



From Pastor Bill

Our Stewardship ministry recently met to discuss their work and to make plans for the year. As we reflected on the composition of the ministry team, a member of the team said, “Stewardship equals money, and many people don’t like to talk about or ask for money.” So, stewardship teams are often small, which is true for us.

That is too bad, since the term “steward” is probably one of the best words in the Christian vocabulary to describe what we as followers of Jesus are up to. Stewards are people who have been entrusted with gifts that they are called to take care of. The assumption of Christian stewardship is that life is not our due, but our gift. To be a good steward is to make sure that the gift is handled with an abundance of care.

As it does its work, our stewardship ministry focuses its attention not simply on money but how we put to work your time and your talents, how we utilize your gifts for the sake of the common good. What’s more, our stewardship ministry is also our Green Team, since the care of the planet is integral to our life of discipleship.

And yes, our stewardship ministry is concerned about the financial stability of our congregation. It conducts an annual stewardship campaign, hoping through this effort to encourage you toward financial generosity. As you know, the church is dependent upon your gifts of money for its survival and vitality.

Much can be said about financial gifts to the church. And you will probably hear about that “much” in the future. But I did want to highlight three particular ways of financial giving that have made a big difference for us.

The first is gifts that come from estates. Including our congregation in your will or estate plan is such a help to us. An estate gift two years ago enabled us to pay off our building debt.

A second means for giving that I highlight is the charitable remainder trust, which is a program that enables you to dedicate a certain amount of money to a charity like the church when you die. My wife and I have established such a trust for the church. The way it works is that you donate money now to a financial entity and receive income from that gift during the rest of your lifetime, while avoiding taxes.

The final means for financial giving that I want to feature is the minimum distribution that folks must take on their retirement accounts. This, again, is a tax-free means to give to the church. Quite a few people use this option.

Can I encourage you to give some thought to your stewardship life, to how you care for all your gifts, including your money? When you do so, you not only bless the whole community, but yourself.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

This past month brought a few vision changes for me, nothing significant, and for that I am grateful. But the experience made me think about vision in general. Yes, it was time for me to get new glasses so I could see the world, people and the things within my purview with optimum clarity. I also felt it was time for me to do a vision check on how I perceive some of the things that are happening in the world today as they relate to reimagining justice, reimagining my perspectives and reimagining me. So...bear with me as I share what happens when you clean your lenses, remove the obstruction spots and envisage the world from a viewpoint other than your own.

The bottom line is - we can't always see how our obstruction spots make it difficult to connect with each other in meaningful ways. Obstruction spots also have a tendency to impact our efforts to create or cultivate a vision of the world from a resurrection viewpoint. Seeing life as it really is urges us to be vulnerable. Sometimes we focus so hard on eliminating the things which make us uncomfortable that we fail to see a bigger picture.

Case in point: A mother and daughter, Nedra and Nyah, were traveling to the airport via a Lyft driver. The driver pulled up in front of their house where a few yard signs said, "In This House, We Believe No Human Is Illegal", "#Black Lives Matter", and "Kindness Is Everything." The Lyft driver, a white man in his early sixties, pulled up and the women noticed him reading the yard signs. He didn't nod or smile and didn't respond to Nedra's cordial greeting as they entered the car. The mother again offered a friendly greeting but still got no response from the driver.

Nedra was one who did not tolerate rudeness. She concluded that the driver must be conservative based on his age and race. She thought to herself, *He saw all the progressive signs in our front yard and his stomach must be turning.* To make matters worse, she said to herself, *He is driving two Black women to the airport, his racism must be raging right now.* By now, the mother had concluded, from her limited perspective, that the driver was ignoring her because his conservative views conflicted with theirs. Nedra turned to her daughter and said, "Did you see that? He is ignoring me." Nedra's daughter responded by saying, "Mom, he didn't ignore you, he just didn't hear you. Then she pointed toward a small sign attached to the back seat of the car that read Driver Is Deaf. (Shawn Ginwright).

Perhaps Nedra couldn't see the sign from where she was sitting in the car, or maybe she couldn't see the sign because her past experience with sexism, racism, or political affiliation had already defined for her what was happening. The truth was, the Lyft driver was deaf and could not hear her! How much of our lives do we spend unaware of our perspectives? How often do we (I) step back to see that my viewpoint is limited, not wrong or right, but simply obstructed? How can I become more aware of the things that obstruct and obscure how I see the world and act within it?

