



From Pastor Bill

We at First begin our 2025 Fall stewardship campaign with an honest concern about our congregation's future financial well-being. I don't say this with any desire to induce panic. That would not be fruitful nor faithful. Yet you should know that our bottom line is not what it was even at the end of 2024.

We know that there is quite a bit of financial instability in the economy right now. Some folks are a little nervous about where the economy is heading and are being a little more cautious about spending and giving away money than they have been in the past. We take into consideration the big picture as we think about our little piece of the pie.

The past five years have been for our congregation the most robust in terms of money that I have ever experienced. In part, that was because of some large individual gifts, a couple of major estate gifts, and money from the government due to COVID. Lorey, our administrator, and I can report that we have had to sweat little over money these past five years. Before those years, life was different. And now it appears that we are returning to those more challenging years.

To address the challenge, we are trying to reduce some discretionary spending and are increasing some of our rental costs for those who use our facilities. That may make a small difference. But honestly, the church doesn't have much discretionary spending, which means that the primary place for us to make cuts would be in staffing and staff salaries. I hope we won't have to make such cuts.

The best way to address our financial outlook is to find ways to increase our giving. So, I do that with this letter. If you are capable of giving a special gift to our congregation, or probably more importantly, if you are able to increase the amount you give on a regular basis, or if you can begin giving on a weekly or monthly basis, please consider doing so. Some of us, when we choose what we are going to give, we give what we gave years ago. Obviously, \$25 or \$50 or \$200 is not worth what it was worth a decade ago.

My wife and I have tried to use the 80-10-10 approach to managing our money, which is matter of spending 80 percent of what we receive, saving 10 percent, and giving away 10 percent. Not all folks can manage their money in that way, I realize. But it is a way for us to make sure generous giving is a disciplined part of our weekly routine.

What is most important and helpful for the church is that our people participate in disciplined giving. We're all in this together. Part of the togetherness is sharing the financial load. And for me, this is not simply a matter of responsibility, but joy. It's fun to give.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I am writing this entry following my return from Church at the Crossroads Conference in September. It was the first of its kind and the organizers anticipated approximately two - three hundred attendees. You can imagine their reaction when eight hundred people registered for the event! The church where the event was held, Parkview Community Church in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, could accommodate three-hundred people but thanks to technology, everyone who registered could participate in person or via livestream.

At the onset of the conference, I asked one of the organizers how he felt about the overwhelming response to this first-of-its-kind conference. His reaction startled me a bit. He was full of emotion when he responded, "We had no idea so many people in the church are feeling the gut-wrenching effects of the violent escalation in Israel and Palestine." Church at the Crossroads, you see, was a gathering of Christians who recognize that the church is standing at a defining moment - a moment where Jesus is calling us back to the narrow way of the cross. And what does that look like today, for you and me?

Rooted in scripture and led by Palestinian Christian leaders, alongside pastors and peacemakers from across North America, this conference invited American Christians to engage in honest reckoning, prophetic reflection, and faithful action. Through worship, prayer, teaching, and fellowship, we were called to repentance, renewal, and courageous discipleship. Church at the Crossroads was a space to confront harmful theologies, rediscover the gospel according to Jesus, and stand with all who seek justice in the land.

There were times when the dialogue was uncomfortable. There were times when the personal testimonies brought me to tears and broke my heart. There were times when I had to re-examine what *my* faith and theology means at this pivotal moment in our history. If the gospel is not good news for all, then what is it? Fares Abraham, CEO of Levant Ministries exclaimed, "Expanding God's love is pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian - it's not a contradiction." And scholar Dr. Lamma Mansour of Nazareth, concluded her personal reflection with these words: *When we exercise the muscle of lament, we exercise the muscle to love.* I was grateful for the opportunity to attend this conference but in all honesty, I left wondering if I am at a crossroads of being called - not to comfort, but to faithfulness, peace, and costly love?

One final thought for now... Many times I hear people respond to all the political upheaval in the Middle East and say, "Well, it's complicated." Thank goodness Jesus didn't say, "It's complicated," and leave it at that. He did something. He came down.

In peace,
Paula



From Shar Music Coordinator

Health Improvement!

Who's in favor? Short answer: EVERYONE!

Every day we can see what a good thing we have when we share in Community. Good health practices are no exception. Please consider joining others in our Faith community who wish to start, continue and 'ramp up', Good Health practices.

