



February 2020
#707

The Chimes

First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
1206 Whitehall Road
Muskegon, MI 49445
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It's time for our Annual

Chili & Soup Cook Off



and

Congregational Meeting!

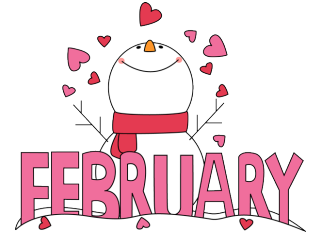
Date: February 2, 2020

Place: Family Life Center

Time: After the 10:30 worship service

Sign-up sheets are at both Information Stations

Upcoming Events



2 Soup & Chili Cook-Off

3 Red Cross Blood
Drive

21-22 HS LYO Overnight

23 Hygge Day



28 Crafty Day 2.0

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monthly by
First Evangelical Lutheran
Church,
Muskegon, MI for
members and friends of
the congregation.*



From Pastor Bill

A conversation with a friend of mine a while back got me thinking about the predicament that the church finds itself in these days. Currently, we are experiencing a loss of power in the culture. For a few decades in American history (the fifties and the sixties), the church was at the center of the power structure. Mainline churches were filled with people. Their leaders and their congregations were consulted in manners of corporate significance. Other institutions in the culture made decisions on the basis of whether the church was impacted. Sundays and Wednesday nights were reserved for church activities. Tax breaks were given to congregations and to their leaders.

Life is different now, even if the church still has quite a bit of authority and still receives tax benefits. Our Evangelical friends who think that the church in America is being persecuted and marginalized are clearly overstating the case, but they are not wrong in pointing out that the church has less power than it once did.

Many people bemoan this reality. I have bemoaned it at times. But truthfully, there may be more good news than we realize in the reality that the church has less power.

Historically, the church was forever changed when Constantine in the fourth century A.C.E. decided that the Roman Empire was a Christian empire. With that decision, the Jesus movement all of a sudden had more power than it had ever had.

The early Jesus movement had been a community that saw itself as being on the margins. Biblical New Testament theology, particularly that discovered in Paul and the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), saw the Christ event as one that turned the world of power upside down. Jesus wasn't viewed as a Superman who came to defend the Roman Empire (or in our case, the American Empire), but one who focused our attention on those on the margins and

those without power.

Constantine changed the church's view of itself. All of a sudden--and we saw this in the glory days of the church in this country--the church and the government were running the culture. Patriotism and Christianity, flags and crosses were seen as being intimately linked. New Testament Christianity wouldn't know how to handle that, because Jesus and the Christians of the early church saw life in the kingdom of God not as a matter of power and prestige.

When the church is coopted by the culture, we tend to focus on the values of the culture, not on the values of the kingdom of God. To lose power may be an opportunity for us to become truer to who we really are.

One of the things I notice about church life right now is the growing number of people who don't just want to go through the motions; they want to go deeper in this Christian journey. I experience that regularly in the men's breakfast groups we have, the Sunday School class I teach, the Thursday Bible study that both Paula and I lead. This faith stuff for a growing number of people is a matter of life and death. That for me is really encouraging. There may be fewer people seeking the faith journey in the context of a community, but those who are increasingly committed to being discovered by the life-changing character of the faith.

So, while this era may be tough on church communities, it may also be ripe with such possibility. Perhaps this is a time when we can go deeper and when we can focus on serving the world, not amassing power or validating the values of the culture. Maybe these are the good old days!

<i>Weekend</i>	<i>Scripture Readings</i>
02/01 & 02/02	Micah 6:1-8, Ps 15 1 Cor 1:18-31, Matt 5:1-12
02/08 & 02/09	Isa 58:1-9a, Ps 112:1-9 1 Cor 2:1-12, Matt 5:13-20
02/15 & 02/16	Deut 30:15-20, Ps 119:1-8, 1 Cor 3:1-9, Matt 5:21-37
02/22 & 02/23	Exod 24:12-18, Ps 2 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt 17:1-9



From Intern Paula

When I grow up, I want to be a quilter. Now for someone whose sewing experience includes a stint in 4-H during elementary school, a home economics class in high school, costumes for the kids each October (first one I made had the zipper backwards) and a hem or two in pants, it sounds a bit silly to want to be a quilter. But there is just something about watching a quilt come together that speaks to how our lives are stitched together over the course of a lifetime.

