15pm Youth Council Mtg 6:30pm Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>17 Noon Bulletin Deadline Text Study 1pm Library is open 7pm Choir</p>	<p>18 9am A-Team</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:30pm NYG Mtg</p>	<p>22 9am A-Team</p>	<p>23 10am Book Grp 7pm SS Teacher Train- ing</p>	<p>24 Noon Bulletin Deadline Text Study 1pm Library is open 7pm Choir</p>	<p>25 9am A-Team</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Deacon's Fund Sun- day 9:30am Worship 11am Annual Mtg</p>	<p>29 9am A-Team</p>	<p>30 10am Book Grp</p>	<p>31 Noon Bulletin Deadline Text Study 1pm Library is open 7pm Choir</p>			

2017 CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

President: Greg McMurphy  
mcmurphygreg@gmail.com

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Jan Olsen  
jolsen6789@msn.com

Treasurer: Lori Tharp  
kflc.treasurer@gmail.com

Council Members

Judy Bareither, Evangelism

Joe Kadinger, Property

Jan Olsen, Youth Council

Trudy Lye, Education

Jon Schliep, Finance

Sharon Hickman, Worship &  
Music

John Luebke, Stewardship

# THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

1~ William Chuol

Nyachot Deng

Nyajouk Deng

Scotty Kruschke

2~ Carol Lydeen

Bill Powney

5~ Drew Bareither

6~ Krisheena Krause

Darrah Lerch

8~ Tom Vertrees

10~ Carson Homme

Lindy Von Dohlen

11~ Courtney Comstock

Kara Freeman

13~ Cassandra Lozano

14~ Tate Kirk

16~ Wanda Doeschr

Heather Freeman

Alyssa Martinez

Jan Olsen

Jerry Sleater

17~ Jan Anderson

18~ Lacey Kadinger

19~ Cassidy Anderson

Christy Sleater

Tibetha Tut

20~ Nancy Sargent

21~ Tiffany Janikowski

Amie Lerch

22~ Charles Wamsley

23~ Sue Metully

24~ Kabrena Rodda

25~ Jacob McChesney

27~ Gavin McChesney

Christopher Mobley

Emery Myhrum

Logan Schwantes

28~ Jessica Burnett

29~ Erna Jensen

31~ Jenny Bass



First Lutheran Church of  
Kennewick

418 N. Yelm Street  
Kennewick, Washington  
99336-3071

[www.kennewickfirstlutheran.com](http://www.kennewickfirstlutheran.com)

[office@kennfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@kennfirstlutheran.org)



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