

**THE  
MONTHLY  
WORD**

July 2019



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Galveston, TX

**Who are you- really? How do you see yourself?**

From the time we arise from sleep until the time we go back to bed we are inundated with “voices” telling us who we are or what we are. Perhaps even in our dreams our minds hear these “voices” that claim to have authority to tell us who we are. Is it any wonder that people struggle with figuring themselves out or feeling like they have lost themselves while being what the rest of their lives has demanded them to be? Think about all of the hats you wear – mother, father, student, employee, child, grandparent, etc..... each of these is a voice that claims to define your identity.

So, as we enter the hot and sometimes slower month of July – you are invited to ask yourself, “who am I?” As you ponder this deep question, it will help if you also identify the voices that have authority for you. One of those voices that is constant yet often talked over by all the other voices of life is God’s voice. God’s voice is consistent and clear. The author of 1 John writes in 3:1, “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” What might happen if you listen to this voice more often?

During the month of July dwell in the promise given to you in baptism-the promise that you are a child of God. This means that God looks at you as a daughter or son – with such love and care. You are of such high worth. Before any other voice can speak, God’s voice defines you in a most holy and gracious way. Listening to this voice allows your identity to be shaped and formed by God’s promise in Jesus. And, your identity as a child of God reshapes how you live out the rest of the identities you experience.

Take a breath from all of the voices that sounds in your life and listen carefully to the one voice that matters. You are a child of God! Be that daughter or son of God and live in the security and mercy of God’s love for you. Who are you – really?

Peace in Christ our Lord

Reverend Richard A. Rhoades, Pastor 



### July Birthdays

- Addison Hopkins 1st
- Louie Johnson 1st
- Berto Hernandez 2nd
- Susan Wyman 2nd
- Syleenia Gilman 3rd
- Kinsley Crawford 4th
- Brandi Painter 4th
- Carol Nelson 5th
- Mildred Zorn 5th
- Shane Parler 6th
- Dennis Broughton 7th
- Ken Maser 7th
- Gerald Schaub 9th
- Katherine Schmidt 9th
- Shirley Byers 10th
- Katherine Gerald 10th
- Paul Martin 10th
- Katherine Wyman 11th
- Stella Ryan 12th
- Lissa Evans 13th
- Shawn Walker 13th
- Christopher Crutchfield 14th
- Joe Byers 15th
- Jack Danner 16th
- Hank Eilers 16th
- Noah Rice 16th
- Mark Murphy 17th
- Enrique Barrientos 19th
- Herbie Doreck 20th
- Josh Hernandez 20th
- Frank Macaluso 20th
- Nadine Murphy 20th
- Cornel Schultz 20th
- Pete Bartosh 21st
- William Morales 24th
- Charlotte Blacketer 25th
- Colten Campbell 25th
- Jo Ann Smith 25th
- Matthew Worthen 25th
- Carol Hasserd 27th
- Susan Schultz 27th
- Brad Cox 29th
- Maddison Crutchfield 30th
- Fred Huddleston 30th
- Norbert Kurtz 30th
- Mike Geml 31st



**The Church Office will be closed on July the 4th for Independence Day.**



**Musicians Needed for Joyful Noise !**

Kelsey Scheuerman is looking for a wide variety of music loving people that want to learn to:

Ring bells in the JuBELLation Handbell Choir

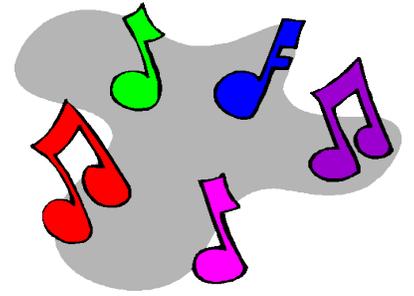
Strum the ukulele or guitar

Bang a drum

Play a recorder

[KelseyScheuerman@gmail.com](mailto:KelseyScheuerman@gmail.com)

620-640-2252



**Organ recital coming in August!**

On Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM (right after our regular Saturday service), The Reverend Norman Paskowsky will present an organ recital here at First Lutheran, using both our chancel and rear gallery organs. Pastor Paskowsky was Organist-Choirmaster at First Lutheran from 1976-78, prior to earning his Master of Divinity Degree from Wartburg Seminary in 1985. He currently serves several parishes in Western North Dakota. However, he continues to pursue his passion for the organ by playing recitals during his summer vacation time. Plan to attend this evening of music that will showcase our two wonderful pipe organs!