Following a conversation with one of our quilters last week, I asked her what she was going to do with the stack of 'squares' she was taking home. The squares were pre-cut and were comprised of a wide range of colors and patterns. Her reply to my question was, "I'm going to lay them out, create a pattern and stitch them together." She would then return next week and the group would complete the quilting process and

pack it away until it was donated.

I, however, was curious on how she knew what pattern to make with the random squares. I wondered if she had a template at home or if she was using one the group had created. I wanted to know how she perceived they would go together. She told me it varied because each week she had a different pile of unique squares. Each week she never knew what the outcome would look like and *that*, in itself, is what made it exciting. Her response caused me to take a step back and think how much quilting reflects not only our individual lives, but the communities in which we live.

We never know what circumstances, what unique pieces will become a part of *our lives* and how they will be stitched together to form the quilt that *covers* community. I am so grateful for this conversation as it reminded me of the importance of accepting the unique pieces, those with joyful designs on them and those that look pretty drab in comparison, to form a quilt that God is stitching together one square at a time. Which, ultimately, creates a quilt that encompasses pieces from "who knows where" - a quilt that requires trusting in the One who stitches it together.

When I grow up...I want to be a quilter.

Christian Education



Students will be looking at the stories which correspond with the liturgical calendar which is now the season of Epiphany. The word **epiphany** comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means appearance or manifestation - which began when the magi came to worship Jesus. The color of the season is white.

Our 3rd - 5th grade students spend some time after the visual presentation of the biblical story to write in their journals and reflect on the story. The *Eyes to See* curriculum is embedded with a space for students to wonder what they have just heard and saw as the story unfolded. It's a great time for the kids to think more deeply and personalize the story as it relates to their own lives. The picture shows the kids in their time of reflection.

Confirmation News

Confirmation students are taking a closer look at the Lord's Prayer during the month of February. Did you know that this prayer is divided into an introduction, seven petitions and a conclusion? How many of you have experienced reciting the conclusion ... *For the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever....* at another church and were the only one saying it? I know I have and still do.

The students will learn how the conclusion, the Doxology, came to be and when it was omitted and by who. Perhaps they will let you in on what they learned!

✠ Thanks to all who shopped, chopped, cooked and cleaned up for our Wednesday night dinner featuring, *Hot Diggity Dogs*. The students are getting closer to their goal of raising money for their spring retreat at Cran-Hill Ranch.

✠ Mentors: Just a reminder that our February session with the students will be on February 26th. This is also Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our weekly Lenten service which begins at 7pm. I encourage you to attend with your student as we begin the journey toward Easter. If time permits, you will have a few minutes to get together.



What: Summer Camp
 Where: Stony Lake Lutheran Camp
 New Era, MI
 Living Water Ministries
 When: July 12 - 17
 Why: Fellowship, Fun, and Food

Here is the link to register:

<https://elcalivingwater.com/summerschedulerates/>

***If you are planning on sending your child to Stony Lake Camp this summer, please contact Paula Dusseljee.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings For December

Weekend of 11/30 & 12/1

Attendance: 208
 General Fund: \$6,644.53
 Mortgage Fund: \$855.00
 Dollar-a-Day: \$678.08

Weekend of 12/7 & 12/8

Attendance: 273
 General Fund: \$8,397.21
 Mortgage Fund: \$1,590.00
 Noisy Offering: \$250.81

Weekend of 12/14 & 12/15

Attendance: 270
 General Fund: \$15,702.76
 Mortgage Fund: \$2,875.00
 Noisy Offering: \$197.83

Weekend of 12/21 & 12/22

Attendance: 269
 General Fund: \$7,046.21
 Mortgage Fund: \$1,798.00
 Noisy Offering: \$268.30

Weekend of 12/28 & 12/29

Attendance: 201
 General Fund: \$9,460.14
 Mortgage Fund: \$952.50
 Noisy Offering: \$168.33

Total General Fund Offering received:	\$47,250.85
Total General Fund Offering needed:	<u>41,693.65</u>
	-\$5,557.20

Total Mortgage Offering received:	\$8,070.50
Total Mortgage Offering needed:	<u>8,990.00</u>
	-\$919.50

High School LYO Overnight!

Come to an overnight on February 21-22 from 6:00pm to 10:00am. There is no cost for this event! Bring a snack to share and your overnight gear.



From Shar
Music Director



**Attention
Crafty
People!**

In March, First Lutheran Church will be hosting **CRAFTY DAY 2.0!** It is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 10 am – 6 pm. Details will be forthcoming, but the cost will be **only \$20.00!** We plan to have consultants available to facilitate if you wish to embark upon something new, and vendors if you wish to purchase materials. We plan to use social media for registration. Stay tuned!

