



June 2022
#732

The Chimes

First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

For two-and-a-half years, Covid has been at the center of our lives, shaping what we have done, who we have seen, even what we have argued about. Now it appears that many of us are trying to discover what it means to *live* with Covid.

Most pastors would report that Covid has meant a sizable reduction in the size of our gathered worshiping communities (about 40 percent less for us). I think often about why folks haven't returned and have come up with some conclusions:

- Covid remains a fear to some, although I do not suspect that most people who stay away are guided by this fear anymore.
- For some, it's just easier to "do" church at home in our pajamas. We don't have to change clothes, drive our cars, take a sizable portion of time out of our day.
- Some have simply gotten out of the habit, replacing the habit of weekly worship attendance with other activities—doing laundry, getting together with friends.
- Some of us have gotten used to living with fewer expectations in our lives. Sometimes church life brings with it expectations, and it has felt good to not have to deal with expectations. And for some it has felt good not to have to deal with people at all.
- Some of us have gone further into our individualistic approach to spirituality, thinking that we ourselves or our families can become the focus of our spiritual practice.
- Some of us have grown weary of God. Covid, the war in the Ukraine, human suffering throughout the world have all tested faith.
- Some of us who are introverts have rather enjoyed not having our energy zapped by big social gatherings.
- Some of our kids have spent a lot of time away from socializing. We are worried what their behavior would be like in social gatherings.
- Some of us have been gone long enough that we feel some shame and are afraid to face that shame.
- Some of us stopped doing jobs in the church during the pandemic, and we don't necessarily feel needed anymore.

All these reasons are understandable. And I have no need to stand in judgment of those who resonate with any or all of them. But I would invite you to reflect on the following things.

The discipleship of Jesus is never meant to be easy or a matter of convenience. Sometimes it means

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From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I am feeling encouraged. My writing ledge is beginning to take shape again. The ledge where I pen a few thoughts in my journal or prepare sermon notes. This ledge, however, is not a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall or a cliff. It is not a stoop outside my window nor is it an underwater ridge. It's a ledge which has formed from the shifting sands along our beloved Lake Michigan.

You see, the high water level and erosion we have experienced these past few years completely flattened the area where I used to set up my chair, sketch my thoughts and write to my heart's content. I watched the poplar trees topple and the sands shift throughout each season and I felt a sense of sadness and complete loss of control. I wondered if my "spot" would ever return again or what the future would look like for me if I couldn't return to that place. But truthfully, it will never return to what it was nor should it. Creation is always creating new and my little portion of it is no exception. You see, my little niche on this shoreline has shifted and with that shift, it has brought about a new perspective on how I view the future. Today I have a new ledge and today I am encouraged by that new elevation.

I am also encouraged by the youth of our congregation and the commitment of adults who walk alongside these kids as they learn about Jesus. I am encouraged when I see adults show up week after week to share the stories of how God's love keeps shifting and creating and renewing their faith. And I am encouraged when I hear young children respond to Grand Mentor questions as they participated in the 'speed dating' event. Allow me to share some of these responses so you know, without a shadow of a doubt, First Lutheran Muskegon *is* being renewed and the BIG story is alive and well in this body of Christ. Here are a few responses to this question:

What do you think Jesus did when it was raining?

- "Take a nap inside his house, under a tree or in a cave." Liam
- "Stop the rain. Like he did when he made the storm be quiet." Sophia
- "Baptized people. Or stayed inside and blessed people. But there were not always people there to be baptized. He ran out of people in one place." Ethan

Yes, I am encouraged by these kids' responses because it speaks volumes about what they have read in their Bibles, experienced through the Holy Moly puppet ministry, heard from the pulpit, engaged in during the kids' messages and listened to the stories of the adults who nurture them.

Yup! I'm encouraged and it looks like I have a lot to write about on *my* new ledge of learning, too! I look forward to seeing you in worship and around town this summer! And of course, at VBS on June 20-24 as we continue to grow together!

