

News & Views

First Lutheran Church

July, 2023



As Sarah and I prepare to bring new life into this world, we are so grateful for the support of our First Lutheran Family. While I am on family leave for the first two weeks of July I am grateful to have a good friend who has known us since we first became a couple here in Milwaukee.

Pastor David Rebey was one of my closest colleagues in my interim call to Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa before I came to First. David was an intern at Redemption Lutheran at the time and now is the called pastor of the Breaking the Chains prison ministry in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. After learning about MICA and Deconstructing Racism during our Coffee And... time in June, we will continue to learn about ministries of justice in our community this summer. David's presence and his introduction to Breaking the Chains after church on July 2nd and 9th will be an informative and inspiring time to learn about this unique ministry from David and some of the leadership board of Breaking the Chains.

We are carrying a good bit of momentum into the summer after a busy spring. When I come back we will have a new member class of at least 7 people. I think this time with Pastor David will help us carry that momentum and a new perspective on the transformative body of Christ we are a part of. Please enjoy your time with him and make a plan to learn more about Breaking the Chains. I look forward to being back with you on July 16th!

To find out more about David and Breaking the Chains turn to p. 3.

- Pastor Josh



July 5th at
6:00 p.m.

In the courtyard

Bring your lawn chair, join
us for worship and stay for
refreshments afterward.



**Vacation Bible School
ART IN THE BIBLE**

Saturday, July 22nd
10am - 2pm

See p.4 for more
information

Lots of Activity Going On!



Megan (Plicka) Rowe (above) at Harrison's pre-school graduation. Pastor Josh (L) led our outdoor worship service on June 7th.



Pastor & Lois Peterson (above) at a Memorial Day Parade in Laguna Woods, CA. Barb's boys all together for Father's Day (below).

Mick Plicka and his brother Jack (top center) went on the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight on June 17th. Megan went with him, and Greta was there at the airport to greet him afterward.



Lavone Reis (above) had fun attending one of her grandkids' games in the spring. Deb Johnson visited one of her sons in Texas, and posed for a picture at the airport in San Antonio (L).



MEET REVEREND DAVID REBEY!

I am a second career pastor called to serve as pastor to the community at Breaking the Chains Church (BTCC). BTCC is a ministry of the Greater Milwaukee Synod that began in 2016 as a new start worshipping community inside the Felmers Chaney Correctional Center in Milwaukee. Last year we planted a second church inside the Kenosha Correctional Center. Our mission is to serve in mutual ministry with incarcerated men who are seeking to have their lives transformed by a relationship with Jesus and other people like us who have been changed by the Gospel as they prepare to successfully reenter our communities.

My wife Patty and I have been happily married for 36 years and make our home in Pewaukee. We find joy and meaning in our lives by rescuing dogs who have been abandoned and mistreated and refer to our love of them as part of our ministry together. We are very fond of German Shepherds and often say they are God's gift to us. In my free time, I enjoy riding motorcycles and telling others about how God called me to ministry in my "second half" after a 30-year career in the health care industry.



Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair

**NOVEMBER IS ONLY
4 MONTHS AWAY!!**

Our Holiday Fair is coming soon! Mark your calendars for Nov. 11th. We'll be looking for volunteers for the event. Before long we'll have flyers and applications available for you to distribute.

If you would like to donate an item for our raffle table please label it as a Vendor/Craft Fair donation and leave it in the church office. Even if it is a small item, Colleen does a great job of creating beautiful raffle baskets that she will design with other items and gift cards.



DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER!!!

We are in the process of scheduling a New Member Meal and there is still time to join the seven new members we know of so far. Please contact the church office and invite people you know to consider joining our church!

On **August 20th** First Lutheran will be worshipping at Mount Hope Lutheran Church at 9:30AM. First's Council will meet at 11AM in the Fireside Room.

On **Sunday, August 27th** we will be celebrating our youngest member Teddy's baptism! Please come to worship to show your love and support for Teddy and his family!

Mark your calendars to be a part of a special Gathering and Cookout on **September 10th**. Like our Rejoice Sunday last December all members and guests from the neighborhood will be invited to think about new opportunities at First and consider ways we can use our personal gifts, time and talents as part of First Lutheran in the coming year.

--Pastor Josh

VACATION

BIBLE SCHOOL

Saturday, July 22nd
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ages 4 - those entering 6th grade.

Bible Stories, Crafts & Games featuring "Art in the Bible"

What does the Bible say about art?
God likes art and He is the source of it!

We'll create art with crafts and music, and play games.
Snack and lunch will be provided.

Contact the church office for registration info.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT!

LIVE AT THE LABYRINTH

*Thursday, July 20th
6-8 p.m.*

**Featuring Milwaukee Mike
& The Mob**

Firewise BBQ Food Truck

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
11709 W. Cleveland Ave.
West Allis

WEST ALLIS OPPORTUNITIES!

- 7/1 - 10 am - Independence Day Parade
- 7/4 - 8:30 pm - Concert & fireworks at Nathan Hale
- 7/14 - 5-8 pm - Food Truck Friday at Farmers Mkt.
- 7/17 - 10a-noon - Bike Rodeo at 67th & National
- 7/24 - 5-9 pm - West Allis Night Out at Farmers Mkt.
- 7/28 - 5-8 pm - Food Truck Friday at Farmers Mkt.

Go to www.westalliswi.gov for more information

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

In June Steve Oakland, Pastor Josh and I attended the synod Assembly at the Italian Community Center. It was a very well run assembly with over 300 people attending. The overall message was that unlike some other churches, the ELCA is an all welcoming church ready to embrace all people.

We joined Luther Memorial in June, and will join Mt. Hope one Sunday in August for an outdoor service. In return we invited them to join us at our outdoor services on the first Wednesday evenings of June, July and August. For the June outdoor service Pat and Bill (a married couple from Mt Hope) and Gary Hanson provided our music. It was uplifting and reasonably well attended.

The church council is trying to come up with innovative and specific ways to use the \$15,000.00 that was so generously given to us by St. John's when they dissolved their endowment fund.

We are planning to accept seven new members into our congregation at a special service in the near future.

Have a nice summer and continue to be an active part of our church, as many exciting things are about to happen.

Sincerely,
Werner Bayer

COUNCIL ACTIONS JUNE 18 MEETING



- Motion to request a mission coach (without charge) from the synod to help guide the listening teams we are forming in fall.
- Motion to display a message near the flag that, while recognizing the separation of church and state, would honor veterans and others who sacrificed for our country.

Wednesday Evening Worship



Our Wednesday evening worship services on July 5 and August 2 will be held outdoors at 6:00 p.m. Mt. Hope and Luther Memorial are invited to join in worship with us. Bring a lawn chair if you can, and join us! Our June worship was well attended and we all enjoyed the opportunity for evening fellowship. Musicians from Mt. Hope led our Holden Evening Worship.



On June 7th we held our first outdoor Wednesday evening worship, using the Holden Evening Worship service, led by musicians from Mt. Hope. We had a good turnout and enjoyed refreshments afterward. Be sure to join us on July 5th for our next outdoor service!

This 'n That Around Here



As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:

Marty Duke, Pastor Steve Engelstad, Marissa Guijo, Jan Pleur, Manuel Silva, LaVerne Williams, Susan Winter, Elizabeth, Vince and Margie

"Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained."

—Helen Keller



In what land and at what age did Moses die?



- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old

Answer: See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 30

Join the 16th annual Outreach for Hope Family Ride Run Walk fundraiser! With your support, we hope to raise \$160K for grants to local ministries serving neighborhoods experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA.



Birthdays

7/11 - Greta Plicka
7/16 - Joyce Gardner
7/17 - Gary Biorn
7/18 - Matthew Grulke
7/19 - Dennis Schoberg
7/26 - Michael Plicka

Anniversaries

7/19 - Dennis & Jamie Schoberg - 17 yrs.



Don't Forget to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

Need pastoral care?

Please remember to notify the church office if you are ill or hospitalized so that we can offer prayer and support directly to you. If you have a pastoral emergency during non-office hours (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) contact Pastor Josh at (414)476-4664, ext. 2.

Save your ink!

Remember to save your printer ink cartridges when you're done with them and bring them to the office. We receive \$2 each toward purchases at Office Depot - up to \$20 per month.

What We've Been Doing



The Grulke clan celebrated Dave & Linda's 50th wedding anniversary (L). Karlie and Sam celebrated the end of the school year (R).



On Sunday, June 11th, we were fortunate to be embraced by the warm community at First Lutheran Church to help us prepare for the arrival of our little girl. Colleen and a crew of dedicated volunteers transformed the fellowship hall into a beautiful pink and white baby shower celebration. Balloons, steamers, and other decorations reminded us that our little girl will be so loved by so many. A generous array of delicious foods and a fantastic cake with a festive punch (that Sarah could drink!) helped us celebrate together. First Lutheran community shared their gifts in so many ways and we are incredibly grateful for their generous gifts, kind hearts, and warm welcome to this new child of God. We are so grateful for all this love and support! — Sarah and Josh



First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI 53214

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Permit No. 3633

Mailed on 6-21-23

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 6-21-23



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

7400 W. Lapham St.

West Allis, WI

E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net

Phone: 414-476-4664

Worship With Us:

Sundays at 10 a.m.

July 5, outdoors in our courtyard, at 6 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis



If you no longer wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office.