

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church 1206 Whitehall Road Muskegon, MI 49445 Phone: (231) 744-1522 Fax: (231) 719-9015 office@firstlutheranmuskegon.org



From Pastor Bill

Ecumenicity has always been a part of our church's (the ELCA's) DNA. In other words, we as a church have always wanted to play with other people or other communities of faith. From our inception in 1988, we have felt that the Christian message is too expansive, inclusive, and mysterious for us to believe that we have a corner on the truth.

Our church came into existence through the joining of three disparate Lutheran bodies—the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. So, right from the beginning we have believed that the church is best served by folks transcending boundaries that in the past have divided us.

We as the ELCA have lived out that belief as we entered into ecumenical agreements with the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the Moravian Church, the Presbyterian Church USA, and the Reformed Church in America. These agreements allow, among many things, for these church bodies to share clergy. A United Methodist pastor, for example, could indeed serve First Lutheran.

This year our congregation is making as one of its goals collaborating more fully with other faith communities in our city. Already this past year we have shared a Thanksgiving worship and a Sunday worship service with Edgewood Lutheran. We also collaborated with Covenant Church, First Presbyterian, as well as Edgewood Lutheran, in conducting a Blue Christmas worship experience.

2025 will bring more opportunities like these. Already we are talking about doing cooperative Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. I could also see us choosing to do some collaborative events, like we did in 2024, when we visited the mosque in Grand Rapids. Or perhaps one of our men's groups could meet up with a group of men from another congregation, maybe one from a predominantly African American background.

I personally think that life is much more interesting when we embrace its diversity, when we learn from other traditions, when we discipline ourselves to do things not just the way we do them, but the way others do them.

I look forward to 2025 being a year when our identity as First Lutheran is expanded by our connection to people from a wide variety of traditions. I look forward to our growing in a commitment to ecumenicity.

The Chimes is published monthly by First Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI for members & friends of the congregation.

Page 2



From **Pastoral Assistant Paula**

The month of February includes the infamous, "Valentine's Day!" A day, according to the flower shops in town, that is one of the busiest days of the year. Hallmark cards fly off the shelves, Russel Stover has adorned its annual heart-shaped box of chocolates with a classy new bow and restaurants are rejoicing at the amount of reservations on the books in mid-January. Aaah...a day of love! But what if this year, the month of February symbolizes so much more. More love for the neighbor. More love for your spouse or significant other. More love for yourself or more specifically, more spiritual well-being for yourself.

One of our church goals this year states: Develop the spiritual (wholistic) health of our members, while attending more intentionally to their care needs. Now if you are anything like me, I initially looked at this goal and thought, "What in the world does spiritual or wholistic health mean, and what does this have to do with me?" So bear with me as I share a few of my insights about this goal.

First of all, I have always heard that a person is healthy when their spiritual, physical and emotional well-being is balanced. Honestly, there have been times in my life when I thought I was doing pretty good with this trinity of concepts because I worked hard at achieving all of them...all the time. But then there was this one time when I thought everything was in check but life was certainly not balanced! Martin Luther said, "This life is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way."

Whew! I feel like the weight is lifted off my shoulders...just with the thought of not being but becoming. This certainly eases my mind and creates space to live into my baptism without always thinking I have to "get it right or get it done" before I can serve in any capacity. You see, we can't be "whole" in this life, but we can become acquainted with the wholeness in key aspects of our lives. Here are a few of those aspects from a Wholeness Wheel created by Portico:

- Social/Interpersonal well-being. We were created by God to be social beings, living in
- community and instructed to help and love each other. • Emotional well-being. Being emotionally well means feeling the full range of human emotions and expressing them appropriately.
- Physical well-being. While we are not all born perfectly healthy or able to live life without injury or illness, we can live with tending and nurturing.
- Financial well-being.
- Vocational well-being.
- Intellectual well-being.
 - A mind is a terrible thing to waste. Using our minds keeps them alert and active.

living a life of purpose and service to our neighbors.

In all aspects of well-being we are called to be stewards.

We all have a calling - a vocation - to follow Christ's example,

• Spiritual well-being. Living a life centered on God's grace and love affects each aspect of our well-being.

First Lutheran Church



Our 3rd year students are in the homestretch of their formal learning. It is always our goal as leaders to impart to the students that even though confirmation classes are coming to an end, their life in the church is just beginning! We have an amazing group of students and mentors who are working diligently to build relationships and learn more about what it means to be a Lutheran in the context of the world.

Our 1st and 2nd year students are in full swing as they continue to learn about the small catechism and how it relates to our daily living and church life!



About Our Care Team

The Care Team includes visitation with shut-ins, hospital visits and taking communion to those in longterm care facilities. Many of our members are trained in Stephen Ministry and are good listeners if you are struggling with difficult transitions in your life. If you are interested in being a member of our Care Team, please contact Paula via email: at

<u>paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org</u> or stop by her office.

(Continued from page 2)

So, I am excited for the month of February! I think we are off to a great start this year! More love for our neighbors near and far. More love for one another. More love for oneself or more specifically, more spiritual well-being for oneself. More love for our members and the body of Christ. More love...more love...more love.



Paula





ASP Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Middle and High School Youth February 2nd after worship Adults and youth interested in going on a mission trip to Appalachia July 27-August 2 please plan to attend

Youth Group Breakfast Fundraiser

Middle School and High School Youth February 23rd The youth will serve breakfast during coffee hour



Living Water Ministries Stony Lake Camp

July 6-11 Open to kids going into 1st—12th grade "Welcome to All" pricing—pay what you can: full price, half price or no price Questions? See Emma (712-395-0502)

Vacation Bible School July 14-17

Official Acts	
Deaths	
<i>Rosemary Loch</i> Date of Birth: 5/13/1933 Date of Death: 1/4/2025	
<i>Warren Robinson</i> Date of Birth: 3/29/1935 Date of Death: 1/4/2025	
<i>Karen "Kami" Kral</i> Date of Birth: 3/29/1940 Date of Death: 11/25/2024	

First Lutheran Church

St. Patrick's Day Wednesday Night Dinner

Wednesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Menu Corn Beef and Cabbage Beef Stew Vegetarian Stew Salad Bar Rolls Desserts

Dessert donations from church members are appreciated

Entertainment

Mona Shores Fiddlers Stephs Steps - Lumbertown Cloggers

Wear your Irish duds and come for fun, food, fellowship and Irish music

Sponsored by the Fellowship Board

Proceeds will benefit the First Lutheran Summer Mission Trip with Adults and Youth

For more info, call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936





Thanks to the January Chimes assemblers:

Dave and Theresa Buchan Gary Hansen Joe Labiak Ellen Bisson



Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
2/2	Jer 1:4-1-10, Ps 71:1-6, 1 Cor 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30
2/9	lsa 6:1-8 [9-13], Ps 138 1 Cor 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11
2/16	Jer 17:5-10, Ps 1 1 Cor 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26
2/23	Gen 45:3-11, 15, Ps 37-1:11, 39-40 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

Happy Valentine's Day

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 12/01/2024

General Fund: \$5,485.52 Building Rent: \$111.00 Building Enhancement: \$350.00 Dollar-A-Day: \$290.24 Abiding Memorial: \$50.00

Week ending 12/08/2024

General Fund: \$8,084.96 Building Rent: \$1,381.21 Building Enhancement: \$235.00 Dollar-A-Day: \$60.00 Abiding Memorial: \$125.00 Noisy Offering (Muskegon Rescue Mission): \$187.14

Week ending: 12/15/2024

General Fund: \$37,557.12 Building Rent: \$185.00 Building Enhancement: \$470.00 Dollar-A-Day: \$142.00 Noisy Offering (Muskegon Rescue Mission): \$247.95

Week ending: 12/22/2024

General Fund: \$8,119.00 Building Rent: \$135.75 Building Enhancement: 255.00 Dollar-A-Day: \$30.00 Noisy Offering (Muskegon Rescue Mission): \$115.97

Week ending: 12/29/2024: General Fund: \$8,928.05

Building Rent: \$100.00 Building Enhancement: \$115.00 Noisy Offering (Muskegon Rescue Mission): \$454.29

February 2025

First Lutheran Church

February Birthdays

- 1 Karley Plekes Caroline Pendell
- 2 Robin Policka Sandra Rodriguez Jean Boxer Ava Smith Lisa Ferski Linda Lamoreaux Ruthanne Tietsort
- 3 Trisha Lowry
- 4 Stacie Mead Michael Zizak Jenny Lindell
- 5 Collin Smith
- 7 Adam Badley Barbara Elliott
- 8 Mark Thogerson
- 11 Eva Backus

- 12 Owen Rop Laura Lucht Nate Johnston
- 13 Linda Long
- 14 Larry Rop Ellen Cutting-Schoepf
- 15 Gail Ruppel
- 16 Anna Alderman Toni Mackay
- 18 Kara Camp Rhonda Smith
- 20 Bonnie Nolan
- 21 Joanne Johnson
- 22 Kaela Carrier Madison Ball JT Wei Theresa Buchan

- 24 Kathleen VanPopering
- 25 Billie Bramer Emily Cihos Phyllis (Pam) Nelson
- 27 Andy Luther
- 28 Heather Murphey Lance Schlager



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

Pat Mullinnex Newaygo County Medical Care

Facility 4465 W. 48th St. Fremont, MI 49412 *Mailing Address:* 2284 Riverwood Drive Twin Lake, MI 49457

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

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Wednesday Night Programming 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Rids' Music 5-6 years 6:10PM-Bible Study 6:30PM-Kids' Music 7yrs & up	rogramming ars & up				 8:30AM-Care Team Meeting Meeting K:00PM-MS Youth Hide and Seek
2 Dollar-A-Day Weekend 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-Online Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 12:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	3 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 4:00PM-New Bells 4:30PM-Burnished Brass 6:30PM-Lion's Club 6:30PM-Compline 	5 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting **Wed Night Programming **	6 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 3:00PM-Clipper Preservation Group 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	7 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8 10:00AM-Pressure Point Touch Therapy
9 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-Online Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Mtg 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	Bulletin Deadline 1 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping 0.01 Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 4:00PM-New Bells 4:00PM-New Bells 4:30PM-Compline 9:30PM-Compline	12 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting **Wed Night Programming **	13 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	14 Valentine's Day 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	15 Chimes Deadline 8:30AM-Women's/Men's Breakfast
16 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Baelts 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	17 12:30PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overaaters Anonymous 7:00PM-A Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 4:00PM-New Bells 4:30PM-Lion's Club 6:30PM-Clon's Club 6:30PM-Compline 	19 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 7:00PM-Confirmation for 3rd Year Students Year Students **Wed Night Programming **	20 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	21 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	22
23 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/ 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-AA Meeting	24 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	25 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 4:00PMNew Bells 3:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:30PM-Chorr 9:30PM-Compline	26 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting ** Wed Night Programming **	27 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	28 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	