



From Pastor Bill

These have been full and vibrant months for First Lutheran. We have so much to celebrate. Regularly, we experience new people connecting to our community, many of whom are extremely serious about their discipleship of Jesus. Yes, we miss those whom Covid, through death and inactivity, took from us. But we are energized by those new folks who are finding a home here.

In these past months we have paid off our mortgage debt, shared generous gifts with many outreach ministries, purchased a new bus, experienced a very meaningful Lent, were moved and empowered by our Holy Week time, laughed a lot on Holy Hilarity day, and celebrated the artistic talents of many of our members at our "Spring Fling Thing."

Honestly, much of this vitality wouldn't occur without a strong staff that is willing to dream and to put the hard work necessary into leading a congregation like ours. These past months, our staff, including Paula, Lorey, Shar, Katie, Amber, Elise, Tom, Scott, Jeff, Laura, Lisa, and Karl, have gone beyond the call of duty to make this a vital, fun, Christ-centered community of faith. I hope you will regularly thank them for the work that they do on our behalf.

This great staff, though, wouldn't be able to do what they do without you. You are an incredible group of people. You affirm people. You open yourselves to change, while still holding on to tradition that I think is essential for a healthy community. Many of you participate in adult education, making it quite clear that we all are called to grow and change. You donate your time, your energy, and your money. We who are staff regularly thank God for YOU!

This is an exciting time for First Lutheran. I look forward to experiencing with you the next phase of our life together, which I hope will focus our attention on outreach, generosity, a commitment to grow our high school ministry, and a deepening of our corporate and individual spiritual practices.



Summer Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, May 28!

Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

No Faith Formation Classes



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

Blessed are the noticers. *Blessed* are the attenders.

During the seasons of Lent and Advent, we are privileged to hear personal testimonies during the Wednesday night meditative services. I am grateful for each of their stories and how their testimonies help shape our faith community. We need to tell our stories because these stories bear witness to a bigger story. I am also grateful for those who become a part of the story as they listen to the testimonies. I think we need a bit of both as we bear witness to the hope of the resurrection.

I believe discipleship comes as an act of bearing witness to the moments in our lives which make no sense at all, some sense, or perhaps make sense after-the-fact. I believe the act of listening is also a part of discipleship - listening to people whose doubt and disbelief creates barriers in their lives or in their understanding of faith. Interestingly, telling and talking, leaning in and listening, are what characterize the post-resurrection story in Luke. And as different as the story unfolds in the four gospels, one thing remains consistent: no one believes the good news of Jesus' resurrection when they first hear it.

But it is, in essence, the story and the disbelief - the telling and the listening - which give birth to a faith founded on suffering love and vulnerability. We need to tell our stories. We need to tell our stories in relation to the bigger story of God's redeeming love. We might even need to listen to the outlandish stories of others as they bear witness to pain, heartache and indescribable joy.

Blessed are the noticers. *Blessed* are the attenders. *Blessed* are you.

Paula

Blessed are the noticers. The ones who see the story in its fullness.
Blessed are the attenders. The witness-bearers. The story-holders.
The ones who tiptoe to the edge right alongside us,
knowing that the very act will break their heart in pieces too.
Choosing us anyway.

Blessed are those who are amazed by a life lived
in its fragility, in its brevity, in its beauty.

Blessed are the ones who stand close enough to say: "BEHOLD."

Behold, this is their love.
Behold, this is their annoying habit.
Behold, these are the people they loved and know so much about
that they could implicate or exonerate them in a crime.

Behold, these are their exes and their favorite songs to belt out in the car,
and their fast-food orders.

(Continued on page 3)



From Shar Music Director

Children's Presentation Set for MAY 14

On Sunday, May 14 (i.e. Mother's Day), the children will present their production of "Daniel in the Lions' Den" They have been preparing since the beginning of Lent. The story has been adapted from the popular Veggie Tales version.

The presentation will take place during the 10:30 service. Come and support the young people of our congregation AND enjoy the humorous retelling of a timeless tale from the Old Testament!

Special Music in the Summer

Our music ensembles take a well-deserved break during the Summer, and this gives you ALL the opportunity to share your talents with us over these months!

Please contact Shar Bourdon at church if you have any questions OR suggestions for music guests.



(Continued from page 2)

Behold, This is not a problem to be solved. This is a person to be loved. This is the miracle we get to call by name.

And how lucky are we?

These people.
These loves.
These precious, precious, precious days.
Thanks be to God.

