

Dear Friends,

May 17, 2007

First Lutheran has its own website! Thanks to the efforts and creativity of our Website Team - especially Shari Novotny - you now can go to www.kirklandflc.org on the internet and see some familiar sights, beginning with our beautiful stained glass window of Jesus praying in Gethsemane.

Right under the stained glass window, you will see the phrase, "Putting Christ First." I have thought for quite a while that this would be a good slogan, a good mission statement for our congregation. It was suggested to me a while ago by Pastor Arthur Bergren, who was then pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Woodstock. He thought mission statements should be short and memorable; and, if possible, they should make use of the congregation's name. I asked him, "How might First Lutheran use its name in a mission statement?" Right off the bat, he suggested:

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First.

That certainly does make use of our name! And, it "puts first things first," letting everyone know that at First Lutheran, Christ is always our first priority. It's kind of like that age-old meditation on the word "JOY" - **J**esus first, **O**thers next, **Y**ourself last. Joy puts Christ first. And putting Christ first *produces* joy.

There are any number of ways this mission statement can be put into practice. In my monthly letter to you for the next several issues of *The Messenger*, I plan to explore with you some of the practical ways we can "put Christ first." They are many, and they are exciting and inspiring.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Carl L.M. Rasmussen