



## From Pastor Bill

*"Aware of the grief, violence, and deep pain of our world, we will in 2024 and beyond endeavor to be a community of lament, love, and reconciliation, focusing on calling our members into deeper connections with one another and with the ministry of the church."*

This is our second congregational goal for this year. It came because of our awareness of the tough world that we are living in right now. Yes, every era has had difficult moments. But this moment seems particularly troublesome to many of us. The injustices experienced by the folks in Gaza, Israel, and Ukraine are very difficult to wrap our minds around. While the fundamental Christian claim is that God is good, God's goodness seems far away sometimes. And this for many is one of those sometimes.

We do well not to run from the difficulties, the challenges, and the wonderings of life; we do well to tell the truth. As I look at American history, I see a country that sometimes doesn't want to face the truth. We often have short memories—memories that protect us from the mistakes we made, the hardships we have experienced. That doesn't serve us. Naming the pain is necessary for doing something about it, which is why we want to be a community of lament.

I hope you have noticed our highlighting lament during Lent. We heard the laments of individuals, and we prayed corporate laments. Lament is a necessary, and as we have discovered, a Biblically sanctioned part of faith. We want to be a community in which lament is not only welcomed but is encouraged.

Part of the challenge of doing life right now is not only the injustices around us, but the miserable state of the politics of our land. We are living in such a polarized time. We at First want to be a community in which our oneness in Christ transcends our political differences. I personally believe that Jesus is neither a Republican or a Democrat, a conservative or progressive. Now don't get me wrong. I think what Jesus was up to has great political consequences. Those who follow Jesus will advocate for the poor, the earth, immigrants, and the vulnerable. Those who follow Jesus will fight injustice and speak loudly for peace. You can't follow Jesus and do otherwise.

And you can't follow Jesus and not desire to bring people together. There are folks in our national

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## From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I am grateful for seasons. As we enter the season of spring, I am drawn into the miraculous cycle of flowers sprouting from a dormant landscape. I stand in awe of the changing shoreline as the water recedes and the walk to the edge will be just a “few” more steps. New life emerging from the darkness. I believe I am living into the resurrection of creation! The month of May will bring fullness to the trees, and my windows will be flung open and I will take in the fresh air of a new season.

May also brings the culmination of many of our programs that run throughout the academic year. Faith Formation classes come to a close, Wednesday dinners end, and children who participated in music programs throughout the year, will carry their notes into the summer sun. We will also marvel as seven young people become Confirmants on May 5th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. They, too, will move into a new season.

Yes, I am grateful for seasons but sometimes I wish a season would linger a bit longer. I realize that the creator of the cosmos has given us the rhythmic movement of life but I would like to have my say in the timing of it, especially when I watch children grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as they live out their faith at First Lutheran. But it is the season of spring where they will emerge with a new sense of belonging. Greyson Jones, Ryan Legard, Emily Lucht, Elizabeth Lucht, Chloe O'Connor, Taela Plekes and Rileigh Schmitz will move into a new season in their faith journey. I will miss each one of them. It is my hope and prayer that we, as members of First Lutheran, will come alongside these kids so they may come to know more fully what it means to serve in the church, to serve their community and lean on their faith in the dormant seasons of their lives.

I am grateful for the seasons I have experienced with all of you. May spring not only be a time of renewal for the earth, but for us too. May we throw open the windows and breathe new life into our stories, journey along the shore feeling the warmth of the sand between our toes and the wind on our face. And may spring find us in a place of growth!

Paula

### **Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 26!**

**Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.**

***No Faith Formation classes***



# Confirmation

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!!!

May 5th at the 10:30 a.m. service!

Our students and their mentors are:

Greyson Jones, Joel Westerholm  
Ryan Legard, Alice Habina  
Emily Lucht, Bert Goodman  
Elizabeth Lucht, Diane Kroll  
Chloe O'Connor, Sande Borusko  
Taela Plekes, Shar Bourdon  
Raleigh Schmitz, Adam Badley

Thank you for supporting these kids thus far in their faith journey. We are so proud of each one of these kids and are grateful for their parents and grandparents who have made the commitment to get the kids here week after week and year after year. We look forward to seeing where God will lead these kids in the church and in the world!

*(Continued from page 1)*

life who thrive on tearing people down and dividing people. This is not who we as Christians are. We are not dividers. Yes, we have to speak the truth sometimes, and the truth can be difficult to hear, alienating some folks. But our goal should ultimately be what we say Jesus brings us-- reconciliation.

We at First want to be a community of reconciliation, not a community of pettiness and small mindedness, a community in which political labels divide people. We as a nation have a presidential election coming up. We at First don't want to be the kind of community that foments division, that tears down those who disagree with us, that fails to see the human dignity of every person. We truly want to be a community *of Christ*.

## Dear Snowbirds

Welcome home. We are very glad to have you all back.