Shalom,
Paula



Music Notes From Shar Music Director

First Lutheran Church is a warm, inviting and **SAFE** place to share musical talent from either side of the vine! If your skills are new blossoms in search of watering, feeding, and nurturing, come and share them in the form of Special Music. If your skills, like my neighbor's Hydrangeas, bloom and thrive and change color throughout the Summer, come and share them in the form of Special Music.

There is a sign-up sheet on the music room door. If you want assistance in choosing music, I will be happy to help you

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giving up time, establishing habits that don't let us take the easy way, dealing with difficult people, and going against our natural inclinations.

What's more, the discipleship of Jesus is not an individualistic affair. It naturally leads to community because in its essence the gospel is a community-making event. We at First have experienced community being built online, but for many the online reality produces a growing distance. And I would note that as time passes fewer and fewer people participate in it.

We definitely miss you who haven't been back since Covid started. If the experts are correct, we may not see some of you again. But I hope the experts are wrong.

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 04/03/2022

General Fund: \$8,875.89

Mortgage Fund: \$2,383.00

Dollar-A-Day (for mortgage reduction): \$824.15

Week ending 04/10/2022

General Fund: \$17,269.82

Mortgage Fund (for mortgage reduction): : \$1,045.00

Dollar-A-Day (for mortgage reduction): \$185.00

Week ending 04/17/2022

General Fund: \$14,019.44

Mortgage Fund: \$1,075.00

Noisy Offering (Kids' Food Basket): \$280.49

Week ending 04/24/2022

General Fund: \$5,061.47

Mortgage Fund: \$657.00

Noisy Offering (Kids' Food Basket): \$181.22

Dollar-A-Day (for mortgage reduction): \$31.00



Sunday

Weekly Scripture Readings

06/05

Gen 11:1-9, Ps 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17 [25-27]

06/12

Prov 8:1-4, 22-31, Ps 8
Rom 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

06/19

Isa 65:1-9, Ps 22:19-28
Gal 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

06/26

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Ps 16
Gal 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

First Kids

Father's Day Craft

On June 12th, the Pre-K - 5th grade will be doing a Father's Day craft from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Join us for a pizza lunch before creating something for Dad!

A bike ride will follow the craft event for the 3rd-5th graders. They should bring their bikes and helmets. We will take a short ride on the trail.

Contact Amber Thomas for more information.



Grand Mentor Picnic

A Grand Mentors picnic will be held June 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mullally Memorial Park/Lange Complex at 1850 Horton Rd. We will meet at the pavilion in the far back by the new playground.

This will be a fun time for grand mentors, kids and families to spend time together and get to know each other more. RSVP is strongly encouraged and appreciated.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own tableware and beverages.

If you haven't joined a Grand Mentor event yet and want to join please come! We are looking for more Grand Mentors and kids.

RSVP to Amber Thomas.

Youth Event!!

WHO: FLC youth grades 6-12
WHAT: Youth Event
Ziplining, team-building activity, dune hiking
WHEN: June 5 at 1:00pm
WHERE: Muskegon Sports Complex
WHY: Foster relationships among the youth and HAVE FUN!!!
COST: \$20 per person (\$35 is cost of Zipline)
Snacks will be provided

Contact Paula or Ed if you are interested in going!!!

Via: paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org
231.744.1522
Facebook Messenger



SO LONG
SCHOOL
Hello
Summer!

Breakfast Benefit: **Dar Al-Kalima Lutheran School** **Bethlehem Palestine**

Save the date!!! June 4 at 9:00-10:30 am

Breakfast will be available for pick-up; *cafe style dining will be offered in specified areas*
Suggested donation: \$10

*Note: Video footage from the Holy Land will be on a loop for those dining inside

Dar Al-Kalima School serves students K-12 and is supported by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and Holy Land. Students of all abilities are welcome in the school community. In addition to core subject areas, Dar Al-Kalima curriculum integrates peace education/culture, reinforces democracy and encourages tolerance, co-existence, love, and respect towards others. Money donated will offset tuition costs and provide needed supplies to begin the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have any questions or would like to consider a donation match, please contact:

Paula Dusseljee at: paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org
Church: 231.744.1522
Cell: 231.343.2644





Let's work together to care for creation! It's time to register for ReNew: The Green VBS™!

