



September 2020  
#714

# The Chimes

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



## From Pastor Bill

Dear Friends:

These are interesting days, to say the least. Everybody is struggling to negotiate the challenges presented by Covid 19. Sadly, it appears that the struggles will continue well into the future. We as a nation have done a poor job of containing this virus, a reality that may cause us to reflect on our preoccupation with individualism and our neglect of what the Scriptures, particularly the Old Testament, have a penchant for: the common good.

The future shaped by the virus is filled with all kinds of uncertainty for all people and all institutions. We at First are trying to move into the future in a faithful and healthy way. Obviously, we do not know what the data on the ground will be in September and October, nor do we know what the officials of our state will decide about our common life. Both the scientific facts and the direction prescribed by our state will help shape what we will do.

Having services outside has been a safe and meaningful way for us to have in-person worship. I think we have been successful with these services, being forced to come inside a couple of times on Saturday night when we video our online worship. Our re-entry group (Sande Borushko, Kim Fenbert, Paula Dusseljee, Ron Peel, Karl Ziemelis, Maddie Wosinski, and Beth Milligan) is currently thinking that when the weather gets colder (perhaps beginning in October), we will, if it is safe to do so, bring our services inside with a limit of 50 person for each service. As of now, those services will be held on Saturday night (5:30) and Sunday morning (9:30 until October). There is some talk about moving the Saturday service to Thursday night. But no decision about doing so has been made.

Our Sunday morning faith formation experiences will likely be online starting in October. Confirmation instruction might be in-person or online. That decision has not yet been made, but I am hoping for in-person, since these are small group experiences. We will keep Wednesday nights as the time slot for such instruction.

While there is so much about the future that I do not know, of this I am quite certain: the immediate future of the church will be focused on small groups. Small groups will be the way we can maintain a connected congregation. Please consider joining a small group or creating a new one. You all are very creative. You can come up with some new ideas for new groups—groups that focus on study, service, or fellowship. If you want some help with the formation of such groups, please talk to Paula or me.

I worry a lot about our people maintaining a sense of connectedness. I worry, too, about the loss of discipline that many of us are probably experiencing as Covid lingers. Losing the weekly routine may

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## From Intern Paula

As I sit and pen my thoughts among the rustling poplar trees, the perpetual sound of the waves lapping the shoreline and the laughter of carefree children creating castles in the sand, I am thinking about death. Yes, death. I know it sounds a bit morbid but we have said goodbye to so many beloved people in our congregation since the onset of the pandemic. You have said goodbye to loved ones, both family and friends. And as I watch the death toll rise each evening on the news, I find myself grieving for people I don't even know. People of every nationality, color, and socio-economic status. People who live in Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Jordan, Spain, France, Iran and India, etc., People who live.... in the kingdom of God.

So yes, death has been on my mind however, not in the sense of despair but in the sense of the sacred. There is something so deep within when we mourn. Perhaps that something can be characterized through the understanding of the *Mourners Kaddish*. This is the ritual observed by our Jewish friends and quite frankly, brings new insight into the depth of mourning and the deep well of hope. The *Mourners Kaddish*, which is spoken in Aramaic, are the words spoken at gravesides, memorials, on yahrzeits (anniversaries of death) and in the homes of those who are grieving. But interestingly enough, the *Mourners Kaddish* does not mention the dead. It does not speak of the people we miss nor teach us how to remember them. So what are the words of the Mourner's Kaddish about?

Kaddish is a familiar midrash (an ancient commentary associated with biblical texts) and about the Holy One, the Holy Blessed One who is not of flesh and blood. When a human king, one of flesh and blood, creates a coin, sealed with his image, each coin looks the same. The image upon each one bears the same reflection of that king. Not so for God. When the Holy One creates humanity in God's own image, each human bears God's image – and yet, each person looks different, unique. To gaze upon a person is to see the image of the Creator of heaven and earth, acting in the world in their own way, blessing creation by carrying God's face, as it were, into all they do.