In case you missed it, here is an update on a new enterprise we have embarked on while you were away:

### Dollar-a-Day Fund

"A Dollar-a-Day" was started many years ago to provide funding for special projects at our church. This has included paying off the mortgage, buying the new church bus, and installing a new sign in front of the church. (It's coming.) We set aside a dollar each day, or whatever you can afford, and donate the total on the first Sunday of the month.



Funds raised will go toward improvements to the Family Life Center to enhance our educational, social, and entertainment activities. The project includes a new sound board, a drop-down screen, and a curtain for the stage. These additions can vastly improve our many uses of the Family Life Center. We invite you to join us in donating the first Sunday of each month to the Dollar-a-Day Fund, in addition to your regular offerings. Funds can be contributed in cash, by check, or by the Realm or Vanco Mobile Apps.

This will replace the "Noisy Offering" for that Sunday.

We are excited to see this new project develop and appreciate your support!

(Joe Labiak and the Stewardship Committee)



## From Shar Music Director



### Music in May

**May 12, 2024** – The “small but mighty” Children’s Music Consortium (Wed. night kids’ music) will be offering a **ONE TIME ONLY** performance of “Music, Moms and Miracles - Part Two” on May 12 at the 10:30 service at our own First Lutheran Church! Start your Mother’s Day celebration with a bang by attending the service. Two years ago our youngsters did Part One of this Program with Bible Stories set to music. This year, musical contributors include Joel Westerholm and Shar Bourdon. Come, join the fun!

**May 19, 2024** – West Michigan music legends Max and Ruth Bloomquist will be joining us at First Lutheran as a part of our year-long celebration of our 160<sup>th</sup> year of existence as a congregation. They will join us for our final 10:30 service before our Summer season time of 10:00. Following the service, you are welcome to join us in our Family Life Center for a lunch of sandwiches, veggies and fruit, salads, desserts and beverages. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Dar Al-Kalima school in Bethlehem. Sign-up sheets for desserts are at the information stations. Check our Facebook page or Church website for more information.

### Music in the Summer

**June 14, 2024** – Mark your calendars! We will be hosting an “Anything Goes” Talent Show on June 14. The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. with a lovely Summer meal catered by our own Dave and Cindy Short. Then enjoy your dessert and coffee with entertainment provided by members of our own community. Singing, dancing, baton twirling, juggling, magic tricks – ANYTHING GOES! Sign-up sheets will be posted at the Information Stations. Be sure to include contact information.

**SUMMER 2024 – SPECIAL MUSIC** – Our musical ensembles take a Summer hiatus during June, July and August. I like to take this time to offer our community-at-large an opportunity to share their talents. Please consider signing up for a chance to share your gifts with us at our **Sunday morning service at 10:00 a.m.** I will have a sign-up sheet on the music room door, or you can contact me personally via my church email. Stewardship isn’t just about money!



# FLC ANNUAL GOLF OUTING AND FUNDRAISER



Saturday, July 20, 2024

9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Benona Shores Golf Club

3410 S Scenic Drive

Shelby, MI 49445

231-861-2098

**Suggested Donation \$65.00 (Paid in advance)**

Sponsorships are available

Sign-up sheets will be available soon

Picnic lunch and drinks will be provided

Raffle and on course prizes galore

Mulligan stubs will be available

Family groups are encouraged

Scholarships are available (Contact Joe Labiak)

Alcohol is available at the Pro Shop

***LET'S FILL ALL 18 TEES WITH PLAYERS THIS YEAR!***





## ***PRE-K TO MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH EVENT***

### **Family Bike Ride**

May 11 ♦ 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
First Lutheran parking lot

Family bike ride for kids and families of kids  
PreK-8th grade

Bring your bike and helmet for a ride north on  
the bike path!



*For more information contact Emma Johnston at  
[emma@firstlutheran.muskegon.org](mailto:emma@firstlutheran.muskegon.org)*

## ***HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS***



**New Orleans Parents & Youth Meeting**  
Sunday, May 12  
7:00 p.m.

**High School Youth**  
Friday, May 10  
Watch for more information!

*For more information contact Jeff or Laura Lucht at  
[JLLucht@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:JLLucht@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)*



## American Red Cross

The next blood drive is scheduled for Monday, May 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. You can make an appointment online at: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling Kim Westerholm, First's blood drive coordinator at 712-539-8536.



## John Ball Zoo Trip

*Friday, May 10*

Fellowship Ministry will be sponsoring dinner at Valkyrie before we go to the John Ball Zoo Lantern Festival at night. We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. where we will drive to the restaurant in the bus and then head to Grand Rapids.

More details to follow. Limited seating and first come, first serve. This event sold out last year, so please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637 for reservations.



