



March 2023
#740

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

It's been a busy day--a lot of people, a lot of requests, a lot of annoying technological details to manage. I am getting more and more savvy with computers, but sometimes figuring out how you dot all the computer I's and cross all the computer T's is stress-producing. The promise was that computers would simplify our lives, but I am not a believer. I am grateful for them, but, nonetheless, am aware of how they can contribute to the anxiety of our times. I am feeling like I need a little break from them.

Lent is a forty-day wilderness time for the church. It is an intentional invitation to step aside from life as it always seems to be lived, to vacate life dominated by anxiety.

If the Bible is any indication, the time in the wilderness is not so much a matter of our deciding, even our planning. As Israel left the Promised Land, it was taken into the wilderness. I am sure the Israelites would have preferred to go from Egypt directly into the Promised Land. But the wilderness was necessary.

And Jesus, after he was baptized was driven by the Spirit, so says Mark, into the wilderness for a time of testing. Baptism and then wilderness. This is the pattern. This seems to be how life works. The wilderness is a necessary part of the journey. If you know any of the great hero myths, you know that wilderness and testing times are an integral part of the movement into heroism.

The church every year casts us out into the wilderness. We have to go there whether we want to or not. I suspect that it is a necessary part of our journey together. Yes, following the urging of Lent, we must deal with our sin. Yes, we must tell the truth about our brokenness. Yes, we must cry out to God, "Kyrie Eleison," have mercy on this hurting world and me. And yes, we must wonder together, "Is the anxiety we too often live in necessary for the living of these days?"

Maybe we need time in the wilderness so that we can stop for a little while, go deeper for a little while, note the things in life that fracture us and stress us. Maybe we even need a little vacation from some of those things. The discipline of fasting is meant to be a check on some of the things that demand so much from us, things that often want to rule our lives-- money, technology, phones, food, schedules. Maybe fasting is a good way to spend some wilderness time.

I wonder what the wilderness can mean for you or me this year? These are anxious days. The demands on us are many. What do we need to step away from? What do we need a little wilderness time for? What do we need to fast from? I hope you'll use the days of Lent not to resist our being driven into the wilderness, but to welcome it.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

This month I am thinking about identity—yours, mine, that of First Lutheran and that of a land, its peoples and its religions. And while I think about identity in general, I am currently surrounded by children who are eager to learn, eager to laugh and giggle, and eager to find out more about me.

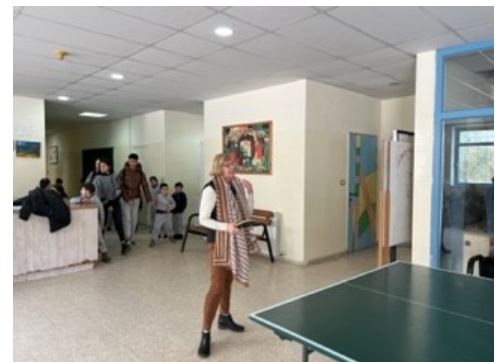
These children have vibrant smiles amidst the sparsely decorated rooms as they strive to live according to the core values of their school: peace, love, hope, justice, faith, constructive dialogue, teamwork and belongingness. These children, who live within the framework of daily occupation and checkpoints, are the students of Dar Al-Kalima in Bethlehem, Palestine.



These are the students we supported through noisy offerings and breakfast fundraisers and I am in awe and honored to be among the student body and staff. But I can't stop thinking about identity, especially in light of the initial identity of baptism..."child of the promise," ... "to live worthy of our calling." Worthy of our calling in the face of over-heated consumerism, dangerous patriotism and downright fear of the other.

I believe Lent is a time to consider what it might mean for us to live *into* our identity in Christ, as children of God, loving others even though they may not love us back. I believe Lent is a summons to come back to our original identity. The people of Palestine are teaching me what it means for them to live into their identity as Palestinian Lutheran Christians. They are teaching me that a broken-heart, an end to self-sufficiency, and abandonment of being right are parts of the process.

And... they are teaching me that Lent is *not* a journey to be taken alone. So join me, won't you? Let us be led into a deeper faith this lent. A faith that challenges injustice, loves the neighbor as ourselves, and seeks to unleash the well-being of the world. Amen, This is our identity.





From Shar Music Director

“Daniel in the Lions’ Den” Children’s Mother’s Day Presentation

Rehearsals for this production will begin on ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22 at 6:00 p.m. Come for dinner at 5:30, send the children off for music and treat yourself to the educational opportunities that are available during this Lenten Season.

Children will meet in the music room from 6:00 – 6:50. I am providing “transition” time between music time and Lenten Service time.

I have adapted the music from the “Veggie tales” version of the story. Music can be found on YouTube using these titles: “King Darius Suite,” “Oh No! What We Gonna Do?,” “We’ve Got Some News, King Darius,” “Fear Not, Daniel,” and “You Were in His Hands.”

