



## From Pastor Bill

My wife reminded me the other day of the time when we lived in Toledo when I said I would never use a computer. Others have reminded me of the times when I would make fun of those who thought that they had to take a cellular phone wherever they went. Are they really that important, I would ask?

Now, I use a computer all the time. In fact, I spend a lot of time in front of my Dell. I also have a cell phone that I tend to take wherever I go. I guess I have become one of the important ones!

I am grateful for my screens. In some ways, they have made my life easier and have enabled me to do so much that I wasn't able to do in the past. But I must admit that screens can be problematic for me, for many of us, and yes, for our culture as a whole.

One of our congregational goals this year is to continue to emphasize health and physical movement as integral to the life of discipleship. Screens can sometimes be an aid for our movement toward greater health. They can connect us, especially when we aren't able to get out of our homes. But sometimes screens can end up serving to make us less healthy and cause us to move less.

I am currently reading a book titled **Encounterism** in which Andy Field argues for the magic that occurs for most people when they meet up with other people. While I am so grateful for the way our live-streaming connects our congregation to so many people, I still feel strongly that being with people is preferable. First of all, being with people means that we have to move our bodies to make those encounters happen. But more than that, it entails sharing life in a more intimate way. We are wired for emotional connection and intimacy, I believe. They serve to make us healthier. Yes, being around people raises the possibility of picking up viruses. But not being around people brings with it serious threats to our health as well.

I enjoy my computer, and I appreciate my phone. But I think I would be healthier if I used them less often. I note how I rely on my phone to deal with my boredom, something I should embrace more. I note how crabby and preoccupied my grandson becomes when he is on his phone. I watch how so many people (some older and many younger) stop communicating with each other when they are at restaurants focused on their screens. I observe how many of our kids are not spending time in nature. I hear Dr. Phil when he warns us that our obsession with our phones and with social media is increasing depression and anxiety among our young folks.

We (I) would do well to take advantage of our (my) screens, but not allow them to become (my) our

*(Continued on page 3)*



## From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I am thinking about core values these days. Values that frame the way we think, speak and act. Values which shape us as individuals, a society and shape our faith. As we begin what will most likely be a tumultuous eight months of divisional tactics, vicious rhetoric and fear-mongering, I wonder how we will stay grounded in love and live into our call as Christians. And what is that call in response to God's saving love for his people? It is a call the prophet Micah ushered to the people on behalf of God:

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

Micah's prophetic message comes on the heels of a dispute between God and his people about what is an appropriate sacrifice or offering. I encourage you to back up a bit and read through Micah 6:1-8 to get the gist of God's response to the people. You see, the passage of Micah 6:8 culminates with an answer. I surmise it may not be the answer the people expected. In fact, it may not be the answer they were seeking. They had focused on offerings — small and large. They emphasized sacrificial worship to the exclusion of justice and kindness. However, God's concern here was to point out that God requires more than sacrifice when entering God's presence.

We have just finished forty days of Lent and lived into the Easter resurrection. We have experienced sacrifice and lament and love in the journey. But our journey is not over. In fact, in a way it has just begun. We will need to look deeply at the core values God has proclaimed. The clarification in Micah 6 provides us with clear direction on what God expects of us. I don't know about you, but I find it a difficult task at times to live into God's requirements as God's people, especially when the world, our nation and our neighborhoods are often in contentious debate. Justice is perhaps not our default operating system. Humility is not second nature.

So what actions do these requirements call forth from us as we look into our neighborhoods and cities, governmental systems, political propaganda, genocide, starvation and oppression? What is required of us as individuals and a faith community? How do we live out God's call to do justice, love kindly and walk humbly with God? When I ponder a response to these questions, I often think of the school we support in Bethlehem, Palestine. Dar Al-Kalima School has artistically placed their core values in several places throughout the school: *Faith, Hope, Love, Justice, Teamwork, Peace, Belongingness, Constructive Dialogue, and Tolerance.*



The school principal, Anton Nassar, told me these values are integrated into their curriculum and extra-curricular activities. They also encourage all students, both Muslim and Christian alike, to live out these values even in the midst of occupation and war. That can't be easy. I don't think it's going to be easy for me, either, as this election year heats up and injustice seeps into every corner of the world. So won't you join me as we seek justice, do kindness and humbly walk with God - even, or especially, in a time of contentious debate, dispute and division? We need each other on this walk.

Shalom,  
Paula

# Confirmation

April wraps up our confirmation year for Journey kids and second year students. Final year students will continue to meet with their mentors throughout the month of April and will be confirmed on May 5, 2024. It is always bittersweet for me as they move forward in their faith journey. Please keep the confirmation students and all the youth at First Lutheran in your thoughts and prayers as they head into a busy spring schedule including sports, extra-curricular activities, academic challenges and...church commitments.

One of the core values I like to teach the confirmation kids is tolerance and what it means to live side-by-side with others who act, think and worship differently than we do. To help shape this way of thinking, we will be visiting two different churches: The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and the mosque in Grand Rapids, Masjid Tawheed

## RSVP needed for both trips!!

[paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) or text: 231.343.2644

- **Masjid Tawheed - Saturday, April 13** (leave church at 9:15 a.m.) return to FLC after lunch at The Pita House in Grand Rapids
- **Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church - Sunday, April 21** (leave church at 9:30 a.m.) return to FLC between 12:30 - 1:00 pm

**Confirmation Sunday is May 5 at 10:30 a.m. (students need to arrive by 10:00 a.m.)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

preoccupation. The apostle Paul says that "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything." Screens dominate the lives of too many. Do I want to be dominated by them? No, I don't. I appreciate the gift they are, but I don't want to be controlled by them.

This is the Easter season, the season of new life. It's also the season when the weather starts to warm. Maybe this can be a time when we put down the screens once in a while and get moving outside and commit ourselves to in-person encounters with real people. Christ is risen. Maybe it would help us to rise up and get going.

## Deadline for May Chimes



Please note that the deadline for the May Chimes will be **April 10**. Anything submitted after that date will **not** be included in the newsletter. Thank you.

*This date change is for the May Chimes only.*



## ***PRE-K TO MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS***



**PK-8th Grade**

**Pool Party at Pastor Bill's Condo**

April 20

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



**PK-5th graders**

**DEFY Trampoline Park**

(1740 E Sherman Blvd)

April 14

2:00 p.m.

*For more information contact Emma Johnston at  
[emma@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:emma@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)*

## ***HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS***



**New Orleans Parents & Youth Meeting**

April 14

7:00 p.m.



**High School Youth**

April 28

Watch for more information!

*For more information contact Jeff or Laura Lucht at  
[JLLucht@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:JLLucht@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)*



## Vacation Bible School



Who: Kids going into PK-6<sup>th</sup> grades  
What: Four Bible Stories about Water  
When: June 17-20, 2024, 5:30-8:00pm  
Where: First Lutheran Church



**Living Water Ministries**  
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

## Summer Camp

Summer camp registration is open with Living Water Ministries! July 7-12 is the week, and kids going into grades 1-12 can go. We would love to get a big group from First Lutheran there! They are offering their "Welcome to All" pricing again this year, meaning you choose how much you pay for the week: full price, half price, or nothing—they want to make sure cost is not a barrier!

Who: Kids going into grades 1-12  
What: Living Water Ministries Summer Camp  
When: The Week of July 7-12  
Where: Stony Lake Camp, New Era, MI

To register or for more information:



<https://www.elcalivingwater.com/campprograms/>

Questions? Talk to Emma!  
emma@firstlutheranmuskegon.org  
712-395-0502

## Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup



As part of our care for God's creation, First Lutheran has made a commitment to participate in the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway program (<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/programs/highway-programs/roadside-property-management/adopt-a-highway>). This means that we clean up a stretch of M-120 three times each year. Our next cleanup will take place on **Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m.** This is a great way to celebrate Earth Day, which takes place on April 22.

We'll meet at the church at 10:00, have a brief safety meeting, and then head to our assigned location. Bags and safety vests will be provided. Please dress for whatever Michigan weather we're having that day! More details to come. Please contact Kathryn Hall (734-612-8690 or [kathryn.a.sweet@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.a.sweet@gmail.com)) if you have questions. We hope you can join us!

## Women's Retreat Coming in May!!

*Friday, May 17 (6:00 p.m.) -  
Saturday, May 18 (3:00 p.m.)*

The retreat will be held at Grace Adventures in Mears, Michigan. We are in the process of scheduling the bus for transportation. If you are willing to serve on our retreat team, please contact Paula Dusseljee at: [paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) or text: 231.343.2644

\*\*\*Sign up sheets are at both information stations. Join us for a little break from the action!!!



## John Ball Zoo Trip

*Friday, May 10*

Fellowship Ministry will be sponsoring dinner at Valkyrie before we go to the John Ball Zoo Lantern Festival at night. We will meet at the church at 5:30p.m. where we will drive to the restaurant in the bus and then head to Grand Rapids.

More details to follow. Limited seating and first come, first serve. This event sold out last year, so please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637 for reservations.



## Masjid al-Tawheed Visit

Join us as we visit the Masjid al-Tawheed mosque in Grand Rapids on Saturday, April 13. Taking the church bus, we will leave at 9:15 a.m., visit the mosque, then have lunch at the Pita House in East Town.

## Calling First Lutheran Members!

In celebration of First Lutheran's 160th celebration, we need interviews from our members to play in our worship services from January to August 2024. We need you to record your interview on your phone and send it to Lisa Ziemelis at [lisa@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:lisa@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) as soon as possible. We are asking you to answer 2 questions.

What brought you to First Lutheran?  
What do you enjoy about First Lutheran?

The interview should be 1-2 minutes.

We need all ages of members to be involved with this event. If you do not know how to record on your phone, Carl Luther or another person will be at the church to do the recording in the Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of the month, starting in January. If you can not do this after worship, please call Carl Luther at 231-750-6737 to set up a specific time you could meet.

Please join us in honoring our memories here at First Lutheran with your videos. If you have any questions, please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936. Thank you.



## Official Acts



### Deaths

*Barbara "Bonnie" VanderVelde*  
Born: 04/04/1930  
Died: 02/23/2024

## Weekly Offerings

### Week ending 02/04/2024

General Fund: \$9,248.83  
Building Enhancement Fund: \$340.00  
Dollar-A-Day (for new sign): \$518.60  
Building Rent: \$240.00  
Abiding Memorial: \$535.00

### Week ending 02/12/2024

General Fund: \$6,622.55  
Building Enhancement: \$170.00  
Building Rent: \$1,587.00  
Noisy Offering (Love, INC): \$213.19  
Abiding Memorial: \$60.00

### Week ending 02/18/2024

General Fund: \$7,454.63  
Building Enhancement: \$280.00  
Building Rent: \$272.00  
Noisy Offering (Love, INC): \$138.41

### Week ending 02/25/2024

General Fund: \$5,743.62  
Building Enhancement: \$180.00  
Building Rent: \$302.00  
Noisy Offering (Love, INC): \$150.85  
Abiding Memorial: \$20.00

Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
4/7	Acts 4:32-35, Ps 133 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31
4/14	Acts 3:12-19, Ps 4 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48
4/21	Acts 4:5-12, Ps 23 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18
4/28	Acts 8:26-40, Ps 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8







## Chimes Assemblers

*Thanks to Dennis DeVries, Joe Labiak and Bill Nymick who assembled the March Chimes.*



## American Red Cross

Thank you to all who donated—or tried to donate—blood at First Lutheran’s February blood drive. We collected 35 pints. Thank you also to all the loyal volunteers who helped make the blood drive possible and a success.

The next blood drive is scheduled for Monday, May 6, from 11:30 A.M to 5:15 P.M. You can make an appointment online at: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling Kim Westerholm, First’s blood drive coordinator at 712 539-8536.



## Dollar-a-Day Fund

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news from last Sunday’s Dollar a Day collection! Our generous congregation came together and contributed close to \$600 toward enhancing our Family Life Center experience with a new sound board, drop down screen and stage curtain. This support will allow us to create a more inviting and uplifting environment for everyone. The next collection will be April 4th and 7th. Thank you to every person who participated in this special offering. Your commitment to our church community is truly inspiring! Let’s continue to sow seeds of generosity and love as we work together to enhance our church experience. May God bless you abundantly for your cheerful giving!

Joe Labiak and the Stewardship Committee

# Think Spring!



## April Birthdays!

1	Florian Borowski	14	Randi Mock Gary Hansen	26	Connie Larson Colden Jones Connor Paugh
2	Mason Milligan	15	Wayne Halpin	27	Suzanne Van Fossan
3	Linnea Ostrom	16	Mason Zizak Bert Goodman Bonnie Hoekstra Kleis	28	Glenn Fiebelkorn Madeleine Wosinski
4	Debby Jaquith	17	Tony McCleary	29	Dale Mead Steve Smith
6	Piper Sweet	20	Michaela Beidler Ken Ranos Elin Frietsch	30	Sandy Hutchins Larry Boxer Tim Israels Matthew Besteman
7	Chase Zizak Spencer Zizak Megan Badley BJ Paige Val Barnes	21	Bruce Meloche Michael Sweet Kristen Wilson		
8	Toni Pruitt	23	Kim Cooke Dylan Dahlstrom		
9	Boyd Freeman Bruce Milligan	24	Nancy Goudzwaard Sherrell Christenson Lynda Ferry		
10	Dennis Cobler Marilynn""Pat"" Westjohn	25	Cathy Strait Michaela Milligan		
11	James Clark				
13	Thomas Freeman Carol Stowe-Byrd				





## Dinner Hosts Needed!

If you are interested in hosting a Wednesday Night Dinner in the fall for either your committee or favorite charity, please call or text Alice at 1-914-262-5523

## Keepers

**Gerald and Betty Crenno**

1740 Village Dr Apt 318  
Village at the Oaks  
Muskegon, MI 49442-4288

**Theresa Hansen**

Robbinswood-Northcrest Campus  
2650 Ruddiman Dr  
North Muskegon, MI 49445

**Nancy Hazekamp**

1350 W Hackley Apt. 215  
Muskegon, MI 49441

**David Kleis**

5659 Rim Rock Ct.  
Boulder, CO 80301-3553

**Pat Mullinex**

*Mailing Address:*  
2284 Riverwood Drive  
Twin Lake, MI 49457

*Home Address:*  
Sanctuary at McAuley  
1380 Sherman Blvd  
Muskegon, MI 49444

**Warren Robinson**

1845 Moulton Ave  
Muskegon, MI 494445-3127

**Linda Sahlhoff**

Christian Care Nursing Center  
2053 Sheridan Dr  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Keith Stapel**

1228 Lawrence St  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Dave Walborn**

18552 W Spring Lake Rd  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

**Mary Warden**

1740 Village Dr. Apt 222  
Muskegon, MI 49442-4283

# First Lutheran Church

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	2 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 9:00PM-Compline	3 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Berry Junction Trail Meeting 6:05PM-Bible Study	4 12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	5 4:00PM-Rental 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 7:00PM-AA Meeting	6 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry
7 <b>Dollar-A-Day Weekend</b> 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	9 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	10 <b>Chimes Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	11 12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 6:00PM-Rental 6:30PM-Scouts Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	12 5:30PM-Bunco 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	13 9:15AM-Trip to Mosque
14 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells Outing 2:00PM-Pre-K - 5th Grade 3:00PM-Rental 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	15 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	16 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-Muskegon City Garden Club 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	17 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	18 12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 4:00PM-Outreach Ministry Meeting 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:00PM-Stewardship Ministry Meeting	19 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	20 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast 10:00AM-Highway Cleanup
21 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-160th Anniversary Meeting 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	22 10:00AM-Muskegon Museum Docents Meeting 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	23 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	24 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	25 12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-Rental 6:00PM-Restorative Yoga 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Council Meeting	26 11:00PM-Memorial Service - Fred Workman 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	27 6:00AM-AA Breakfast
28 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	29 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	30 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline				