



December 2022  
#737

# The Chimes

First Lutheran Church  
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## From Pastor Bill

Mark Yaconelli in ***Between the Listening and the Telling: How Stories Can Save Us*** writes: "We are relational beings. We need others in order to become ourselves. We need relationship to access the deepest gifts of our humanity."

The fundamental truth of Christmas is captured by the fancy theological word "incarnation." Although the word may be fancy to some, its essence is simplicity. What incarnation suggests is that God takes on the ordinariness, the simplicity of life. Incarnation will not allow us to talk about God without mentioning nostrils, sexuality, sunsets, card games around the table, bread, wine, people, and yes, relationships. God is encountered in the daily grind of relationship.

Genesis tells us that from the very beginning God intended us to be in relationship. In a very fanciful story in Genesis two, we are told that God creates a new human being out of Adam, the earth creature. The story is not about how men were created first and women were a secondary creation. No. The point is that we so need each other that we come out of one another. Relationship is not incidental to human life; it is at the center of it.

COVID made some of us realize that truth more than ever. Being apart from people caused some of us to value more fully the opportunity to be with people. Frankly, though, it made some of us withdraw more fully into our private lives. Some of us, aided in some cases by depression and alcohol and drug use, have become much more reclusive. While I fully understand that quite a few of us are introverted and find social gatherings energy draining, I still want to highlight the significance of incarnation, of being with others whose stories we need to hear and respond to.

Christmas is about God tenting among us, rubbing elbows with us. It is about God getting dirty with the messiness of human life. It is about God risking incarnation and God inviting us to do likewise. This Advent, Christmas, and in the days to follow, worship in-person with others, invite others to your home to share food and conversation, go caroling with others, listen to the stories of others and tell your own stories to them, leave your home to be discovered by the God who makes a home among human beings.



## From Pastoral Assistant Paula

It's no surprise that I would talk about Christmas in the December newsletter. After all, it's that *most wonderful time of the year* where we gather with families and friends, bake cookies, shop for loved ones, gaze at twinkling lights on trees, houses and in the town square. It's that wonderful time of year where we sing carols, decorate the church and think about that '*silent night*' when Christ was born. However, I want to talk about Advent this year in this December newsletter.

Advent, the time before Christmas. The time when many of us and the church light a themed candle each week. A time where hope, peace, joy, and love are ushered in and eventually, after four weeks, we are brought to the manger - to the place where an infant is born and the world is changed. Perhaps, just perhaps there's more to this "Advent thing" than we think. Perhaps the anticipation, the waiting, the emergence of what is to come is what it is all about in this season prior to Christmas. Yes, Christmas is a big event. The Christ child is a big event. But the season of Advent is a pretty big deal, too. Advent helps us pause and remember *why* we celebrate the birth of Christ and what the impact of that birth has on our lives and in the lives of those around us.

It is my wish for you this December that you live into the spiritual significance of the season of Advent. May you cling to both a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of the Christ Child and a preparatory period of serious reflection and recognition that something, someone of great importance will arrive on the scene and make our joy complete!

Blessings and peace,  
Paula

### *Advent by Candlelight* *While We Wait...*

**Who:** Women and Friends of First  
**What:** A time of preparation and reflection  
**When:** December 4, 2022 5:00-6:00p.m.  
**\*\*\*Sweet and savory finger foods served**  
**Contact:** Paula Dusseljee 231.343.2644





## From Shar Music Director

### Christmas Program 2022

Happy Holidays! My favorite part of the Advent and Christmas season is – THE MUSIC!! Oh. Wait. My favorite part of EVERY season and/or holiday is the music!

The Annual Christmas Program is planned for Sunday, December 18, during the 10:30 service. This year we are presenting an **Interactive Christmas Pageant!** Get ready for some “fun for all”!

If you play(ed) an instrument and would like to have an opportunity to do so again, contact Shar Bourdon for music. ([shar@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:shar@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)) We will be using six well-known carols for this program. We will rehearse this music **at 9:15 a.m. on the MORNING of the PROGRAM!** No muss, no fuss!

This should be a low stress, enjoyable time for all!

### Wednesday Night Music

Wednesday night music will be meeting AFTER WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER on November 30 and December 7 and 14, and BEFORE the Advent service at 7:00 p.m. This will provide an excellent opportunity to practice the music for the program.

After the new year, I will continue in the established format from last year, when I used music to supplement and reinforce the Faith Formation curriculum. More details on that will be coming in January.



<i><b>Sunday</b></i>	<i><b>Weekly Scripture Readings</b></i>
12/4	Isa 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-7, 18-19 Rom 15:4-13, Matt 3:1-12
12/11	Isa 35:1-10, Luke 1:46b-53 James 5:7-10, Matt 11:2-11
12/18	Isa 7:10-16, Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 Rom 1:1-7, Matt 1:18-25
12/25	Isa 52:7-10, Ps 98 Heb 1:1-4 [5-12], John 1:1-14





## ***HS / MS YOUTH GROUPS***

### **December 3**

10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.—Christmas Activities

- *Decorate Christmas cookies for coffee hour*
- *Make a Christmas sweater*  
Bring your own shirt  
Decorating supplies provided
- *Lunch will be served*
- *Questions or to RSVP—*  
contact Katie Neel (231-736-6559)

### **December 7**

Youth Ministry hosting Wednesday night dinner

### **December 11**

5:00 p.m.—Christmas Progressive Dinner



## ***FIRST LITTLES*** ***( PRE- K—2ND GRADE )***

## ***KID VENTURES*** ***( 3RD—5TH GRADE )***

**December 2nd** the First Littles and Kid Ventures are meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to decorate a Christmas tree and have pizza together. (Donations to help cover the cost of pizza are appreciated)

**December 18th** is the church's Christmas party. Kids are encouraged to bring a toy for a "toy swap" amongst each other. Have your child bring a toy they no longer play with, WRAPPED. Gifts from girls will be given to girls and gifts from boys will be given to boys.

# Confirmation

Our First, Second and Third year confirmation students have been working on the Creeds this past month. We learned about the three articles of the Apostles' Creed and how ancient statements of faith are still the foundation for our understanding of who we are as Christians.

Do you know what the other two creeds are and when we reference them in our liturgy? Ask a confirmation student!



## With a Grateful Heart...

Thank you for participating in the November Gratitude project! What a blessing it is to serve our community! It always touches my heart to see the relief on the faces of the staff when we deliver the items to Reeths-Puffer School—you can see thankfulness and relief in their faces.

We are blessed...to be a blessing!

## Weekly Offerings

### Week ending 10/2/22

General Fund: \$8,543.89

Mortgage Fund: \$1,281.00

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$447.65

### Week ending 10/9/22

General Fund: \$8,197.91

Mortgage Fund : \$2,095.00

Noisy Offering (for MI Refugee Hope): \$184.51

### Week ending 10/16/22

General Fund: \$5,924.29

Mortgage Fund: \$1,063.00

Noisy Offering (for Quilt Group): \$209.64

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$62.00

### Week ending 10/23/22

General Fund: \$6,528.21

Mortgage Fund: \$564.25

Noisy Offering (for MI Refugee Hope): \$197.59

### Week ending 10/30/22

General Fund: \$6,266.39

Mortgage Fund: \$1,101.00

Noisy Offering (for MI Refugee Hope): \$235.60

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$60.00





## December Birthdays!

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Connor Goodwin                                    | 12 Kristine Anderson<br>David Cooke<br>Paula Dusseljee                                    | 24 Deborah Majkol<br>Dominic Tyler      |
| 2 Patricia Wierenga<br>Elsie Klint                  | 14 Merle Hanson<br>Ann Metiva<br>Marsha Stewart<br>Alyssa George<br>Amberlynn Stone-Moore | 25 Brittani Christensen<br>Dona Gilbert |
| 3 Taela Plekes<br>Carol Anderson                    | 15 Stewart Veeck  | 27 Michael Thomas                       |
| 4 Keith Stapel                                      | 16 Norma Kanaar<br>Steven Habina  | 30 David Aker<br>Diane Werling          |
| 6 Nadine Vanderstelt                                | 17 Tara Plekes  | 31 Sande Borushko<br>Megan Ball         |
| 7 Micah Uetrict                                     | 19 Joseph Labiak<br>Jane Redline  |   |
| 8 Iris Rodriguez                                    | 21 Marci Neel<br>Robert Frey  |   |
| 9 John Jack<br>Elizabeth Lucht<br>Emily Lucht       | 22 Mary Warden<br>Delaney Dahlstrom   |   |
| 10 Connie Pluger<br>Stanley Shank<br>Emily Schlager | 23 John Peterson  |   |
| 11 Mary Rop<br>Joe Schmitt                          |   |   |



