



From Pastor Bill

As I write this, I am pondering Luke's story about Mary and Martha, the narrative that is the gospel reading for the coming Sunday. Mary is actively listening to Jesus, while Martha busies herself with meal preparations. In her busyness, Martha becomes angry with Mary and Jesus, maintaining that Jesus doesn't care about her and how much work she is doing. Jesus responds by saying, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one."

Jesus' words about distraction are really jumping out at me as I fuss with this text. Distraction is at the heart of modern life. Many of us find it hard to focus because we are distracted by so many things—possessions, responsibilities, demands, the twenty-four-hour news cycle. Distraction has become the preoccupation and specialization of some politicians these days. They take us down one path after another, keeping us from centering on what's really happening in our culture. Modern life seems to be one distraction after another.

The church is at its best when it helps people to see what is really important in life, when it assists them in reducing the distractions of contemporary life. Sometimes, sadly, we in the church can add to the distractions. We can turn religion into a long list of obligations and responsibilities that end up fracturing people. But that really is not our calling.

Our primary calling is to center people in the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the one thing that is needful. Discovering that one needful thing isn't a matter of turning people into church-preoccupied folks, as if they have nothing else in life but church activities. But I do think connection to the church and to its people can be a real gift to those who want not to be distracted by so many things.

As we move toward the Fall, can I encourage you to make a strong commitment to your church? Worship with us every week. Study with us.

Socialize with us. Give of your time and money to our common work. Don't stay at a distance. Find a way to make the community called the church integral to who you are. Being centered in a faithful and healthy community of faith will provide direction for your lives. If you have kids, it will serve them as they try to make sense of the crazy world they are living in.

Yes, you have all kinds of responsibilities. Yes, you have all kinds of things tugging at your lives. Yes, you have many distractions. You, therefore, need something that will center your lives. I hope you will allow the church to assist you in being reminded of the one thing needful.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I'm hardly ready to give up on summer yet - sunshine, sandy beaches, *warm* Lake Michigan, picnics, outside dining at restaurants and a bustling Farmer's Market filled with an array of flowers, foliage and food. I'm also not ready to anticipate the busyness (good busyness) the next season holds - Faith Formation classes, youth activities, small group upstarts, Outreach Opportunities, Women's Retreat, Silent Auction for Dar Al-Kalima, Wednesday night dinners, music opportunities, school, college/trade programs, extra-curricular activities, sports, cheer competitions, and the list goes on. But I am a church planner. Our staff is paid to look ahead and plan for *tomorrow*.

Oftentimes, we get so bogged down with *tomorrow* that we worry *today* away. And granted, there is enough to worry about in the *tomorrows* to last a lifetime: I don't have enough money for *tomorrow*. I have to have a tough conversation with a family member *tomorrow*. I will learn the results of my tests *tomorrow*. I worry my grandchildren will feel loved *tomorrow*. I'm not sure I have what it takes for *tomorrow*. I wonder if the children of Gaza will have enough food to eat or be alive *tomorrow*. And of course, I've got too much to do, *tomorrow*.

I don't know if you feel it, but I know the "what ifs" of life can rob me of *today*. Rob me of the opportunities to visit a lonely parishioner, call my uncle in the living center, laugh a little more, love a little more and breathe in the daily goodness of God's grace. I believe our calling is to *today*. Planning and looking to the future is important, but the call is to meet the duties and delights of *today*.

I will enjoy the waning days of summer. I will marvel at the fruits and flowers and foliage at the market that will change with the seasons. I will be grateful for our faith community that has opened doors of dialogue about injustice, here and abroad. I will be planning for *tomorrow*, but it will not overshadow *today*. Future worry is daunting. It wears us out and we have little to give. Jesus lived in daily grace and in quiet trust He believed there would be ample grace for the future. And just look what His *tomorrow* would entail...the cross.

It's not that we don't think of *tomorrow*, *but* what if the sufficiency of daily grace is enough for *today*?

Shalom,
Paula



From Shar From the *Music World*

October is Right Around the Corner!

You all have an opportunity to be performers on Friday, October 17. First Lutheran will once again give you a chance to show off with your secret talents. We thought we would offer you a chance to incorporate the lavish stairway into your performance before we remove it from the stage. Extra points will be given to all who use it as well as a bonus for the most creative use! Please see Shar Bourdon ASAP if you are interested. Because we are proud Lutherans, food will definitely figure prominently into the evening. The evening is entitled **Three Courses**, with hors d'oeuvres and Act I to start, followed by desserts and Act II to finish.

Fun Fact!

You DO NOT have to know how to read music to play hand bells!

Bells can be a fun and beautiful way to enhance your worship service. I learned some SIMPLE ways to supplement service music at a workshop I recently attended. I will be bringing back my "Bells for Beginners" class starting on August 3 following the Sunday service. I will be introducing these techniques in class and employing them during the services. FYI 'school-aged' people; ringing is a great way to stay engaged throughout the service AND fulfill a stewardship commitment VIA SERVICE!

Choir Offers More Opportunities!

Start date for Choir is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm. We meet every week and sing Special Music at least once a month. Rehearsals for The Band **and** both women and men's barbershop singing will happen during the 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. slot. Schedules will provide all necessary information. All are welcome! I know people in our midst who have been thinking about joining us. Please do so! It is said that when you sing, it's like praying twice. Who doesn't need that!?



Confirmation

Calling all Confirmation Students!

We will begin our classes on September 7, at 9:15 am. Parent meetings will be held on: Sunday, August 17, and Sunday, August 24 following worship. You need only to attend ONE meeting. We will discuss scheduling, acolytes, curriculum and events throughout the year!

We look forward to seeing the kids together again and watch them grow in their faith and friendships!

If you have any questions, please contact Paula or Pastor Bill.



Women's Retreat is Coming!!!

When: September 19 -21 / Arrival time: 4-6 pm

Where: Grace Adventure Retreat Center
2100 N Ridge Rd, Mears, MI 49436

How: Sign ups will be at the information stations; space is limited so sign up today!

Contact Paula with any questions.
paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org



Summer

Concert Series

7:00 p.m.

Walker Park, North Muskegon

August 6 Tommy Foster and Justin Avdek

Fellowship Ministry will be assisted by Worship & Music Ministry to serve watermelon, drinks and popcorn during the concert.

August 13 Steeple Hill Band

Fellowship Ministry will serve hot dogs, Wesco popcorn, chips, drinks and Culver's ice cream.

August 20 Westside Soul Surfers

Fellowship Ministry will serve Wesco popcorn, drinks and Culver's ice cream.

A free will offering will be taken at each concert.

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 5-4-2025

General Fund: \$7,784.37
Building Rent: \$189.27
Building Enhancement: \$130.00
Abiding Memorial: \$200.00
Dollar-A-Day: \$311.99

Week ending: 5-11-2025

General Fund: \$11,306.84
Building Rent: \$1,547.00
Building Enhancement: \$230.00
Dollar-A-Day: (for carpeting): \$150.21
Noisy Offering: (Boys & Girls Club): \$221.36

Week ending: 5-18-2025

General Fund: \$6,977.84
Building Rent: \$255.00
Building Enhancement: \$275.00
Dollar-A-Day: (carpeting): \$62.00
Noisy Offering (Boys & Girls Club): \$187.91

Week ending: 5-25-2025

General Fund: \$4,475.51
Building Rent: \$329.41
Building Enhancement: \$100.00
Noisy Offering: (Boys and Girls Club): \$110.00

Week ending 6-1-2025

General Fund: \$6,028.19
Building Rent: \$387.00
Building Enhancement: \$115.00
Dollar-A-Day: (for carpet): \$382.23

Week ending 6-8-2025

General Fund: \$8,853.84
Building Rent: \$1,372.00
Building Enhancement: \$200.00
Dollar-A-Day: (carpet): 151.85
Noisy Offering: (Dar Al Kalima School): \$180.43

Week ending 6-15-2025

General Fund: \$5,034.84
Building Rent: \$185.00
Building Enhancement: \$65.00
Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima School): \$271.66

Week ending 6-22-2025

General Fund: \$6,615.84
Building Rent: \$193.00
Building Enhancement: \$235.00
Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima School): \$139.45

Week ending 6-29-2025

General Fund: \$6,428.18
Building Rent: \$159.00
Building Enhancement: \$115.00
Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima Schools): \$172.35
Dollar-A-Day: : (carpeting): \$120.00





Yoga classes are paused for a summer break until further notice. Sandy Hutchins is offering private sessions by appointment for yoga, energy or body work. Contact Sandy at sandy.lyn.hutchins@gmail.com or call 231-903-5227.

Official Acts



Deaths

Russell A. Sorenson
Date of Birth: 04/04/1932
Date of Death: 06/04/2025

Dora "Dorie" Cvengros
Date of Birth: 11/27/1937
Date of Death: 05/16/2025

Dennis D. Cobler
Date of Birth: 04/10/1941
Date of Death: 06/22/2025

Thank
you!



Thanks to the June/July Chimes assemblers:

Dave and Theresa Buchan



Dear First Lutheran family,

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your condolences on the death of Dennis. Your heart felt expressions of sympathy and generous donations to First Lutheran were very much appreciated.

We miss him dearly, but know he is at peace and still with us in our hearts.

Thank you again,
Kathleen Cobler and family

Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
8/3	Eccles 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23, Ps 49:1-12 Col 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21
8/10	Gen 15:1-6, Ps 33:12-22 Heb 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40
8/17	Jer 23:23-29, Ps 82 Heb 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56
8/24	Isa 58:9b-14, Ps 103:1-8 Heb 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17
8/31	Prov 25:6-7, Ps 112 Heb 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

August Birthdays

2	Erik Trulsen Betty Crenno	14	Tyler Lindell	28	Ryan Camp Kristina Gallo
3	Susan Aker	15	Kaitlin Rich Matthew Badley Jen Giles	29	Carter Pruitt Haley Pruitt
4	Carroll Loughrige Emily Traub Bonnie Gouine	16	Corky Gust	31	Sabina Freeman Kelley Peel
		17	Ethan Lucht Andrea Nisja		
5	Denise Studeman	18	David Harrell		
6	Mary Schoonover	19	William Gallo Haile Will		
7	David Anderson Brady Wheeler	22	Kelly Goven		
8	Jeff Lindell	24	Cameron Moore		
9	Michele Rogers	25	Logan Montgomery		
11	Cindi Archer-Mitchell	27	George Bramer		
12	Dani Zizak Noah Ziemelis				



Keepers

Evelyn Borreson

5847 Stapel Rd
Twin Lake, MI 49457-9342

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

Tom Mullinnex

2284 Riverwood Dr
Twin Lake, MI 49457-8868

Cheryl Parmeter

1681 Sycamore Dr
Muskegon, MI 49445-3400

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

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Dollar-a-Day Weekend 10:00AM -In-Person/On-Line Worship 11:30PM -Bells for Beginners 12:30PM -Family Beach Day 7:00PM -AA Meeting	3:00PM -Sons of Norway Board Mtg 5:00PM -P.E.O. Group 6:00PM -Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM -AA Meeting 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 1:00PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM -Lion's Club Meeting 9:30PM -Compline	9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM -Staff Meeting 6:30PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 7:00PM -Summer Concert-Tommy Foster	10:00AM -Summer Meal Handouts 12:00PM -Lectonary Bible Study 4:00PM -Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM -Worship 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	6:00PM -HS & MS Youth Overnight 7:00PM -AA Meeting	9:00AM -Habitat for Humanity Build
10:00AM -In-Person/On-Line Worship 11:30PM -Bells for Beginners 12:30PM -Triathlon 7:00PM -AA Meeting	6:00PM -Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM -AA Meeting 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM -1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 1:00PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 5:30PM -Ministry Council Mtg 9:30PM -Compline	9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM -Staff Meeting 3:00PM -Lion's Officer Meeting 6:30PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 7:00PM -Summer Concert-Steeple Hill Band	10:00AM -Summer Meal Handouts 12:00PM -Lectonary Bible Study 4:00PM -Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM -In-Person Worship 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	Chimes Deadline 6:00PM -Crafty Group 7:00PM -AA Meeting	1:00PM -Rental
10:00AM -In-Person/On-Line Worship 11:30PM -Bells for Beginners 7:00PM -AA Meeting	6:00PM -Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM -AA Meeting 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 1:00PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM -Lion's Club Meeting 9:30PM -Compline	9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM -Staff Meeting 4:00PM -Grief Support Group Get-Together 6:30PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 7:00PM -Summer Concert-Westside Soul Surfers	9:00AM -Read Muskegon-ABCs of Cooking Study 12:00PM -Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM -In-Person Worship 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming 7:15PM -Council Meeting	7:00PM -AA Meeting	
10:00AM -In-Person/On-Line Worship 11:30PM -Bells for Beginners 6:00PM -Taize' Worship 7:00PM -AA Meeting	6:00PM -Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM -AA Meeting 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 1:00PM -Lisa's Music Lessons 9:30PM -Compline	9:00AM -Pickleball 9:00AM -Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM -Staff Meeting 6:30PM -Lisa's Music Lessons	9:00AM -Read Muskegon-ABCs of Cooking Study 12:00PM -Lectonary Bible Study 4:00PM -Burnished Brass Rehearsal 4:00PM -Outreach Ministry 6:00PM -In-Person Worship 7:00PM -Cardio Drumming	7:00PM -AA Meeting	
10:00AM -In-Person/On-Line Worship 11:30PM -Bells for Beginners 7:00PM -AA Meeting						