Save the Date! **February 23** **Hygge (Hoo-gah) Day**

Hygge means: encompasses a feeling of cozy contentment and well-being through the simple things in life.

Join us as we prepare for our Lenten journey this year. The Fellowship committee is organizing a day with indoor and outdoor activities embracing simple ways to connect with ourselves and with each other.

This will be an Intergenerational event with something for everyone.

There will be a communal lunch after church with hearty soups and breads, then inside and outside activities and we will end the day outside around a fire with hot chocolate and cookies.

Look to the bulletin and email newsletter for further details.



**American
Red Cross**

BLOOD DRIVE

8 Surprising Benefits of Donating Blood

By Erin Hueffner
12/19/2019 on msn lifestyle

“According to the Red Cross, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. It can take 100 pints of blood to save the life of a single car accident victim... Since blood can't be manufactured, these people depend on blood donors... The Remedy asked a doctor and scoured the medical journals to bring you some of the reasons to consider blood donation...

1. Reduce Iron Overload... (i.e., reduce unhealthy levels that deposit in the heart or liver).
2. Replenish Your Blood Cells... giving blood causes new blood cells to replenish what you've given.
3. Lower Risk of Heart Attacks... Blood donors are 88% less likely to have a heart attack than those who don't give blood.
4. Lower Your Cancer Risk... there appears to be a link between high iron stores and cancer in certain types of cancers
5. Burn Calories ... you can burn about 650 calories every time you donate a pint
6. Keep Your Liver Healthy... "Donating blood can help deplete some excess iron and avoid depositing too much of it in your liver
7. Reveal Potential Health Issues ... due to preliminary screening required prior to donating...
8. You Can Make the World a Better Place – for Free."

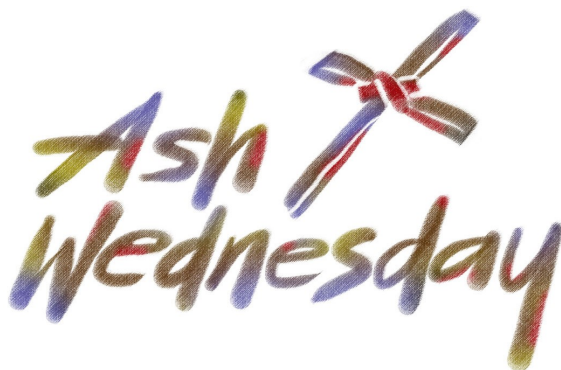
(This is a summary of the article by Erin Hueffner.)

**Please Sign Up Now at 1-800-733-2767 or
Call Judi Dix, 231-463-7886.**

**First Lutheran Blood Drive
Monday, February 3, 2020**

February Birthdays!

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Caroline Pendell
Catharine Larsen
Jessica Cantu'
Karley Plekes | 11 | Madison Frey | 22 | Theresa Buchan
Kelli Sullivan
Kaela Carrier
Madison Ball
Jacklyn Wei |
| 2 | Robin Policka
Sandra Rodriguez
Jean Boxer
Ava Smith | 12 | Laura Lucht
Owen Rop | 24 | Jenny DeLong
Steven Neumann |
| 3 | Trisha Lowry | 13 | Linda Long | 25 | Phyllis Nelson
Billie Bramer
Emily Cihos |
| 4 | Michael Zizak
Donna Farr
Jenny Lindell
Stacie Mead | 14 | Larry Rop | 27 | James Gust
Cameron Gust
Dean Hewitt |
| 5 | Donald Nienhouse
Collin Smith | 15 | Josie Fredericks | 28 | Carrie Gust
Kris Fiser
Heather Murphey
Lance Schlager |
| 7 | Barbara Elliott
Adam Badley
Tess Gearhart | 16 | Anna Alderman
Tyler Tallefson | | |
| 8 | Mark Thogerson
Adam Baker | 17 | Taylor Dibble
Neiko Sharlow | | |
| 9 | Toni Schillaci | 18 | Rhonda Smith | | |
| | | 19 | Autumn David
Avery Howard | | |
| | | 20 | Bonnie Nolan
Jeffrey Pfhistner | | |
| | | 21 | Joanne Johnson | | |
- 



Ash
Wednesday

The graphic features the words "Ash" and "Wednesday" in a colorful, brush-stroke font. To the right of the text is a stylized cross made of four overlapping, colorful brush strokes in shades of blue, red, and yellow.