Excerpt from: *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

Women's Ministry

Thank you to those who participated in the Monday morning zoom class! If anyone is interested in this class in the future, please send Paula an email and she can add you to the list!



Saturday Morning Breakfast Groups!! **note the plural on group**

The men AND women will hold a joint breakfast on Saturday, May 20 from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. The men and women will then study separately. This will be the last Saturday breakfast until next fall.

If you haven't attended one yet, now is the time!!! Fellowship, food and fun! We also glean a deeper understanding of what it means to learn and grow within a community of faith!!



FIRST KIDS

(PRE-K—2ND GRADE)

May 12th—Come play life size Candyland from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. We will have pizza, make a Mother's Day craft then play Candyland! Please bring \$3 to help cover the cost of pizza.



KID VENTURES

(3RD—5TH GRADE)



May 21st—We will go to Snug Harbor for a hike in the dunes. We will have lunch together in the gym after service then we will meet at Snug Harbor at 12:30pm. Carpool is available for those parents who do not want to join the hike.



May 21st
Swimming Outing
More information to come

May 12th
Laser Tag at Lost City in Holland
6:00-11:00 p.m.
Watch the bulletin and announcements for more information



Confirmation

Confirmation Sunday!

Congratulations to Owen Rop and Piper Sweet as they become the newest confirmands on May 7th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. It has been a privilege and an honor for Pastor Bill and Paula to mentor and walk alongside these young people as they take another step in their faith journey.

It is vital that we, as a congregation, continue to encourage Owen and Piper on this journey. In fact, during baptism the People of God are asked this question, "Do you promise to support and pray for (those being baptized) in their new life in Christ?" As far as I know, we all answered affirmatively in response. We always do. Now is the time to act in that affirmation.

Piper and Owen are incredibly bright kids and live into their faith as they attend school, play sports, dance and interact with friends and strangers. Let us continue to encourage them in their faith journey! Attend worship and introduce yourselves. Send them a note of congratulations. Share a faith story with them. Let's make them feel welcome!

Official Acts



Deaths

Jenny M DeLong

Date of Birth: 2-24-1958

Date of Death: 3-21-2023

Pamela K. Hansen

Date of Birth: 6-24-1956

Date of Death: 3-21-2023

Peggy Jobe

Date of Birth: 5-20-1941

Date of Death: 4-1-2023

Chris Ruppel

Date of Birth: 5-30-1952

Date of Death: 4-8-2023

Robert "Orie" Whelpley

Date of Birth: 4-6-1936

Date of Death: 10-13-2022

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 3/5/2023

General Fund: \$11,192.22

Building Enhancement Fund: \$297.00

Dollar-A-Day (for new bus): \$397.79

Week ending 3/12/2023

General Fund: \$8,448.37

Building Enhancement: \$1,323.32

Noisy Offering (for Supper House): \$240.19

Abiding Memorial: \$240.00

Week ending 3/19/2023

General Fund: \$7,416.92

Building Enhancement: \$405.00

Noisy Offering (for Supper House.): \$156.40

Week ending 3/26/2023

General Fund: \$6,462.20

Building Enhancement: 772.00

Noisy Offering (for Supper House.): \$188.48



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Monday, May 8, 11:30 – 5:15 p.m.
You Can Make a Difference!

The American Red Cross continues to have an urgent need for blood donors. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Your donation could make a difference in saving lives. Please sign up to donate by scheduling your appointment at the Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org or Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

If you have further questions, please contact Judi Dix at 231-463-7886 or Kim Westerholm at 231-539-8536.

Sunday

Weekly Scripture Readings

5/7

Acts 7:55-60, Ps 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

5/14

Acts 17:22-31, Ps 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

5/21

Acts 1:6-14, Ps 68:1-10, 32_35
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

5/28

Acts 2:1-21, Ps 104:24-34, 35b,
1 Cor 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23



Dinner With Friends

Who: All members of First and those who have signed up for Dinner with Friends

What: The first meeting to establish groups

Where: Valkyrie Restaurant
The 4-Corners in North Muskegon

When: May 20, 2023

Details: One hour of axe or knife throwing is available at 4:30 p.m.
\$5 for 5 matches
\$15 for 1/2 hour
\$25 for one hour
Check Muskegon Axe throwing for more info.
6:00 p.m. for Dinner. Prices vary.

RSVP: Please sign up on sheets at Information Stations, indicating if you throwing as well as having dinner.
You must be signed up by May 18.

All are Welcome. There will be a band at 8:00 p.m.

May Birthdays!

