

News & Views

First Lutheran Church

August, 2024



A Word from Our Pastor

PASTORAL ENCOURAGEMENT

I've been talking up Mission Listening and forming a new team to continue the work of the Mission Team by going deeper in connecting with our community and neighborhood. After a summer of reluctance to jump in to this new experience, the synod is coming to us with this mission experience, two blocks from our church!

I want to encourage the whole congregation to participate in this unique experience that will teach us more about what mission renewal, faithful innovation, community mapping, prayer walks, and mission coaching are all about. Maybe it just gives you a good overview of the work that we will be doing, or maybe it sparks a passion and a call to go deeper into the spiritual call to connect with our community and listen to others stories as we continue to recognize the value of our story at First Lutheran and different ways we can share it and invite others to experience our community values and blessings!

Please read the information about this event on p. 3, and make a plan to participate in this "Mission Co-Lab" in our neighborhood! All ages and membership levels invited! (Just kidding there are no membership levels here and if you aren't yet a member this can be a great event for you as well!)

Pastor Josh



On August 21st, our collaborative Wednesday worship service will be a **CAMP WORSHIP!** We will sing camp songs and use a worship format that could travel with you on a camping trip and remind you of your days at camp!

Let's bring some of that summer spirit to this outdoor worship with our friends from Mount Hope and Luther Memorial!



**OCTOBER IS ONLY
2 MONTHS AWAY!!**

Applications are now available for our Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair on Sat., Oct. 26, from 9a-3p. If you know any crafters or vendors, please let them know to contact the church office for an application! Tables are only \$25 each, and receipt of application and table fee will hold one for you!

Our craft fair is always well attended and is a lot of fun for those selling, shopping and volunteering.

What's Been Happening Here!



Looking for the Lost

Vacation Bible School was on July 20. We had almost as many students as adult volunteers as we talked about finding lost things. The stories we learned about were the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep. We got to meet Laurel's friend Snowball the sheep. We did many challenges: the Resurrection scavenger hunt, the laser spider web and the Easter Egg Hunt. We painted caps and sun catchers, learned to sing "Who's the King of the Jungle" and the "Hakuna Matata" prayer, and made Resurrection trail mix for snack. We had a great time and went home tired.

Many thanks to Pastor Josh, Joy, Sandy, Nancy, Carla, Pam, all those who donated food and the families of our wonderful students.





Try a mission renewal practice for a fun Friday night! Enjoy a night of learning, practice, and... food trucks! Experience what "mission coaching" is and why your congregation might want to try it!

On Friday, August 16, join us for an Adventures in Renewal Co-Lab event! Each Co-Lab event is an opportunity to experiment with the Listen/Try/Reflect/Share model of mission renewal. This event will be focused on the practices of community mapping and prayer walks.

We'll gather at Inspiration Art Studios at 5:30 and practice the art of community mapping together. Then, we'll practice a prayer walk (or drive for those with mobility needs) as we process to the West Allis "Food Truck Friday" event at the Farmers Market. Each person will be given some money to spend that night while "listening" (being present & noticing) in the neighborhood. We'll end the night with a debrief and some thoughts about how these practices can be a source of mission renewal in your congregation!

Pastor Matthew Short
Greater Milwaukee Synod

"The greatest thing that we can do is to help somebody know that they're loved and capable of loving."

—Fred Rogers



**FIRST WORSHIPS AT
LUTHER MEMORIAL
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 25th at 9AM**

We once again are inviting you to travel with us to our neighboring West Allis ELCA churches, when First, Luther Memorial and Mount Hope Members will gather to celebrate and worship God together at Luther Memorial (2840 S 84th St, on August 25th.

At the last shared service at Mount Hope on July 14th only a handful of First Members came to the worship. In June we worshiped at First with 86 people because the members of the other churches didn't take the Sunday off but saw it as an opportunity to come together. We owe it those other churches and to our own faithful walk with Jesus to show up for these shared services. I will be preaching and I hope all of our members make the trip to Luther Memorial. We worshipped in the parking lot at LM for six months in 2020/2021. I know you know where it is! And if it's too hot to worship outside in August, Luther Memorial has air conditioning inside. No excuses! Come celebrate our collaboration with these other churches in August!

Pastor Josh

BIBLE STUDY WITH COMMUNITY PRAYER

Tuesdays, 10am - 11:15am

We begin each Bible Study with community prayer, sharing prayer concerns, hopes, and thanksgivings for those that attend and friends and family, for the members of the congregation and other neighboring congregations, and for world and national issues. In August our Bible Study will finish up Season 4 of The Chosen, a streamed series that helps us imagine Jesus and his disciples in realistic contexts as we learn about the unique cultures where Jesus did his ministry. After the Chosen we will look into learning about other churches and religions and traveling to other faith communities and cultural locations like museums to learn and spark conversations that help us think about our own faiths.





LET'S FORM A TEAM!

Do you like to take walks? Or are you a runner? Is bicycling your thing? We'd like to form a First Lutheran team for the Outreach for Hope event on Sept. 21st. You can participate at any one of the 3 locations, or do it on your own. It's a lot of fun and fellowship, with a good meal afterward! Contact the church office for more information.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING



Thank you to everyone who has donated items for this year's Operation Christmas Stocking. We still have a way to go, but we'll try to keep you updated. If we end up with more than we need of any item, we save it for next year (unless it expires - then we donate it). Thank you for your support!

Recipes
from Matt

FBI Chops

6 slices bacon
2 lg. onions, sliced
1 bag fresh sauerkraut,
rinsed of salt
2 tsp. minced garlic
4 center cut 1" pork chops
Pepper generously
1 can beer



Layer half of bacon in casserole, layer 1/2 of onions over, and layer 1/2 of sauerkraut over all. Spread 1 tsp. minced garlic on top. Lay pork chops on top. Repeat with bacon, onions, sauerkraut, pepper and garlic as in first layer. Pour 1 can of beer in, and cook 45-60 minutes at 350°. Chops fall apart with a wonderful taste. Serve with rolls and beans of some sort.

FIRST LUTHERAN AND A CVLI MOVIE LICENSE

First Lutheran is investing in a CVLI Movie license for the next year. This license will allow us to show movies here at church. It also allows me as a pastor to use video clips in sermons and teaching sessions. How could we use this license to gather our members and new people in times of fellowship, fun and faithful learning? What movie would you want to show here at First? Chances are it will be licensed through CVLI. Let me know if you have ideas for movies or movie nights here at First in the coming year.



A WORD FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Christmas in July!

Christmas is such an amazing time.

First, there's the love. Celebrating Christmas gives us a chance to bask in the love God showed us by sending the long-awaited Savior. It gives us a chance to share that love with others through Christmas traditions like caroling and gift giving.

Then, there's the wonder. People had an expectation of the Messiah, and it included a military king who would drive out oppressors. What a difference the reality was, with a newborn baby who would save his people through sacrifice, rather than warfare.

Our Christmas in July service gave us a chance to reflect on those things amidst Christmas decorations, while singing Christmas carols and enjoying Christmas cookies with friends. It also helped raise awareness of our own Operation Christmas Stocking, which provides gift bags for the men and women who come to our food pantry, as well as decorated Christmas stockings for their children and grandchildren. It also provides gift bags for the men at Serenity Inns, a shelter for people recovering from addiction.

Do you feel the joy and generosity of the season? Donations of small items like toothpaste and toothbrushes, men's shaving cream, small packs of Kleenex, and men's heavy socks are needed for the gift bags. Since volunteers begin assembling the bags in October, gifts are welcome now! Please consider sharing the Christmas spirit with those who really need it. Find the collection bin in the narthex, or drop items off at the church office.

Sincerely,
Gayle Falk, Council President



NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in becoming a new member please contact Pastor Josh or the office. What's the benefit? Having a spiritual home in this crazy world can bring some peace and stability into your life in ways other communities can't. At First Lutheran we are in this together and we remember that we share love with each other and the world because God FIRST LOVED us! Being a member of First means being specially connected to others in this community, like a family gathered around God's grace and Jesus' gospel. It is a place where you can share your gifts, insights and story and grow in the faith, serve with joy and share God's blessings with others!



GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC

What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can. God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

This 'n That Around Here



What kind of birds does God use to supply Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves



Answer: See 1 Kings 17:2-6



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

Marty Duke, David Frailey, Janet Kramer, Bill Nyback, Nellie and Bob.

We grieve the loss of Dolores Hurst who died on July 18th.



Birthdays

- 8/19 - Deborah Johnson
- 8/22 - Susan Winter
- 8/25 - Chris Guthrie

Anniversaries

- 8/27 - Randy & Dona Schwartz - 8 yrs.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

- 9/21 - Outreach for Hope Ride, Run, Walk
- 10/26 - Holiday Craft Fair
- 11/3 - All Saints Sunday



Don't Forget!

Remember to bring in your empty ink cartridges when you replace them.

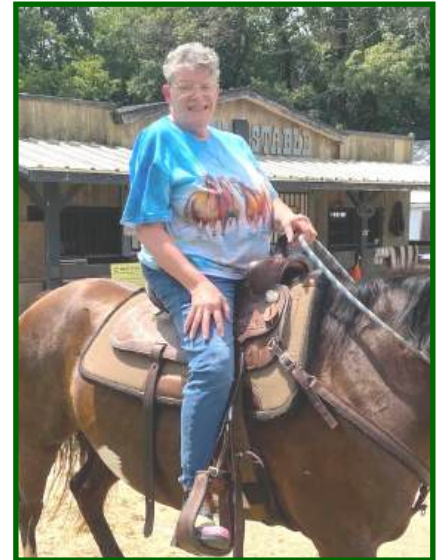
Please check the sign-up sheets in the narthex: Altar Flowers, Eternal Light, Sunday Volunteers, etc!

Remember to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

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.

America, the donkey and elephant won't help.
We must turn back to the lamb.

What We've Been Doing



Karlie, Sam and pets are ready for their vacation on Rice Lake (top right). Jeanie (above) had the chance to ride again and loved it! Don & Benjamin had some bonding time together! (L)

While on vacation, Pastor Josh and family celebrated Pearl's first birthday. It looks like she really enjoyed her cake! They were able to visit Niagara Falls and a replica of the Mayflower.



Several members joined Apostle Presbyterian in a tour of the V.A. grounds and learned about the history of some of the buildings which are being restored. (above). The quilters (above R) visited the quilt museum in Cedarburg to see the exhibit "25 Million Stitches: One Stitch, One Refugee". On July 21st a representative of Serenity Inns spoke at Coffee And.... about their programs. (R)



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 7-29-24

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver 7-31-24



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.

Wednesday, Aug. 21st at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 25, 9:00 a.m.

at Luther Memorial

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis
(414)476-4664

Food Pantry Hours:

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



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