When I began my faith journey at First Lutheran, my personal goal was to work on self-improvement via Mind-Body-Spirit. With support from my peeps (all of you!) I am in a much better place than I was in November of 2011, when I became an official member of this community.

I, the self-ordained "All-are-welcome" Queen, pray for that with all of you! When Wednesday night dinners start on October 1, To Your Health will become a part of your educational opportunities. We will begin in the Family Life Center at 6:10, following dinner. We will begin with some gentle movement until 6:30ish. For our first gathering, I want to hear your thoughts and ideas so we can flesh out our short and long-term goals. We can wrap up at 7:00 pm.

I want everyone to take ownership in what we choose to do with this time. Please join us and share your vision. To Your Health!

Sincerely,
Shar



Three Courses Variety Show

Friday, October 17th 6:00 p.m.

Participate in **All Three Courses!**

Sign-up to:

Bring Course 1 - Hors d'oeuvres

Share Course 2 - Your talent

Bring Course 3 - Dessert

Confirmation

We are off to a great start this year! All three confirmation classes began the year with a *Getting to Know You* activity. The students interviewed each other and then shared some of the responses. Here are the responses to the question, "If you could have a conversation with anyone in the Bible (not Jesus), who would it be and why?"

- God. I will ask him where you go when you die.
- That one guy because he's pretty cool.
- Mary. Because I wonder what it was like to be the mom of Jesus.
- Noah. Because that's my brother's name.
- God. So I can talk to him about my sins.
- Matthew.
- Mary.
- Mary. Because she had to do a lot for Jesus.

If *you* could have a conversation with anyone in the Bible, who would you chat with and why?

First and second year students have begun their study of Lutheran History and Catechism and of course the man behind the movement, Martin Luther. As leaders, we must always make a distinction between the "guy" who wrote the 95 reasons why we needed a reformation and Martin Luther King Jr., "the guy" whose words continue to be a reason why we need another reformation. Our third-year students have begun to look at world religions and what it means to be a Lutheran in a very diverse world of religions.

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

ACOLYTE sign-up sheets are on the ledge in front of Paula's office. The schedule is also in a google doc and email is always an option! ACOLYTES are such a vital part of the worship team and Lorey would love to put their names in the bulletin! Any questions, please contact Paula.

High School Youth Haunted House

October 25th
Watch the bulletin for more details.



Outreach Ministry News Flash!!!

Mark your calendars for our annual fundraising event to support the ELCA school, Dar Al-Kalima in Bethlehem, Palestine!!! This auction raises monies for the Family Scholarship Program. Each scholarship is \$1600 - which helps those struggling with tuition, teacher supplies, transportation and food. Last year we raised over \$10,000 - which created over six Family Scholarships!

This year, our goal is to raise enough funds to provide ten Family Scholarships. The needs of our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters are greater than ever and due to the increase of checkpoints around Bethlehem, many parents are not able to leave the area for work.

Auction items will be on display from **Sunday, October 26 - Wednesday, November 5** when we finalized the bids during our Wednesday night dinner. The Outreach Ministry will provide a meal of chicken, baked potatoes and salad - and desserts!!!

If you have any questions about the auction or how to give toward a scholarship, please contact Paula Dusseljee @ 231-343-2644 or email: paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

Join Us!!

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience what our ministries are about firsthand **and** get a “taste” of First Lutheran from the individual ministries!!! It’s a win-win situation! Contact Paula Dusseljee if you have any questions! paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

TASTE OF FIRST LUTHERAN Ministry Fair

Sunday | October 19th | Following worship

Delicious bites of food AND knowledge!

Come get a **taste** of what we’re all about here at First Lutheran

Book
groups

Quilters

Ministry Groups

- Music and Worship
- Fellowship
- Stewardship
- Education & Youth
- Building and Grounds
- Outreach
- Congregational Care

Social
Groups

Coffee
Hour



COMPOST RIGHT MUSKEGON



Take a pause to
compost right

Did you know you can bring compostable materials to the Muskegon Farmers Market on Saturdays from 8 AM until 2 PM. Keep food scraps out of the landfill and help us turn food waste into nutritious compost. Even better, we take items you cannot compost at home

ACCEPTED AT FARMERS MARKET

FRUITS



VEGETABLES



MEAT, BONES & DAIRY



PERSONAL CARE



YARD WASTE



BPI CERTIFIED DINNERWARE



LEFTOVERS



PAPER PRODUCTS



COFFEE & TEA



NOT ACCEPTED

PLASTIC & PRODUCE BAGS



PET WASTE



NON CERTIFIED DINNERWARE



FEMININE PRODUCTS



PRODUCE STICKERS



Learn
more



green
michigan
.org



ORGANICYCLE
Curbside Composting



Update from Stewardship Ministry

The theme for our Stewardship Ministry this fall is “**In it together**”. We chose this theme to emphasize the importance of belonging to this community, where everyone matters and has a place.

During the month of October, we will explore this theme, including how we build community, serve others, and practice generosity. Each week, we'll have a brief reflection on these topics, and during worship on October 23 and 26, everyone will be invited to offer a pledge of support for the church's ministries in 2026. We look forward to exploring with you how we're “In it together!”



American Red Cross

The next Red Cross blood drive at First Lutheran will be held on Monday, November 17 between 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. You can sign-up to donate at www.redcross.org or contact Kim Westerholm at 712 539-8536.

A collection of colorful interlocking puzzle pieces in yellow, red, blue, and green, scattered around the puzzle competition announcement.

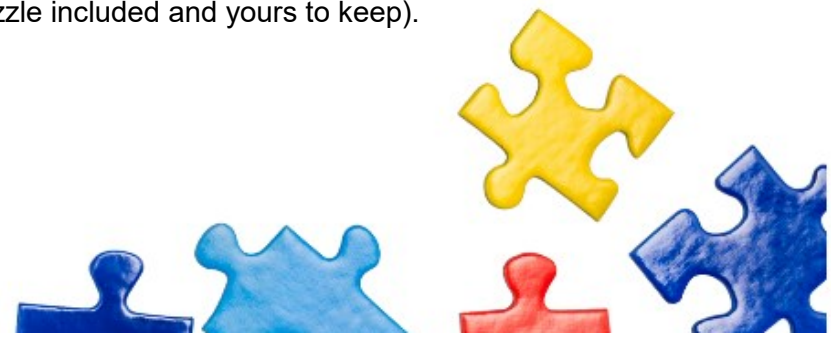
Puzzle Competition Fundraiser

Saturday, November 1, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an exciting evening of puzzles, fun and friendly competition while supporting the youth of the church. Bring your team of 4 and put your skills to the test in our 500-piece Puzzle Competition Fundraiser.

Work together to complete the puzzle as fast as you can and compete for the title of champions! The competition kicks off at 6:00 p.m., so make sure you are there on time. Teams will race to finish a 500-piece puzzle first. The winning team will win a prize! Light refreshments will be provided.

Sign up at the Information Stations or by contacting Laura Lucht (616-638-2406). \$40 per team (puzzle included and yours to keep).

A collection of colorful interlocking puzzle pieces in yellow, red, blue, and green, scattered around the puzzle competition announcement.

Oktoberfest Fundraiser Sunday, October 12

This event is being sponsored by the Werling Family, Building and Grounds Ministry and the Fellowship Ministry for the beautification of First Lutheran grounds and to purchase native plants and trees.

On October 12 after the Sunday service, we will be having a free-will donation lunch which includes hot dogs, brats, sauerkraut, veggies, German and regular potato salad, coleslaw, anniversary cake, apple crisp bars, apple cider and root beer.

Entertainment will be provided by the Werling Family to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. They will start out with "Roll Out the Barrell" done on an Echo Harmonica made in Germany followed by songs for the Seasons of Christian Life.

Sign-up sheets are on the Information Stations for food needed to help defer costs. Any questions, please call Deb Roest 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll 231-557-4637.



Wednesday Night Programming Returns October 1

5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Kids' Music Class
6:10 p.m. Bible Study
6:10 p.m. New Member Class

Please Join Us!



Dinner and a Play

October 4 at 5:30pm

We are going to the Vault for dinner from 5:45 to 7:00p.m.; your choice of restaurants. Then we are going to the play "The Lumber Queen" at The Stage on the Corner at 280 W. Western at 7:30 pm for 1 hour starring Dana Olsen and D.J. Hilson.

You must register on the sign-up sheets at the Information Stations by September 27; we must get tickets early. The bus will be available if we have enough people needing it. Please put that on the sign-up sheet if you need the bus.

Any questions call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-567-4637.



Halloween Costume Party

Dress up in your favorite costume at the Wednesday Night Dinner on October 22. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Costume Parade and prizes to follow. Free will offering will support Supper House. Entertainment will be provided by Burnished Brass.

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.





Thanks to the September Chimes assemblers:

Dave and Theresa Buchan

Official Acts



Deaths

Mary Warden

Date of Birth: 12/22/1944

Date of Death: 09/02/2025



Weekly Offerings

Week ending 08-03-2025:

General Fund: \$10,115.49

Building Rent: \$120.00

Building Enhancement: \$85.00

Dollar A Day: (for carpet in building): \$661.59

Abiding Memorial: \$40.00

Week ending 08-10-2025:

General Fund: \$7,387.89

Building Rent: \$205.00

Building Enhancement: \$65.00

Dollar A Day (carpet): \$122.00

Noisy Offering: (for Read Muskegon & Kids Belong):
\$220.71

Week ending 08-17-2025:

General Fund: \$6,059.08

Building Rent: \$1,086.52

Building Enhancement: \$155.00

Noisy Offering (for Read Muskegon & Kids Belong)
\$124.71

Week ending 08-24-2025:

General Fund: \$4,635.83

Building Rent: \$145.00

Building Enhancement: \$175.00

Noisy Offering (for Read Muskegon & Kids Belong):
\$224.00

Week ending 08-31-2025:

General Fund: \$4,460.49

Building Rent: \$100.00

Building Enhancement: \$135.00

Noisy Offering (for Read Muskegon & Kids Belong):
\$172.43

Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
10/5	Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Ps 37:1-9 2 Tim 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10
10/12	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, Ps 111 2 Tim 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19
10/19	Gen 32:22-31, Ps 121 2 Tim 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8
10/26	Jer 14:7-10, 19-22, Ps 84:1-7 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

October Birthdays

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



Keepers

Evelyn Borreson

5847 Stapel Rd
Twin Lake, MI 49457-9342

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

Tom Mullinnex

2284 Riverwood Dr
Twin Lake, MI 49457-8868

Cheryl Parmeter

1681 Sycamore Dr
Muskegon, MI 49445-3400

Keith Stapel

1228 Lawrence St
Muskegon, MI 49442

Dave Walborn

18552 W Spring Lake Rd
Spring Lake, MI 49456

First Lutheran Church

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Wednesday Night Programming 5:30PM-Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music Class 6:10PM-Bible Study 6:10PM-New Members' Class 6:10PM-To Your Health						
**Dollar-a-Day Weekend ** 9:15AM-Children's Choir- PreK-5th gr 9:15AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person/On-Line Worship 12:00PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM-CROP Walk 7:00PM-AA Meeting	 9:00AM-Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 1:30PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Mtg 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-MARSP Meeting 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting ** Wed Night Programming **	 10:00AM-Music Together Classes 12:00PM-Lecternary Bible Study 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Private Group Mtg 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	 7:00PM-AA Meeting	 7:30PM-Lumber Queen Musical
 9:15AM-Children's Choir- PreK-5th gr 9:15AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person/On-Line Worship 12:00PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM-Welsh Octoberfest Luncheon 6:30PM-Muskegon Rotary Club Meeting 7:00PM-AA Meeting	 9:00AM-Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 1:30PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 10:00AM-Lion's Board Meeting 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	Chimes Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 7:00PM-Rehearsal for Variety Show ** Wed Night Programming **	 10:00AM-Music Together Classes 12:00PM-Lecternary Bible Study 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	 5:30PM-"Three Courses" Variety Show 7:00PM-AA Meeting	 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast
 9:15AM-Children's Choir- PreK-5th gr 9:15AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person/On-Line Worship 11:00AM-Ministry Fair 12:00PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM-AA Meeting	 9:00AM-Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 1:30PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner/ Halloween Party	 10:00AM-Music Together Classes 12:00PM-Lecternary Bible Study 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Private Group Mtg 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	 7:00PM-AA Meeting	
 9:15AM-Children's Choir- PreK-5th gr 9:15AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person/On-Line Worship/ Reformation Sunday 12:00PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM-Taize' Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	 9:00AM-Lisa's Music Lessons 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 1:30PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting ** Wed Night Programming **	 10:00AM-Music Together Classes 12:00PM-Lecternary Bible Study 3:00PM-Lisa's Music Lessons 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	 7:00PM-AA Meeting	