



# The Windsor Lutheran "First" Edition

The Parish Newspaper of First Lutheran Church, Windsor, Ontario

March/April 2003

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FLCA Principal



The Cross saves us  
The Cross we preach

## First Lutheran Church: An Agency of Heaven on Earth

*Rev. Gilvan de Azevedo, Senior Pastor*

What can fill the heart of a Christian with more joy than a blessed congregational life? Isn't that something we all wish would happen to all congregations? How sad it is to hear that some congregations are facing difficulties such as poor attendance or lack of generosity in the offerings.

The apostle Paul was very excited about the church in Corinth. The reason for this was that he saw the gifts of God being given through that congregation. Then, and still today, the Lord blesses people, using His church.

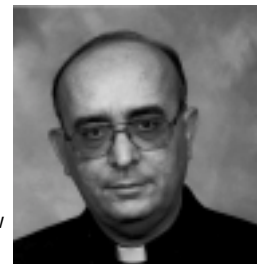
**I always thank God for you, because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. (1Corinthians 1:4).**

This is a theological statement. Paul teaches us that man is justified by faith in Christ. You, my friends, are Christians. You believe that Jesus, True God and True Man, is your Saviour. You believe it because God bestowed gives us salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is what First Lutheran Congregation has been doing since it was organized, almost 90 years ago...spreading the good news and teaching the Christian faith! It happened in Corinth too. The message of Christ's gospel was preached in that city. People were called to faith by the Holy Spirit and started to serve the Lord. They were added to the members by God Himself.

You, my dear friends, are members of this congregation, not by your decision, but by God's grace and mercy. He sent His Son to die for you. He calls you by the gospel. And He blesses you through His congregation. He enriches us in everything. The congregation formed by believers is an institution which has Divine origin, although we are sinners. In spite of our sin, you come short in no gift.

This means that God wants to use us to continue to bless others. That happens when people present themselves to serve in all the different capacities. And all of these different services, that are so important to the church, need people; people who

have the love of Jesus need people; people who have the love of Jesus present in their hearts, just as it happened in Corinth. Paul's heart rejoiced when he saw how eager to serve the eager



to serve the Corinthians were and Jesus rejoices today when He sees His Christians serving Him and serving others. What a blessing when a young Christian decides to be a Pastor or a church worker. What a blessing when Christians say, "My Lord, here I am. Let me serve You. Make me a blessing." The church at Corinth had these types of Christians and so does First Lutheran.

We know that the devil tries to hit the church every time he can. Our flesh also fights our spirit. The world is an enemy to be fought. Can we survive? Can we resist the temptations and continue to serve Jesus? Alone, it is impossible, but Christians are never alone. God helps us. He gives us the strength and empowers us and He does this through the church. Word and Sacraments are the means God uses to strengthen us and the fellowship inspires us to serve. The Saviour protects His church and the Christians that are her members. And He does it because He knows the congregation has a unique importance; you're an Agency of Heaven on Earth, preaching the good news and teaching God's will, blessing people in a way that only the church can do.

Be confident that the Lord whose Holy Spirit called you to be a part of Jesus' family, will do what He promises in His Word and keep you in the faith until you see Him face to face in the blessed eternity.

May God continue to bless First Lutheran Church, its members and friends!

## Planning Retreat Sets Goals and Congregation Organizes For Ministry 2003



*"We're going to use these events and opportunities to say thanks back to God, who has given us everything!"*

Our Planning Retreat is not a new idea; the Church Council has held such planning meetings for years now, usually in November, to prepare for the year to come. What's new this year, though, is a real enthusiasm; as more and more, officers and members alike, seem to be not only very much aware of our God-given blessings, but ever so thankful for them.

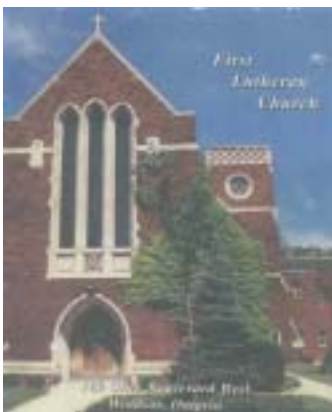
Maybe it's the fact that with our Anniversary year upon us, we just "see more clearly" how gracious God has been over all these years. Anniversaries tend to make us stop and count our blessings, and we've done that, and we shared the joy

at our Men's Dinner, in November. The thankfulness continued, through the December Voters' meeting, where the Budget was approved and the officers and leaders were set in place, through the tremendous Christmas time we enjoyed together and right through into this new year, our Anniversary Year. We've fed from each other; as excited as the planners became, so did the members. Like the song says, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going," and it's happened. We've got a calendar (see insert) filled with activities and special worship, and these events

and opportunities are even more special to us than usual. We're going to use them to say thanks back to God, who has given us everything!

