



## From Pastor Bill

Fall, for me, and for many I am sure, brings with it a sense of melancholy. Evidently, Martin Luther said that he experienced the law (that which says “no” to us) in the rustling of the leaves. In the falling of the leaves, in their collecting on the ground, we experience life’s movement toward death. Fall is the season that prepares us for death. In winter, the natural world becomes cold and dead. Fall is the segue to the death of winter. No wonder, then, that fall is a time of such melancholy. Most of us aren’t ready for death.

Melancholy can be unsettling. But like every emotion and experience in life, melancholy has a role to play. Melancholy gets us in touch with our longings. And longings generally are good things. Yes, we often want our longings to be satisfied, to be fulfilled. But our longings bear witness to the fact that we need something, that we are not sufficient in and of ourselves, a reality that really is the first step toward health.

Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are the meek; blessed are those who mourn.” In his world (we call that the kingdom or reign of God), those who are in need are blessed or honored. This is wisdom that is so counter to the wisdom offered by the world. What the world tells us is that we are blessed when we are self-sufficient, when we have everything we want. Being full is thought to be the good life. But maybe, the true good life includes unfulfilled longings. Without hunger, food doesn’t mean that much. Hunger bears witness to the goodness of food. Deep longings bear witness to the goodness of that which can meet those deepest longings. Longings make room for God.

Enjoy Fall. Celebrate its colors, its great produce, its gifts of school sports and other school activities. And don’t run from the longings and melancholy that fall brings. Perhaps they will help you go deeper. Many of us skate on top of life, paying little attention to the darker and harder things of life. We cover these realities with busyness and denial, which tend to make us shallow. The deeper people in life are those who embrace the fullness of life, maybe those who live into the depths of all the seasons of the year.



## From Pastoral Assistant Paula

Last month, Emma and I attended a leadership conference hosted by our synod. The keynote speaker, Pastor Jake Mulder, is a graduate from Fuller Seminary and wrote the book, “Growing Young.” One of the primary focal points I gleaned from the presentation was the importance of *story* and how *story* relates to the church now and how it impacts the church of the future. Mulder discussed what sharing the “big story” of Jesus looks like in relation to our young people of today. He broke it down into three distinct categories: *Your Story*, *Their Story*, and *Our Story*.

The first part of his message focused on how we share our faith journey with young people in our church because let’s face it, Christianity can be awkward at times, even when the *story* is compelling. But under-telling the story of God’s grace and love can leave some wide open spaces, sometimes creating a toxic view of faith. The importance of authentic honesty, especially when we often live in a world as it shouldn’t be, is vital to bridging the generational gap, building healthy relationships and allowing for doubt to be discussed.

The second aspect of *story* focused on *their story* - the kids’ story. What’s going on in the lives of today’s young people? They live in a world of Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter (Z), and BeReal (a new platform which allows users to post a picture of themselves with no filter during a few specified time slots). The kids often feel pressured by parents’ expectations, judged by older generations and flanked with the questions of identity, belonging and purpose. In other words, young people consistently ask themselves: *Who am I? Where do I fit? What difference do I make?* These are difficult coming-of-age questions and if the story we invite kids into is not addressing these, we may need to look at how we tell the story.

Lastly, the conversation led to *our story*. A story which fuels a warm community and is radically focused on relational discipleship and incarnational invitation. A story that invites all of us to come alongside young people with gentle persistence and show up in their lives saying, “Tell me more...” Today’s generation is more anxious, adaptive and diverse than ever. I believe that “growing young” for many of us involves creating opportunities to let kids know they belong to the *big story* of Jesus’ death and resurrection. They belong to a faith community who cares about them well beyond graduation. They belong in a world where authentic relationships are the foundation for who we were all created to be. Young people need the body of Christ—and vice versa.

We, at First Lutheran, care deeply for our young people and it shows. Supporting mission trips, mentoring confirmation students, being Grand Mentors, and teaching Faith Formation classes are just a few ways we tangibly show our love and support. But *our story* of sharing God’s love is ongoing, invitational and incarnational. Just think what that looks like to the young people today!

With a grateful heart,  
Paula

# Confirmation

We are off to a great start in our newly formatted confirmation classes! Our final year class consists of seven students who will be finishing up Luther's Small Catechism and meeting with their mentors the last half of the year. Second year students will be working with the curriculum: Collaborate - Lutheran History and Catechism. We currently have five students attending this class. Our Journey students are eager and ready to go as they experience confirmation in a transitional format. Once per month will be our Journey nights where all students will engage in a themed evening that expands their knowledge of the Bible and how it relates to their lives today.

Each month, all the students will engage in a service project beginning with God's Work our Hands on October 1, following the 10:30 am worship service. We will travel as a group to the Milwaukee Clipper and help with several targeted projects.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning, growing and serving as a faith community. Did you know our confirmation students come from eight different school systems?!!! Building a new community on Wednesday nights is exciting and a little bit scary as many students don't see each other outside the church building. Please keep these kids in your prayers and those who lead them!



The **Women's and Men's Breakfast Groups** will meet the fourth week of October due to the Marriage Retreat being held on the weekend of the 20th - 22nd. We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday, October 28th!

## Monday Morning Book Group via Zoom!

It's not too late to join this book group at 10:00a.m. on Monday morning! We are currently discussing the book: *In the Shelter* by Padraig O Tuama. Contact Paula Dusseljee if you would like a zoom link to join. [paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)

## Official Acts



### Deaths

*Patricia "Pat" Walborn*  
Born: September 14, 1937  
Died: September 14, 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Weekly Scripture Readings</i>
10/1	Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Ps 25:1-9 Phil 2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32
10/9	Deut 8:7-18, Ps 65 2 Cor 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19
10/15	Isa 25:1-9, Ps 23 Phil 4:1-9, Matt 22:1-14
10/22	Isa 45:1-7, Ps 96:1-9 [10-13] 1 Thess 1:1-10, Matt 22:15-22
10/29	Lev 19:1-2, 15-18, Ps 1 1 Thess 2:1-8, Matt 22:34-46

## ***HS / MS YOUTH GROUPS***



### **Charge 2023 at Great Wolf Lodge**

6th-12<sup>th</sup> grade students

November 10-12, 2023

\$95/person

Sign up at information stations

See Jeff or Laura Lucht with questions



### **ELCA National Youth Gathering Meeting**

October 8, 2023

7:00 p.m.



### **Halloween Fun**

Watch the announcements for a haunted activity at the end of October...more details to come.



October 28

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Church Parking Lot

- ✧ We're taking candy donations for trunk or treat during October
- ✧ We need volunteers to bring their cars and hand out candy (candy will be provided!) on the 28th

## Weekly Offerings

### Week ending 8/6/2023

General Fund: \$9,393.90  
 Building Enhancement Fund: \$350.00  
 Dollar-A-Day (for new sign): \$359.73  
 Building Rent: \$1,108.00

### Week ending 8/13/2023

General Fund: \$8,615.21  
 Building Enhancement: \$105.00  
 Building Rent: \$261.00  
 Dollar-A-Day (for new sign): \$128.00  
 Noisy Offering (for teachers' classroom supplies): \$240.10

### Week ending 8/20/2023

General Fund: \$7,868.89  
 Building Enhancement: \$310.00  
 Building Rent: \$125.00  
 Noisy Offering (for teachers' classroom supplies): \$172.95

### Week ending 8/27/2023

General Fund: \$7,868.89  
 Building Enhancement: \$310.00  
 Building Rent: \$125.00  
 Noisy Offering (for teachers' classroom supplies): \$192.04  
 Abiding Memorial: \$200.00



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



We would like to thank everyone that helped with the church picnic. The weather really was beautiful, and our church families brought delicious food. Thank you to Pastor Bill and Paula for their guidance and support, as well as all the committee members for their help, all the cooks, set up and clean up people. A big thank you to the education and youth board for all the games and entertainment for all.

We especially want to thank Barb Bonifield, Barb's crew and Tim Rodriguez who put in so much time and energy making our parties beautiful. They always look so amazing, and Barb is always willing to help and do so much for this church. Did you know she buys all the supplies when she sets up and decorates? Thanks again to all the volunteers that helped make this event a huge success.

Sincerely,  
 Deb Roest and Diane Kroll, Fellowship Board

PS: It was nice to see the adults take advantage of the bounce house.

## God's Work Our Hands

Sunday, October 1st, following worship

Assembling Hygiene  
 Kits for Lutheran  
 World Relief

Scraping paint on the  
 Milwaukee Clipper

Cards for Kids

Decorating bags for  
 Kids Food Basket

Highway Cleanup

Sign up at either Information Station for the  
 project of your choice. Lunch is provided!

## Fall Excursion Planned



Ride along for a fall trip on Friday, October 13th with the Fellowship Group at First Lutheran. First, we will be stopping for lunch in Grand Rapids and then we will be going to Robinettes Apple House and Winery. There are many optional activities to do which include Hayrides(\$12) Corn Maze (\$9) and Wine Tasting (\$8). They have apples and pumpkins for sale. They also have a winery, gift shop and a bakery.

We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. and return at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 or less depending on cost of gas.

Any questions? Call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637.

Note: Fellowship Board is planning a trip to Frederick Meijer Gardens in December. More info to follow!

## Halloween Costume Party

Dress up in your favorite costume at the Wednesday Night Dinner on October 25. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Costume Parade and prizes to follow. Free will offering to support National Youth Gathering in New Orleans 2024.

Menu includes:

Severed Chicken Breast  
Monster Chicken Nuggets  
Baked Potato Brains  
Franken Tots  
Corn Casualties  
Devilish Desserts

We are asking for donations for Halloween desserts. Please sign-up at the Information Stations.

Any questions? Call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637.

## October Birthdays!

1	James Sutton Aubrey Freeman Alice Workman Patrick Hansen	12	Dawson Wheeler Travis Wilson	23	Amy Morris-Jones Joan Rumohr
2	Alicia Shank Maureen Preston	13	Kolten Plekes Rylee Cooke Lorie White Karen Montgomery	24	Alyssa Glavich Matthew Henry
3	August Frietsch Joann Petersen	14	Jesse Cooke Jerry Mattson Donn Werling	26	Larry Bringedahl
4	Tim Rodriguez	15	Glenda Borowski Addi Schmitz	27	Marcella Sutton Melissa Rich
5	Britta Portenga Sadie Thomas	16	Larry Holstrom John Arter	28	Lewis Pluger
6	Evelyn Borreson Thomas Larson Lanette McCleary Tammy Dahlstrom	18	Greg Shunta	29	Sam Udell Amy Hewitt Amy Werling Ruth Basch Joseph Dick
7	Raleigh Schmitz Gloria Peterson	19	Linda Dawson Mimi Irmscher Rob Montgomery Matthew Shank Grace Werling	30	Leah Lowry
8	Marilyn Bradfield	20	Alexis Holmes-Goodwin		
9	Jeff Thomas	22	Marilyn Eyestone Braden (Brady) Lindell Jordan Pruitt Kurt Schlager		
10	Jamie Neel Janet Naymick Jacob Uetricht				
11	Jeanne Beardsley Larry Hewitt				



## Keepers

**Nancy Hazekamp**  
1350 W Hackley Apt. 215  
Muskegon, MI 49441

**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

**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

## October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Dollar-A-Day</b> 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:30AM-Realin Sign-Up 12:00PM-God's Work, Our Hands 12:00PM-Bells 6:00PM-New Members' Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10:00AM-Paula's Book Group 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	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 12:30AM-WARSP Meeting 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 4:00PM-Outreach Ministry 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	5:30PM-Bunco 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8:30AM-Stephen Ministry
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:30AM-Realin Sign-Up 12:00PM-160th Anniversary Committee Meeting 7:00PM-National Youth Gathering Meeting 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10:00AM-Paula's Book Group 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Berry Junction Trail Meeting 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	9:00PM-Lion's Club Board Mtg 12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	10:30AM-Robbinettes Apple Haus & Winery Excursion 5:30PM-Sons of Norway Meeting 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	
<b>Chimes Deadline</b> 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:30AM-Realin Sign-Up 6:00PM-New Member's Class/ Polluck 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10:00AM-Paula's Book Group 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:00PM-Lion's Club 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	Marriage Retreat
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00AM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 7:00PM-Confirmation	12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PMOGrief Group Reunion 6:00PM-Worship 6:00PM-Restorative Yoga 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8:30AM-Women's Breakfast Group 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast Group 4:00PM-Trunk or Treat
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/ Reformation 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00AM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 5:45PM-Gentle Soul Yoga 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline				