



February 2023
#739

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

"They said to him Rabbi, where are you staying? He said to them, 'Come and see!'" (John 1:38)

These are very exciting days for First Lutheran. So much life-giving activity. So much fellowship. So much energetic worship and music. So many opportunities for growth in faith and understanding through educational experiences. So many new people! We truly are blessed.

I have been pastor at First now for 26 years, a reality that amazes me and humbles me. I can't believe that that many years have passed, a truth that points to the very good time I have had and continue to have as I lead this community. Even after all these years, I still love what I do, looking forward to what is yet to come.

Thanks for all that you are doing to make these days of such excitement. You are an incredible body of believers, with so much to offer to our congregation, the community of Muskegon, and the entire world.

As time passes, and frankly, as Lisa Ziemelis, our digital communication director, reviewed our entire membership list over the past month, I have become aware not only of the joy I know in serving you, but also the sadness that comes because of the number of people who have slipped through our collective fingers. I have never gotten used to a reality that all pastors speak of: the coming and going of people. I am the kind of person who becomes deeply attached to people and find it hard when they are no longer among us for whatever the reason might be.

COVID greatly contributed to that coming and going. Frankly, it has benefited us in many ways. We have lots of new people, some of whom have come to us through other congregations. And yet we have also experienced about 25% of our members not returning to our corporate life, especially to our in-person worship. I grieve that, but I realize that people's choices must be respected, and that life is always lived forward. We must move forward, hoping that we might yet experience reunion.

Thanks for the memories! Thanks for the sheer joy of today. Thanks for the hope for the future that you embody.

Do your part to nurture even further the wonderful life that we share together! Do your part to invite! Do your part to encourage new folks to "come and see." Come and see what's happening at First Lutheran. Come and experience the grace of God as it is lived out in a community of vibrant disciples of Jesus.



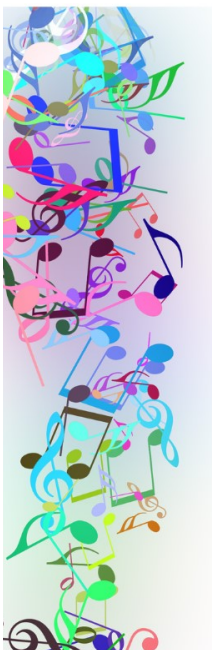
From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I would like to begin by extending my sincere gratitude for your encouragement, love and generous support for my pilgrimage to the Holy Land this month. Ruth Anne Tietzort from First Lutheran, myself and six other people in my group will join others from Good Shepherd Travel, meeting in Tel Aviv. This is where our pilgrimage begins. I look forward to rejoining our Palestinian tour guides and friends as we embark on this amazing journey. Upon completion of the tour, I will then move in with a family in Beit Jala, Palestine and volunteer at Dar Al-Kalima School in Bethlehem.

As many of you know, my return to the Holy Land came as a result of deep longing within me. A longing to understand more about the plight of the Palestinian people and the life-long struggle between Israel and Palestine. I (we) covet your prayers as I (we) journey alongside others in this land where the story of Jesus took root. A journey of justice for the poor and oppressed. A story of incredible love. A story that has become our story, too. And this month, it is a story that takes us on a journey, together, toward the cross. A journey that begins with the dust of Ash Wednesday.

Dust that reminds us that life is larger than our individual experiences of it. Dust which brings us into a place where we hear these words, "You are dust, and to dust you will return." Dust that allows us to tell the truth about ourselves and the world around us. Dust that enables us to be vulnerable, to be exposed, to be open and to participate in the age-old Lenten practices of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Dust that reminds us that to be human means claiming our brokenness, embracing our vulnerability and standing in solidarity with all those who do the same - knowing that wherever we are on our journey, God sits in the ashes with us. And out of those ashes, comes a new beginning. God's speed on your journey.

Shalom,
Paula



From Shar Music Director

Wednesday Night Music – 6 – 6:50 pm

BEGINNING on ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22, I will kick off the Spring Musical project:

The Story of Daniel and the Lions Den. **ALL** interested young people ages 5 – 15, join us to do a script reading and distribution of roles. This presentation will be **MUSICAL!** Performance is scheduled for Mother's Day, as is our tradition. To make this happen, **WE MUST HAVE PARTICIPATION!** I hope to see you in February.

Please Note

The women's Saturday morning Breakfast Group will not be meeting in February. We will resume on March 18 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



Blood Drive

Monday, February 13, 2020, 11:30 – 5:15
(Please note current time change!!!)

The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, all from generous volunteer donors. But supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Please help others by donating your blood.

**To Donate - Call Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767
or call Judi Dix at 1-231-463-7886**

thrivent®

Sabina Freeman is looking for Thrivent members that would be willing to apply for Thrivent cards to help defer the cost of Wednesday night dinners and other events. Please contact Sabina at 231-855-3022.

Thank you!

Let's HYGGE

This year we will start our Lenten journey with the Norwegian practice of Hygge (hoo-ga).

On Sunday February 26, plan on joining us for a potluck lunch of hearty soups and hearty breads after church. Stick around after lunch for various activities for all ages that will coax us to embrace the concepts of: Simplicity, Quietness, Connectivity and Change.

Around 3 p.m., (weather permitting) we will gather around the bonfire for freshly baked cookies and hot chocolate.

We hope you will join us!. Stay tuned for more details in the next few weeks.



More volunteers are needed for the information stations, ushers and communion (servers, set up, clean up and providing bread). Contact Laura Lucht at RocketKeep10@hotmail.com with questions or to sign up.

Sunday

Weekly Scripture Readings

2/5 Isa 58:1-9a [9b-12], Ps 112:1-9 [10]
1 Cor 2:1-12 [13-16], Matt 5:13-20

2/12 Deut 30:15-20, Ps 119:1-8
1 Cor 3:1-9, Matt 5:21-37

2/19 Exod 24:12-18, Ps 99
2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt 17:-19

2/22 Isa 58:1-12, Ps 51:1-17
2 Cor 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

2/26 Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Ps 32
Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11



Confirmation

The month of January found us taking a deeper look at the Lord's Prayer and prayer in general. The students also had an opportunity to learn about the Lectionary Cycle and how the sermons and weekly Bible study revolve around a particular year in the cycle and that each year is assigned one of the gospels. Our year begins at Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday. **Do you know what year the church is in? Do you know what gospel we are studying this year?** If not, ask a confirmation student!

Thank You for a Successful Fundraiser!

Many grateful thanks to our amazing volunteers for making the brunch to benefit Dar Al-Kalima School such a success! To those that donated eggs (last brunch they were less than \$1/dozen, today inching towards \$8 dozen), the generous grant from Thrivent, the Pinterest worthy napkin folders (Rhonda & Piper Sweet), and special kudos to Carol Parker (for not only being the first to arrive and the last to leave those two days of prepping and cooking, but especially for scrubbing those 13 roasting pans single-handedly). And for all that supported our efforts financially, my most heartfelt thanks!



Barb Bonifield, Kathleen Cobler, Paula Dusseljee, Connie Larson, Carol Parker, Kim Westerholm and our confirmation class; Megan Badley, Greyson Jones, Elizabeth & Emily Lucht, Chloe & Bridget O'Connor, Owen Ropp - I couldn't have done it without all of your helpful hands and willing hearts!



SINCERELY!
Debby Jaquith



FIRST KIDS (PRE-K—2ND GRADE) **KID VENTURES** (3RD—5TH GRADE)

Valentine's Day Craft for First Kids and KidVentures

There will be a table for kids to do a Valentine's Day craft during the February 5 Chili and Soup Cook-Off.



Fun at Hygge

There will be activities for First Kids and KidVentures as part of the Hygge event on February 26. Please plan on joining us!

Kid Ventures going to Defy!

The Kid Ventures will be going to Defy at 12:30 p.m. on February 12 after church. The cost is \$21.99 for 90 minutes of jump time. We will have lunch together in the gym before leaving. Car pool is possible. **NOTE:** a waiver must be completed before child can jump; Amber can help with the process.



HS / MS **YOUTH GROUPS**



Sign up for summer camp at Stony Lake!

June 25-30, 2023

Register at elcalivingwater.com

Service Trip

High School Youth watch for more information on an Appalachian Service Trip this coming summer!



Middle School & High School Youth

Save the dates-February 12 and February 26. Watch the bulletin and screen announcements for more information!

Ski Club Information

Please contact Amy Badley
Email:

abadley40@gmail.com

Call: 231.730.4149

Location:

Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac

Ski Club Event Dates:

- Friday, February 3rd
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (close)
- Friday, February 17th
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (close)
- Friday, March 3rd
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (close)



Super Sunday **Chili and Soup** **Cook-Off and** **Annual** **Congregational Meeting**

Date: February 5, 2023

Place: Family Life Center

Time: After the 10:30 worship service

Bring your quarters to vote for your favorite chili or soup winner

Desserts, bread, crackers and drinks will be provided

Sign-up sheets are at both Information Stations

February Birthdays!

1	Karley Plekes Caroline Pendell	14	Larry Rop
2	Robin Policka Sandra Rodriguez Jean Boxer Ava Smith Ruthanne Tietzort	16	Anna Alderman
		18	Kara Camp Rhonda Smith
		19	Autumn David
3	Trisha Lowry	20	Bonnie Nolan
4	Stacie Mead Michael Zizak Jenny Lindell	21	Joanne Johnson
		22	Kaela Carrier Madison Ball JT Wei Theresa Buchan
5	Collin Smith		
7	Adam Badley Barbara Elliott	24	Jenny DeLong
8	Mark Thogerson	25	Billie Bramer Emily Cihos Pam Nelson
11	Eva Backus		
12	Owen Rop Laura Lucht Nate Johnston	28	Heather Murphey Lance Schlager
13	Linda Long		



Official Acts



Deaths

Linda Cates

Date of Birth: 11/24/1947

Date of Death: 12/29/2022

Phil Schmiedeknecht

Date of Birth: 3/15/1926

Date of Death: 1/1/2023

Marriage

01/15/2023

William (Bill) Peterson and Gloria White

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

01/15/2023

Shar Bourdon

Diane Madej

Kim Westerholm

Joe Labiak

Dan Breunsbach

Baptisms

01/29/2023

Chloe Jean O'Connor

Date of Birth: 09/06/2009

Bridget Mae O'Connor

Date of Birth: 06/30/2011

Margot (Maggie) Joy O'Connor

Date of Birth: 10/12/2013

Parents: Sean and Kelly O'Connor

Sponsors: Ryan and Angela Corbin

Kaleb Robert Kitchka

Date of Birth: 09-22-2001

Sponsors: Terry and Sarah Henry

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 12/4/2022

General Fund: \$9,800.21

Mortgage Fund: \$618.00

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$399.86

Week ending 12/11/2022

General Fund: \$9,418.24

Mortgage Fund : \$1,377.00

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$290.00

Noisy Offering (for Helping Hand Fund): \$185.10

Week ending 12/18/2022

General Fund: \$6,573.75

Mortgage Fund: \$1,385.00

Noisy Offering (for Helping Hand Fund): \$294.00

Week ending 12/26/2022

General Fund: \$11,271.55

Mortgage Fund: \$338.00



*Thanks to Robbin Dibble and Ruthanne
Tietsort who assembled the January
Chimes.*

Chimes Articles

Articles and information for the Chimes should be submitted via email to Rhonda Smith at rhondak33@comcast.net or placed in her mail box next to the church offices no later than the **15th of the month.**

Keepers

Alta Breunsbach

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

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 49444-3127

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

First Lutheran Church

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wed. Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	2 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 4:00PM-Outreach Ministry 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	3 8:30AM-Scott's Men's Group 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	4 9:00AM-Rental
5 Dollar-A-Day 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:30AM-Annual Meeting/Chili Cook-Off 12:00PM-Bells 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	6 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	7 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	8 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey Through Grief 5:30PM-Wed. Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	9 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	10 4:00PM-Rental 5:30PM-Bunco 5:30PM-Sons of Norway 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11
12 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	13 12:00PM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	14 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 11:00AM-Adult Education 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	15 Chimes Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	16 9:00AM-Lion's Club Officer's Mtg 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	17 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	18 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast
19 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	20 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	21 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 11:30AM-Muskegon City Garden Club 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 8:00PM-Lion's Club Board Mtg	22 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM-Confirmation	23 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class 7:15PM-Church Council	24 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	25
26 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:30AM-Hygge 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	27 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	28 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band				