



October 2020
#715

The Chimes

First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

In some ways, it feels like we are living the plagues of the Exodus story: the pandemic, fires in the west, smoke in our skies, violence on our streets, hurricanes, bad storms, and floods. And for me personally, as the pastor of this community, I feel as if the plagues of sickness and death have been visiting this community of faith far too often. Funerals and memorial services lately have been the preoccupation of my ministry. I don't ever recall a time that has been so full of bad news as has this time. These feel like apocalyptic days to me.

Such a feeling makes me wonder about the apocalyptic writings of the Bible and the role that they might play these days. Most of these writings have their origins in dark days—days of great oppression. The book of Daniel was written during the reign of the nasty Antiochus Epiphanes, a reign that resulted in the so-called abomination of desolation: the sacrifice of a pig on the altar of the temple. The book of Revelation was penned during the Roman persecution of the early church. Both books were messages of hope for people who had every reason not to hope.

The primary message of the book of Revelation is not that God is busy manipulating the global stage to bring about the end of the world. No, the message of the book of Revelation is something like this: hang in there; this too shall pass. In the end, Revelation maintains, God wins.

COVID-19

In-Person Worship Schedule

**Begins October 1
(In effect until further notice)**

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

NO Saturday night service

**Limit 50 people per service
Sign-up via Eventbrite or with the
church office**

Admittedly, I don't know what that looks like now, how the love-is-stronger-than-evil message speaks to these difficult days. We are too much in them to be too confident. But I do trust that life is bigger than death, that love is stronger than evil, that peace is more real than violence, that resurrection does come out of death. For me, faith in these days entails leaning into that kind of trust. It's not that it all will come out in the wash. I suspect that we will have many more Covid and non-Covid deaths in the near future. And I also sense that many difficult struggles are ahead for churches, schools, and our nation. But I am convinced that God has not abandoned what God created and that death will not be the only truth we will know. We do need to hang in there. The final chapter has not been written yet. God gets to speak the last word. And if the

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From Intern Paula

October is the month in which we are fully engaged in the fall season. It is the month where the crisp air and warm apple cider fill our senses and we partake in a bountiful harvest. Autumn is a beautiful season with the array of colors plastered across the landscape but in all honesty, autumn has not always been one of my favorite seasons. You see, I have a hard time letting go of summer. It's the carefree feeling, days at the beach and extended sunrises and sunsets that make me feel healthier, have more energy and my overall sense of well-being is enhanced. And besides, as a Michigan resident most of my life, I know what season lies ahead of us and what challenges that "white stuff" can often present for many people. And during this season we call winter, the sun remains faceless and there is often a feeling of melancholy that sets in. Perhaps now you can understand why autumn is not the top on my list for seasons.

Now that I have painted such a rosy picture of what lies ahead of us, allow me to share a tool which I have found helpful when changes occur in my life or when it's just time to "take my temperature" so to speak. The tool is: *The Wholeness Wheel*. (trademark of Portico Benefit Services). If there was ever a time where changes in our lives have occurred in great depth, it is now. If there was ever a time where our spiritual well-being needs to be recharged, it is now. And if there was ever a time where we need to be reminded of who we are and whose we are, it is now. Living within the disruptive nature of a global pandemic has taken its toll on everyone. And as we anticipate the holidays where gatherings at church and in our families *will* look different, where limited sunshine and lack of vitamin D *will* be a reality, and where living in an unknown time in our history *will* make the days seem even longer, now *is* a good time for a check-up.

So won't you join me on this journey of doing the best we can to navigate through the

seasons in life that may not be our "favorite" seasons but none-the-less, seasons which can present us with unique opportunities to steward our gifts in all dimensions of our lives. Living a life grounded in faith, encouraging others and living into our baptism affects each aspect of our well-being. It is up to us to tend to our emotional, physical and spiritual health so we may live as resilient people in a world that so desperately needs to know what grace looks like, feels like and lives like. And to do this, we need to seek health, ourselves.

Shalom,
Paula

PS. I am enamored with all the seasons in creation, but the tug of summer has always been my favorite!

Link to additional information on *The Wholeness Wheel*:

<https://www.porticobenefits.org/CallToLiveWell/FaithBasedWellBeing/TheWholenessWheel>

THE WHOLENESS WHEEL





From Shar Music Director

News from the Music Cave

Greetings! The realization that making music together is a "RED ZONE" for Covid was very sad for me. But, I love a good challenge! I am in the process of starting up a number of small groups that will meet the CDC recommendations. Vocal music is the highest "at risk" activity, and I have probably already spoken to my adult choir members individually by now. Vocal music for children is off the table for the time being, but I am exploring options in 2 areas, either virtually or in person. I will have more information on these soon. Stay tuned! This quarantine situation also affords me the opportunity to seek out folks who would be willing to share individual talents by providing special music. If you are interested, please contact me:

sharbourdon@gmail.com
shar@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

Thank you!



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resurrection of Jesus is any indication of what that final chapter will be, life and love will win out.