## Keepers

**Alta Breunsbach**  
MediLodge at the Shore  
900 S Beacon Blvd  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

**Linda Cates**  
1585 Wolf Lake Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
788-1806

**Stan & Betty Huey**  
1844 Ora St.  
Muskegon, MI 49445

**Ken Kadrovich**  
1345 Hendrick Rd  
Norton Shores, MI 49441-5737

**David Kleis**  
Overon House—Room 48  
9160 W 64th Ave  
Arvada, CO 80004

**Pat Mullinnex**  
*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 49445-3127

**Keith Stapel**  
1228 Lawrence St  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Wally Tallent**  
Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab  
Community  
695 Mitzi Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49445  
744-1641

**Dave and Pat Walborn**  
18552 W Spring Lake Rd  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

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

### FRIENDS OF FIRST WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

**Dorothy Wood**  
Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab  
Community  
695 Mitzi Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49445

## Christmas Season Schedule



- November 30*     **Advent Service**—Holden Evening Prayer—7:00 p.m.
- December 7*     **Advent Service**—Holden Evening Prayer—7:00 p.m.
- December 14*    **Advent Service**—Holden Evening Prayer—7:00 p.m.
- December 18*    **Christmas Program**—10:30 a.m. Worship
- December 22*    No Thursday night Worship.
- December 24*    **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services\*\***  
7:00 p.m.—Nursery provided  
11:00 p.m.—No nursery
- December 25*    Regular Sunday Worship—10:30 a.m.
- December 26*    Church Office Closed

*\*\*Will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube*

## Official Acts



### First Communion

November 20, 2022  
*Sadie Thomas*



**American  
Red Cross**

Many thanks to the volunteers and donors for the November 21 Red Cross Blood Drive. Thirty-one pints of blood were collected for those in need throughout Michigan.

Our next Blood Drive will be February 13th, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. You can sign up by calling **Red Cross** at **1-800-733-2767** or **Judi Dix** at **231-463-7886**.



*Thanks to Theresa and Dave Buchan  
who assembled the November Chimes.*

# First Lutheran Church

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class 7:15PM-Council Meeting	2 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	3 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 11:00AM-Rental
4 <b>Dollar-A-Day</b> 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 5:00PM-Advent by Candlelight 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	5 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	6 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-MARSP Group Bd Mtg 12:30PM-MARSP Meeting 3:00PM-Brass Quintet Practice 4:00PM-Outreach Ministry Mtg 6:00PM-Lion's Club Christmas Party 8:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	7 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wed. Night Dinner 6:00PM-Adult Ed Class 6:00PM-Kids' Music 7:00PM-Advent Service 7:00PM-Confirmation	8 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	9 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 5:30PM-Bunco 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 12:00PM-Rental
11 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:45AM-Congregational Mtg 1:00PM-Rental 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	13 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 3:00PM-Brass Quintet Practice 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	14 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Adult Ed Class 6:00PM-Kids' Music 7:00PM-Advent Service 7:00PM-Confirmation	15 <b>Chimes Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Lion's Club Board Mtg 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 4:00PM-EXIT dinner 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	6 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	17 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry
18 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/ First Communion 10:30AM-AA Meeting 4:00PM-Christmas Party 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	19 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	20 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Brass Quintet Practice 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	21 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 6:00PM-Berry Junction Trail Mtg 6:00PM-Christmas Caroling	22 12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	23 7:00PM-AA Meeting	24 6:15PM Bells 7:00PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 11:00PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
25 <b>**Christmas**</b> 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	26 <b>Office Closed</b> 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	27 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	28 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief	29 12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	30 7:00PM-AA Meeting	31