



**April 2022  
#730**

# The Chimes

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## From Pastor Bill

I must admit that what is happening in the Ukraine is deeply piercing my soul. The pain being imposed on the people there is beyond imagination. How much more can they withstand? How much more suffering can the world endure? The scourge of Covid is starting to wane, and now we face this humanitarian crisis.

If you think evil is not real, you aren't paying attention. I believe that we need to name evil when it is apparent. And Vladimir Putin is an evil man who seems to have no regard for human life and dignity. Today we are told that at his behest a hospital full of pregnant women was attacked. This is pure, unadulterated evil.

You and I are about to enter the climax of our big narrative. We are moving closer to Good Friday and Easter. The message of Good Friday is, without a doubt, multi-faceted. One significant piece of the diamond that Good Friday is comes to us from the Gospel of John. This gospel depicts the cross as judgment—judgment of what the world does to love. The cross is lifted up so that we can see what we and especially the powers of this world do when love threatens our little lives. The cross is like a mirror to the world. And what it reveals is not pretty. Sometimes we don't like to look in the mirror. But we must. We must face the truth. Evil is real. And it can be seen in people like Putin and even in us.

Glancing at the cross is tough. It's necessary if life is going to change. Putin won't change until he tells the truth about his narcissistic self. We won't change if we don't tell the truth about ourselves.

The Gospel of John would have us focus our attention on the cross, though, not simply so we can face our sin, but so that we can encounter the deepest truth of life, which is the love that God has for the world. In the cross we see not only evil, but love.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," John tells us. There is no greater love than the one we meet in the self-sacrifice of Jesus experienced on the cross.

I pray daily that the love of God experienced in the cross of Christ might get to Putin's heart. I don't know. His narcissism might be so potent that that is a pipedream. I hope not.



## From Pastoral Assistant Paula

Throughout this Lenten season I have been reading a book entitled, *A Way Other than Our Own*. The book is a collection of devotions written by Walter Bruggemann specifically for the Lenten season. I am sharing an entry from the book in hopes that together we can enter the fifth week of Lent *unafraid* of the alternative world that names us, shapes us, and calls us to the foot of the cross.

### Known, Named, and Unafraid

*But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1*

Being unafraid is an odd vocation; but it is the vocation of all those who have been baptized. We are different when baptized. The Acts account of the early church says that the Spirit of God came upon the ones baptized, even as the Spirit came upon Jesus in baptism. A lot of silliness is taught about the spirit coming in baptism. But what the Spirit does is visit our lives - our persons, our bodies, our imagination, our money - with the freedom of God, so that we are unafraid in the world, able to live differently, not needing to control, not needing to dominate, not needing to accumulate, not driven by anxiety. The book of Acts is the study of the baptized, the ones the Spirit visits, the ones who are unafraid in the world. It says of that community of known, named, and unafraid people, "They turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Or better to say, they turned the world right side up.

The truth is that frightened people will never turn the world, because they use too much energy on protection of self. It is the vocation of the baptized, the known and named and unafraid, to make the world whole:

- *The unafraid* are open to the neighbor, while the frightened are defending themselves from the neighbor
- *The unafraid* are generous in the community, while the frightened, in their anxiety, must keep and store and accumulate, to make themselves safe.
- *The unafraid* commit acts of compassion and mercy, while the frightened do not notice those in need.
- *The unafraid* are committed to justice for the weak and the poor, while the frightened see them only as threats.
- *The unafraid* pray in the morning, care through the day, and rejoice at night in thanks and praise, while the frightened are endlessly restless and dissatisfied.

### Let us pray...

*In a world of fear and anxiety, you empower us to live lives of wholeness, lives that make the world whole and turn it right side up. Embolden us as those who know that they are called by your name. Amen.*



## Music Notes From Shar Music Director

### Good Friday Observance

The grief we share during Holy Week is better shared in Community. Singers from First Lutheran Church will be joining in song at 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday in the sanctuary. We will journey through Holy Week by way of African American spirituals and the use of Luke's Gospel. Visual enhancement projected on the screen will round out the experience.



Please join us.

