



September 2023
#745

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

I must admit that I grieve the end of summer. It always goes too fast, especially here in Western Michigan where our summers are such a delight. But the arrival of fall brings great joy and many opportunities. In some ways, the Fall is like the beginning of the new year for the church, since our schedule generally coincides with the school calendar.

Because it is like the beginning of the new year, I find myself reflecting on the goals we established for our congregation earlier in the year: to further develop a culture of service and to highlight the importance of the practices of faith.

We've made some good progress with the former goal. We hosted a service trip to Appalachia. We've become involved with the Exit program, an effort to aid families of people in jail. We continue to provide food through the Family Promise program and assist monthly with meals at Supper House. We went solar and have committed ourselves to participate in a clean-up of M-120 four times during the year. We've enabled our Wednesday night dinners to highlight the great work of service organizations throughout town. We've become much more generous with our money to ministries outside of our congregation, including Supper House, Dar al Kalima School in Bethlehem, Palestine, Citi Boi ministries, Samaritas, Fresh Coast Alliance, and the Florida-Bahama Synod of the ELCA.

We have discovered over the past six months more servant leaders for the variety of ministries that shape the internal life of our congregation. But truthfully, this is an area for growth for us. We need more folks who want to step up to the leadership plate here at First. We hear many folks say they want to help out, but they don't want to lead. We need people who will lead, individuals who will teach in our faith formation classes, men and women who will chair ministries and serve on those ministries. Could you be one of those people?

The second goal we established for ourselves for this year claimed that "we will highlight the significance of

(Continued on page 3)



Regular Worship Schedule Begins September 10

Faith Formation	9:30 a.m. Sunday
Worship (in-person and on-line)	10:30 a.m. Sunday
Worship (in-person only)	6:00 p.m. Thursday

*The Chimes is published monthly by First Lutheran Church,
Muskegon, MI for members & friends of the congregation.*



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I don't know about you, but sometimes the Bible stories we encounter in the weekly lectionary stick with me long after they have been proclaimed from the pulpit. At least this has certainly been the case for me lately. I've spent a lot of time these past two weeks ruminating about *Feeding the Five Thousand* and *Jesus Walks on Water*. These stories in the gospel of Matthew are back-to-back in the text. I'm not sure whether this is purposeful or not. However, what I have noticed is that these stories, often told separately, seem to me to be part of a larger narrative. The poet, Padraig O Tuama, characterizes these stories as, "...absence, presence, and the changing nature of circumstance."

I have to wonder if the story of Jesus, surrounded by *five thousand* people, a few fish, some bread, and a miraculous multiplication of these minute amounts, was the beginning of great generosity. I think so. In fact, I think that when hungry people are fed something miraculous happens and in this case, once the physical needs were met there was a hunger and thirst unlike that of an empty stomach. Perhaps a thirst for more of the Lord of Generosity.

But when the crowds are dismissed, disciples are onboard the boat and Jesus is headed up the mountain, a turbulent wind whips, the sea begins to thrash around, fear seeps into every crevice and a storm becomes the storyline. We see that even the seasoned fishermen are fearful! They feel unsteady in a wooden boat battered by the waves of an uncertain sea. And adding to their fear is a voice calling out to them, "It is I." It was Jesus... walking on the waters that rocked them, walking where he shouldn't walk, but being with them in the here and now of their fear.

I believe that these two stories look a little bit like life. Sometimes it is stormy, and sometimes there is bread to share. Sometimes we sense God's presence in the midst of generosity served on a grass-covered hill. And sometimes we experience the hand of Jesus reaching out to us in the midst of our turmoil and unsteady gait as he simply says, "It is I." The interesting intersection of these stories in Matthew remind me that while one of us is in the storm, someone else is on the hillside, and someone else is waiting in a boat, watching waves begin to form.

As we begin a new year of Faith Formation classes, Wednesday night dinners, Bible study, book studies, small groups, etc., I invite you to come and experience each other's stories of storms, blessings of bread and generosity and how we live into the bigger narrative of Jesus. We need each other. We need to live into the interconnectedness of life in Jesus! See you in September!

