

+ February 2014 +



FOLLOWING HIS CALL

Jesus called people who were for the most part, regular folks like you or me.

In St. Matthew 4: 12 - 13 we have an account of calls from Jesus. *As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. An he said to them "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

As we know, eight more disciples accepted the challenge to follow Jesus. In the course of three years a great deal happened - amazing - terrifying - unexplainable. As the first disciples followed their call in Jesus' mission, their commitment to Jesus took them with Jesus into his passion, death and resurrection. You and I, as well as all Christians, receive a call to follow Jesus through our Baptism. Jesus claimed you as his disciple, just as surely as those Baptized during more than 2,000 years.

Also the call reoccurs all through the stages of our lives and importantly is renewed in Confirmation, when The Holy Spirit once again calls you and I to yet more faithfully serve Jesus. And our call comes to us in Jesus' Sacred Meal at the Table, and the call comes to us in The Word, which is the voice of our Lord Jesus speaking.

How do you hear Jesus calling? Perhaps you hear the call in the voices of people in need. His voice may be recognized in an invitation to help your church, and in many and varied ways. It is good to be aware that Jesus' call to disciples occurred at the Sea of Galilee in the midst of their daily work - fishing. Also, Jesus' call to the first disciples was not a detailed plan, because as we know, that unfolded over time.

Jesus' call is to go beyond ourselves, to reach out to the needy, in body, mind and spirit.

There are word of a hymn which gathers up Jesus' desire for us:

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice sounding,
Saying "Christian follow me."
Jesus calls us! In your mercy Savior, make us hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
Serve and love you best of all.*

Hymn#494

LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP

Together we are listening to Jesus' call.

Pastor Folmar

**The Rev. Dr. Barry R. Folmar
710 S. Atherton St. Apt. 311
State College, PA 16801**

**Part - Time Interim Pastor
First Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church
Altoona, PA
January 13, 2014**

Being Called to be Pastor among the people of God at First Lutheran Church, Altoona is my privilege, my honor and especially my responsibility to proclaim and embody the Gospel of Jesus as I have for thirty-five years in several congregations. Serving among you on many weekends I have a sense that we have received inspiration from God's Holy Spirit to be in a relationship helping one another as disciples of Jesus.

Each one of us have experienced changes and the stresses of living, and I too have gone through many transitions and changes. I do know that in all events, I have trusted our Lord Jesus' promise: *Low, I am with you always, to the close of this age* Matthew 28: 20. All times of change can be turning points in our journey with God. I am aware daily of my dependence upon God's abiding presence. God is always willing to respond to us as we ask for help which I knew was real during my separation and divorce. Ann and I have a wonderful daughter Christina who is a skilled organist and a senior at Penn State studying Agriculture.

In many ways I have been helping others become aware of the Healing Grace, which a relationship with God alone can provide. The Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine. All of us are called to a place of fuller and deeper trust in God - the essence of life. So together on our journey following the guidance of Jesus' Spirit of Love we will be taken into our Father's Heart of Love.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Folmar

SERVICE in The Church – Barry Folmar

Ordained	June 7, 1977
Pastor Evangelical Lutheran Church Newry, PA	1977 – 1980
Pastor Saint Peter’s Lutheran Church Highspire, PA	1980 – 2002
Director of Spiritual Formation Part-time Staff Lower Susquehanna Synod –ELCA House of Prayer Harrisburg, PA	1990 – 2002
Pastor Saint John Lutheran Church Bellefonte, PA	2002 – 2011
Part-time Chaplin, The Oaks – Retirement Village Pleasant Gap, PA	2005 - 2011
President, Mending Hearts Ministry, Inc.	2009 – 2013
Interim Pastor Christ Lutheran Church Dubois, PA	Jan. - May, 2013
Retired from active Pastoral Ministry	July 1, 2012

EDUCATION

Lock Haven University Lock Haven, PA	1969 - 1973 B.S. in Education
The Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg, PA	1973 - 1977 Master of Divinity
The Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia, PA	1987 - 1990 Doctor of Ministry
Creighton University Omaha, NE	1995 – 1997 Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality

We hope you are enjoying the Hymn Stories we are publishing each month. If you have a favorite hymn that we have not used in the service or published here please let us know and we will do our best to find the story as well as incorporate it into a future service.

