



July 2020  
#712

# The Chimes

First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
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Muskegon, MI 49445  
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## From Pastor Bill

Dear Friends:

We are now ready to announce that First will begin hosting in-person worship starting the first week of July. (And I say this recognizing that this decision may be altered, if the data in the State warrants it.) We are committed to making these experiences as safe as we can make them. We will be unable to eliminate all risk, but we will do our best to reduce risk. You will be the major players in making sure that our gatherings are safe.

- Know that we will trust whatever you decide about return to worship. Some of you may decide not to come back. We will respect your choice. We will continue on-line worship.
- Those of you who have any signs of Covid-19 or other flu-like sicknesses, we ask that you NOT attend.
- As many of our worship experiences as possible will be held outdoors in the back or northern side of the building. If you can, please bring your own chairs. As you gather, please maintain good physical distance, even when we are outside.
- If we are unable to do worship outside, it is likely that we will do it in our Family Life Center.
- Please wear a mask when you come. This is especially important for in-building worship. The latest studies are showing that mask-wearing reduces the likelihood of spread by 85%. We understand that there are some people for whom mask-wearing is not possible because of certain health conditions. But mask-wearing is our expectation.
- It is likely that there will be a lot less singing in worship than we are accustomed to. Evidently, singing is one of the behaviors that when done close to others is a good way for the virus to spread. You will probably hear leaders singing and will experience a lot more instrumental music.
- If you are able, we would like to ask you to bring your own elements for communion—bread and wine or grape juice. Perhaps you can place them in a small picnic basket. We will have bread and wine available for those who do not bring their own elements. These will be provided in a way that will practically be touch free.
- We will ask that you communicate to us your desire to attend worship. You will be able to do that via a telephone call to the office or an on-line platform. Look within this newsletter for more

*(Continued on page 3)*



## From Intern Paula

Just a “couple” thoughts...

Last week, I began moving back into my office at church. For the past couple of months, my living room has been the place where I have attended Zoom meetings, classes and discussions; it's where I've written prayers and papers for class, two sermons and communicated with many of you via social media, phone or written correspondence. So as I began transporting monitors, books and study materials back to church, I came to realize I have processed much of the world from the limited confines of my home. I have been inundated by visual imagery of the death and devastation of a global pandemic, racial tensions, and protests where anger, fear and frustration have fueled violence and brought inequality to the forefront of our conversations. I have witnessed a lot from my quarantined space and I know you have, too.

So I began to think about how we experience human reality simply by being in a specific space and place. How the world looks different to someone depending on what vantage point they see it from and whom they see it with. Our various spaces even sound different, taste different and smell different. I cannot begin to understand what it's like to experience tear gas infiltrating my eyes and lungs or what it's like for a mother to have “the talk” with her children about how to respond to specific situations due to the color of their skin. You see, the reality specific to my space and place cannot fully understand what it's like to be in someone else's space that is different than mine. And sometimes, that place for me, is a dangerous place of misconceptions and judgment. It is also a place that reminds me of the importance of listening and sharing space with each other.

Jesus listened without prejudice. We can especially see this in His interaction with the woman at the well (John. 4:4-42). Despite culture, gender, racial, and moral strikes against her, Jesus lovingly interacted with her as he listened to her story. As some of us are beginning to gather again in the limited spaces and places on our church grounds, we become acutely

aware of the fact that we have experienced different feelings, fears, and perhaps false perceptions in our intentional spaces.

There is a lot going on in the world today and the next several months will be chock full of uncertainty, challenges and change. I am grateful for the faith community at First Lutheran who bears witness to each other's stories. We all come to the table with a different experience, from a different place and from a different space; however, I believe one of the *gifts* we have received as children of God, is a listening heart. Jesus knew the value of listening in fulfilling the mission of the church and in living out God's design for his people - whatever space or place or circumstance they happen to be in at any given time. I am blessed to share *this* space and *this* place with you.

Peace be with you,  
Paula



## Fire Pit and Fellowship!

We are in the process of sprucing up the fire pit area and putting a fresh coat of stain on Noah's Ark...located not on Mt. Ararat, but adjacent to the parking lot! This added outdoor space will provide a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends and small groups - maybe a marshmallow or two...or three...