Place: First Lutheran Church—1206 Whitehall Rd, Muskegon, MI 4945
Dates: Monday, June 20, 2022 through Thursday, June 23, 2022
Time: Dinner (included) 5:30 p.m. Program 6:00—8:00 p.m.

ReNew Vacation Bible School invites kids to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as they become stewards of God's creation.

At ReNew: The Green VBS™ kids will:

- Explore God's Word through Jesus' Parable of the Sower.
- Learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it.
- Meet members of our community who are stewards of the environment.
- Make new friends and have a great time!

Calling all kids between preschool—5th grade who want to ReNew! Let's grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!

To register: Scan this QR code



or

<https://onrealm.org/firstlutheranmuskegon/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzAwNGI5NTctZTRINS00NjVhLWFjZTAyYWU5ODAxNDFiNWm2>

or

Complete the form on the next page and drop it off at the church office.

Questions: Please contact Paula Dusseljee at 231-744-1522 or paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org or

See you at ReNew: The Green VBS™!



Registration Form

Monday, June 20, 2022—Thursday, June 23, 2022

Kid's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Home email address: _____

Kid's age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Home congregation (If any): _____

In case of emergency (If parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Relationship to kid: _____

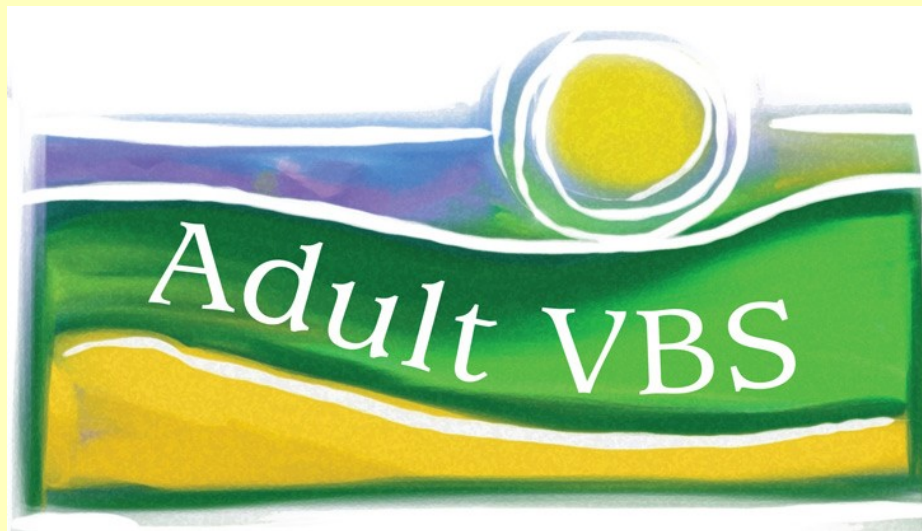
Please list any allergies (including food allergies) the VBS staff should be aware of:

Person who will pick kid up at the end of each VBS day:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____



Monday, June 20—Wednesday, June 22
Growing in Grace: Food and the Christian Faith

Is food more than just food? What is the significance of food for the life of faith? Have you experienced an urban farm yet?

The class will include two field trips: an urban farm in the heart of Muskegon and a rural one in the northern part of the county.