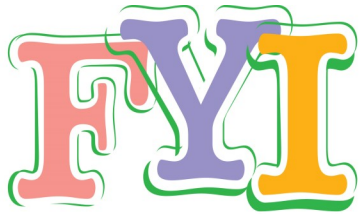
And so, when a person dies, God's image in the world is, as it were, diminished. The image of God on that person's face no longer lives in the world. And so, at the grave and in recognition of the loss and in memory of the person who died, we say to God, *yitgadal*, "May you be increased." Because that person brought unique blessings into the world, brought holiness in their own individual way – and is now gone – it is as though God's sanctity in the world is lessened. And so we also say to God, *yitkadash*, "May you be made holy" after such a loss. And then, in the mysterious circle that exists between heaven and earth, between the Holy One and each of us, we pray that as we comfort God for the loss of our loved one, God, in turn, will comfort us.

Death *is* difficult. It is *more* difficult in a pandemic. Separation of a spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, grandma, grandpa, aunt, uncle, friend and yes...even the stranger leaves a hole deep down in the center of our heart. But I believe this mysterious circle between heaven and earth creates a sacred space that in some ways, comforts me. Oh, to be created by a God whose tears are my tears! Oh, to be an image bearer of a God whose compassion spills to the ends of the earth! Oh, to gaze into each other's eyes and see God's reflection! Yes, I have been thinking about death lately. I miss those who have gone before us. I miss their smiles, their little quirks and even their irritations. Death *is* definitely a part of living fully into the *gift* of life and we each do it in our own unique way. We do it as children of God created in the image of God. We do it alongside each other and we do it with the God who cries along with us.

The gentle breeze is still rustling the trees, the waves are still moving in methodic fashion and sand castles are still being constructed and yes, I am still thinking about death. *Yitgadal v'yitkadash*. Amen.

Peace be with you,  
Paula





• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

- ◇ Check out First Lutheran's updated website at [Firstlutheranmuskegon.org!!!](http://Firstlutheranmuskegon.org!!!) It's easy to navigate and has links to most of our programming and resources. **A huge thank you** to Beth Milligan for her giftedness and dedication in helping us communicate more effectively as a faith community!
- ◇ As the fall season begins to unfold, don't forget you can gather as a small group around the fire pit and the ark is ready for lots of imaginative play. This area was cleared so people can meet with social distance guidelines in place. You can book this area by calling the office!
- ◇ We are always looking for small groups of people to serve in various places around the city and at church. Leaves will be falling soon and there are many members in our congregation who can use help in clearing their yards and preparing for winter. Yikes! These are great ways to "do church", build community, and stay connected while we wait to fully gather together again. Give Paula or Pastor Bill a call if you would like to be a part of a small group or have an idea for one!

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become a permanent reality for some. Even now, I think that some folks are not coming not so much because of concerns regarding safety but because their life's schedule and their routines have changed. Truthfully, I am deeply concerned that when we can be fully together again many of us will have replaced weekly worship with some other activity.

Church is a communal reality. We cannot do it on our own, and I would say, even only in our own families. Please do your part, for your sake and ours, to make connections with those who are brothers and sisters in the faith. Small groups are the best way to do that during these times of isolation.

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Scripture Readings</b>
9/5 & 9/6	Ezek 33:7-11, Ps 119:33-40 Rom 13:8-14, Matt 18:15-20
9/12 & 9/13	Gen 50:15-21, Ps 103:[1-7] 8-13, Rom 14:1-12, Matt 18:21-35
9/19 & 9/20	Jonah 3:10-11, Ps 145:1-8 Phil 1:21-30, Matt 20:1-16
9/26 & 9/27	Ezek 18:1-14, 25-32, Ps 25:1-9 Phil 2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32

# We're Going Back To School





## American Red Cross

### Blood Drive Monday, September 21 12:00-5:45 p.m.

As you know, blood supplies are dangerously low and much-needed at this time, especially due to increased demand from the Coronavirus. To donate, you must schedule an appointment online. No walk-ins will be accepted in order to monitor the flow of donors safely.

Please note that the date for the September Drive has changed from previously announced September 28<sup>th</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Red Cross plans to resume Blood Drives at First Lutheran if conditions permit.

If you have further questions, please contact Judi Dix at 231-463-7886. Red Cross donors are asked to please schedule their appointments at the Red Cross website at [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



### S'More Fellowship

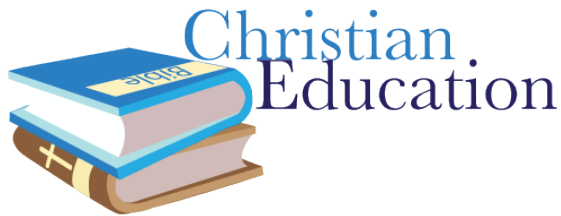
September 11 and 25  
7:00 p.m.