Begin the Lenten season with us at the Ash Wednesday service on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. This service will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

Join us each following Wednesday night for worship at 7:00 p.m. as you continue your Lenten journey.

Thank You!!

Thanks to Lark Roberts who assembled the January Chimes.



A special thank you to Dave, Carol, Jeff, Kristine and Mitchell Anderson and Ed, Deb and Maddie Wosinski for taking down the Christmas tree and storing the decorations. Your time is greatly appreciated.



Official Acts

Funeral

Alice Stafford

Date of Birth: 08/05/1927

Date of Death: 12/25/2019

Barbara Ann Peterson

Date of Birth: 07/03/1944

Date of Death: 12/26/2019

Junior Church

We are looking for a couple more people to serve as helpers or leaders during the sermon and worship time. An extra set of hands is always helpful while the leader guides the kids through a worshipful experience. Leaders currently rotate every fourth Sunday. Our goal is to increase this rotation to every six weeks. Come join us!

Please contact Paula Dusseljee or Susan Besteman if you have any questions or are just curious as to what serving in this area might entail. It's a great way to live out our baptismal promise to these children!

Keepers

Flo Bates

667 Lake Forest Ln Apt P1
Muskegon, MI 49441
767-2494

Linda Cates

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

Pat Mullinnex

2284 Riverwood Drive
Twin Lake, MI 49457

Violet Peterson

Sanctuary of the Oaks
1740 Village Dr.
Muskegon, MI 49442

Jean Sodini

Robbinswood Northcrest Campus
2650 Ruddiman Ave.
N. Muskegon, MI 49445

Wally Tallent

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

FRIENDS OF FIRST WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

Sandy Fisher

(Carol Anderson's sister)

Robbinswood Northcrest Campus
Room 114
2650 Ruddiman Ave.
N. Muskegon, MI 49445

Dorothy Wood

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

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>** Wednesday Night Programming ** 5:30PM—Dinner 6:00PM—Kids' Music 6:05PM—Adult Class</p>					<p>* Dollar-a-Day Weekend * 10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM-Worship</p>
<p>* Dollar-a-Day Weekend * 9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 12:00PM-Annual Meeting/ Chili/Soup Cook-Off 4:15PM-Nursing Home Service 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>9:30AM-Gentle Yoga 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 12:00PM-Red Cross Blooddrive 1:00PM-Recorder Group 5:00PM-Blais Dance 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:00AM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 11:15AM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 7:00PM-Confirmation 8:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>**Wednesday Night Programming**</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 11:30AM-Intercessory Prayer 12:00PM-Bible Study 5:30PM-Blais Dance 5:30PM-Rotary Club Chili Cook-Off 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations</p>	<p>1:00PM-Pickleball 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM-Worship</p>
<p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>9:30AM-Gentle Yoga 10:00AM-Diabetes Prevention 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:00PM-Blais Dance 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline Chimes Bulletin 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 9:00AM-Pickleball 11:15AM-Staff meeting 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 7:00PM-Confirmation 8:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>**Wednesday Night Programming**</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Lion's Club 11:30AM-Intercessory Prayer 12:00PM-Bible Study 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations</p>	<p>1:00PM-Pickleball 5:30PM-Bunco 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>8:30AM-Men's Bible Study 10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM—Worship</p>
<p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>9:30AM-Gentle Yoga 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 1:00PM-Recorder Group 5:00PM-Blais Dance 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 11:15AM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 7:00PM-Confirmation 8:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>**Wednesday Night Programming**</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 11:30AM-Intercessory Prayer 12:00PM-Bible Study 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations</p>	<p>10:00AM-Feeding America 1:00PM-Pickleball 6:00PM-HS LYO Overnight 6:00PM-Paper Projects 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM-Worship</p>
<p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 12:00PM-Hugge Day 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>9:30AM-Gentle Yoga 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:00PM-Blais Dance 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-Senior Assistance Program 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:30PM-Choir 6:30PM-Unfinished Objects</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 9:00AM-Pickleball 11:15AM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Journey thru Grief 7:00PM-Confirmation 8:00PM-Basketball</p> <p>**Wednesday Night Programming**</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 11:30AM-Intercessory Prayer 12:00PM-Bible Study 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations 6:00PM-Finance Committee 7:00PM-Church Council</p>	<p>1:00PM-Pickleball 5:00PM-Ski Club 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM-Worship</p>