### Anniversaries

- Rick & Sharmi Watkins 8th
- Mike Tracey Geml 11th
- Carlos & Diane Pena 15th
- Mark & Jennifer Cooper 16th
- Jim & Kathy Gainer 16th
- George & Chris Badger 21st
- Sluggo & Dodie Thiem 27th



### Lights of Love Opportunity

The Worship Team invites you to consider giving a refillable oil candle for the Candelabra of the Church. These candles will be used for various special worship services throughout the year. The oil candles will be reusable for many, many years. Your gift of a candle can be in honor or memory of special people in your life. The gifts will be recorded in a memorial book of gifts to the congregation and listed in the worship folder when the oil candles are dedicated on All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2019. The Worship Team has set two tiered goal: 14 oil candles are needed for the free standing candelabra that are placed in the chancel (most recently on Pentecost Sunday). An additional 60 oil candles are needed for the pew end candelabra used for Christmas Eve. Please take a form from the Wish Board or access the form from the church website. The cost per oil candle is \$60. (The Worship Team recognizes that this opportunity may take time to fully complete – your consideration is most appreciated!)

**Thank  
You**

Thank You Rosalyn Ceccacci and Rev. Doug Guthier for updating the ribbons and medallions worn by our acolytes and crucifers to match the liturgical colors for each Sunday of the church year.



The Glori-Anas invite you to pick up a container in the Narthex to collect your spare change for the Thank Offering. This year's Thank Offering will be on November 24th.



### Donations Requested for Sunshine Center

Sunshine Center is a private non-profit organization that works with individuals with developmental disabilities. They have served our island community for 60+ years and have had a difference in the lives of countless clients.

In 2017 the Mission Team organized a collection drive for Sunshine Center. It was hugely successful and greatly appreciated by everyone at the center. With your help we would like to do it again in 2019! During the month of July special collection boxes will be placed in the narthex and near the parish hall. Please remember our friends at Sunshine Center and donate generously.

The following items are on the Wish List: markers, crayons, plain and colored pencils, construction paper, glue sticks, design cut scissors, single hole punch, Modge Podge, Craft Kits, Fabric/Acrylic paint, plastic storage bins, scrapbooking supplies, envelopes, postage stamps, Post It Notes, Music CD's, bottled water, plain white T shirts (S-4XL), outdoor camping chairs, and Gift Cards (Kroger, Randall's, Office Depot, Walmart, Target, Home Depot).

Please contact Donna Spencer 713-816-3338 for any questions.



Hello from the Minister of Missional Community desk! I'm so excited to be here with all of you serving the Lord and supporting the church community. After starting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, it has been a whirlwind of meeting people and learning the wonderful history of FLC. I'd like to give you some highlights from my time so far and shine a spotlight on upcoming opportunities.

First, I want to thank all of you for the incredible welcome I've received. You filled my cupboards with food, my apartment with furniture, and my heart with joy. I have received so many hugs and stories about people's experience in the church. Thank you to all the families that came to the pool party, and to Doryn Glenn for hosting it. FLC made me feel at home right away and my actual home would have been very sparse without all your support. You made my transition so much easier and ignited extra passion for my work at the church.

My job has 3 main facets: youth and family ministry, young adult ministry, and community outreach. The first step in all of this has been getting to know the people inside the church and outside in the larger Galveston community. I'm getting to know the kids during Faith Formation and learning more about youth programming from Sandra Tetley and Doryn Glenn.

I'm happy to announce we will be having a high school lock-in before the summer ends. If you haven't heard of lock-ins before, they are a "sleepover" of sorts at the church, but without much (or maybe any) sleep. High schoolers will get to spend the night worshipping God, playing games, eating snacks, and sharing their ideas for activities in the coming year. More details will be announced in the beginning of July!

We are also blessed to have wonderful people who want to get the word out about my exciting new position. The *Galveston County Daily News* will be introducing me to the community in their Faith Column. I don't know the exact date it will be coming out, but we can expect it very soon.

Additionally, Jonathan Frank and Derrill Mallett have been hard at work creating a podcast for FLC. On June 30<sup>th</sup> Jonathan will be interviewing me for one of the episodes and it will be posted on [www.firstlutherangalveston.com](http://www.firstlutherangalveston.com) shortly thereafter. Just go to the "Resources" tab and then click "Podcasts." I hope you will tune in to hear about the plans for my position.

Finally, I would like to leave you with some scripture that has been guiding me lately. Last week in Faith Formation, I talked to the kids about what community is. We read from Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 which says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" We work better together in a community of faith. I know I can rely on all of you when I need help and I want to offer the same back to you. If you would like to get to know me better or share any ideas, feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to learning more about you all as we continue our faith journey together.

Peace,

Emily Billin, Minister of Missional Community