Small group gathering around the fire pit.  
Please call Paula or the office if you plan to attend.  
We will follow social distance guidelines.  
Please come with a mask.

### Confirmation News

- ✚ Re-connecting...Confirmation students now in their 2nd and 3rd year will gather around the fire pit on Wednesday, Sept. 16@ 6pm. Marshmallows and chocolate may be involved!
- ✚ Confirmation classes will officially begin on Wednesday, October 7th @7pm. We are still looking at on-line and in-person options as of this writing.
- ✚ If you have a student entering 6th grade this year, please let Pastor Bill or Paula know so we can plan accordingly.





Our education classes will begin the first week of October. We understand the transition to the academic year looks very different than in the past and this will give families time to adjust to their varied schedules. The Education Ministry has met several times over the summer and have been working on a virtual format for classes. As with most things these days, flexibility is the name of the game. We are committed to making sure our kids continue to learn the Biblical stories and lessons which are so vital to their faith formation. We have some great ideas for presenting the curriculum virtually and you just might see a few special visitors pop up now and then!

Don't forget the weekly kids bulletins for various ages are posted along with the worship bulletin on the FLC Facebook page. Check them out! If you are unable to print them, give Paula a call and you can pick them up at church. You can also catch a story each week at Ms. Paula's Place. The video is posted at 10:00 am every Friday on the FLC Facebook page!



**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.

## Official Acts



### Baptism

7/25/2020

*Jameson Matthew McCaleb*

Date of Birth: 07/20/2018

Parents: Joey McCaleb & Alicia Shank

Sponsors: Bev Uetrict & Matthew Shank

### Deaths

*Judith Ann Williams*

Date of Birth: 2/11/1945

Date of Death: 8/1/2020

*Beverly J. Bringedahl*

Date of Birth: 11/22/1932

Date of Death: 8/4/2020

*Janet (Jan) Glick*

Date of Birth: 8/2/1935

Date of Death: 8/10/2020

### Marriage

8/8/2020

*Michael J Olmsted & Molly Marie Chandonnet*

### Confirmation

8/1/2020

*Michaela Beidler*

*Natalee Lindell*

*Logan Montgomery*

*Tyler Rop*

*Chase Zizak*

*Spencer Zizak*

## September Birthdays!

1	Jeffery Lucht Lorey Montgomery	15	Mary Liskey Scott Smith	28	Richard Sahlhoff Thomas Cooper Mylie Neel
2	Marnie Fielstra Karl Ziemelis Christopher Corbett Hannah Bevans	17	Nancy Burton	29	Cynthia Shaver Bethany White
3	Jacob Frietsch Mikayla Archer	18	Sylvia Koski Julie Latsch	30	June Webber Marcy Joy Michael Sauro
5	Dorothy Pfhistner LouAnn Hansen	19	Lana Cassidy Merritt Archer		
6	Bradley Hyde Sheri Berge	20	Theresa Peterson		
8	Roland Crummel Roger LeMieux Kaitlyn Sutton Andrew Will	21	Dianna Radel Charles Joy David Bleich Nancy Miller-Corbett Jenna Lowry		
9	Einar Ness	22	Gerald Crenno Beverly Uetrict Joshua Pfhistner		
10	John Golden	23	Elaine Brevick Deborah Roest Michael Strait Ashley Fielstra		
11	Jeri Staudacher Cama Shunta Aaron Rich	25	Lelia Strait		
12	Patricia Shafer	26	Gail Taggart		
13	Erin Schmitz	27	Agnes Tallent Amy Tallefson		
14	Carolyn Ness				



### 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.**

## Thank You!!

*Thanks to Theresa Buchan who assembled the August Chimes.*



## Weekly Offerings For July

### Weekend of 7/4 & 7/5

General Fund: \$8,704.37  
Mortgage Fund: \$1,188.64  
Dollar-A-Day: \$100.00

### Weekend of 7/11 & 7/12

General Fund: \$12,065.78  
Mortgage Fund: \$615.00  
Dollar-A-Day: \$533.78

### Weekend of 7/18 & 7/19

General Fund: \$6,790.11  
Mortgage Fund: \$725.00  
Dollar-A-Day: \$61.00

### Weekend of 7/25 & 7/26

General Fund: \$11,165.12  
Mortgage Fund: \$321.34  
Dollar-A-Day: \$365.00

Total General Fund Offering received:	\$38,725.38
Total General Fund Offering needed:	<u>33,354.92</u>
	\$5,370.46

Total Mortgage Offering received:	\$2,849.98
Total Mortgage Offering needed:	<u>7,192.00</u>
	-\$4,342.02

## Keepers

### Flo Bates

725 Harvest Lane  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
767-2494

### Elaine Brevick

Seminole Shores  
850 Seminole Rd  
Norton Shores, MI 49441

### Linda Cates

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

### Jean Sodini

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

### Aileen Horton

*Mailing Address:*  
18647 N. Fruitport Rd.  
Spring Lake, MI 49456  
*Home Address:*  
Hillcrest Nursing & Rehab  
Community  
695 Mitzi Dr.  
Muskegon, MI 49445

### Pat Mullinnex

*Mailing Address:*  
2284 Riverwood Drive  
Twin Lake, MI 49457  
*Home Address:*  
Sanctuary at the Park  
570 Harvey St.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

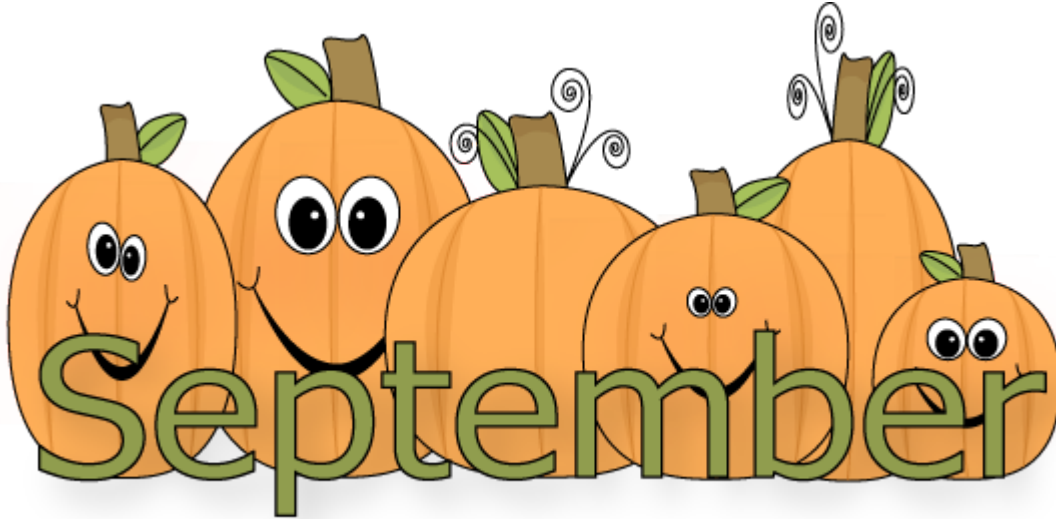
### Wally Tallent

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

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Worship	5 & 6	Dollar-a-Day Weekend
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (via Facebook)		
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	7	<b>Labor Day (office closed)</b>
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)		
<b>Monday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Quilters' Group	9	8:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	11	5:30 p.m. Bunco
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)		7:00 p.m. S'more Fellowship
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Seniors Helping Our Parish	15	9:30 a.m. 1st on 2nd Quilt Group
	11:00 a.m.	"Big Thinkers" Study (via Zoom)	16	6:00 p.m. Confirmation Gathering
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)	18	6:00 p.m. Crafty Group
<b>Wednesday</b>	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting	19	8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
	4:00 a.m.	Journey Through Grief		
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)	22	9:30 a.m. Senior Assistance Program
<b>Thursday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study (via Zoom)	23	8:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry
	9:00 p.m.	Compline (via Facebook)	24	7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
<b>Friday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Paula's Reading Segment (via Facebook)	25	7:00 p.m. S'More Fellowship
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting		
<b>Saturday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Worship Service		