We are just a few weeks beyond Lent and Easter and yet, I still feel connected to love and lament. I still feel connected to the journey with Jesus and the resurrected Christ. But I also feel connected to envisioning a new way and a greater capacity to respond in ways that are restorative, healing and build belonging. And I hope together, as church, we can remove the blind spots that obscure the

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Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 25!

Worship Services

Thursday-6:00 p.m.

Sunday- 10:00 a.m.

No Faith Formation classes

Please Note!

There will be a combined June/
July newsletter. Deadline for
articles will be Thursday, May 15.

Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
5/4	Acts 9:1-6 [7-20], Ps 30 Rev 5:11-14, John 21:1-19
5/11	Acts 9:36-43, Ps 23 Rev 7:9-17, John 10:22-30
5/18	Acts 11:1-18, Ps 148 Rev 21:1-6, John 13:31-35
5/25	Acts 16:9-15, Ps 67 Rev 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29
3/30	Josh 5:9-12, Ps 22 2 Cor 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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world that God has intended.

Sumud,
Paula

PS. Good thing I don't update my prescription on a monthly basis! Envisioning the world from a viewpoint other than my own is exhausting! :)

Evening Out Friday May 30

Come join the fun and the first event for this year at Parties in the Park at Hackley Park. *Yard Sale Underwear*, one of the best bands in Muskegon, will be playing that night. This event will have lots of people. There is no charge, but you will want to bring a chair. ID is required to drink alcohol. There will be several food vendors inside the park to get a snack, treat or dinner.

We will meet at the church for a bus ride to the park at 5:00 p.m. and return to the church at 9:15 p.m. You **must** RSVP to Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or roostergirl23@gmail.com by May 28 to ride the bus. If you do not want to use the bus, we will meet at the Northeast side of the park on the sidewalk (stage right from the band) at 5:30 p.m.. Hope to see you there!

Fellowship Board

Confirmation

Congratulations, Confirmands!

This is always a bitter-sweet time of the year for me as our students finish their third year of their confirmation studies. I have watched them grow, laugh, struggle, doubt, and endure hardship in their young lives. I always wonder how this time of formidable knowledge will impact their decisions, guide their direction in life and keep growing as they continue in the life of the church. Godspeed young people! Go in the grace and knowledge of your identity as a child of God. And remember, you are never, Never, NEVER alone. The church is here for you. We need you, your enthusiasm, your questions and your heart to serve. (tears....)

Please join me in welcoming our confirmands and to their mentors who diligently met with the students during their final year. Forging relationships between student and mentor is one of the most meaningful ways we live out baptismal calling. Here are the students being confirmed on May 4, 2025:

Students

Megan Badley
August Frietsch
Jordan Pruitt
Bridget O'Connor
Connor Simerick
Lauren Slater

Mentors

Roberta Goodman
Carl Luther
Lisa Ferski
Shar Bourdon
Andy Luther
Eva Backus

Please note!!!

First and Second Year Confirmation Students and Faith Formation Classes will conclude on: Sunday, May 18. We will have a celebration of learning that day!

Paula



About Our Care Team

The Care Team includes visitation with shut-ins, hospital visits and taking communion to those in long-term 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 paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org or stop by her office.



Graduation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, June 1 during the 10:00 service as we honor our high school and college graduates. Please send information and pictures of the high school and college graduates (i.e., where they are graduating from, plans after high school or what their college degree is), and email to Lorey (office@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) or Pastor Bill (bill@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) by May 21st.

Help Us Celebrate our Graduation!

Erik Trulsen
3656 Dalson Rd.
Twin Lake MI 49457
May 18, 2025 2:00—5:00 p.m.



Anna and Elizabeth Frietsch
Lebanon Lutheran Church
1101 S Mears St. Whitehall, MI 49461
May 24, 2025 3:00—6:00 p.m.
RSVP: (231) 760-3887

Victorian Tea Party

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Fellowship Board Invites You to a Tea Party!!!

May 7 at 5:30 p.m. *sharp*

Cost: \$5.00

Entertainment will start at promptly at 5:45 p.m.

Bring your favorite tea cup and saucer for a chance to win a prize

Wear your favorite fancy hat or Victorian attire - you may win a prize!

Dinner included

- ♦ See Lorey in the office for tickets
- ♦ Tickets will also be available after Easter week.
- ♦ Fellowship members will be selling tickets on April 27 and May 3 after 10:30 a.m. service.



We are collecting personal hygiene items or monetary donations the night of the event on May 7 for Every Woman's Place.

Any questions, please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637



Thanks to the April Chimes assemblers:

Dave and Theresa Buchan



Thank you to the Fellowship Board, which includes Deb, Diane, Lisa and Kaitlyn, for the wonderful benefit we had here at First Lutheran to help provide financial support for the Frietsch family. Thank you to Steve Ferski and Julie Traver for cooking the meal. It was so tasty and we received so many compliments. Thank you to Bonnie Nolan and Evie DiPiazza for helping with the Silent Auction and Barb Pellerin for being one of our cashiers. Thank you to Barb Bonifield and her crew of Kathleen Cobler and friends for the set up and providing all the supplies we needed. Thank you to helpers Deb Jaquith and Carol Parker, Rhonda, Mike and Piper Sweet and Doug and Kim Fenbert and Tara and Karley Plekes. Thank you to Jimmy Sutton for doing dishes and cleaning the kitchen. Thanks to Kent Johnson and Andy Luther for clean up and taking down the table and chairs. Thank you to all the church members who donated items for the silent auction. We had so many wonderful gifts to help us make more money for this event. Thank you to all the members who donated delicious desserts for the dinner. Thank you to Burnished Brass for providing us music during the meal. Thanks to everyone to donated any money and helped towards the benefit. Thank you, First Lutheran Members. You really came out to help our church family, the Frietschs, when they need it. We raised over \$8,000.

We will miss you, Elin. Your legacy will live on in your husband, Jake, and children Anna, Lizzie and Auggie. May you rest in peace.

Love,
Your First Lutheran Family



Weekly Offerings

For week ending 03-02-2025:

General Fund: \$9,986.37
Building Rent: \$126.00
Building Enhancement: \$190.00
Dollar-A-Day: (for new carpeting): \$295.75
Abiding Memorial: \$230.00

Week ending 03-09-2025:

General Fund: \$9,603.85
Building Rent: \$176.71
Building Enhancement: \$235.00
Noisy Offering (Lutheran Disaster Relief – California Wildfire Victims): \$159.81
Dollar-A-Day: (for new carpet) \$144.85

Week ending 03-16-2025:

General Fund: \$6,138.71
Building Rent: \$1,169.12
Building Enhancement: \$85.00
Noisy Offering: (Lutheran D.R. – Wildfire Victims): \$190.26
Dollar-A-Day: (for new carpet) \$92.00

Week ending 03-23-2025:

General Fund: \$9,317.27
Building Rent: \$189.00
Building Enhancement: \$165.00
Noisy Offering: (Lutheran D.R. – Wildfire Victims): \$224.76

Week ending 03-30-2025:

General Fund: \$5,464.44
Building Rent: \$179.00
Building Enhancement: \$200.00
Noisy Offering : (Lutheran D.R. – Wildfire Victims): \$207.99

May Birthdays

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



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

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 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 3:00PM-Clipper Preservation Group 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	2 5:30PM-Lion's Club 6:00PM-Baton Class 6:00PM-Wedding Rehearsal 7:00PM-AA Meeting	3 9:00AM-Care Team 9:00AM-Worship & Music Ministry 11:00AM-Lion's Club 2:30PM-Aubrey Freeman Wedding 3:30PM-Freeman Reception
**Dollar-a-Day Weekend ** 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/Confirmation 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	4 12:00PM-Quilters' Group Meeting 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	5 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-MARSP Meeting 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	6 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-Vintage Tea Party	7 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	8 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 5:30PM-Bunco 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	9 8:30AM-Men's and Women's Breakfast 10:00AM-Rental
** Mother's Day ** 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11 12:30PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	12 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	13 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Lions Officer's Mtg	14 Chimes Deadline 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	15 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	16 8:30AM-Men's and Women's Breakfast 10:00AM-Rental
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	18 2:00PM-Quilters' Group Drive 11:30AM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	19 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30PM-Muskegon County Garden Club 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	20 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting	21 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Private Group Mtg 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	22 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	23 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting
Synod Assembly	25 10:00AM-In-Person Worship/ 10:00AM-Online Worship 6:00PM-Tatze' Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	26 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	27 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	28 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting	29 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	30 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting
						31 9:00AM-Care Team 9:00AM-Worship & Music Ministry 11:00AM-Lion's Club 2:30PM-Aubrey Freeman Wedding 3:30PM-Freeman Reception