The following hymns will be sung by the choir during February. The first is a different arrangement from the one in our hymnal but you will recognize it and we hope you will find it meaningful to you in your devotional life.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1882

... Let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are very great ...
1 Chronicles 21:13

George Matheson was only a teenager when he learned that his poor eyesight was deteriorating further. Not to be denied, he continued straightaway with his plans to enroll in Glasgow University, and his determination led to his graduating at age nineteen. But as he pursued graduate studies for Christian ministry he became totally blind. His sisters joined ranks beside him, learning Greek and Hebrew to assist him in his studies, and he pressed faithfully on. But his spirit collapsed when his fiancée, unwilling to be married to a blind man, broke their engagement and returned his ring.

George never married, and the pain of that rejection never totally left him. Years later, his sister came to him, announcing her engagement. He rejoiced with her, but his mind went back to his own heartache. He consoled himself in thinking of God's love which is never limited, never conditional, never withdrawn, and never uncertain. Out of this experience it is said he wrote the hymn, *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*, on June 6, 1882.

George Matheson became a powerful and popular preacher pastoring in the Scottish village of Innellan. Despite his flourishing ministry, there was one winter's evening when the Sunday night crowd was miserably small. George had worked hard on his sermon, but the empty chairs nearly defeated him. Nevertheless he did his best, not knowing that in the congregation was a visitor for the large St. Bernard's Church in Edinburgh, which was seeking a pastor. As a result, in 1886, he was called to St. Bernard's where he became one of Scotland's favorite preachers.

"Make every occasion a great occasion," Matheson later said. "You can never tell when somebody may be taking your measure for a larger place."

Recently while in Edinburgh, I tracked down George Matheson's old church, St. Bernard's, in a lovely residential neighborhood not far from Princess Street. The doors were locked shut, and this curious notice was posted to the front door:

*Public Entertainment License
The premises will be used as a concert and dance hall,
and for no other purpose without written permission from the council.*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1907

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11



nce when recovering from a bout of depression, I found this hymn very therapeutic. “Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away,” it says. “Giver of immortal gladness, fill us (me) with the light of day.” Notice how every phrase of this prayer is bursting with exuberance: The Lord is our “wellspring of the joy of living,” our “ocean depth of happy rest,” and we ask Him to, “Lift us to the joy divine.”

The author of the hymn, Henry Jackson van Dyke, was born in Pennsylvania in 1852, and became pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City.* Henry later became professor of English literature at Princeton, and the author of a number of books, including the still popular “The Other Wise Man.” He went on to occupy a number of eminent positions, including:

- American Ambassador to the Netherlands and Luxenbourg (appointed by his friend, Woodrow Wilson)
- Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy Chaplains Corps during World War I
- Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
- Commander of the Legion of Honor
- President of the National Institute of Arts and Letters
- Chairman of the committee that compiled the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship*

In 1907, Henry van Dyke was invited to preach at Williams College in Massachusetts. At breakfast one morning, he handed the college president a piece of paper, saying, “Here is a hymn for you. Your mountains (the Berkshires) were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven’s ‘Hymn of Joy.’”

When he was later asked about his hymn, van Dyke replied: “These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.”

**NAMES FOR PRAYERS USUALLY REMAIN FOR A MONTH, IF YOU WANT TO
EXTEND OR MAKE AN ADDITION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH
OFFICE.**

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY....

We pray for the leaders of our Church, especially our Church Council, Pastor Folmar, leaders of our congregations, as well as local congregations in time of pastoral vacancy, Bishop Gregory, and Bishop Eaton.

We pray for leaders of nations, those who serve in our nations and other nations' armed forces. We especially lift up CW2 Patrick Greenwood (husband of Laura Gene Gracey's granddaughter), and Tony Servello (Judy Clendenin's nephew).

We pray for the Brothers and Sisters of our Parish in their Time of Need: Barbara Ballos, Jean Beery, David Brownell, Tom and Judy Clendenin, Blase Grace, Doris Jones, John & Nancy Keller, Paulie McMullin, Maxine Walters.

We pray for the Home-Bound Brothers and Sisters of our Parish: Betsy Brandt, Carolyn Endress, Phyllis Fee, Dr. Ralph Himes, Clara Houseman, Howard, Arlene & Scott Mann, Mildred Murray.