We will keep you posted when it is ready!



## Ray Cvengros Memorial Service

Saturday, July 11 at 11:00 a.m.

Weather permitting, this service will be held outside, so please bring your own chairs. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside and seating will be provided.



## From Shar Music Director

As we continue to “Make-it-up-as we go,” here are a couple of opportunities to consider as we SLOWLY reintegrate into the world:



**MUSIC** – I want to start a small group opportunity to ALL, that I will call “Jam Session Night.” I will plan on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month, at 7- 8:30 pm, starting with **JULY 15**. We will plan on being outside, but in a pinch, we can use the FLC. We will maintain the requisite 6 foot distancing as well as mask-wearing. If your instrument involves your face, we will find an amenable compromise. I will need to plan ahead, so let me know by the **Monday before!** I will provide music, but if you have something you’d like to share, feel free to bring it, preferably with copies to share! **JULY 15, AUGUST 4 and AUGUST 18** are the dates to remember. Questions? Shar Bourdon (231) 750-6275 or [sharbourdon@gmail.com](mailto:sharbourdon@gmail.com).

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**CRAFTY NIGHT** – I will resume this fun time on **JULY 18 from 6 – 11 pm**. We will easily maintain social distancing by setting tables up 6 feet apart and **NOT SHARING OUR TABLE!** This is a crafter’s dream! Bring your masks and **YOUR OWN SNACK**, since we will want to refrain from sharing. I **MUST** know how many people to expect, so contact me in advance. We cannot exceed 10 people, which has not been an issue in the past. I hope to see the top half of your faces then! Questions? Shar Bourdon (231) 750-6275 or [sharbourdon@gmail.com](mailto:sharbourdon@gmail.com).



(Continued from Pastor Bill’s article on page 1)

information about that platform. There may be limits as to how many people can attend these services.

- We will be hosting *three* services per week. **NOTE THIS SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.** Our first service will be held on Thursday at **7:00 p.m.** This is the service that we will video for use as our Sunday morning Internet service. Our other two services will be held per usual at **5:30** on Saturday night and **9:30** on Sunday morning.
- Worship will be different during this time. For example, we will not share the sign of peace, nor will we circulate offering plates. Some changes will be forever. Others may remain until a vaccine or good therapeutics are available.

Obviously, these are new days—days that bring a lot of grief. How we’ve done things may not be the same as how we will need to do them in the future. I will admit that I experience a lot of loss in that truth. But I also must admit that these days have been, on the other hand, full of new life for me. The connections we are making with our on-line education experiences just thrill me. Who would have known that we can hear from people all over the country and all over the world on a weekly basis? What a great gift!

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Scripture Readings</b>
07/04	Zech 9:9-12, Ps 145:8-14
07/05	Rom 7:15-25a, Matt 11:16-19, 25-30
07/11 & 07/12	Isa 55:10-13, Ps 65:9-13 Rom 8:1-11, Matt 13:1-9, 18-23
07/18 & 07/19	Isa 44:6-8, Ps 86:11-17 Rom 8:12-25, Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
07/25 & 07/26	1 Kings 3:5-12, Ps 119:129-136 Rom 8:26-39, Matt 13:31-33, 44-52



## Gather Together with Us as We Return to In-person Worship!

We joyfully announce our return to in-person worship following Stay-at-Home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our church is moving to Phase II of our Reopening Plans that include in-person worship with limitations. Please note, while in-person worship we be held at **9:30 a.m.**, we will continue providing online worship on Sunday mornings at **10:30 a.m.** on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/FELCMuskegon](http://www.facebook.com/FELCMuskegon)) and on YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrtDsSp0hCtcuH\\_2Xf97w5g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrtDsSp0hCtcuH_2Xf97w5g)).

We are re-establishing our worship services with limited attendance and following guidelines issued by the State of Michigan and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are providing a ticketing system through Eventbrite to attend worship.

For the health and safety of our church family, we ask that you follow these important protocols:

- **BRING:** Please bring your own communion elements (bread and wine or grape juice), chairs when worshipping outside, and masks.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Must have Eventbrite ticket for admission to help us follow social distancing guidelines regarding social gathering group size.
- **PARKING:** Limited parking in the church parking lot or parking is available at the former skating rink located to the north of the church on Whitehall Road.
- **SEATING:** Worshippers will be required to maintain social distancing with seating, except within immediate families. Thursday services will be held in the sanctuary. Saturday and Sunday services will be held in the church parking lot.
- **RESTROOMS:** Will be available during all worship services.
- **RAIN/INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In case of rain or inclement weather, worship moves to the Family Life Center.

Please use the following directions to reserve your free tickets to attend worship.

1. Go to the church's website at [www.firstlutheranmuskegon.com](http://www.firstlutheranmuskegon.com).
2. Select the Worship Service you wish to attend & click the date to begin. (**Note:** each Worship Service has a separate link.)
3. Note the date of the worship displayed in the upper right of the page to ensure you are registering for the desired service. Click the green "REGISTER" button along the right side of the screen to begin.
4. Select the number of tickets you wish to order. You may order up to 10 tickets. If you need more, please make additional orders. When finished, click the orange "REGISTER" button at the bottom of the page.
4. Add your name and email address to the order on the Check Out page. Again, click the orange "REGISTER" button at the bottom to proceed.
5. Your ticket order will be sent to your email address. You may either PRINT your tickets - a PDF file with your tickets will be attached to the email, OR you may download the Eventbrite App and add the tickets to your phone.
6. Bring your printed ticket(s) or show your ticket via the Eventbrite App to the ushers when you arrive at Worship.

If you do not have access to the Internet to order your tickets, please contact the Church Office (231-744-1522) for assistance. We look forward to seeing you at Worship in July!

## 2017 Miracle Event Fundraiser

On June 10 and 11, 2017, we held the Miracle Event fundraiser *Building our Tomorrows, Today*. Led by the Stewardship Ministry, the goal of the event was to raise enough money through pledges and donations to purchase a new church boiler and to eliminate as much of the mortgage debt as possible.

The final pledges have been fulfilled, and we are pleased to announce that the total amount raised was \$97,987.00! From those donations, \$60,390 was paid for the new boiler system and \$37,597 has been applied to the principal of our mortgage loan.

What an amazing show of support from all of who contributed. A huge thank you to those who worked on the event! Thank you so much for sustaining the life and ministry of First Lutheran!



### In-Person

Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	9:30 p.m.

### Facebook Live

Sunday	10:30 a.m.
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JOIN US!  
All are welcome

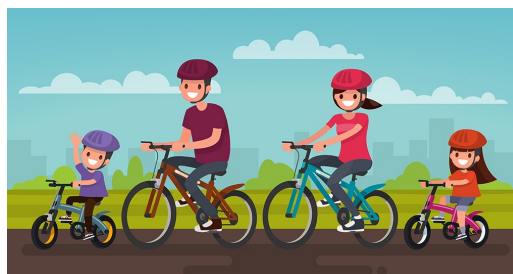
## FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.

Meet in the church parking lot  
Bring your BIKE and a HELMET  
(Don't forget your sunscreen, too!)

We will be riding to Heritage Landing for a sweet summer treat! Afterwards, we will return to the church.

\*Let Amy Badley know if you plan on riding.  
That way we're sure to wait for you!



Can't wait to see  
your  
Smiling  
faces!

## July Birthdays!

- |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Judith Dix<br>Sherree Neumann<br>Susan Besteman<br>Nathan Elliott | 14 | Pat Sharlow   | 25 | James Borushko<br>Amber Thomas<br>Michael Berge |
| 2  | Rebecca Hutchins<br>Courtney Eaton                                | 15 | Pamela Sharlow<br>John Dusseljee<br>Bruce Latsch<br>Bryson Bleich | 26 | Dennis DeVries<br>Jessica Dibble                |
| 3  | David Kleis<br>Rhonda Sweet                                       | 16 | Cheryl Schneider<br>Jennie Trulsen                                | 27 | Sandra DeVries<br>John Swirczek                 |
| 6  | Lisa Frey<br>Gage Lowry<br>Ryan Glavich                           | 17 | Layla Giles   | 28 | Floella Bates                                   |
| 7  | Cheri Christensen   | 18 | Stanley Daszko<br>Sandra Traxler                                  | 29 | Liam Simons                                     |
| 8  | Stanley Burnell<br>Sandra Young<br>Erin Cihos                     | 19 | Dennis Radel<br>Lottie Will                                       | 30 | Peter Studeman<br>Mason Frey                    |
| 10 | Connor Paugh  | 20 | Justin Meloche  | 31 | Cheryl Parmeter<br>Jody Ahrens                  |
| 11 | Thomas Sutton   | 21 | James Johnson   |    |   |
| 12 | John Rodriguez<br>Chad Fiser<br>Sam Gallo                         | 22 | Carl Luther<br>Lynn Hertel<br>Tea Schlager<br>Tyler Rop           |    |   |
| 13 | Joel Dulyea<br>Kenneth Staib                                      | 23 | Jack Gilbert<br>Ronald Peel<br>Sarah Gearhart                     |    |   |
|    |   | 24 | Jacquelin Bearer  |    |   |



### Chimes Articles

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

## Weekly Offerings For May

### Weekend of 5/3 & 5/4

General Fund: \$8,125.03

Mortgage Fund: \$575.00

Dollar-A-Day: \$30.00

### Weekend of 5/10 & 5/11

General Fund: \$15,632.99

Mortgage Fund: \$845.00

Dollar-A-Day: \$874.90

### Weekend of 5/17 & 5/18

General Fund: \$6,009.97

Mortgage Fund: \$1,052.51

Dollar-A-Day: \$92.00

### Weekend of 5/24 & 5/24

General Fund: \$6,911.64

Mortgage Fund: \$824.74

Dollar-A-Day: \$30.00

### Weekend of 5/30 & 5/31

General Fund: \$5,077.35

Mortgage Fund: 525.00

Total General Fund Offering received: \$41,756.98

Total General Fund Offering needed: 41,693.65  
\$63.33

Total Mortgage Offering received: \$3,822.25

Total Mortgage Offering needed: 8,990.00  
-\$5,167.75

# Thank You!!

*Thanks to Lark Roberts who  
assembled the June Chimes.*



**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.

## Keepers

### Flo Bates

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

### Elaine Brevick

Seminole Shores  
850 Seminole Rd  
Norton Shores, MI 49441

### Linda Cates

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

### Pat Mullinnex

2284 Riverwood Drive  
Twin Lake, MI 49457

### 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

### Dorothy Wood

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



**(NOTE: Events via Zoom and Facebook Live are indicated)**

## Weekly Events

## Other Events

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (via Facebook)
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Seniors Helping Our Parish
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)
<b>Wednesday</b>	4:00 a.m.	Journey Through Grief
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)
<b>Thursday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study (via Zoom)
	7:00 p.m.	Over-Eaters Anonymous
	7:00 p.m.	Worship Service
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)
<b>Friday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Paula's Reading Segment (via Facebook)
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Worship Service

<b>1</b>	11:15 a.m.	Staff Meeting
<b>3</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>	
<b>4 &amp; 5</b>	Dollar-a-Day Weekend	
<b>8</b>	8:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
	9:00 a.m.	Book Study with Paula (via Zoom)
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Book Study with Paula
<b>10</b>	5:30 p.m.	Bunco
<b>12</b>	11:30 a.m.	Endowment Meeting
<b>14</b>	9:30 a.m.	1st on 2nd Quilt Bee
<b>15</b>	9:00 a.m.	Book Study with Paula (via Zoom)
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Book Study with Paula
<b>17</b>	6:00 p.m.	Paper Projects
<b>18</b>	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
<b>22</b>	8:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
	9:00 a.m.	Book Study with Paula (via Zoom)
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 a.m.	Book Study with Paula
<b>28</b>	5:30 p.m.	Blais Dance
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (via Zoom)
<b>29</b>	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting

