



January 2020
#706

The Chimes

First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
1206 Whitehall Road
Muskegon, MI 49445
Phone: (231) 744-1522
Fax: (231) 719-9015
office@firstlutheranmuskegon.com

YouTh

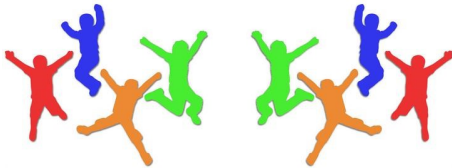
Little Lambs

Pre-K - 2nd Grade

Sunday, January 12 after Church

We will be doing something
FUN!!!

Watch bulletins for details!



3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday, January 12 after Church

Planet 3—Let's JUMP!!

NOTE: Waivers will NEED to be on file ahead of time. It is important that this be done by a parent or guardian.

Middle School Students

Sunday, January 26 after Church

Planet 3—It's Time to FLY!!

NOTE: Waivers will NEED to be on file ahead of time. It is important that this be done by a parent or guardian.

Save the Dates!

Senior High LYO



Sunday January 12—We are heading to Double JJ Ranch for an afternoon of tubing. All high school youth are invited to join us. The cost is \$20 per person for the tubing. We will meet at church at 3:00 pm to head up to Double JJ.



Sunday January 26th—We will meet at 2:00 pm to go to the Escape Room for an afternoon of fun challenges. The Escape Room will take groups up to 8 people per room. We can do two groups at the same time. The rooms take about 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete. The cost is \$10 per person.

Upcoming Events



- 12 Little Lambs Fun Event
- 12 3—5 Grades at Planet 3
- 12 Sr. High LYO Tubing
- 26 Middle School LYO at Planet 3
- 26 Sr. High LYO at Escape Room

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



From Pastor Bill

The First of the Year is an ideal time to reflect on the direction of our lives. It is a great time to start all over again, to ponder what disciplines will serve our individual lives and the good of the community.

We live at a time when reflection on the latter (the good of the community) is increasingly rare. The culture of individualism teaches us simply to ask questions about what builds my life, what enhances my family's journey. While those are very important, questions related to the well-being of all of us together are essential for Christians who understand that the gospel of Jesus is a communal affair.

The good news of Jesus is in its very essence a community-making message. It reconciles people. It links people. It breaks down walls between people. Sadly, much of Christianity has sold the faith as a matter between you and God. It is much more than that. It is about you and the community.

So, can I encourage you to ponder how your life can serve the community—the greater community and the community known as your congregation? Generally paying attention to the community will result in great gifts to yourself. Yes, sometimes we overdo it, committing ourselves to too many things. I am not encouraging that, for sometimes that only breeds resentment.

When it comes to the life of our congregation, I would urge you to think about the disciplines that will serve our congregation and also serve you. Being here for worship on a weekly basis is essential for the building up of our community. I am truly grateful for those of you who are here for worship in and out of season. That is encouraging to me and to us. I personally am built up by your presence. While I never would want it to be about me, I do want you to know that the energy that pastors have for their work is certainly impacted by the absence or presence of their people.

If I could wave my magic wand, I would find a way to get you all involved in the education ministry of our congregation and its fellowship life. Adult Sunday School and Thursday Bible study would be excellent ways for this to occur for you in the upcoming year. Our first topic of the year in our adult Sunday School class will be the Gospel of Matthew. The class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the gym and starts with music that youth and adults sing together. It is important for kids to see adults having fun and singing their songs. It's a way to build community.

The Thursday Bible study begins at noon and entails our studying the Biblical texts for worship during the upcoming weekend. At this point, we have 15-30 people in this study. I would love to see the number doubled. This hour-and-15-minute encounter with the Biblical word is so life-giving for the individual and the community. Don't know much Bible? That is the reason you should come. There are some really good scholars in our group, but I encourage them all the time to make sure that those with less experience with the Bible get the opportunity to learn, grow, and speak.

As the New Year emerges, I would urge you to think about how your personal disciplines can serve not only you, but the community of which you are an integral part. Happy New Year!!



- *Like* us on Facebook
First Lutheran Church—
Muskegon, MI
- *Friend* Pastor Bill
- *Share* First Lutheran's and
Pastor Bill's posts

<i>Weekend</i>	<i>Scripture Readings</i>
01/04 & 01/05	Isa 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-7, 10-14 Eph 3:1-12, Matt 2:1-12
01/11 & 01/12	Isa 42:1-9, Ps 29 Acts 10:34-43, Matt 3:13-17
01/18 & 01/19	Isa 49:1-7, Ps 40:1-11, 1 Cor 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
01/25 & 01/26	Isa 9:1-4, Ps 27:1,4-9 1 Cor 1:10-18, Matt 4:12-23



From Intern Paula

As I write this entry for the January Chimes it is mid-December and I am sitting in a hotel lobby in Charleston, S.C. The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, affectionately known as Mother Emanuel, is directly across the street. Mother Emanuel was founded in 1816 and is one of the oldest black congregations in the South. Its cultural significance is well known as it has survived natural disasters and an antebellum ban on black churches. In 1822, Mother Emanuel was burned for its association with Denmark Vesey, a former slave who tried to organize a slave revolt. The church remained a force for social change as civil rights marchers gathered on its doorsteps and Booker T. Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. spoke from the pulpit.

But it was on June 17, 2015, that Mother Emanuel became more than just cultural significance for the south. It became national news as the pastor and eight other worshippers were killed on June 17, 2015, as they bowed their heads in prayer during a Bible study. Authorities say the shooting suspect, who is white, chose the predominantly black church for the racially motivated assault in order to magnify the societal impact. The mayor at the time concluded that

the only reason someone could do this was out of hate. So as the church's tall, brown spire stood stately in my field of vision, I thought about the new year which lies ahead. One that is already charged with racial tensions, societal oppression and stark divisions. And in lieu of this experience, I thought about my resolutions.

Yes, it *is* a new year. The waiting, anticipation and expectation of Advent and Christmas is over. The gifts have been given and received; some with great joy and others with deep disappointment. It is the time of year when we think about making resolutions such as eating more healthy, starting a new exercise regimen or changing whatever else we feel needs altering. A time when we vow to set out on a new path - making adjustments to feel better, do better and be better. Yes, it is a *new* year, but it is the gift of the *old one* that ushers us into the future. It is the gift that is non-refundable and never runs low on batteries. It is the gift that speaks love when we don't feel it and speaks justice where hatred and division cry out. It is the gift... of Jesus.

Yes...it *is* a new year and thankfully, it is filled with endless opportunities to share the love of the Christ child; to love beyond hatred and be the impetus of change. Oh, I still think the need is there for a few more fruits and vegetables each day and establishing a routine to walk in the church several times a week will definitely help my disposition. For Christians, the ultimate new year's resolution is one that has already been given to us in the form of a gift and is quite simple to assemble: "...to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8 NRSV)

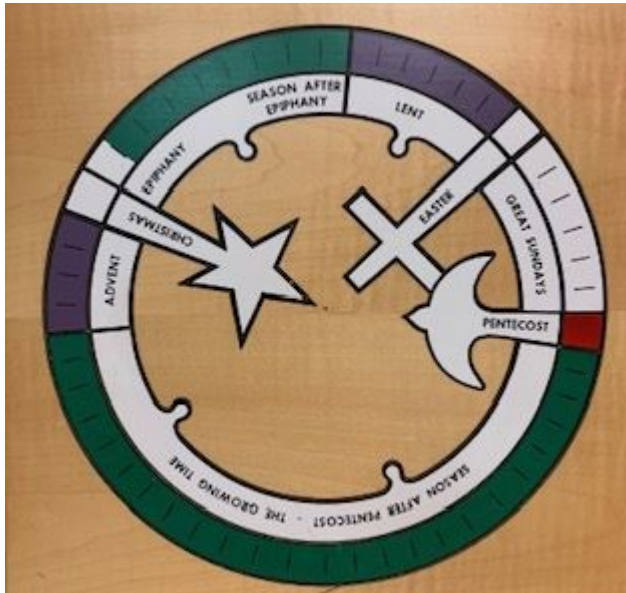
Junior Church

We are looking for a couple more people to serve as helpers or leaders during the children 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!

Christian Education

The Church Calendar



Do you know what season we are in on our church calendar? If you are not familiar with the church calendar you can check out our classrooms and see the cycle displayed. Our students and Junior church kids have been using the ELCA calendar wheel to learn the significance of the church seasons and the various colors they represent. Did you know the paraments and banners in the sanctuary reflect the different colors of the seasons? Keep an eye on the changes and please feel free to come up and see what's going on in our classrooms!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Education Ministry by attending Wednesday night dinner on December 11. The proceeds are going toward some much needed updates in the nursery!

Weekly Attendance and Offerings For November

Weekend of 11/2 & 11/3

Attendance: 269
 General Fund: \$11,614.19
 Mortgage Fund: \$1,162.00
 Dollar-a-Day: \$1,063.00

Weekend of 11/9 & 11/10

Attendance: 246
 General Fund: \$5,426.94
 Mortgage Fund: \$1,486.23
 Noisy Offering: \$265.10

Weekend of 11/16 & 11/17

Attendance: 280
 General Fund: \$7,603.87
 Mortgage Fund: \$1,730.00
 Noisy Offering: \$284.41

Weekend of 11/23 & 11/24

Attendance: 269
 General Fund: \$7,112.14
 Mortgage Fund: \$2,115.00
 Noisy Offering: \$255.49

Total General Fund Offering received:	\$31,757.14
Total General Fund Offering needed:	<u>33,354.92</u>
	-\$1,597.78

Total Mortgage Offering received:	\$6,493.23
Total Mortgage Offering needed:	<u>7,192.00</u>
	-\$698.77



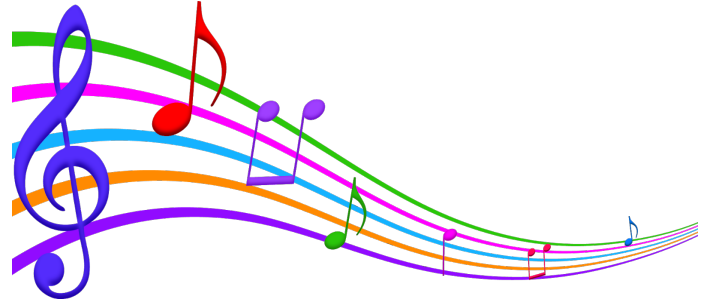
An Encounter with Rabbi Jesus: The Gospel of Matthew and the Teachings of Jesus

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the gym





From Shar Music Director



Drama – The Good Kind!

More Good Drama

I am pleased to announce that Teri Gust, our new Drama Director, has selected a play that will be scheduled for production at the end of April. The play, “Bingo, the Winning Musical,” has been scheduled for performance on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25.

The Wednesday Night Players (Children’s Wednesday evening music class) will be presenting the final play in the Trilogy entitled “The Sailor’s Bible.” As in the past, the performance will take place on Mother’s Day which will be on May 10 this year. “Jonah and the Great Fish” is our story.

We will have a dinner followed by the performance AND this will be interactive! The plot centers around four “die-hard” Bingo players and all are welcome to serve as “extras” who are present to play! There will be prizes and popcorn.

We are working on a way to include interested students who are unable to attend rehearsals on Wednesday night (6:00 – 7:00 pm) by perhaps working on the musical parts at the end of Sunday school, but scripted parts really require the Wednesday rehearsal time.

If you enjoy acting, singing, costuming, organizing, finding props, running lights, etc., please consider joining us in this project. Please contact Teri Gust terigust@yahoo.com or Shar Bourdon shar@firstlutheranmuskegon.com.

All students are welcome to participate. High school Thespian enthusiasts may wish to “dip their toes” into the co-directorial pond! We will begin rehearsals when we resume Wednesday night programming. Contact Shar Bourdon for additional details. shar@firstlutheranmuskegon.com

New Year Resolution from Music Director Shar

I am always seeking ways to encourage “inclusivity” into our church life and our music life. If you have a desire to learn something from the music realm, PLEASE feel free to approach me with your ideas.

We have all been “hard-wired” to be musical. Sometimes we lack proper encouragement to nurture those desires, but we can get past that! My fellow members of the West Michigan Concert Winds call their participation in music, “Alzheimer’s Prevention.”

It is NEVER too late to learn something new. Be a life-long learner! Join me/us in enriching your life with music. REMEMBER: When you sing (play) you pray twice!

January Birthdays!

1	Martin Shields Karin Carlson	13	Peter VanHoesen	24	Kathy Boardwell Diane Kroll Tara Tallquist
2	Janet Labiak Amy Smith Tonya Tufts	14	Bill Webber	25	Peggy Heidelberg Stanley Shank
3	Constance Robinson Larry Heidelberg Dennis Plekes Amanda Hutchins	15	Charles Carlson Benjamin Veihl	26	Kimberly Beidler Sara Henry Bridgette Kimble
4	Sue VanHoesen Craig Baker	16	Melissa Wei	27	David Shields
5	John Smith Timothy Vanderstelt	17	Marjorie Visscher Gordon Bonifield Pamela Hanophy Lora Eaton Mark Besteman Heidi Hampton Lisa Naymick	28	Bud Fiser Lark Roberts Christine Kooiman
6	Jon Goodwin Ysabela Golden Lea Dyga	20	Sharon Hanson Jim Boardwell	29	Gabriel Cahill
7	David Neumann	21	Stephan Bowen Katie Neel	31	Marianne Newman Paula Love Reese Giles
8	Patrick Clifford Jackson LaChapelle	22	Paul Becker Kimberly Fenbert		
9	Alexander Sharlow	23	Stephen Dix Ben Werling Christian Lang Connor Anderson		
12	Jane Boyle Lori Archer				

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.**



**Stephen
Ministry
Is
Life
Encouragement**

Are you, or is someone you know, in need of a good "SMILE"? If so, please contact Sue Lathrop at 231-788-5654, Robin Policka at 231-638-3055 or Pastor Bill.

Thank You!!

Thanks to Lark Roberts who assembled the December Chimes.



First Lutheran provided Christmas gifts for 24 children of 8 families in the North Muskegon and Reeths-Puffer School Districts. Gifts included an item of clothing and a toy or activity for each child. Each family received a \$25 Gift Certificate to a major area store offering clothes, toys, and food per their choice. In addition, Abbi Mays Fabric Shop donated beautiful hand-made pillowcases for each child. Thanks to all for sharing so generously!!



Our Monthly Donations

January—Warm clothing for women and children

Keepers

Elaine Brevick
Seminole Shores Living Center
850 Seminole Rd
Norton Shores, MI 49441

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 Mullinex
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

Alice Stafford
581 S Bear Lake Rd
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

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
	<p>** Wednesday Night Programming **</p> <p>5:30PM—Dinner 6:00PM—Kids' Music 6:05PM—Adult Class</p>		<p>New Year's Day</p> <p>**Office Closed**</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 11:30AM-Intercessory Prayer 12:00PM-Bible Study 4:00PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations</p>	<p>1:00PM-Pickleball 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>* Dollar-a-Day Weekend *</p> <p>10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 1:00PM-Rental 5:30PM-Worship</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>* Dollar-a-Day Weekend *</p> <p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 4:15PM-Nursing Home Service 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 5:45PM-Soul Flowing Yoga 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>7:00AM-Scott's Men's Group 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:00AM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>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 4:00PM-Blais Dance</p>	<p>1:00PM-Pickleball 5:30PM-Bunco 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM-Worship</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 12:30PM-3-5 Grade Youth 12:30PM-Little Lambs 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>9:30AM-Gentle Yoga 10:00AM-Diabetes Prevention 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 1:00PM-Recorder Group 5:00PM-Blais Dance 5:45PM-Soul Flowing Yoga 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee Prog. 9:30AM-Senior Assistance 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>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 4:00PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations 6:00PM-Bless this Mess Group</p>	<p>10:00AM-Feeding America 1:00PM-Pickleball 6:00PM-Paper Projects 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>8:30AM-Men's Bible Study 10:00AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM—Worship</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 5:00PM-Paint Class 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 5:45PM-Soul Flowing Yoga 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</p> <p>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>8:30AM-Pickleball 11:30AM-Intercessory Prayer 12:00PM-Bible Study 4:00PM-Blais Dance 6:00PM-Leadership Meeting 6:00PM-Athletic Sensations</p>	<p>1:00PM-Pickleball 7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	<p>10:30AM-Blais Dance Class 5:30PM-Worship</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<p>9:15AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Worship 12:30PM-Confirmation Kid's Gathering 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 5:45PM-Soul Flowing Yoga 7:00PM-AA Meeting</p>	<p>9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 5:30PM-Blais Dance 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band</p>	<p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>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>** Office Closed for Thanksgiving **</p> <p>12:00PM-Rental</p>	<p>** Office Closed **</p> <p>7:00PM-AA Meeting 8:00PM-Basketball</p>	