Extended Family and Friends for whom we pray:

Virginia Allison (friend of Edie Lowe), Anabeth Andrews (*Beth Ann's granddaughter*), Shirley Begalke, Steve Barnard (*son of Sue Barnard*), Suzanne Benton (*sister of Judy Clendenin*), Barbara Bunnell (*Diane Leap's mother*), Paul (Butch) Cook, (*friend of Elmira Conlon*), Stacey Johnson (*daughter of Bill and Mary Lou Johnson, friends of the Yablinskys*), John T. Keller (John and Nancy's son), Marian Love (*Becky Makdad's mother*), Denny Martin (*Fran Keller's father*), Ray Nycum (*Uncle of Andy and Karly Aiken*) Lisa Postell (*niece of Dale & Monta Jean Beery*), Skip Powell (*Joyann's brother*), Renee Tower-Anderson (*Dale & Monta Jean Beery's granddaughter*), Eleanor Weiand (*Pam Wertman's mother*), Pam Yarnell (*mother-in-law of Tina*).

Received into our Church Triumphant: David Gracey (*Laura Gene Gracey's son*), William Moses (*husband of Pastor Terryann Talbot-Moses*).

February's "Second Offering"

"Church Maintenance Fund"

Some repairs/replacements are needed on air/heat units, and our Property Committee has arranged for these repairs. Please help us fund this much-needed repair!

Please make checks payable to "First Evangelical Lutheran Church" and note "Maintenance Fund" on the memo line.

Mileposts

*Happy birthday to these members of our First Lutheran Church
family*

Brian Barley – Feb 4
Kimberly Barley – Feb 19
Joshua Beach – Feb 18
Edna Benson - Feb 10
Peggy Coleman – Feb 26
Eric Esper – Feb 11
Dana Farmer – Feb 17
Patty Fasick – Feb 16
Richard Faust – Feb 2
Donald Fee – Feb 11
Rob Griffith – Feb 9

Brayden Harbaugh – Feb 25
Clara Houseman – Feb 13
Vickie Jones – Feb 1
Nathan Kelly – Feb 20
Jenna Lasher – Feb 20
Deborah Lasher – Feb 25
Amy Leap – Feb 27
Miriam Johnson – Feb 23
Vickie Jones – Feb 1
John Makdad – Feb 1
Wesley McCloskey – Feb 8

Beverly Mears – Feb
Wendy Mohler – Feb 16
Candice Schroeder – Feb 3
Douglas Trotter – Feb 15
Eleanor Vasbinder – Feb 13
Andrea Wallen, - Feb 26
Deborah Wilkes – Feb 6
Marjorie Yon – Feb 5

Stewardship, Finances ^{and} Staff Support Ministries

Charles Zorger, Treasurer

*Thank You for your Stewardship toward the Mission
of First Evangelical Lutheran Church!*

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, A GOSPEL-CENTERED
COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS, IS COMMITTED TO PROCLAIMING GOD'S
LOVE BY FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF PERFECT OBEDIENCE,
SERVICE, AND LOVE, AND BY HELPING ALL PEOPLE TO MATURE DAILY IN
THE GIFT OF FAITH.**

+ Worship Regularly and Give Generously +

DID YOU KNOW...that this advertising spot is seen by all of First Lutheran's members and friends? Office Manager, Andy McMullin, will help your business have this wonderful exposure!



Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

SANDRA A. KURTZ, GRI, ABR®
Associate Broker
Multi-Million Dollar Producer
(814) 946-4343 EXT. 138 BUSINESS
(814) 946-5488 FAX
Kurtzrealtor@msn.com



TOWN & COUNTRY
REAL ESTATE
300 Union Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602



Christian Education Ministries

SUNDAY MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: 9:00 am
Children through 5th Grade gather on the Second Floor of the Educational Wing. Come join us for Singing, Crafts, and Sharing God's Word!!!

Adults are invited to participate in lively discussion and Christian Education led by Gary Thomas in the New Conference Room.



Tender Love for Children (TLC) is a safe and secure haven that offers childcare and school programs for little ones aged six weeks through six years. We provide a loving, happy environment in which each child is able to develop his or her intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth. TLC children flourish with our high ratio of staff to child, certified teachers and our supportive efforts on behalf of each and every child in our care. Daily at First Lutheran from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm.

*Please pray for our Congregation Council as they embark on
the matters for the church for 2014*

*Pray for the call committee as they move along in the
call process*

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AT

FIRST LUTHERAN

Saturday Evening 5:30 Eucharist

A brief Communion Liturgy in our
Chapel, spoke.

Sunday Morning 10:00 Eucharist

Full Communion Liturgy in the Nave;
anthem from the Temple Choir,
accompaniment by an ensemble of
“Bowers and Blowers”, and hymns.