Four goals are set, to keep us focused and on track. These goals target better **Communication** among us, encouragement of our Christian **Stewardship** (time, treasure and talent) as a response to the amazing grace of God, promotion of more **Fellowship** opportunities and an emphasis on both **Strengthening Within** and **"Reaching Out" more.**

## We Want You "Pictured" In This Anniversary Year: Congregation Plans Pictorial



"It's time," says our Pastor, and the Council and Elders agree, to produce a new Pictorial, with all of us in our "First" family, included. We'll actually be able to realize a double benefit, because we'll include several pages of "Anniversary" text and pictures, along with the usual pages of pictures and descriptions of all our groups and special happenings.

Every family gets a free professional portrait and a complimentary copy of the finished Pictorial, for your home.

It should be wonderful to see an updated album of our whole church family. Dates, within which we can make appointments, have been reserved, and soon, members of our Pictorial Committee will be calling you, to finalize your

appointment date and time. We're going to work within the dates of May 12-14 and May 29-31 (after Easter and before the summer) so the anticipated delivery of the Pictorial to us, will be mid-September (before we celebrate our Anniversary, here at Giles and Victoria).

God is our loving Father, and soon, His family here at "First" will have a new family album!

## Newsletter "Re-Start" Reflects Anniversary Year. Paper's Name Goes Back Almost 60 Years.

**"Windsor Lutheran" Published Its First Edition September 18, 1944.**

"A long cherished ambition of the Pastor of First Lutheran was realized with the going to press of Volume 1 of the **Windsor Lutheran.**" So reads the opening column of our Newsletter's namesake, almost 60 years ago. The same can be said of our Pastors and members today. The need for a church newspaper has long been felt among us, and in this our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, at Victoria and Giles, it's especially appropriate that we not only begin to publish again, but that, in so doing, we remember our history.

What better way to do that, than to use the original name, "The Windsor Lutheran!" Of course, we're no longer the only Lutheran Church in town, so we've modified our banner slightly. "First" Edition now signifies that this paper is published by First Lutheran Church, Windsor, and in the main, shares about "our" happenings and those endeavours which affect our members and families. Of course, The Windsor Lutheran: "First" Edition is also intended to serve as a wider source of information,

concerning the various activities of Worship, Fellowship and Education that are so much a part of our congregational life, to those who might not be aware, of who we are and what we do, and who, by the Holy Spirit, may be drawn into our fellowship. It is our intent to offer a church home to those who don't have one and to make them feel welcome. Pray for our Newspaper volunteer staff and that the Lord will bless both this "outreaching" and "in strengthening." Let's have a blessed Anniversary Year!

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*The Windsor Lutheran is to serve as a source of information concerning the various activities of our congregational life"*

## "FOCUS ON F.L.C.A." IS A MUST FOR "FIRST'S" 2003 OUTREACH!

God has given to us, a beautiful School Ministry at FLCA and through it, many young people, besides getting a quality academic education, are learning from the Bible and from the Christian witness of the staff, how their faith is part of everything they do. For more than seven years now, we have tried, through our school, to reflect Christ's light to all who come and God has already blessed that witness, drawing into our fellowship, families who have come to worship with us and who have even formally joined our Church.

What we want to do this year is to more specifically target those families (current students' parents and grandparents and families of recent alumni) who still don't claim a church of their own. Really, it's a return to our original mandate; our school, like most other Lutheran schools is "Mission Driven." We began, believing that the Lord would use the school to give us the chance to tell those who came, of the Hope

that is within us and God continues to bring those opportunities to us. Now we want to more directly focus on that harvest field, to get the message out to them and while pointing them to Christ, point them to "First," where there are already people they know and where a comprehensive ministry waits to welcome them.

What can we do to support this wonderful ministry? We can pray! Pray that the Saviour will live in the heart of yet another, and another, for whom Jesus has come. We can "go to school!" Thanks for all the support so clearly shown, when our own members, who may not even have family attending, come to the many school events and also to the Chapel services, every Wednesday morning at 8:30. Encourage the principal and the Pastor and the staff and the volunteers from "First" and assure them of our prayers! Give an extra offering from time to time, to be used in the school ministry! God

blesses each gift and give many times over.