### Holy Hilarity! Coming Soon to a Church Near You!

This is our opportunity to have even more fun than usual in church! We traditionally celebrate this the week after Easter, when we have been immersed in the solemnity of Lent during the darkest, coldest time of the year. This year we will be laughing at ourselves, so the comic opportunities are endless!



Neuroscience tells us that our brains come "built in" with "binary" inclination; "either/or" thought processes. But wait! Humanity is much better off if we avoid this tendency. Instead of "either/or" we should strive for "both/and." I think you can see the obvious opportunity for MUCH hilarity!

Plan to join us on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> during the services. If you have ideas, share them with me or Paula ASAP. Remember the more time spent on your ideas, the less time we will have to spend listening to "Pastor Bill" jokes!

## Meals and Miracles

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, our young folk will be celebrating three of our favorite things – Meals, Miracles, and Moms! Using songs selected to highlight some of their favorite New Testament stories from Holy Moly, children age six through twelve will present these timeless tales in their own unique way. Please join us at the 10:30 service!

## Weekly Offerings

### Week ending 02/06/2022

General Fund: \$6,608.58  
Mortgage Fund: \$1,328.00  
Dollar-A-Day (for mortgage reduction): \$324.35  
Abiding Memorial: \$370.00

### Week ending 02/13/2022

General Fund: \$7,852.95  
Mortgage Fund (for mortgage reduction): : \$1,060.00  
Dollar-A-Day: \$96.15  
Abiding memorial: \$50.00  
Noisy Offering (Gracious Grounds): \$81.59

### Week ending 02/20/2022

General Fund: \$5,375.87  
Mortgage Fund: \$1,175.00  
Dollar-A-Day: \$62.00  
Abiding Memorial: \$155.00  
Noisy Offering (Gracious Grounds): \$181.28

### Week ending 02/27/2022

General Fund: \$7,372.19  
Mortgage Fund: \$709.00  
Abiding Memorial: \$795.00  
Noisy Offering (Gracious Grounds): \$246.03





Our kids in the Holy Moly classes have been learning about New Testament stories such as, *Jesus Walking on Water*, *Jesus Calming the Storm*, *Zaccheus* and *The Wedding at Cana*. Please join us on Sunday mornings in the gym as we watch Dohleen, Tafi and all our famous puppets help tell the stories along with Ms. Paula! It's a great time to go deeper as you hear the stories from a new perspective!

You may also access all the Holy Moly stories on YouTube or on our website:

[www.firstlutheranmuskegon.org](http://www.firstlutheranmuskegon.org)



This past month the kids have been learning about the church year and the season of Lent. The foundational stories they have heard are preparing them for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. The story format always ends with a few "wondering questions." I wonder why all the people were so excited to see Jesus come to Jerusalem? I wonder what it was like to wash people's dirty feet? I wonder what it was like to be treated so badly by the people? I wonder what new things will happen when Jesus is risen?

I wonder what new things I (Paula) will do because Jesus has risen? I wonder what new things you will do?

# Confirmation

The students finished their study on the Lord's Prayer in March and are beginning to learn more about Holy Baptism. It is a life-giving experience to teach these kids! Their enthusiasm for life in the midst of all the challenges they have encountered in the past two years is heart-warming. Their honesty, spontaneity and compassion toward each other and for the world brings me (Paula) such hope for the future.

**Spring Retreat is right around the corner!!! Mark your calendars!**

**Who:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd year confirmation students

**What:** Spring Overnight Retreat

**When:** Friday, April 22 @ 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, April 23 @ noon

**Where:** First Lutheran and a local beach

**Why:** Deepen student's faith formation and fellowship outside the classroom setting

\*\*\*Note: Saturday morning we will be joining the Green Team from First Lutheran and participate in a beach clean-up! We will partner with the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach program.

Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
04/03	Isa 43:-16-21, Ps 126 Phil 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8
04/10	Isa 50:4-9a, Ps 31:9-16 Phil 2:5-11, Luke 23:1-49
04/17	Isa 65:17-25, Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:1-12
04/24	Acts 5:27-32, Ps 150 Rev 1:4-8, John 20:19-31





April 10	Palm Sunday	9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Faith Formation Classes Worship (in-person & online)
April 14	Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Community United Methodist Church
April 15	Good Friday	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Observance Community United Methodist Church Good Friday Observance First Lutheran Church
April 17	Easter	7:00 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunrise Service (in-person & on-line) Continental Breakfast Easter Village Worship (in-person & on-line)

## Easter Village Returns!

Easter Village will be from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Gym. It has been 3 years since we have been able to have Easter Village. We are so excited to be able to have it this year!

We will have games and prizes for kids of all ages and new this year for the adults will be an Easter bonnet competition.

It takes a village to build a village so we are asking for donations of candy, Peeps, and money.

Also returning this year will be the famous Peep Launch!

Come join us!!



## Hey Kids! Want to Have Some Fun?

On April 10th, we will have a pizza lunch right after church in the gym. After lunch, the Pre-K - 2nd grade will be making Easter bunny bait.

The 3rd-5th grade will be going to DEFY jump park for 1 hour of jump time! Cost is \$20 with socks.

Please contact Amber Thomas with questions.



*Thanks to Jerry and Robbin Dibble and Scott Gearhart who assembled the March Chimes.*



## **FUN at FIRST!**

Friends and families of First Lutheran enjoyed a time of snowshoeing, skiing, skating, sledding and of course, s'more's!!!

Fun and fellowship and lots of fresh air was had by all at the beautiful Muskegon Sports Complex! What a great asset to our community year 'round!





## April Birthdays!

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Florian Borowski   | 13 Thomas Freeman  | 26 Connie Larson<br>Colden Jones<br>Cade Paugh             |
| 2 Mason Milligan   | 14 Randi Mock  |  |
| 3 Linnea Ostrom<br>Janet Collinge  | 16 Mason Zizak<br>Bert Goodman<br>Bonnie Hoekstra Kleis    | 27 Suzanne Van Fossan                                      |
| 4 Maren Pfhistner<br>Debby Jaquith                                       | 17 Tony McCleary   | 28 Glenn Fiebelkorn<br>Madeleine Wosinski                  |
| 6 Piper Sweet  | 20 Michaela Beidler<br>Ken Ranos<br>Elin Frietsch          | 29 Dale Mead<br>Steve Smith                                |
| 7 Chase Zizak<br>Spencer Zizak<br>Megan Badley<br>BJ Paige<br>Val Barnes | 21 Bruce Meloche<br>Michael Sweet<br>Kristen Wilson        | 30 Kenneth Kadrovich<br>Sandy Hutchins<br>Matthew Besteman |
| 8 Toni Pruitt  | 23 Kim Cooke<br>Dylan Dahlstrom                            |  |
| 9 Boyd Freeman<br>Bruce Milligan   | 24 Nancy Goudzwaard<br>Sherrell Christenson<br>Lynda Ferry |  |
| 10 Dennis Cobler<br>Pat Westjohn   | 25 Cathy Strait  |  |
| 11 James Clark   |  |  |



## 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

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

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

**Susan Lathrop**  
1105 Parkway St  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Pat Mullinnex**  
*Mailing Address:*  
2284 Riverwood Drive  
Twin Lake, MI 49457  
*Home Address:*  
Sanctuary at the Park  
570 Harvey St.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Warren Robinson**  
1845 Moulton Ave  
Muskegon, MI 494445-3127

**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

### FRIENDS OF FIRST WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

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



# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

## April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Dollar—A—Day</p> <p>9:30AM-Faith Formation</p> <p>10:30AM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>10:30AM-Online Worship</p> <p>6:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>6:00PM-Listening for the Word</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00AM-Morning Prayer</p> <p>10:00AM-Paula's Book Group</p> <p>12:00PM-Quilter's Group</p> <p>3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting</p> <p>6:00PM-P.E.O Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p> <p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP)</p> <p>11:00AM-Adult Education (via Zoom)</p> <p>11:00AM-MARSP Group Board Mtg</p> <p>6:30PM-Choir</p> <p>7:30PM-Band</p> <p>9:00PM-Compline via Facebook</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>11:00PM-Tai Chi</p> <p>4:00PM-Journey thru Grief</p> <p>5:30PM-Dinner</p> <p>6:00PM-Bible Study</p> <p>6:00PM-Kids' Music</p> <p>7:00PM-Lenten Service</p>	<p>12:00PM-Bible Study (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00PM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p>8:00AM-Scott's Men's Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Dollar—A—Day</p> <p>9:30AM-Faith Formation</p> <p>10:30AM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>10:30AM-Online Worship</p> <p>6:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>6:00PM-Listening for the Word</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00AM-Morning Prayer</p> <p>10:00AM-Paula's Book Group</p> <p>12:00PM-Quilter's Group</p> <p>3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting</p> <p>6:00PM-P.E.O Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p> <p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP)</p> <p>11:00AM-Adult Education (via Zoom)</p> <p>11:00AM-MARSP Group Board Mtg</p> <p>6:30PM-Choir</p> <p>7:30PM-Band</p> <p>9:00PM-Compline via Facebook</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>11:00PM-Tai Chi</p> <p>4:00PM-Journey thru Grief</p> <p>5:30PM-Dinner</p> <p>6:00PM-Bible Study</p> <p>6:00PM-Kids' Music</p> <p>7:00PM-Lenten Service</p>	<p>12:00PM-Bible Study (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00PM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p>5:00PM-Sons of Norway</p> <p>5:30PM-Bunco</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:30AM-Women's Breakfast</p> <p>9:00AM-P.E.O. Meeting</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30AM-Faith Formation</p> <p>10:30AM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>10:30AM-Online Worship</p> <p>6:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00AM-Morning Prayer</p> <p>10:00AM-Paula's Book Group</p> <p>12:00PM-Quilter's Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p> <p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP)</p> <p>9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee</p> <p>11:00AM-Adult Education (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:30PM-Choir</p> <p>9:00PM-Compline via Facebook</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>11:00PM-Tai Chi</p> <p>4:00PM-Journey thru Grief</p> <p>6:00PM-Bible Study</p> <p>6:00PM-Kids' Music</p> <p>7:00PM-Confirmation</p>	<p>9:00AM-Lion's Club Board Mtg</p> <p>12:00PM-Bible Study (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00PM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p><b>Chimes Deadline</b></p> <p>12:00PM-Good Friday Observance</p> <p>6:00PM—Crafty Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM-Good Friday Observance</p>	<p>8:00AM-Men's Breakfast Group</p>
<p>17</p> <p>7:00AM-Sunrise Service</p> <p>8:15AM-Continental Breakfast</p> <p>9:30AM-Easter Village</p> <p>10:30AM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>10:30AM-Online Worship</p> <p>6:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00AM-Morning Prayer</p> <p>10:00AM-Paula's Book Group</p> <p>12:00PM-Quilter's Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p> <p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP)</p> <p>11:00AM-Adult Education (via Zoom)</p> <p>11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club</p> <p>6:00PM-Lion's Club</p> <p>6:30PM-Choir</p> <p>7:30PM-Band</p> <p>9:00PM-Compline via Facebook</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>4:00PM-Journey thru Grief</p> <p>6:00PM-Bible Study</p> <p>6:00PM-Kids' Music</p> <p>7:00PM-Confirmation</p>	<p>12:00PM-Bible Study (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00PM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p>6:00PM-Confirmation Retreat/Overnight</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Beach Cleanup</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:30AM-Faith Formation</p> <p>10:30AM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>10:30AM-Online Worship</p> <p>6:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>6:00PM-Listening for the Word</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>8:00AM-Morning Prayer</p> <p>10:00AM-Paula's Book Group</p> <p>12:00PM-Quilter's Group</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p> <p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP)</p> <p>11:00AM-Adult Education (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:30PM-Choir</p> <p>9:00PM-Compline via Facebook</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball</p> <p>4:00PM-Journey thru Grief</p> <p>6:00PM-Bible Study</p> <p>6:00PM-Kids' Music</p> <p>7:00PM-Confirmation</p>	<p>12:00PM-Bible Study (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00PM-In-Person Worship</p> <p>7:00PM-Cardio Drumming Class</p>	<p>7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>