Official Acts



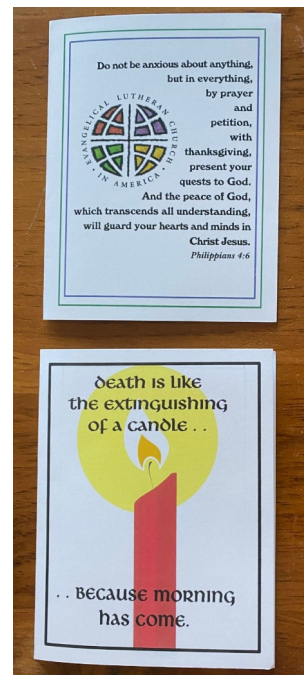
Deaths

Paul J. Luther
Date of Birth: 12-04-1967
Date of Death: 03-21-2022

PLEASE NOTE

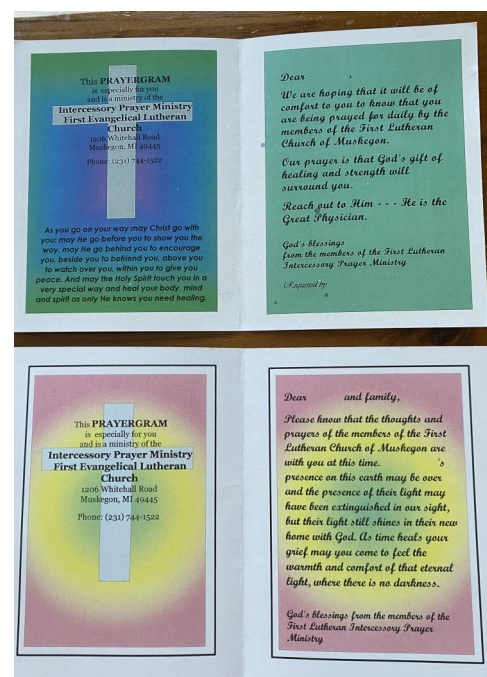
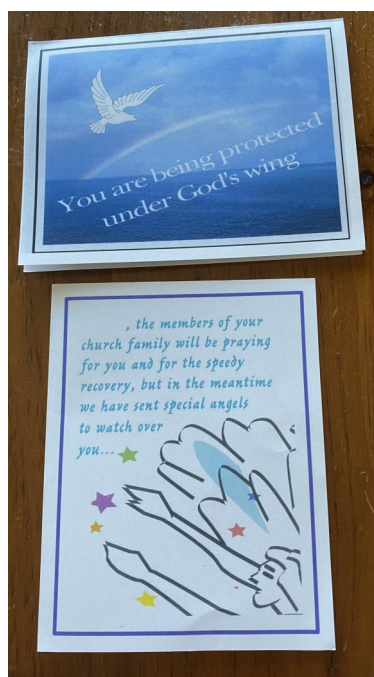
The next Chimes will be a combined newsletter for July and August and will contain information for both months.

Please note that all articles will be due by June 15.



Pictured are the PrayerGrams, SympathyGram, and Thinking of You cards that can be sent out from our church to your loved ones and friends whom you have requested to be on our church prayer list. Please indicate it wherever you might sign up for prayers, or contact the church office, or by contacting Kami Kral via text at 231-329-6148 or email at kamikral@bellsouth.net.

Please be sure to include the person's name and address.



June Birthdays!

1	Amy Badley	14	Robert Metiva	23	Isabelle Freeland
3	Julian Neely	15	Rodney Gallo Mackenzie Wheeler	24	Debra Wosinski
4	Dawn Shank Josh Will	16	Thu Le Brenna Veihl Larry Loch	26	Dan Januska
6	Thomas Kanaar Nickolaas White	17	Kathleen Cobler Stephanie Tyler	29	Jim Faulknor
8	Anne Schalow Jeffrey Cooke	18	Mercedes Schlager	30	David Plekes Linda Sahlhoff Timothy Staudacher
9	Bill Peterson Sandy Fluharty	19	Joan Cottrell Stan Huey		
11	Terry Henry Mary Burnell	20	Jerry Sharlow Craig Studeman Lisa Ziemelis		
12	Roger Barber Dee Barber Jim Elliott Ed Redline	22	Annette Jack Mary Will		



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.**



*Thanks to Theresa and Dave Buchan
who assembled the May Chimes.*



First Lutheran Family,

We can't thank you enough for your kindness to us this past winter. You sent cards by the dozens, brought in food, called on the phone, texted, emailed and prayed for Mary's 80th birthday, Paul's death, Mary's illness and our Covid. And they all worked! We got through it and we got better, due to your keeping us close to you.

Love,
Carl and Mary Luther

Thank you to Pastor Bill, Paula, Joel, and the congregation for helping me get through confirmation and celebrating with us. You all helped me get through the harder stuff and always made me smile when I needed it. I hope to continue to play a role in our church congregation.

Thank you all so much!

Colden Jones

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 49444-3127

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

June 2022

Stony Lake Camp