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“Here We Stand” News

Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church—2430 Walton Avenue Bronx, NY 10468

July/August 2008

Serving Jesus By Serving our Neighbors

Volume 1, Issue 1

Pastor's Message

Special points of interest:

Basketball & Bible

Prayer List

Basket Ball For Jesus Ministry

Talking To God On Behalf OF Others.

Here We Stand News, a very Lutheran name for a newsletter. In 1521 Pope Leo X at the Diet of Worms (a grand church assembly), took Martin Luther to task for his 95 thesis and other writings that attacked the practices of the Roman Catholic Church at that time. In particular, Dr. Luther was concerned with the selling of indulgences. This was a declaration of the forgiveness of sins one could purchase, from the church, for yourself or someone who had already died to shorten their time in purgatory. It was an amazing money making scheme as thousands gave all their money to the church to purchase forgiveness.



Rev. Dr. Katrina D. Foster

Luther recant. His writings. Luther, who contended it was neither good nor wise to go against one's conscious, declared he could do no such thing by stating “Here I stand. I can do nothing else. God help me.”

He would not back down from a bully whose money he had “messed up,” he would not go against the truth of the gospel that Jesus saves and nothing nor anyone else can accomplish that work, he stood his ground even though it meant excommunication.

Here We Stand News will not, I imagine, ever proclaim anything as earth shattering as the 95 thesis, or the Heidelberg Disputation (a little light reading!!!). But, we will bring news from the congregation, synod and national church to your in-box or mail box.

Thanks to Desiree Pilgrim-Hunter for making this newsletter come to life! Here We Stand. We can do no other. God help us!

Luther understood this practice to be wrong and sinful. Wrong because on Jesus alone can and does secure our salvation through the Cross and sinful because the church was taking advantage of her people and putting their trust in something other than Jesus, a type of idolatry.

When the Pope confronted Luther over his writings, he demanded

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What Lutheran's Believe



Christianity is not only a belief, but it is a commitment to way of life.

In the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

That the Bible is God's word to us and, as such, is final authority for faith and life.

That together with the Word, God has given us the Sacraments - Baptism and the Lord's Supper - as a means of bringing about the new birth and sustaining our fellowship with God.

That the heart of relig-

ion is a personal relationship between God and us.

That this relationship is maintained and cultivated through the experience of worship, which includes a continuing use of the Word, Sacraments and prayer.

That one's spiritual welfare is her/his individual responsibility.

That Christianity is not only a belief, but is a

commitment to a way of life.

That life with God is eternal. Despite any temporary discouragement and disappointment, ultimate victory for time and eternity lies with the follower of God.

Basketball & Bible

"Basket Ball For Jesus Ministry"

*Teenage Boys and Men Only



Saturday,

September 20, 2008

6:30-8:00PM

Monroe College Gym
2501 Jerome Ave.
(just north of E. 190th Street)

Prayer ListTalking To God On Behalf Of Others

Music Ministry, St. Andrews Lutheran-
Church, Clement, Charles Brown, Teresa
Anderson, Robert Robinson, Matilda
Suggs, Ann Hill, Fredeswilda
Maraj, Panasea & Emily Avery,
Rogelia Mena & family, Adrian
Thompkins, Isabella Harrigan, De-
fresse family, Monique Figueroa,
Joselyn & Selena, Hiram Rodrigue-
z, Nikki & Nikita Price, Lucille
Harris, Carmen Silvertorini, Lesly Exil, Crus
Sanchez, Esther, Luis, & Luis Polanco Jr.,
Erica Abbott, Justina Scott, Gia Vincenty,
Angelicka Pride, Theresa Venticinque,
Dave Djordjevic, Eugene Hector, Edward
Knight, Edity Fero, Crystal Jackson, Evelyn
Vega, Lisa Goldson, Tenise Boatwright,
Rose Fergesen, Frances Saunders, Brit-
tany Boyce, Sheehan family, Myrtle

Richardson, Sonia Moore, Michelle Fox,
Norma Bonet, Jose, Elizabeth Robinson,
Charlotte Sapp, Dee Adamson, Michelle
Rolle, Lydia Nieves, Mavis Hercu-
les, Dennis Richardson & family,
Carl Hugel, Judiette Avery, Gerry
Lee James, Carol Walinski, Edith
Goodenough,
Auburne, Junie, Harriet, Jahni,
Mario, Jenny Pelcher, Joan
Batchelor, Joanne Teague, Kendell Lewis,
Stephen family, Natache Teague, Kay &
family, Kevin & Nigel Smith, Martha Smith
& family, Eric & Sharmine & family, Eva
Medina, Benny Medina, Priscilla Martin &
family, Ramdeem Ramdhanie, Mary Thorn-
hill, Tommy Lawston, Faye Nottage, Bertha
Shipman, Ann Lawston, Robert, Desiree &
Cassandra Hunter



God Hears Every Prayer.