The younger children will have primarily one-word group responses. The older children will be responsible for memorized lines. Our rehearsals will continue past Easter. You will be receiving a schedule. The presentation will take place during the service that starts at 10:30 on **Sunday, May 14, 2023**.

I plan to touch base with all parents by February 22. If I fail to contact you, please contact me shar@firstlutheranchurchmuskegon.org

I look forward to working with you all!



Dinner with Friends

If you would like to get together with others for fun, conversation, and good food, sign up for “Dinner with Friends” at either information station.

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 1/1/2023

General Fund: \$21,632.87

Dollar-A-Day: \$200.64

Week ending 1/8/2023

General Fund: \$10,879.64

Dollar-A-Day: \$31.00

Noisy Offering (for Gracious Grounds): \$209.56

Week ending 1/15/2023

General Fund: \$21,797.62

Dollar-A-Day: \$62.00

Noisy Offering (for Gracious Grounds): \$176.28

Abiding Memorial: \$120.00

Week ending 1/22/2023

General Fund: \$9,352.34

Noisy Offering (for Gracious Grounds): \$148.30

Week ending 1/29/2023

General Fund: \$5,817.67

Noisy Offering (for Gracious Grounds): \$125.80

Abiding Memorial: \$445.00



Sunday

Weekly Scripture Readings

3/5

Gen 12:1-4a, Ps 121
Rom 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

3/12

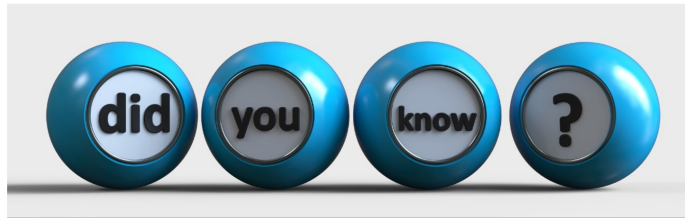
Exod 17:1-7, Ps 95
Rom 5:1-11, John 5-42

3/19

1 Sam 16:1-13, Ps 23
Eph 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

3/26

Ezek 37:1-14, Ps 130
Rom 8:6-11, John 11:1-45



THAT **EVERY DAY** A MEMBER OF FIRST LUTHERAN IS PRAYING **BY NAME** FOR:

- Our government and those elected to serve us
- Our ELCA, our Bishops, a specific church, conference, synod, or ministry of the ELCA
- Our ELCA missionaries and Young Adults serving in Global Ministries around the world by country and by name
- Our Pastor and all those staff persons who serve us
- Our church Council members, and the committees that they represent
- Those celebrating birthdays during a given week
- Those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries during a given week
- All those on our prayer list for that week
- And a publication of the ELCA called *PRAYER VENTURES* that covers areas of the church and world where prayer is needed

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST:

- **YOU** are specifically prayed for **BY NAME** a least once a month by one of our 31 day Pray-ers, thereby having every member of First prayed for specifically over a months time.

The 31 day Pray-ers are persons who have taken one day a month as their specific day to pray the above prayers on behalf of you.

Another offering of the IP Ministry are the PrayerGrams or SympathyGrams that are sent to members who are sick, have lost a loved one etc. You may request one of these on the yellow prayer request forms found in the back of the pews. The IP Ministry maintains the prayer list sent via e-mail to you weekly. This is all part of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry at First.

There is also a "Prayers with Reasons" list that you may request be sent to you weekly. Please contact Kami Kral to have your name added to this list.

If you would be interested in more information or would like to be a part of this vital ministry please text or call Kami at 231-329-6148.

Meals for Hard Situations

When family, friends, or neighbors are facing stressful situations, having meals delivered for a few days or weeks can be a huge help. We can help you do that using an online 'scheduler'. We've done this in the past, but now have a more user-friendly online helper called Meal Train.

If someone you know could use this kind of help or if you are willing to deliver a meal or two please contact Gail Taggart, who is coordinating the program. Her contacts are: 562-972-2919 or gail.taggart@verizon.net.



Thanks to Bonnie Nolan, Andrea Nisja and Erin Finn who assembled the February Chimes.

FIRST KIDS

(PRE-K—2ND GRADE)



March 17—We will have our game night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Parents can drop off their child at 6:00 and pick them up at 8:00 p.m.. We will have dinner and PLAY!

Remember to wear GREEN!

KID VENTURES

(3RD—5TH GRADE)

March 26th—We will be going to 297 Clay to swim! We will have lunch together and be leaving church at 12:30 and plan on swimming from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



*A release form must be filled out before your child can swim. Please see Amber for form.

Grand Mentors

March is Reading Month! After worship on March 17, Grand Mentors and kids will meet in the gym for cookies and hot chocolate and read together. Grand Mentors and kids are invited to bring their favorite book to share with one another.