Blessings,
Paula

Confirmation

Classes begin on September 13th at 7:00 p.m.!

Welcome back! We are excited to begin a new year of classes and a new format for teaching confirmation. After many conversations with other churches around the country, parent feedback and restructuring of our education and youth ministries, Confirmation will now be a two-year program! This is what it will look like:

Journey nights: Students in *grades 6, 7, 8* will meet together on the *first Wednesday of every month* from *7:00-8:00 p.m.* This class will be using the curriculum: **t. b. d. (Think. Believe. Do.)**

Collaboration Confirmation: Students in *grades 7 and 8* (or those fulfilling the two-year commitment—currently enrolled in confirmation classes) will meet *each Wednesday* during the school year *from 7:00-8:00 p.m.* This class will study Luther's Small Catechism and will be using the curriculum: **Collaborate**. Final Year students will be assigned a mentor in the second half of the year and will meet with Pastor Bill periodically to discuss faith, religion and how to live as a Lutheran in an ever-changing world.

Parent Information Meetings:

Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

**Note: Please let Paula know what meeting you will be attending for planning purposes..*

Email: paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org via FB messenger or 231-343-2644

Our New Coordinator of Education and Youth Ministry



Hello, First Lutheran! My name is Emma Johnston, and I am the new Coordinator of Education and Youth Ministry. I'm originally from northwest Iowa, but my husband Nate and I moved to West Michigan in 2016, and have been worshipping at First Lutheran for four years. We live in Muskegon and have two children, Leo (4) and Hugo (1). I graduated from college with degrees in

English and Spanish, and I've been working as a medical interpreter with Trinity Health. I love to run, read, and be outside with my outdoors-loving family.

In the past few years, I've been involved with Junior Church and Vacation Bible School here at First Lutheran, and I'm excited to build on the programming we have for the kids here! My family has been blessed to be part of this community, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute.

(Continued from page 1)

the practices of faith (weekly worship, study, prayer, meditation, journaling, service)." I think we in leadership haven't done so well with this goal. It came out of the realization that Covid caused many of us to give up some of the practices of faith, especially weekly worship and study.

Fall is a great time to recommit ourselves to these practices. They matter. We do indeed become what we practice. Weekly worship is a discipline that shapes who we are and who we become. Study takes us deeper into the matters of faith and can become so transformational. Some of the deepest Christians in our congregation are those who commit themselves to regular study. We in this congregation offer many opportunities for our youth and adult education. Please take advantage of them.

Honestly, I'd like to linger with summer for a while. But I am always excited when we return to the activities of the school year. It's good to be First Lutheran all year round.



Faith Formation and Junior Church Training Dates

Sunday September 3, 12:00pm (following worship service)

Wednesday September 13, 7:00pm

Anybody who is interested in volunteering as either a team teacher for Sunday morning Faith Formation classes or leading Junior Church during the Sunday service is invited to participate in a brief training either following worship on September 3, or following the Confirmation Parent Meeting on September 13.

Contact Emma Johnston at emma@firstlutheranmuskegon.org or (712) 395-0502 with questions or for more information.

Church Picnic

Sunday, September 10 after worship

**Fellowship Ministry will provide
hamburgers and hot dogs,
condiments. Tea, lemonade
and water will also be provided.**

Please bring a dish to pass as follows:

A - H: Main Dishes or Sides

I -Q: Salads

R-Z: Desserts

**Weather permitting, there will be
games outside for all ages.**





Adult Faith Formation Class

“How Reading the Bible Can Change Your Life” will begin our Fall Sunday Adult Faith Formation Class on September 10 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Based on Richard Rohr’s book “Things Hidden”, we will explore the “living Word” not for answers, but for a deeper exploration of life and faith.