Recently, we've purchased from the L.L.L. a "display rack," that we keep in full view at our school, with all kinds of Christian literature and lots of information about our congregation. It's a "take some" approach and it's being received very well.

May God continue to help us here at "First," to not only "Get the message straight... but to get the message out!" Praise God, that you, beloved, have seen fit to have a school ministry at First Lutheran!



## Historical Sketch: Our Early "Houses Of Worship"

In this our Anniversary year, we want to include in each newsletter, a look back; a historical sketch, to remember, in thankfulness to God, our beginnings. For this first sketch, we remember the different places we worshipped, before God led us to build here at Victoria and Giles.

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*"We want to look back to remember, in thankfulness to God, our beginnings."*

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It was in the front room of the Ritchie Home on Pillette Road, that Pastor Werfelman, from Detroit, conducted the first service, in January of 1917. For that reason, that home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ritchie can be called the cradle of First Lutheran. So far as we know, the 12 persons who attended that service were the Ritchies and their two daughters, Ethel and Irene, Albert Brunke, the Nitschke family of five, Ernest Risto and Jack Reiche. The worshipping group then rented a hall for service and the worshippers' number climbed to 35.



The Ritchie Home: First's Cradle

First Lutheran was organized as a Congregation on July 21, 1920, in the front room of the Biggs home on Windsor Avenue, with Pastors Hertwig, Loeber and Werfelman present for the meeting. Charter members were: J. Biggs, A. Gildner, A. Brunke, A. Ritchie, G.F. Biggs, E. Risto, W. Fregin and E. Reudiger.



The Biggs Home: First is Organised

In July 1921, a Duplex-Bungalow Chapel on Assumption Street was dedicated in two impressive services. On this day, the Congregation also observed the first Anniversary of her formal organization.

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**My Church!  
My Church!  
I love my Church!  
For she exalts my Lord;  
She speaks,  
She breathes,  
She teaches not,  
But from His written Word.**

(From The Windsor Lutheran, Nov. 1953.  
The "Silver Anniversary Edition.")



The Assumption St. Chapel:  
Our First Temple

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*"The work in the Congregation went forward rapidly as the Lord blessed us richly."*

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Under the aggressive leadership of the first resident Pastor, Rev. H. B. Fehner, the work in the Congregation went forward rapidly and the Lord blessed richly. On Sunday, August 12, 1928, the cornerstone was laid for a new Church edifice at the corner of Victoria and Giles. On December 2, 1928, the new Church was dedicated. It is the date of that dedication we celebrate this year; 75 years later.



On Victoria: Sanctuary and Parsonage

## The Afterlife of Confirmation Classes at "First"

*Rev. Gerson L Flor, Assistant Pastor*

"Is there an afterlife?" Yes, we do so confess in the Apostle's Creed: "I believe in the life everlasting," the gracious gift of God in Jesus Christ.

This is one of the many issues we study in confirmation classes. But what about confirmation classes? Is there an afterlife for them? Or is Confirmation the burial of one's Christian life?

At "First", we are working to make of confirmation classes a lasting impression on the lives of our youth. We believe that the key for that is to teach families about their role in confirmation.

Instruction in the Christian faith is a process that begins with Holy Baptism. On the day the Holy Spirit regenerates the

infant, parents, sponsors and Congregation promise to raise the child in the evangelical faith.

This process then continues in daily life, through both the teaching by the parents and the education provided by the Church. In due time, the Church offers a "tune up," to help the child understand the importance of a sound confession of faith and to enable her to give reason of her faith and live a godly life.

Confirmation is not a Sacrament. It is also not a validation of Holy Baptism, which needs no further supplement. Confirmation is a process of growth in the knowledge of God's Word, and it is a joint venture between family and Church.

At "First," we are also stressing that Martin Luther's Small Catechism is not a book to get done with. It is a friend for life. It can and should be used at home for personal or family devotions, and for our continuous instruction in the faith.

If families and Church walk side by side in this lifelong process of confirmation, and if the devotional purpose of the Small Catechism is explored at our homes, then the power of God's Word will be constantly present among us. And then we will be able to say, "Sure there is an afterlife for confirmation classes. And that is when you really get what a wonderful blessing they are!"




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*"Martin Luther's Small Catechism is not a book to get done with. It is a friend for life."*

## F.L.C.A. Begins "School Break" As Second Term Report Cards Go Home

After two sessions of Parent-Teacher Interviews, on February 27 and 28, our more than 200 pupils and their teachers began their "Winter Break." It's an appropriate time for us to say a big, "Thank you, in Jesus name," to our Principal, to our staff, and to all of our volunteers who make F.L.C.A. what it is today, by the grace of God.