Kids—3yrs old to 12 years old.

Grand Mentors—anyone who wants to share an hour

HS / MS YOUTH GROUPS

- ✓ **March 5th**—Bird house project 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- ✓ **March 17-18**—Overnight at the church 6:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.
- ✓ **March 22**—Youth host Wednesday night dinner
- ✓ **Meat Sale Fundraiser** happening through March 12th
- ✓ Still time for high school youth and adults to join the **Appalachia Service Trip**—see Jeff or Laura Lucht

Easter Village!

The Easter Village will be in the gym again this year and your help is needed!

We are looking for donations for-

- ◆ PEEPS (the famous Peep launch will be back)
- ◆ Candy donations.

We also need people to Sponsor a game which means they donate the money to buy the prizes for the game and the supplies the games require. A sponsor does **NOT** need to run the game.

There will be a photo booth and crafts.

Some of the games are golf, bowling, pin the tail on the bunny and more.

Contact Amber Thomas if you can help!



March Birthdays!

1	Lisa Le Pat Robinson	24	Jordis Hutchins Marilyn Fiser Payten Bleich Leonard Pruitt
4	Ted Wierenga Jessica Neumann Ken Newman	25	Eloise Cihos Alyssa Freeland
5	Madison Freeland	26	Jeffrey Anderson Cory Daniell
8	Nancy Mackey Janice Sharlow	27	Marti McDonnell Mary Luther Richard Elliott
10	Phil Sielski Jack Parker	28	Luke Rop
13	Joellen Hildebrand	29	Brenda Endelman Warren Robinson John Robinson Kami Kral
14	Abigail Righter	30	Sandy Baker Sue Mattson Paul Bowen Anna Frietsch Elizabeth Frietsch Pam Smith
16	Tina Trulsen	31	John Policka Karen Golden
17	Jerry Dibble Keith Endelman		
20	Joyce Jamerson Gregory Sharlow Lexie Livingston		
21	Dennis Loughrige Jean Becker		
23	Evie DiPiazza Alice Habina		

Official Acts



First Communion

February 12, 2023

*Greyson Alger
Margot O'Connor*

New Members

February 12, 2023

*Steve and Carole Stowe-Byrd
Angela, Ryan, Maya, and Sophia Corbin
Chuck and Linda Dawson
Merijo Dulyea
Gary Hansen
Jane and Dan Horton
Kaleb Kitchka
Linda and Jack Lamoreaux
Kelly, Sean, Chloe, Margot, and Bridget O'Connor
Mary Schoonover
Marilyn Fisk
Alicia, Greyson and Cassidy Alger
Joel and Kim Westerholm*

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.**



**American
Red Cross**

First Lutheran's Blood Drive on Monday, February 13, yielded 29 pints of blood. Many thanks to all volunteers, those who donated, and those who tried to donate.

Our next Drive is Monday, May 8, 11:30 to 5:30. (Please note the change in time, which will now be our permanent donating time.) All donations are used to serve the critical need for blood throughout the country.

To sign up, contact **1-800-Red Cross, (1-800-733-2767)** or Judi Dix at 231-463-7886.



St. Patrick's Day Wednesday Night Dinner

Wednesday, March 15 5:00 p.m.

Menu

Corn Beef and Cabbage
Beef Stew
Salad Bar
Rolls
Desserts

Entertainment

Mona Shores Fiddlers

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

*Sponsored by the Fellowship Board to help
support the Youth Group Mission trip*

Keepers

Alta Breunsbach

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

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

March 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 7:00PM-Lent Education Series 7:00PM-Confirmation 7:00PM-Lenten Worship Service	2 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	3 5:00PM-Ski Club 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	4
5 Dollar-A-Day 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	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) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band	8 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey Through Grief 5:30PM-Wed. Night Dinner 6:00PM-Berry Junction Trail Mtg 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Lent Education Series 7:00PM-Confirmation 7:00PM-Lenten Worship Service	9 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	10 5:30PM-Bunco 5:30PM-Sons of Norway 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11
12 9:30AM-Confirmation Kids Visit Greek Orthodox Church 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	13 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 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 7:30PM-Ministry Council Meeting	15 Chimes Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Fellowship Ministry Mtg 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Lent Education Series 7:00PM-Confirmation 7:00PM-Lenten Worship Service	16 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	18 7:00AM-AA Group Breakfast 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast 2:00PM-Rental
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) 11:30AM-Muskegon City Garden Club 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band	22 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Lent Education Series 7:00PM-Lenten Worship Service 7:00PM-Confirmation	23 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	24 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	25 9:00AM-Worship & Music Mtg
26 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 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) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band	29 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Lent Education Series 7:00PM-Lenten Worship Service 7:00PM-Confirmation	30 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	31 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	