Tuesday Adult Class

Our Tuesday Adult Class (online and in-person) will be a study of The Sermon on the Mount with the assistance of Amy-Jill Levine’s book “The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.” The class will begin on Tuesday, September 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Women’s Monday Morning Zoom Class

Women’s Monday Morning Zoom Class resumes on September 25 at 10:00 a.m.!! If you would like to participate, please email Paula Dusseljee for a zoom link. Stay tuned for the book we will be discussing! Email Paula at paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

Men and Women’s Breakfast Groups

Men and Women’s Breakfast Groups will resume on September 16 from 8:30 -10:00 a.m.!

This is the 3rd Saturday of the month! (Yes, we are moving from the second to the third Saturday this year!) If you have not joined us or are new to our congregation, this is a great way to participate in a small group and you don’t have to do any homework beforehand - just show up!

HS / MS YOUTH GROUPS



Charge 2023 at Great Wolf Lodge
November 10-12, 2023. Watch for more
information soon.



2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in
New Orleans. Registration September 15,
2023. See Jeff or Laura Lucht for more
information.



Youth volunteers needed to help with
games at the church picnic on September
10th. See Jeff or Laura Lucht if you can
help.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive Scheduled

First Lutheran's next Blood Drive is scheduled for
Monday, September 25 from 11:30-5:30. You can
make an appointment on-line
at: www.redcrossblood.org , by calling the Red Cross
at 1-800-RED-CROSS, or by calling the Red Cross
Coordinator at First Lutheran (Kim Westerholm) at
712-539-8536.



- **Stephen Ministry Training**—September 9, 8:30 a.m. Please contact
Pastor Bill, Paula Dusseljee or Lynda Ferry for more information.
- **Lector Training**—September 24 after worship
- **New Member Classes**—September 24, October 1, 8 and 15 from
6:00—8:00 p.m.
- **Grief Support Group**—September 6 at the Policka home
- **Marriage Retreat**—October 20-22 in Grand Rapids.
Hotel rooms: \$135 per night
Set aside this time to nurture your marriage

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 7/2/2023

General Fund: \$7,178.21
 Building Enhancement Fund: \$265.00
 Dollar-A-Day (for new bus): \$348.88
 Building Rent: \$20.00
 Abiding Memorial: \$100.00

Week ending 7/9/2023

General Fund: \$14,109.89
 Building Enhancement: \$300.00
 Building Rent: \$20.00
 Dollar-A-Day (for new bus): 122.00
 Noisy Offering (for Trinity Hope): \$263.94

Week ending 7/16/2023

General Fund: \$4,843.21
 Building Enhancement: \$100.00
 Building Rent: \$265.00
 Noisy Offering (for Trinity Hope): \$242.18
 Abiding Memorial: \$45.00

Week ending 7/23/2023

General Fund: \$6,128.55
 Building Enhancement: \$190.00
 Building Rent: \$426.00
 Noisy Offering (for Trinity Hope): \$176.12
 Abiding Memorial: \$480.00

Week ending 7/30/2023

General Fund: \$7,876.48
 Building Enhancement: \$275.00
 Building Rent: \$117.00
 Noisy Offering (for Trinity Hope): \$198.51
 Abiding Memorial: \$50.00



Official Acts



Funerals

Beverly M. Frank

Date of Birth: 5/28/1933

Date of Death: 7/13/2023

Wallace G. "Wally" Tallent

Date of Birth: 4/30/1928

Date of Death: 8/2/2023

Richard Bruce Ackerberg

Date of Birth: 7/19/1951

Date of Death: 6/17/2023


Patricia Wierenga

Date of Birth: 12/2/1946

Date of Death: 2/27/2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Weekly Scripture Readings</i>
9/3	Jer 15:15-21, Ps 26:1-8 Rom 12:9-21, Matt 16:21-28
9/10	Ezek 33:7-11, Ps 119:33-40 Rom 13:8-14, Matt 18:15-20
9/17	Gen 50:15-21, Ps 103:[1-7] 8-13 Rom 14:1-12, Matt 18:21-35
9/24	Jonah 3:10-4:11, Ps 145:1-8 Phil 1:21-30, Matt 20:1-16




OPTIONAL POST-TOUR AVAILABLE:
EXTENSION TO EGYPT
Dates: April 12-15, 2024
Package: \$990 / Single Supplement: \$200






April 2 - 12, 2024 | Chicago, IL (ORD) | Package Price \$3990

HOLY LAND


pilgrimage

PACKAGE INCLUDES: Roundtrip Airfare | All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
 Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily | Sightseeing in modern, air-conditioned private bus
 English-speaking government licensed Christian tour guide | **And Much More**

Good Shepherd Travel
www.goodshepherdtravel.com
 Toll Free: 1.844.659.5263



First Lutheran Muskegon
paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org
 Phone: 231-343-2644

2024 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2 - 12, 2024



DAY 1 > DEPARTURE FROM USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Meals will be served on board.

DAY 2 > ARRIVAL HOTEL TRANSFER

Arrival at Tel Aviv Airport, meet your guide at the airport, and drive to your Hotel in Galilee for dinner and overnight Tiberius. (D)

DAY 3 > NAZARETH / CANA / MOUNT TABOR

Start our visit to the Church of Annunciation and Cana of Galilee, with the opportunity to renew marriage vows.

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.

More details to follow in the next Chimes.

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

Halloween Costume Party



Dress up in your favorite costume at the Wednesday Night Dinner on October 25. Dinner will be served from 5:15 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
Ghoulish Green Beans
Spooky Salad
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 Dave and Theresa Buchan
who assembled the August Chimes.*

Chimes Articles

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



September Birthdays!

1	Jeff Lucht Lorey Montgomery	13	Erin Schmitz	26	Gail Taggart
2	Marnie Fielstra Karl Ziemelis Chris Corbett	14	Carolyn Ness	27	Agnes Tallent
3	Jake Frietsch	15	Renee Petersen Mary Beth Liskey	28	Mylie Neel Richard Sahlhoff
5	Dorothy Pfhistner LouAnn Hansen	17	Nancy Burton Matthew Cregg	30	Marcy Joy Michael Sauro
6	Brad Hyde Chloe O'Connor	18	Ronald Hansen Sylvia Koski		
8	Roland Crummel Kaitlyn Sutton Andy Will Roger LeMieux	19	Merritt Archer Lana Cassidy		
9	Einar Ness Debra Shields	21	David Bleich Charles Joy Dianna Radel Jenna Lowry Nancy Miller-Corbett Kim Westerholm		
10	John Golden	22	Joshua Pfhistner Beverly Uetrict Gerald Crenno Kaleb Kitchka		
11	Jeri Staudacher Aaron Rich Cama Shunta	23	Deborah Roest Mike Strait		
12	Patricia Shafer				



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

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

First Lutheran Church

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00PM-AA Meeting	2
Dollar-A-Day 10:00AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Faith Formation Training 7:00PM-AA Meeting	Labor Day Office Closed 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-MARSP Meeting 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Mtg 6:00PM-Lion's Club 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 4:00PM-Grief Group Reunion 7:00PM-Confirmation Parent Meeting	12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	4:00PM-Lion's Club 5:30PM-Bunco 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10:00AM-Lion's Club
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Church Picnic 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilter's Group 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 5:30PM-Dinner 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 6:30PM-Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:00PM-Confirmation Training	12:00PM-Bible Study (In-Person & Zoom) 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	6:00PM-Crafty Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	16
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Lion's Club 8:00PM-Lion's Club Board Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 5:30PM-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	7:00PM-AA Meeting	23 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast Group 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast Group
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 11:30AM-Lector Training 6:00PM-New Member's Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilter's Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:00AM-Adult Education Class 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 5:30PM-Dinner 6:00PM-Kid's Music 6:05PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation	12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-Worship 6:00PM-Restorative Yoga 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class	6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	30