Francis Saunders—F.E.L.C. MEMBER PROFILE

By Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster

Francis Saunders was born May 27, 1921 in The Bronx in her family's apartment. She was an only child.

Francis joined Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1938. She graduated from Walton High School and went to Drakes Business School to study shorthand.

Francis worked as a bookkeeper for various banks in the Bronx and New York City.

On November 21, 1964, Francis married Teddy Saunders. They met at Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church where Teddy would come with his mother. Francis is now a widow.

What has been your favorite thing about Fordham ?

I enjoyed the worship services and sermons, of course, but I always liked going downstairs, drinking coffee with everyone after service. I also liked the annual card party we used to have."

What has been the most dramatic change at Fordham Lutheran since you joined in 1938?

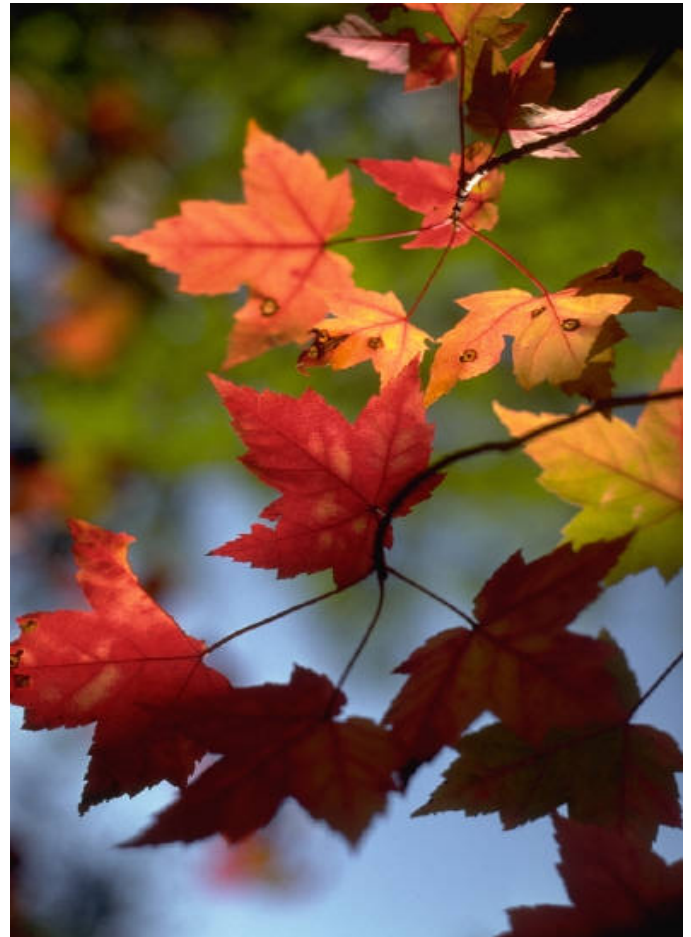
"We used to have two services and people had to sit in the balcony because there wasn't enough room downstairs. Then, we switched to one service and we haven't used that balcony in years."

What is your greatest hope for Fordham Lutheran?

"That the redevelopment happens and the church grows."

What is one of the most interesting things about you that most people don't know?

"When Teddy and I got married, we couldn't go on a honeymoon because I had to go back to my home and take care of my mother and he had to go back to his home and take care of his mother. About six months later we managed to take a week vacation and go to the Jersey shore."

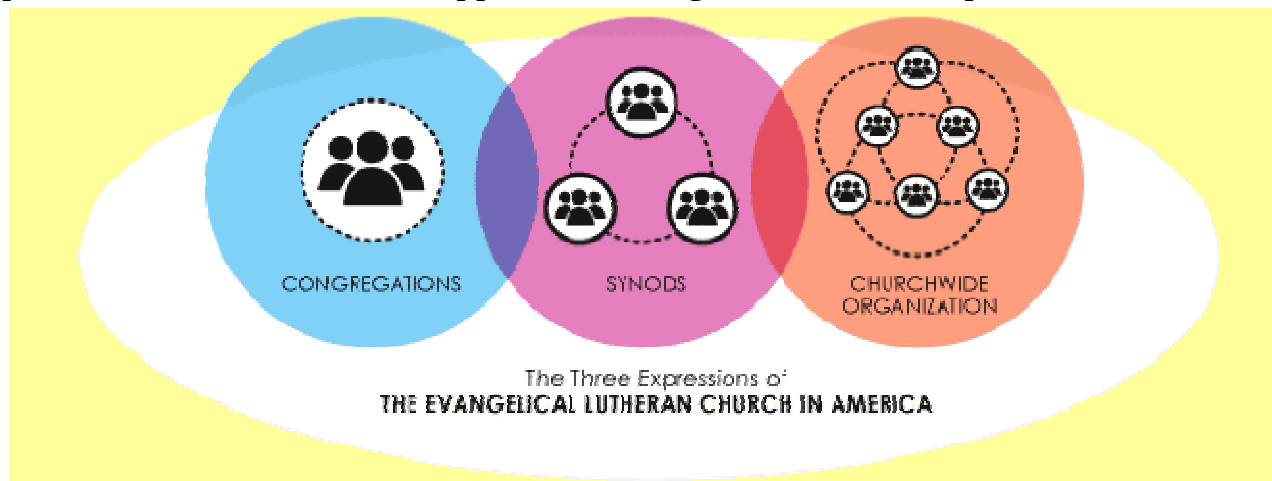




Our Three Expressions

We are all the ELCA

Since our beginning in 1988, this church has been one church body organized in three expressions that enable and support us all to grow in faith and put faith into action.



Congregations

Nearly 10,500 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are local communities of faith-filled people celebrating, learning and connecting through weekly worship and various ways to serve others.

Synods

Sixty-five synods throughout the country unite the work of congregations within their areas, serving as regional support and guiding pastoral and other staff candidates through the call process.

Church-wide Organization

The church-wide expression includes the ELCA Church-wide Assembly, Church Council, officers and church-wide units. Church-wide staff work from the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill., and from locations around the globe.

According to the ELCA constitution, we are one church body organized in three expressions -- each expression has its particular functions but all three together share a common mission. Together, they ensure a strong foundation of leadership that enables faithful gathering and gospel proclamation, community involvement, open dialogue and a culture of support for our 4.8 million members.

Three of the four elected of this church have offices at the church-wide organization. There is an elected lay member who serves as the chair of the.

The ELCA nurtures important connections with Lutheran, ecumenical and inter-faith partner and related organizations. This church also works in faith alongside 28 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, eight seminaries, and over 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers. We also express our faith through many campus ministries, outdoor ministries, and social service agencies across the country.



Our three expressions, together with affiliated agencies and institutions, are all part of the ELCA, enjoying a strong presence at the local, regional and continental levels. And because of our connections with worldwide Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith partners, the ELCA is an active participant in the global community.

The "Fourth Expression"

Partner/Related Lutheran Organizations

We share a strong, growing relationship with pan-Lutheran and ecumenical partner ministries, such as Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran Services in America (LSA), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and many more. Learn why our partners are so critical to this church's mission.

ELCA - The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

The ELCA is a community of faith that shares a passion for making positive changes in the world. Our faith is built around a strong belief in God as made known to us in Jesus Christ. Through worship, service, and education, we practice our faith, grow our relationship with God and experience God's grace in our lives.

We also work hard to put our faith into action. In today's complex world, we strive to make a difference in practical, realistic ways.

With nearly 10,500 congregations across the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and nearly five million members—we welcome you to experience this church right in your community. Explore the ELCA, and help us celebrate our gift of faith—with *action*.

Metro New York Synod

Project Connect

Pinecrest

Lutherans Concerned: Ministry with GLBT persons

Davey and Goliath Web Site

The Lutherans Song

Lutheran World Relief



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*Serving Jesus by Serving
Our Neighbors*

In Service for Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Council

Emilie Ramdhanie, President
Priscilla Martin, Vice President
Lovis Williams, Secretary
Savita Ramdhanie, Treasurer
Kay Lacon, Eva Medina
Pat Jewett, Joan Batchler
Lovis Williams

Redevelopment Team

Pastor Katrina Foster
Emilie Ramdhanie
Michelle Fox
Dr. Mahindra Ramdhanie
Pat Logan

Sunday School

Joanne Teague, Pat Jewett
Devon Jonas, Jackie Alleyne,
Medori Jewett

Music Ministry

Voices of Victory Gospel Choir:

**Choir Director &
Keyboards:**
Brian Lawlor

Drums:
Forrest McFarland

Congas:
Orlando Torres

Choir Members:
Dyonie Torres
Alisha Torres
Brandon Torres
Kiana Torres
Joanne Teague
Alex Teague
Jackie Alleyne
Lovis Williams
Pamela Kallimanis



Heartland Presidential Forum,
Des Moines, Iowa, December, 2007

Rev. Katrina Foster, pastor of Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx, questioned Sen. Barack Obama about healthcare at [Heartland Presidential Forum](#), December '2007 in Iowa, where grassroots community organizations from around the country participated in questioning several Democratic presidential candidates. Foster was part of a contingent from the [North-west Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition](#). The event was organized by the [Center for Community Change](#).