A recent testimonial letter, which was displayed at the

school, said it for all of us, certainly for us at "First":

"As parents, we are always looking for the best for our children. In Windsor, we believe that 'best' is found at First Lutheran Christian Academy."

What a testimonial! And it's important to know that the writer was not one of our members. In fact, the family is not Lutheran. It was from the

parents of one of our Alumni, one of many whom we can serve, thanks to our Academy.

Thank God for all who work every day to let that happen! Thanks to the parents who trust so much in the school and thanks to you, the beloved members of "First" who offer this tremendous Education Ministry.

Have a well deserved break! School begins again on Monday, March 17.




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*"In Windsor, we believe that 'best' is found at First Lutheran Christian Academy."*

## Chit-Chat – For You, About You

### Sunday Bible Class Studies Seven Words From The Cross

Beginning on Sunday, February 23, and through the Sundays of Lent, the Sunday morning Bible Class is sharing a series of lessons, themed for the Lenten Season. We want to linger a while and stand together at the foot of His Cross and watch and listen. When we listen, we hear seven all-important statements fall from His lips, before Christ draws His final breath on the Cross. These are often called, "The Seven Last Words of Christ." It's our privilege to share about one of these "words" each Sunday morning, in between the services.

Any time is a good time to begin to attend Bible Class; there's such power in God's Word! But especially now, at the beginning of this series, it's a wonderful time to begin. The Bible Class is for those who attend either the early service or the late one. It's right "in between." Won't you resolve to join us? You'll be glad you did!



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The Windsor Lutheran  
"First" Edition

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**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.firstlutheranchurch.ca](http://www.firstlutheranchurch.ca)**  
Webmaster: Robert Stark

### Trustee Work Nights: A Terrific Idea

These special "Work Nights" for the Congregation members are hosted by the Trustees, who are themselves, out in full force, showing the way for all of us.

Wednesday evening, February 26, for example, saw all of our Trustees and four additional members, including our Chairman, at the Church, working to stay ahead of the cleaning and repairing of God's house. On the very next night, it was obvious that lots had been accomplished. The old speaker system in the Sanctuary had been removed to prepare for the placement of the new speakers. The Trustees themselves were pleased, as much of the work scheduled for that night was completed.

Maybe for the next "Work Night," we'll advertise it as a "Congregation Work Night," just so we know that the invitation is for all of us and we don't let only the Trustees have all the fun. Come on out and let's work together to keep God's house in order. A good cause deserves help!

### Lenten Season Worship Schedule

Together at "First" and all over the Christian world, we are now into Lent's 40 days. Our "Ash Wednesday" service, on March 5, began our "Journey to Calvary," where on the cross Jesus died for our sins. Come and worship with us at each of our mid-week services, on the next five Wednesdays of Lent (March 12, 19, 26; April 2, 9) at 7:00 p.m.

Here we will find anew that the sins weighing us down have been forgiven by Christ our Saviour, through His death and resurrection. Again this year, we enjoyed the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Sausages Supper, hosted and served by our Youth on the evening before Lent began. They were, "The best pancakes, this side of anyplace!" Thanks!!

### First Lutheran Church Launches Website

A long expected project of First Lutheran Church has just been accomplished in this Anniversary Year. We are now on the World Wide Web, making it possible for us to reach people anywhere in the world with the message of the Gospel.

Help spread the Gospel, by spreading our web address to all your friends. Don't forget to check it yourself, and feel free to make it your home page!

[www.firstlutheranchurch.ca](http://www.firstlutheranchurch.ca)

### Spotlight on our Pastor

Pastor Azevedo has been re-elected to serve another term as Chairman of our District's Department for Outreach. Congratulations Pastor, in Jesus name and we as your congregation wish you God's blessings as you travel to Kitchener and back for your meetings and as you serve the church at large. We pray that you and your Board may lead, "With great boldness; that all may know His name!" And by the way, our Pastor has been invited to be the Speaker for the L.L.L. Spring Rally (Lake Erie Zone), to be held in Simcoe, on April 6, at 3:00 p.m. It's at St. Peter Lutheran Church (Pastor Wally Hambrock).

### Carillon of Bells Dedicated

On February 9, our Carillon of Bells was dedicated to the praise and glory of God and in loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Storm. Thanks to this donation by family and friends, we hear the beautiful bells and music each Sunday and during the week too. They are also a voice proclaiming to our neighbourhood that God is present among us in His divine Word and Sacraments.

Rev. Storm served as our Pastor for twenty - one years (1934-1955).