February Worship Participants

Acolyte/ Crucifer

Gavin Lamborn Feb 2
Emma Wilkes Feb 9
Gavin Lamborn Feb 16
Gavin Lamborn Feb 23

Liturgical Assistants

Altar Guild in February

2/2: Deborah Thomas, Dee Kalbach, Debbie
Wilkes
2/9: Joyann Powell, Judy Clendenin, Marty Jo
Stellabotte
2/16: Sue Barnard, Suzy Glenn, Linda Zorger

2014 Church Council

Larry Bowers
Fred Reigh
Matthew Brownell
Steve Ellis
Vicki Houseman

Sandra Kurtz
James Lowe, Jr
Dee Kalbach
Donna Ritts
Frank Yablinsky

Other Regular Coordinators

Deborah Thomas, Flowers
Nancy Keller, Children's Bags

February 2014

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Knitting Classes meet
each Tuesday morning
at 9:30 AM in Helen
Cramer's house.

Choir Rehearsals
Wed, 6:30 PM

TLC CHILDCARE -ALL YEAR EXCEPT HOLIDAYS
TLC SCHOOLS -SEPTEMBER TO MAY— CALENDARS PROVIDED

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 B&F Social Hall 1- 4:30 PM Saturday Eucharist - 5:30 PM in the Chapel
2 Sunday School 9 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM	3	4 Congregation Coun- cil 7 PM	5	6	7	8 Daisies 2:30-4 PM MP Room Saturday Eucharist - 5:30 PM in the Chapel
9 Sunday School 9 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM	10	11	12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 Saturday Eucharist - 5:30 PM in the Chapel
16 Sunday School 9 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Congregation Meet- ing in Social Hall immediately follow- ing service.	17 President's Day TLC Closed	18 Circle of Hope 6:30 PM	19	20	21	22 Love Feast @ Simpson Temple Daisies 2:30-4 PM MP Room Saturday Eucharist - 5:30 PM in the Chapel
23 Sunday School 9 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM	24	25	26	27 Easter Egg Making Social Hall Kitchen 9 AM	28	

Planning and values

To help people understand the importance of values in planning for their future

Follow your values to financial security

How can you make wise decisions about your money? Start by following your values.

When it comes to financial decisions, each of us has just three choices to make:

1. Save
2. Share
3. Spend

Our values can serve as an internal compass to help keep us on track with what's truly important in our lives.

With this in mind, make a list of your values. Next, determine how much of your income you want to share, save and spend each week or month, based on your list of values. For example, if financial security and generosity are important, you may want to save X% of your earnings every month.

You may also want to share a certain amount of your income with your congregation or a cause that's close to your heart. Keep in mind that in addition to financial resources, you can share your time and talents to help others, too.

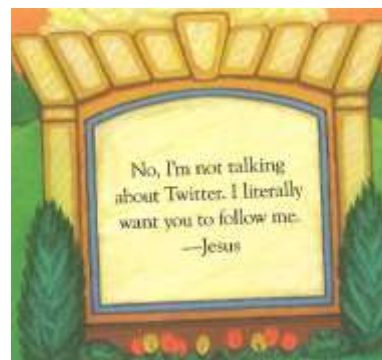
Connect your faith and finances

For more than 100 years, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been helping our member-owners be wise with money and inspiring them to live generously. We can do the same for you.

Your Thrivent Financial representative can help you develop a customized strategy that addresses both your financial goals and your values. Contact Andrea K. Paul, Financial Associate, FIC, CLTC at (814)-695-3496 or andrea.paul@thrivent.com today, or visit Thrivent.com.

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit thrivent.com/disclosures





NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALTOONA, PA
PERMIT NO 31

1401 12TH AVENUE
ALTOONA, PA 16601-3309
(814) 942-3816 • FAX (814) 942-1539
E-MAIL FirstLuthAltoona@aol.com
www.FirstLutheranAltoona.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE ALLEGHENY SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)

1401 Twelfth Avenue Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601
(814) 942-3816

E-mail office@firstlutheranaltoona.org

Website www.firstlutheranaltoona.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:00 AM to Noon, Monday through Friday

TO VISIT WITH THE PASTOR

Stop by the church office or call for an appointment

CONGREGATION STAFF

Interim Pastor
Director of TLC Childcare and School
Office/Accounts Manager
Parish Organist
Choir Director
Church Custodians

The Rev. Dr. Barry R. Folmar
Barbara A. Crago
Andrew J. McMullin
Pam Wertman
Joni Whetstone
Lloyd and Judy Peck