For your information, we are in the process of making changes to our worship schedule. As the weather gets colder, we will have to move our worship into the building. In order to provide adequate social distancing, we will limit attendance to 50 people for each service.

Our schedule for worship beginning with **October 1** will be this: **Thursday evening service at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** We have decided to eliminate the Saturday night service for now, since so few have been attending it and since having a Thursday service enables us additional time to do the editing of our recorded service that we place on Facebook and You Tube. Please know that this schedule will likely be for the rest of the year. We will evaluate how well this is working in a couple of months and then make changes if necessary. I hope that the decision to temporarily eliminate the Saturday night service will not be too difficult for our regular Saturday night worshipers. I trust that if they are choosing to attend in-person worship they will find our other options convenient for them. The Thursday service will provide a new opportunity for those who are gone for the weekends.

The limits on attendance underscore the significance of signing up to attend our services via the Eventbrite web site. If you do not have access to a computer or can't figure out how to sign up, please call the church office. We will be happy to sign you up.

As you attend, make sure that you wear a mask, sanitize your hands, and practice social distancing. We still won't be able to have congregational singing, but I am hopeful that in 2021, we will return to what for me is one of the most important parts of our worship.

Hang in there! And if you would like to talk to me about anything, please feel free to give me a call. I always want to be available for you. I love you.

Weekend	Scripture Readings
10/3 & 10/4	Isa 5:1-7, Ps 80:7-15 Phil 3:4b-14, Matt 21:33-46
10/10 & 10/11	Isa 25:1-9, Ps 23 Phil 4:1-9, Matt 22:1-14
10/17 & 10/18	Isa 45:1-7, Ps 96:1-9 1 Thess 1:1-10, Matt 22:15-22
10/14 & 10/25	Jer 31:31-34, Ps 46 Rom 3:19-28, John 8:31-36



Christian Education at FLC has a new name:

Drum roll please.....ready?

Here it is....

Faith Formation!

Our classes for education will fall under the heading of ***Faith Formation***. Sunday school (all ages and stages) will now be called ***Faith Formation classes***. We will further indicate whether they will be adult classes, or geared toward various student ages. The name for confirmation will stay the same but will be under the umbrella of ***Faith Formation***.

So what does this mean for you, your family, and your personal growth at First Lutheran? It means that when you are looking for a group to join, or see what we are offering as a church in the way of classes, you will look under this heading. The Education Ministry felt that we are all in the process of forming our faith as we navigate through the different stages of life.

Beginning this month, classes offered will look a little different due to Covid but we are committed to bringing the good news to you in as many innovative ways as possible. Stay tuned to see what you can be a part of either in the form of a small group or via virtual learning! Here we go!



Holy Moly ***Faith Formation*** classes will be done through virtual learning and ready to access on Fridays. These ***Faith Formation*** segments will be geared to our young kids in the congregation and will utilize the Holy Moly curriculum.

FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation News

Confirmation will begin on October 7th at 7:00 p.m. As of this writing, we will meet onsite in small groups and will include all students. We will be reformatting the material a bit to meet the needs of young people and their families. The curriculum will focus on these three themes: To know, to live, to grow.

If you have a child entering the sixth grade this year, please give Pastor Bill or Paula a call so we can include them in the class!





S'more Fellowship will continue around the fire pit. Keep your eyes and ears open (and your browser) to catch the dates. If you would like to reserve the fire pit area for a small gathering, give Lorey or Paula a call! It's a safe and fun way to gather!

Official Acts



Deaths

Merritt Archer Sr.
Date of Birth: 3/23/1937
Date of Death: 9/10/2020

Aileen Horton
Date of Birth: 6/7/1933
Date of Death: 9/12/2020

Sheree Neumann
Date of Birth: 7/1/1959
Date of Death: 9/15/2020

Ursula Versluis
Date of Birth: 6/13/1925
Date of Death: 3/22/2020

Weekly Offerings For August

Weekend of 8/1 & 8/2
General Fund: \$4,945.11
Mortgage Fund: \$1,275.00
Dollar-A-Day: \$127.00

Weekend of 8/8 & 8/9
General Fund: \$11,855.51
Mortgage Fund: \$1,193.64
Dollar-A-Day: \$243.00

Weekend of 8/15 & 8/16
General Fund: \$4,658.42
Mortgage Fund: \$645.00
Dollar-A-Day: \$90.00

Weekend of 8/22 & 8/23
General Fund: \$6,125.74
Mortgage Fund: \$816.40
Dollar-A-Day: \$147.06

Weekend of 8/26 & 8/30
General Fund: \$4,830.62
Mortgage Fund: \$700.00

Total General Fund Offering received:	\$32,415.40
Total General Fund Offering needed:	41,693.65
	-\$9,278.25

Total Mortgage Offering received:	\$4,630.04
Total Mortgage Offering needed:	8,990.00
	-\$4,359.96

Thank You!!

Thanks to Theresa Buchan who assembled the September Chimes.

October Birthdays!

1	Alice Workman Susan Lathrop James Sutton Patrick Hansen Nathan Dusseljee Aubrey Freeman	12	Dawson Wheeler Colton Smith	23	Joan Rumohr Amy Morris-Jones
2	Maureen Preston Alicia Shank	13	Lorie White Karen Montgomery Rylee Cooke Kolten Plekes	24	Matt Henry Alyssa Glavich
3	Joann Petersen Kelly Anderson August Frietsch	14	Jerry Mattson Donn Werling Jesse Cooke	26	Lawrence Bringedahl
4	Tim Rodriguez	15	Glenda Borowski Robert Neel Addison Schmitz	27	Marcella Sutton Melissa Rich Jason Bevans
5	Britta Portenga Sadie Thomas	16	Larry Holstrom John Arter Theresa Hutchins	28	Lewis Plugger
6	Evelyn Borreson Tammy Dahlstrom Jill Neely Lanette McCleary	17	Cindy VanEtten	29	Ruth Basch Amy Hewitt Amy Werling Samantha Udell
7	Raleigh Schmitz	18	Greg Shunta	30	Leah Lowry
8	Marilyn Bradfield Rachel Kent	19	James Neel Linda Dawson Michele Irsmscher Taylor Hewitt Matthew Shank Grace Werling		
9	Jeff Thomas	20	Susan Bray Thai Le Alexis Goodwin		
10	Janet Naymick Eric Neely Jacob Uetrict Jamie Neel	21	Jean Sodini Patrick Wittkopp		
11	Jeanne Beardsley Larry Hewitt Patricia Wall William Peterson	22	Marilyn Eyestone Kurt Schlager Braden Lindell Jordan Pruitt		



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.**



Are You Receiving Our Weekly Emails?

First Lutheran Church sends weekly emails to every church member or friend we have an email address for. We send an Events email and a Prayer Line email, both are currently delivered on Fridays. Increasingly, we are relying on this form of communication to get important church announcements and updates to you on a timely basis. We hope, if you are receiving these emails, you will open and read them.

Our email service tells us, however, that many of you are not opening these emails. This has us wondering...

1. Does the church have your current email address?
2. Is the email going to your "junk" or "spam" folder rather than your inbox?

Here are some quick solutions to try:

If you believe the church has your email address, **please check your "junk" or "spam" folder**. This is the location for storing unwanted email as determined by a spam filter. Also called a "junk folder" or "junk mailbox," spam folders are created by mail servers as well as by the user's email program.

If you find emails from First Lutheran Church in your "junk" or "spam" folder, **move them to your Inbox**. In some email programs, you can add First Lutheran Church to your "Safe Senders" list. In Gmail, you can mark the email as "Not Junk" to ensure it reaches your Inbox each week.

If you believe the church does not have your current email address, please go to this link: <https://www.firstlutheranmuskegon.org/engage/>. **Sign up for our emails by using the online form**. We encourage you to use this form to submit your email address as Lorey in the church office does not have direct access to this database.

Feel free to invite your family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and others who might be interested in our church to subscribe to First Lutheran Church emails, too. All are welcome! They can update their email preferences at anytime and we do not share our email list.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact Beth Milligan, Digital Communication Coordinator, at 740-739-1093 or beth@firstlutheranmuskegon.org.

Join our Email List!

* indicates required

Email Address *

First Name

Last Name

[View previous campaigns.](#)

Keepers

Flo Bates

725 Harvest Lane
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767-2494

Elaine Brevick

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850 Seminole Rd
Norton Shores, MI 49441

Linda Cates

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Muskegon, MI 49442
788-1806

Jean Sodini

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

Pat Mullinnex

Mailing Address:
2284 Riverwood Drive
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Home Address:
Sanctuary at the Park
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Muskegon, MI 49442

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

Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Worshp	6	7:00 p.m.	Lion's Club Meeting
	10:30 a.m.	Worship			
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (via Facebook)	8	6:00 p.m.	Abiding Memorial
	12:00 a.m.	Bell Choir Practice			
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	9	5:30 p.m.	Bunco
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)			
Monday			11	6:00 p.m.	Listening for the Word
	12:00 p.m.	Quilters' Group			
	4:30 p.m.	Lakeshore Dance Academy	13	9:30 a.m.	1st on 2nd Quilt Bee
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting			
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)	14	8:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Seniors Helping Our Parish	16	6:00 p.m.	Crafty Group
	11:00 a.m.	"The Apocalyptic Books" Study (via Zoom)	20	7:00 p.m.	Lion's Club Board Meeting
	4:15 p.m.	Lakeshore Dance Academy			
	5:30 p.m.	Lakeshore Dance Academy	22	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)	25	6:00 p.m.	Listening for the Word
Wednesday	4:00 a.m.	Journey Through Grief	27	6:30 p.m.	Unfinished Objects Group
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation			
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)	28	8:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
Thursday	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study (via Zoom)			
	5:00 p.m.	Lakeshore Dance Academy			
	6:30 p.m.	Worship Service			
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)			
Friday	** Faith Formation Material Uploaded **				
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting			