

# News & Views

First Lutheran Church

October, 2023



## *From the Pastor.....*

### THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY

As we get ready to enter into our own season of stewardship at First Lutheran, we get things kicked off this fall by announcing how we have been good stewards of what has been given to us. One way we do this each year is by sharing funds with ministries, organization and charities that connect and extend our mission and values and do work in the community we support.

Thank you to everyone who gave input to the Endowment Committee and Council about where to give this year! It is so wonderful every year to see the impact our gifts have on the world around us, and I hope this generosity inspires our own giving to First and to many of these great causes!

Let's start with some of the smaller gifts which are also very meaningful. We are giving \$200 to the **Exceptional Chorus** in honor of Chorus member Matt Grulke for all he does and inspires as part of our family here at First!

We gave \$300 to our neighbors at **Hope Closet** who do such an amazing job of sharing resources and treating neighbors in need with dignity and respect. This gift was given in part as a thank you for the musicians at Mount Hope who shared their gifts at our First Wednesday Outdoor Worship Services this summer.

We gave \$200 to the **Campbell Family Narrative Medicine Fund** started by Dr. Campbell, a member of Saint John's Lutheran, to help create a healthcare workforce with narrative competence to hear and respond to patient stories. It is an opportunity to "be better at understanding the complex human experience of health and illness".

We also decided to double down on a new **Outreach for Hope Central City Families Camp Scholarship Fund** we raised money for at our Trivia Happy Hour Event in April with an additional \$600 donation. Doubling the impact means helping more families to experience Camp at Pine Lake, like so many First families have done.

We also continued our commitments to **Operation Christmas Stocking**, a homegrown ministry here at First, with a \$500 donation, and to **Serenity Inns** in North Milwaukee which offers a holistic approach to recovery through hospitality and accountability

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**October 7, 10:00 a.m.  
in the courtyard**

Join us at our pet blessing  
for the community and  
neighboring churches.  
Bring your caged or leashed pet  
to receive a blessing.  
Afterward, join us for  
refreshments and fellowship.



**Healing Service**  
**Wed., Oct. 4, 6:00 p.m.**

This is an opportunity  
for all who seek God's  
healing in any aspect of  
their life to join  
in prayer for  
others and themselves.

## Finding Your Fit!



Thank you to all that came to our special Fall Festival Sunday on September 10th. If you didn't make it, our "Find Your Fit at First" event was a big success and many people have already been finding a new fit at First through the experience. This process has already identified potential matches for social ministry, new greeters, quilters, and people to care for the property at First! Many people also signed up for the Scholarship Committee's sponsored classes this fall including AED Training and Introductory Spanish!

We are excited by this response and **we want to help you Find Your Fit at First** too! If you haven't already done so already, please fill out and return the Finding Your Fit forms to the office as soon as possible. If you don't do it soon, we will keep asking you, because we want everyone at First to do it!

Remember there are a few special areas that we are looking for participation in during the coming months.

- This Fall, if you want to participate in the AED Training or Introductory Spanish Class you can sign up and the Scholarship Committee will reimburse you.
- Worship and Music Assessment Team: We are gathering a group to assess the way we do worship and explore other models and options.
- Community Listening Team: We are looking for a group of people to help us connect with our community and find out good matches between what our neighbors want and need and what we can offer at First.
- Financial Stewardship And we are looking for trusted members with basic and advanced financial skills that can be applied and used in our Financial Committees: Stewardship, Memorial, Scholarship, and especially Endowment Committees.

Check those options on your forms or contact the office if you think any of these could be a good match for you!

*Pastor Josh*





## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE PASTORS?

Those entering the ministry do so because they feel called to the mission. While they may intellectually know the pressures they will face, the reality can feel different, and at times overwhelming. Pastors are there during the most stressful and difficult times of our lives.. Their role as counselors and mentors is a vital part of the ministry. Pastors hold this role 365 days of the year, and this is not a 9 to 5 job.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month, and Oct. 8th is the official Clergy Appreciation Day. Don't forget to let Pastor Josh know how much we value having him as our spiritual leader.

### FROM THE PASTOR.....Continued from p. 1

within a compassionate community with a gift of \$1100. We gave \$1000 to **Los Heroes Sewing School in El Salvador**, where women learn sewing skills and health education. \$1000 to the **ERAS Senior Network** continues a long commitment of First to senior care in our community. Additionally we gave \$400 to **Washington Park Senior Center**, part of **Serving Older Adults**.

Our gifts to organizations, ministries and charities are meant to match the mission, vision and values we recently named and adopted in February of 2023. Our new mission statement emphasizes that we are "Nourished by the generous love of Jesus" and that leads us to "grow in faith, serve with joy, and share God's many blessings". One of the ways we live into this mission is to support ministries that nourish people in our community. We gave \$500 to **Street Angels** which takes food and resources to people on the street and this year we also gave \$700 to the **Interchange Food Pantry** serving marginalized communities with healthy food and resources.

And a new recipient this year of \$700 in mission support gifts is **Breaking the Chains**, an ELCA prison congregation led by Rev. David Rebey, enhancing inmates spiritual foundation and preparing them for the very difficult challenge of a healthy and safe reentry once freed. Jesus told us to visit people in prison and this important and unique ministry helps our church do that.

I hope that these gifts and this generosity is a source of pride for all members of our church and while this year these gifts were provided as a portion of large gifts to First, including the gift from Saint John's Lutheran, we hope they will inspire further generosity in our members as we remember that we have a greater impact on the world when we work together! Please be thinking of how First might be called to share our gifts as a community and how you might be called as individuals and families to support these causes.

*Pastor Josh*



### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In October we're planning a wide range of topics, which will include some field trips. These include:

- Presentation from Barb on Holy Land Trip
- Visit to Jewish Museum on Eastside
- West Allis Historical Society
- Black Holocaust Museum on Capitol
- Visit to or presentation from Native American Tribe/Nation

On Oct. 31st we'll have a presentation on the theological meaning behind Halloween, All Saints and Day of the Dead

If you haven't been a part of our study group in the past, this would be a great time to join! We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Come check it out!



Actions voted by the Church Council  
at September 17, 2023 Meeting:

- Motion to allow members to request that their name and vote on a motion be noted in minutes . Motion passed.
- Motion to approve disbursements from Endowment as presented to benevolence recipients. Motion passed.

**Sunday School Update....**Our fall curriculum will be stewardship. Everything we have is God's. We will talk about different aspects of stewardship and how we can be stewards of the earth, the community, our church, our family, and ourselves. Ask the kids about the jellybean tax. We made a poster to decorate the entry to the church (right), and we are beginning to write our Christmas program. Sunday school meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month-- **Wonderful Wednesdays!**



**HIGHLIGHTING MATT.....**One of the people who brings joy to our First Family is Matt Grulke. He always seems to be ready for church and ready to contribute. He and his dad Dave donate time to the church and have been cutting the grass and tending the grounds for about 10 yrs. Matt does a great job and it is just one of the gifts he brings to the community. Matt also knits beautiful scarves for Operation Christmas Stocking and has recently completed a cookbook full of recipes to share with First Lutheran Members called "Feed the Christ". The body of Christ at First needs to eat and these recipes can help! Check out one of his Fall recipes below! Matt is a great example of how to find your fit at First and how to serve here at church. Thank you Matt for all you do! We recognized Matt at a service in September, making a \$200 contribution to the Exceptional Chorus in his honor (where he is a member), and giving him \$100 gift toward the Fish Fry of his choice.



### PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

- 1 Graham Cracker Pie Crust
- 16 oz. Cream Cheese (softened)
- 1/2 Cup Sugar
- 1/2 Tsp. Vanilla
- 2 Eggs
- 1/2 Can Pumpkin
- 1/2 Tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- Dash of Ground Cloves & Nutmeg

Mix cheese, sugar and vanilla. Add eggs and mix well. Remove 1 cup of batter and pour into pie crust. Stir in pumpkin, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Pour into pie crust. Bake at 350° for about 40 minutes until center is set. Allow to cool, then refrigerate overnight. Garnish with whipped cream and Halloween candies.



### FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

On September 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrated a "Find Your Fit" service in our fellowship hall. A large portion of our congregation met for communion, lunch, fellowship and declaring our interest in various functions of the church. Besides having a good time, many people showed interest by filling out a time and talent form which will be studied and followed up on by a committee of leaders. Thank you to all who volunteered.

We will be purchasing a defibrillator to be installed in the vestibule and offering classes to people who have an interest in learning to use it.

The Endowment Committee met and suggested to the church council where to use \$7,200.00 for mainly local charities. The money is 10% of special gifts the church received last year plus the money given for use by the church council following our gift acceptance policy. The church council approved the suggestions. We will publish the list of benevolences approved.

Save the dates of October 7<sup>th</sup> for our pet blessing, November 11<sup>th</sup> for our vendor fair and November 19<sup>th</sup> for a concert in our church put on by Stuart Mitchell.

Sincerely,  
Werner Bayer, Council President



*Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.*

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther

## First Lutheran Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair



Our fair is coming up fast, and we're going to need your help! We'll have 30 vendors and delicious lunch. Check the poster in the narthex for food items you can donate and the sign-up sheet for ways you can volunteer. It's loads of fun!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10/4 - Healing Worship Service
- 10/7 - Pet Blessing
- 10/8 - Clergy Appreciation Day & Quilt Blessing
- 10/29 - Reformation Sunday
- 11/5 - All Saints Sunday
- 11/11 - Craft & Vendor Fair
- 11/19 - R. Stuart Mitchell Concert
- 12/3 - Advent Begins





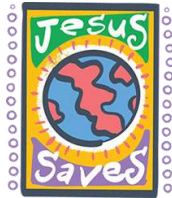
## This 'n That Around Here



Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to \_\_\_\_\_ the world, but to \_\_\_\_\_ the world." Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to

Answer: See John 12:47, NIV



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

Rita Bukowski, David Frailey,  
Janet Kramer, Graham Sackett, Bud  
Hirschinger, and Bob

We remember in prayer Kathy Santos and her family as they mourn the loss of her granddaughter, Marissa Guijo, and Linda Grulke and her family as they mourn the loss of Linda's father, Don Thornwall.

### MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Barb and Mike Lindner joined First Lutheran in August, bringing with them energy and enthusiasm.

After careers as a nurse and a machinist, the Lindners are pursuing hobbies and enjoying their family. Mike enjoys pickleball and golf, and Barb enjoys working on stained glass, doing water aerobics, and will be taking an adult tap dance class. The couple is always up for the challenge of adding more to their busy schedule, and are looking forward to volunteering at First.

Barb and Mike have three children, John (who lives in Germany), David (who lives in Waukesha) and Elizabeth (who lives in Green Bay.) Elizabeth is currently expecting the Lindner's sixth grandchild.

Life long residents of the Milwaukee area, Barb attended West Allis Central High School and Mike attended Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Both are avid Wisconsin Badger fans.



### Birthdays

- 10/1 - Gail Sopa
- 10/3 - Marie LePage
- 10/11 - Linda Grulke
- 10/11 - Donna Schwartz
- 10/15 - Sam Guthrie
- 10/17 - Earl Casto, Jr.
- 10/22 Gloria Grassell
- 10/22 - Gary Hanson

### Anniversaries

- 10/26 - Dan & Gail Sopa - 49 yrs.

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10*



**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



Karlle & Bailey (above) are best buddies.

Calvin Vise Tienen, (right) born 9-14-23, is Deb and Steve Johnson's first grandchild. Congratulations!

Future playmates, babies Pearl and Teddy, met at Teddy's baptism in August. (below)



Pastor Josh and Pearl attended a seminar on Indigenous History and Spirituality (below) at Unity Lutheran Church.



Mike & Barb danced at a Senior Prom sponsored by the West Allis/West Milwaukee Rec. Dept. (left)

Several members of our Bible Study class attended the Lunch Bunch at Apostle Presbyterian in Sept. Denai's Dancers demonstrated different styles of Middle Eastern dances. (below)

Marie & Dolores put their artistic talents to work updating our bulletin board in the narthex. (below right)





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

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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

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***Worship With Us:***

***Sundays at 10 a.m.***

***Oct. 4 at 6 p.m.***

***Healing Service***

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.