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Christine Livingston
Scott Gearhart | 12 Connie Mead | 23 Shelby Anderson |
| 2 Brock Freeman | 13 Rosemary Loch | 24 Natalee Lindell |
| 3 Dee Schmitt | 14 Paulette Archer | 25 Eric Rop |
| 4 Charles Dawson
Ann Marie Holmes
Mary Lou Bowen | 15 Sarah Daniell | 26 Joe Bachelder
Xavier Golden |
| 5 Josee Cooke
Jon Cregg
Carol Parker | 16 Kent Johnson
Shar Bourdon | 27 Karen Norman
Robbin Dibble
Lisa Daggett |
| 6 Emma Johnston | 17 Todd Lowry
Susan Rop
Rich Pennak
Ann Dean
Pauline Cregg | 28 Suzanne Fiebelkorn
Sharon Ingram |
| 7 Suzanne Johnson | 19 Greyson Jones
Atheny Wei | 29 Jay Freeland
Edward Wosinski
Penny Cooper |
| 8 Barbara Nelson
Vicki Halpin | 20 Nancy Pennak
Diana Duell | 30 Teri Gust
Pete Ostrom
Walt Love |
| 9 Bill Naymick
Bob Gundy | 21 Robert Schalow | 31 Eric Baker |
| 10 Charles Jamerson | 22 James Boyle | |
| 11 Sofia Besteman | | |



*Thanks to Dave and Theresa Buchan
(and their grandkids) who assembled the
April Chimes.*



I want to say Thank you to everyone who helped with Easter Village. From donating candy to helping run the games, everyone helped make the Easter Village a memorable one!

Amber Thomas

St. Patty's Dinner

Thank you to the friends of the Fellowship Board. The St. Patty's dinner was a huge success and we were so happy we were able to bring back this event to First Lutheran. Everyone really stepped up to help despite the fact I had Covid that day and could not be there in person. I was there in spirit and by phone calls.

Thank you to Diane Kroll my co-chair, Barb Pellerin for her delicious cooking. I heard so many compliments on the food. Thank you to Barb Bonifield and her crew for setting up and decorating. It looked so beautiful. Thank you to the helpers which included Bill Webber, Joe Dick, Dale Roest, Katie Neel, Jeff Lucht and his students. Thank you for all the donations of desserts from the congregation.

Thank you to the Mona Shores Fiddlers and their teacher Kelly DeRose and Steph's Steps for their wonderful entertainment. Thank you so much for everyone's help. We could not have done this event without you. We have a wonderful church family here at First.

Sincerely,
Deb Roest, Fellowship Board Co chair

PS: The Fellowship Board was proud to give the Youth Board \$500.00 from the proceeds from this dinner for their mission trip in July and the next Youth Gathering.

PSS: When it came down to how we were to serve the food, we realized we did not have enough roasting pans. The Fellowship Board has purchased two roasters to be utilized at church functions.

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

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	2 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 12:30PM-MARSP Group 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline	3 9:00AM-Pickleball 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation Dinner	4 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	5 3:30PM-Lion's Club 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations-Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	6 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 9:30AM-Lions' Club 12:00PM-Rental
7 Dollar-A-Day 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 5:00PM-DeColores Potluck 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8 8:00AM-Synod Assembly 12:00PM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	9 Bulletin Deadline 8:00AM-Synod Assembly 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline	10 9:00AM-Pickleball 6:00PM-Berry Junction Trail Meeting 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:05PM-Bible Study	11 9:00AM-Lion's Club Officers' Meeting 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	12 5:30PM-Bunco 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations-Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	13 10:00AM-Rehearsal for Kids' Program
14 Mother's Day 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship-Children's Program 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	15 Chimes Deadline 8:30AM-Museum of Art Docents 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	16 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline	17 9:00AM-Pickleball 6:00PM-DeColores Set Up 6:05PM-Bible Study	18 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	19 6:00PM-Crafty 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	20 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Men & Women's Breakfast 4:30PM-Dinner w/ Friends Kick-Off (Axe Throwing) 5:30PM-Dinner w/ Friends Kick-Off Dinner
21 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	22 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	23 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline	24 9:00AM-Pickleball 6:05PM-Bible Study	25 12:00PM-Lecternary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	<div>DeColores Weekend</div>	27 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting
28 10:00AM-In-Person Worship 10:00AM-Online Worship 11:30PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	29 Memorial Day *Office Closed* 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	30 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	31 9:00AM-Pickleball 6:05PM-Bible Study			