## Yoga Hiatus

**Beginning May 27, yoga will take a break for the summer and will resume in the Fall.**

**More info about class schedule changes will be shared towards the end of summer.**

## Official Acts



### Deaths

*David Kleis*

Born: 07/03/1941

Died: 03/28/2024

*Frederick W. "Fred" Workman*

Born: 04-16-1964

Died: 03-01-2024

## Weekly Offerings

### Week ending 03/03/2024

General Fund: \$10,655.99

Building Enhancement Fund: \$140.00

Dollar-A-Day (tech upgrades for gym): \$863.24

Building Rent: \$151.00

### Week ending 03/10/2024

General Fund: \$6,896.95

Building Enhancement: \$170.00

Building Rent: \$294.00

Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima School): \$225.35

Dollar-A-Day (tech upgrades for gym): \$452.00

### Week ending 03/17/2024

General Fund: \$9,889.63

Building Enhancement: \$260.00

Building Rent: \$1,038.03

Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima): \$189.12

### Week ending 03/24/2024

General Fund: \$4,521.62

Building Enhancement: \$70.00

Building Rent: \$145.45

Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima): \$100.00

### Week ending 03/31/2024

General Fund: \$11,826.98

Building Enhancement: \$370.00

Building Rent: \$152.00

Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima): \$693.00

### Sunday

### Weekly Scripture Readings

5/5

Acts 10:44-48, Ps 98  
1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

5/12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, PS 1  
1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

5/19

Ezek 37:1-14, Ps 104:24-34, 35b  
Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

5/26

Isa 6:1-8, Ps 29  
Rom 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

## Chimes Articles

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





## Chimes Assemblers

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



First Lutheran members, family and friends,

Thank you so much for attending the St. Patrick's Day Wednesday night dinner event. It was a huge success. We served over 130 people that night!

We had wonderful entertainment from the Mona Shores Fiddlers with their teacher Kelly DeRose and the cloggers from Steph's Steps AKA Lumber Town Cloggers. The entertainment was awesome. We had so many compliments from our guests on how great the food was as well as the music and dancing.

We can't thank the Fellowship Ministry members enough for the extra hard work they did with all the prepping, cooking, and serving the meal and clean up. Thank you to Barb Pellerin for being the great cook she is and helping us with the dinner. Diane Kroll was her right-hand woman. Deb, Barb and Diane were also the big shoppers for this event. The butcher was amazed when we wanted over 60 pounds of corn beef! LOL.

Thank you to Cindy McClurken, Kaitlyn Sutton, Lisa Ferski and Carol Parker for all their help; they were wonderful. The Family Life Center was decorated by Barb Bonifield and her crew; it was so beautiful. Barb and her crew also helped with set up and refilling supplies and Barb donated all the paper products for this function. We can't thank her enough for all she does for the Fellowship Ministry and the church.

Thank you to Jimmy Sutton for washing dishes and doing the cleanup with Kent Johnson. A big shout out goes to Dale Roest and Steve Ferski for they are honorary members of the Fellowship Ministry; they are now drafted. Thank you both for the hard work you did. Jimmy and Steve also cut up 30 pounds of stew meat for us too.

As you all can tell many hands make light work. It really does take a village to put on events here at First Lutheran. We thank everyone who came to the party and made this event happen.

Sincerely,  
Deb Roest and Diane Kroll  
Fellowship Ministry Co-Chairs



## May Birthdays!

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

## Calling First Lutheran Members!

In celebration of First Lutheran's 160th celebration, we need interviews from our members to play in our worship services from January to August 2024. We need you to record your interview on your phone and send it to Lisa Ziemelis at [lisa@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:lisa@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) as soon as possible.

The interview should be 1-2 minutes.

We need all ages of members to be involved with this event. If you do not know how to record on your phone, Carl Luther or another person will be at the church to do the recording in the Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of the month, starting in January. If you can not do this after worship, please call Carl Luther at 231-750-6737 to set up a specific time you could meet.

Please join us in honoring our memories here at First Lutheran with your videos. If you have any questions, please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936. Thank you.



## 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

**Nancy Hazekamp**

1350 W Hackley Apt. 215  
Muskegon, MI 49441

**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

**Linda Sahlhoff**

Christian Care Nursing Center  
2053 Sheridan Dr  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**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

## May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Dollar-A-Day Weekend</b> 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/Confirmation 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11:30AM-Quilters' Group 12:00PM-Red Cross Blood Drive 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board 5:00PM-P.E.O. 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Ed Class 12:30PM-MARSP Group Meeting 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:30PM-Ministry Council Meeting 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:00PM-Confirmation	12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8:30AM-Stephen Ministry
<b>**Mother's Day**</b> 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 11:00AM-Adult Ed Class 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	<b>Chimes Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share	12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-Rental 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	5:00PM-Sons of Norway 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 10:00AM-Memorial Service for Tom Larson <div>Women's Retreat</div>
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Max & Ruth Concert/Luncheon 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gentle Soul Yoga	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30PM-Muskegon County Garden Club 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share	12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-Rental 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	6:00AM-AA Breakfast
10:00AM-In-Person Worship 10:00AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	<b>**Memorial Day**</b> <b>*Office Closed*</b> 7:00PM-AA Meeting	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share	12:00PM-Lectonary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	