



November 2022
#736

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

As many of you already know, our congregation has been blessed by the estate of Dorothy Wilson with a home that we have chosen to sell to Gary Hansen, our former pastor and bishop. The sale of the house will net us more than \$260,000. And much to my surprise, that is not the only money that we will be receiving from her estate. Dorothy has named us a beneficiary of two of her financial accounts. At this point, I am not sure how much money that will represent, but it will be a generous contribution to our mission and ministry.

Our church council will determine how the money will be used. What I know for sure is that at least fifty percent of the gift will be dedicated to debt reduction. We currently owe more than \$430,000 to Thrivent Financial for the addition we built in 2003. I am feeling confident that we will be able to eliminate a significant portion of that debt, which is such good news for us. I could see us being debt free within one and a half to two years.

Ten percent of the gift will likely be given away to ministries outside of our own. We think it is important to give away a portion of what is given to us, an approach that obviously has Biblical warrant.

What will happen with the rest of the money will likely include a gift given to the general fund, one to our Endowment fund, and then one to a contingency/project fund that will aid us in completing some projects in the building that need to be finished. The council will prioritize these projects.

I know of some congregations that have been damaged by large financial gifts. I am strongly committed to ours not being one of these. We in leadership will be transparent with how money is spent and where it is placed. We will remain the very faithful stewards that we have been throughout the years.

This gift does not mean that we don't still need your gifts. We do. Since a significant portion of the gift will be used to eliminate debt (more than \$7100 per month), all kinds of expenses at the church will remain. Eliminating debt, though, will be such a blessing. It will free up money that can be used for other purposes, including some that could aid the way we staff our congregation.

What a gift we have been given! Join me in thanking Dorothy for her generosity and in making sure that money is a blessing to our common ministry and not a burden.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

Many of you know I love a good story. I like to tell stories, too. In my reflection this month, I would like to talk about a particular story about borders and belonging. A story about a particular time, a particular people and a particular type of leadership, judges. Judges who were not monarchs, nor were elected, nor were they hereditary. Judges who had a clear mandate: to highlight injustice, to highlight hypocrisy and call the people back to the God they followed. Judges who were less legislative arbiters and more leaders. Judges who judged.

It's a story placed in a time of famine. The Hebrew interpretation of the word famine is, *indicating hunger*. Famine is also a familiar storyline in the Hebrew Bible from Abram to Joseph to David and it's often narrated with the experience of displacement and death. *This* story is no exception. *This* story is being told with a mythic quality of story telling often used in national narratives. *This* story sees events of a particular time as a window through which the state of a people can be viewed.

This story opens up the window of leadership, of famine and the window of a displaced woman, from a hated country. And with these windows flung open, the story of Ruth... flows in. Ruth the Moabite. Ruth the widowed border-crosser. Ruth, a foreigner on land not her own. Ruth, a character of virtue whose national belonging was viewed before her personhood. Ruth, a woman whose identity is shaped by her country of origin. Or is it? Ruth, a simple story to trouble the simple stories we sometimes tell about borders and belonging. Or is it? Is it a story about addressing stereotypes? Is it a story that invites us to something much more challenging, complex and ultimately healing, for us and the world? Or is it a Where-You-Go-I-Will-Go story and we leave it at that?

Yes, I like a good story and I assume you do, too. So I invite you today into the story of Ruth. A narrative where we can wrestle with early Jewish interpretation or commentary on a Biblical text *and* ask good questions. Questions that help us better understand the plight of the immigrant and widow, experience grief from a new perspective and ponder how location shapes other's opinions of us or... opens us up to an identity crisis of our own. I invite you into the storytelling lens of 'Midrash' as you engage with the story of Ruth. Read it. Question it. Sink your teeth into it. Chat with a friend or small group about what the narrative may or may not be saying. Think about how the short story of Ruth might speak to a quality and practice of belonging in the here and now.

With a grateful heart,
Paula the Muskegonite

Confirmation

Confirmation is off to a great start with fifteen young people meeting each Wednesday night to learn more about what it means to be Lutheran and how we live out our faith. Third year students will be meeting their mentors and **diving** into their final year of study. Please keep these kids in your prayers as they are an integral part of the body of Christ.

The confirmation students are: Layla Giles, Owen Rop, Piper Sweet (3rd year); Greyson Jones, Ryan Legard, Emily Lucht, Elizabeth Lucht, Chloe O'Connor, Taela Plekes, Rileigh Schmitz (2nd year); Liam Backus, Megan Badley, August Fritsch, Bridgett O'Connor, Jordan Pruitt (1st year).



Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
11/6	Dan 7:1-3, 15-18, Ps 149 Eph 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31
11/13	Mal 4:1-2a, Ps 98 2 Thess 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19
11/20	Jer 23:1-6, Ps 46 Col 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-45
11/27	Isa 2:1-5, Ps 122 Rom 13:11-14, Matt 24:36-44



Thanks to Theresa and Dave Buchan who assembled the October Chimes.

FIRST LITTLES

(PRE-K—2ND GRADE)



Join us on November 20th as we have lunch together and watch A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving in the gym from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

KIDVENTURES

(3RD—5TH GRADE)



On November 13, we will be going bowling at Northway Lanes from 1:00—3:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 and will include shoes and 2 games.

We will eat lunch at the church before bowling!



We are still looking for more grown ups and kids to participate in Grand Mentors which will be starting up in January. Contact Amber Thomas for more info and to sign up.



The kids of our congregation made over 60 "Firefighter Survival Kits" for the local firefighters as part of our God's Work Our Hands Event!



HS / MS YOUTH GROUPS

Middle School Youth

November 20
Pizza and Games
More details to come!



High School Youth

November 19
Escape Room
More details to come!

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 9/4/22

General Fund: \$7,587.56

Mortgage Fund: \$595.00

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$335.76

Week ending 9/11/22

General Fund: \$6,795.25

Mortgage Fund : \$1,805.00

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$148.00

Noisy Offering (for LWR for Health Kits): \$211.32

Week ending 9/18/22

General Fund: \$6,646.77

Mortgage Fund: \$645.00

Dollar-A-Day (for Mortgage Reduction): \$122.00

Noisy Offering (for LWR for Health Kits): \$178.19

Abiding Memorial: \$240.00

Week ending 9/25/22

General Fund: \$5,240.38

Mortgage Fund: \$1,596.25

Noisy Offering (for LWR for Health Kits): \$213.31

Abiding Memorial: \$10.00



**American
Red Cross**

Many thanks to all of the donors and volunteers for First Lutheran's September 26th Red Cross Blood Drive. Thirty-eight pints of blood were shared to help serve the needs of patients throughout Michigan and the United States.

Our next Blood Drive is Monday, November 21, 12:00-6:00p.m. Your help continues to be greatly needed, so please sign up to donate by registering at the Red Cross website, 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.

November Birthdays!

1	John Majkol Olivia LaChapelle	11	Michael Jones	25	Suzie Udell Denise George
2	Bill Uetrict Noah Rop Ben Rop Deb McCarthy	12	Nick Garcia	26	Douglas Fenbert
3	Megan Tanis	13	Stefanie Freeland	27	Karen Crummel Sandie Fazer Dorie Cvengros
5	Dale Roest Sharon Genter Amber Cahill	15	Rachel Metiva Barbara Pellerin Lincoln Daniell	28	Courtney Fielstra Jennifer LaChapelle
6	Mitchell Anderson	16	Scott Hanson Nate Veihl Kathy Arends Simon Werling Beth Milligan	29	Mac McDonnell Natalie Dunlap Ellen Bisson
7	Judy Larabee	21	Mark Nelson		
8	Ronald Rich Faith Fiser	22	Mandy Wheeler Darrell Van Fossan		
9	Rachel Glavich	23	T.J. Udell Sandra Nord		
10	Barbara Bonifield Rhonda Meloche Daniel Breunsbach Cynthia Russell	24	Linda Cates		



Keepers

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

Linda Cates
1585 Wolf Lake Rd.
Muskegon, MI 49442
788-1806

Stan & Betty Huey
1844 Ora St.
Muskegon, MI 49445

Ken Kadrovich
1345 Hendrick Rd
Norton Shores, MI 49441-5737

David Kleis
5659 Rim Rock Ct.
Boulder, CO 80301-3553

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

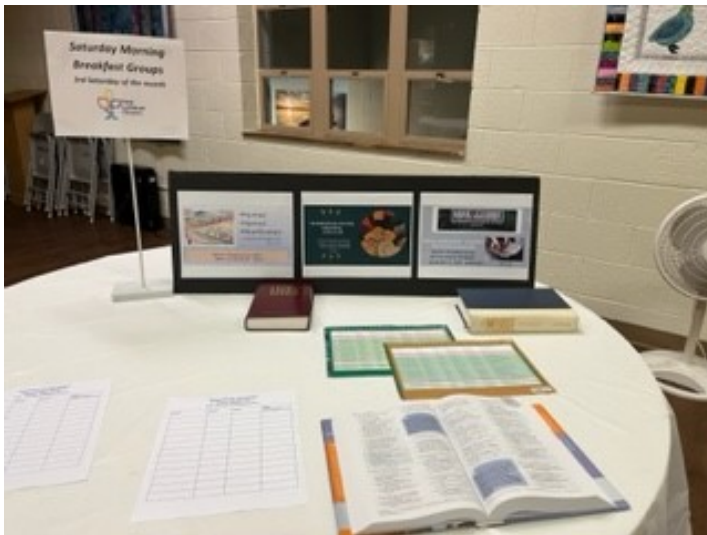
Wally Tallent
Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab
Community
695 Mitzi Dr.
Muskegon, MI 49445
744-1641

Dave and Pat Walborn
18552 W Spring Lake Rd
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Mary Warden
1740 Village Dr. Apt 222
Muskegon, MI 49442-4283

FRIENDS OF FIRST WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

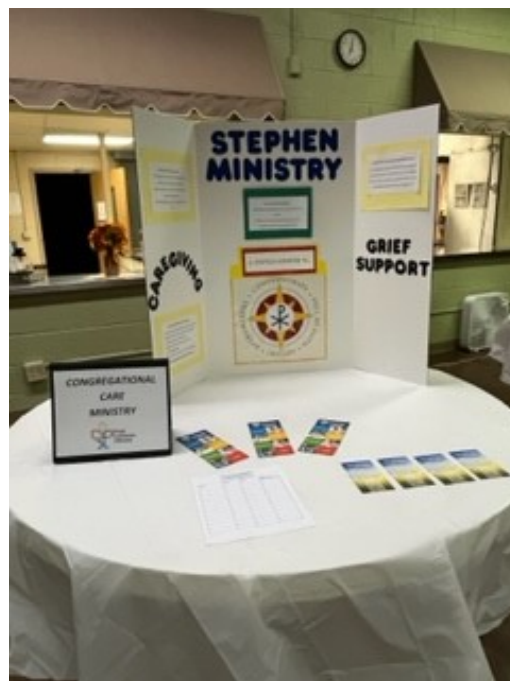
Dorothy Wood
Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab
Community
695 Mitzi Dr.
Muskegon, MI 49445



Ministry Fair!

Thank you to the ministry chairs, the people who serve alongside them and the small group leaders and members as they participated in the Ministry Fair in October! What a great way to showcase what First Lutheran is all about!

A special thanks to Pat Shafer and Beth Milligan for helping develop the idea from the ground up!



First Lutheran Church

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 11:00AM-MARSP Board Meeting 12:30PM-MARSP Board Meeting 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 7:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	1 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wed. Night Dinner 6:00PM-Adult Ed Class 7:00PM-Kids' Music 7:00PM-Confirmation	2 10:00AM-Rental (In-Person & Zoom) 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	3 5:00PM-CHARGE Retreat 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	4 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 4:00PM-CHARGE Retreat 5:00PM-CHARGE Retreat
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) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 11:00AM-Adult Education 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	8 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wed. Night Dinner 6:00PM-Adult Ed Class 7:00PM-Kids' Music 7:00PM-Confirmation	9 9:00AM-Lion's Club Board Mtg 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	10 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 5:30PM-Burco 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 10:30AM-First Communion Class
13 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Rental 7:00PM-AA Meeting	14 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	15 Bulletin Deadline Chimes Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	16 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Adult Ed Class 6:00PM-Kids' Music 7:00PM-Confirmation	17 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 4:00PM-EXIT dinner 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	18 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations Baton 7:00PM-AA Meeting	19 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast 10:30AM-First Communion Class
20 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/First Communion 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	21 12:00PM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	22 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 7:00PM-Worship 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	23 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief	24 ** Thanksgiving ** Office Closed 12:00PM-Rental	25 Office Closed 7:00PM-AA Meeting	26
27 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	28 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	29 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline via Facebook	30 9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 5:30PM-Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00PM-Adult Ed Class 6:00PM-Kids' Music 7:00PM-Confirmation			29