

# News & Views

First Lutheran Church  
September, 2024



## *A Word from Our Pastor*

### **God's Work Our Hands 2024!**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, First Lutheran will be celebrating God's Work Our Hands Sunday. This is a shared Sunday service experience at churches through the ELCA that has been happening for ten years. The ELCA Website states: "This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor." It's an opportunity to put service first, even if it means not worshipping for a weekend in some churches and instead only volunteering together.

Here at First, we will have a short worship service after which our members will filter into volunteer stations where we will engage in ministry and activity that serves the community around us, supports the work of Mission Partners, and reminds us of the many ways our congregation joyfully serves through its existing ministries.

#### Volunteer Stations will include:

- Grounds and community clean up outside the church walls (Meet at Front Door)
- Quilting Station where volunteers can tie quilts (Quilting Room)
- Brown bag meal assembly for our mission partner Street Angels to distribute that night. (Fellowship Hall)
- Clean up of the Food Pantry Storage Room (Food Pantry)
- Writing Christmas Cards for Street Angels and Inspirational messages to be put into bags that night (Fireside Room)

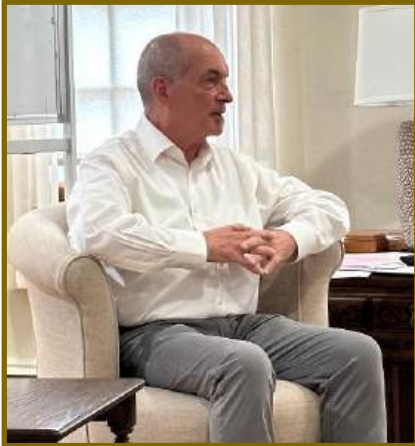


So be prepared for this special church experience of worship and service on September 8<sup>th</sup> at this "Service Service"! The only hymn we will be singing at the 10am service is a special "God's Work Our Hands" Hymn accompanied by Laurel on Violin and Gary on organ. Be prepared for a half hour of worship, followed by 30-60 minutes of service and a prayer together when the service is completed.

This experience of God's Work Our Hands has been a meaningful and powerful experience for churches in the ELCA for many years and one that I hope is meaningful for First this year as well! I'm excited to try this new way of being church together!

--Pastor Josh

# What's Been Happening Here!



**Learning About Our Mission Partners:** George Neureuther (L) from Interchange Food Pantry, Vanessa Harris (R) from ERAS and Eva from Street Angels (Far R) spoke to us during Coffee And... about their ministries.



We had special music at worship on Aug. 11th with mother and daughter Kris and Tessa (R). St. Nicholas (Bill Kaiser) visited us at our Christmas in July worship service (Far R). Elliott and Max helped lead our Camp Songs worship (Below).



Lavone (Above R) had the opportunity to visit with a goat!

Cooper (Above) was voted mascot at Jeanie's residence. Congrats Coop!

Katie, Harvey and Hazel Bakkum (L) on vacation.

Pr. Josh and Pearl in front of the White House (R).





## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study will be wrapping up a powerful season of The Chosen at the beginning of September which has taken us from Jesus walking on water to his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We study relevant Scripture and cultural information with each episode and it has been a wonderful learning and spiritual experience to walk with the biblical Jesus and the disciples through this new visual tool of The Chosen. Our Bible Studies later in the month will feature learning about other faiths and utilizing the museums and resources in our community with special guests and trips to other places.

Recipes  
from Matt

### Caramel Puffs

- 1 8 oz. bag of corn puffs (not cereal), found in the chips aisle. Old Dutch or Lays are good.
- 1 C brown sugar
- 1/2 C butter (1 stick)
- 1/4 C light corn syrup
- 11 tsp. baking soda



Put corn puffs in a large brown paper grocery bag.

Mix next three ingredients in a microwave bowl. Microwave for 4 minutes, then stir. Then microwave for 2 more min.

Stir one tsp of baking soda into the caramel mixture. Pour on top of the corn puffs. Stir with a long handled spoon until the corn puffs are completely covered.

Fold bag down to fit in microwave. Microwave 1 1/2 min. Take bag out and shake it. Microwave 1 1/2 min. more. Take bag out and shake it; then spread caramel corn on a large cookie sheet.

Let corn cool, then store in airtight container. Don't leave corn sit too long or it gets soggy.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING



Operation Christmas Stocking is a year around project that provides gift bags for ELCA Synod Serenity Inn Program, Food Pantry clients at First Lutheran's Food Pantry and stockings filled with age appropriate items for their children/grandchildren.

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is only three months away. We pack most of our gift bags starting in October, and normally hand out our gift bags the 1st or 2nd Friday in December.

With the increase in the number of clients that visit weekly, we will have to increase the number of gift bags from 25 to 35 each for the men and women.

During the month of July we celebrated "Christmas In July" including a Wednesday night service dedicated to gifts, songs and treats with a Christmas theme. The Operation Christmas Stocking Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations. We collected the following items: 9 Kleenex packages, 12 tubes of toothpaste, 7 toothbrushes, 35 bars of soap, 9 women's deodorants, 2 men's deodorants, 5 pairs of men's socks, 1 coloring book with pencils, 4 boxes of crayons, 6 packages of magic markers, 2 packages of colored pencils, 3 coloring books and 2 small games.

Greta Plicka



**Grandparent's Day 2024**  
is  
**September 8th**



## A WORD FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It seems like people are trying to make their dollars work harder today. To afford everything takes careful planning and smart use of money. At the end of the day, we want to feel like our money was well spent.

The same is true for money we give to help others. We know the need is great, but we also know we can't contribute to every cause, no matter how much we want to help. As a result, we end up helping a few, and wishing we could make more of an impact.

Benevolence to the rescue! The benevolence line on our weekly envelopes addresses a wide range of needs, ranging from international hunger and disaster relief to supporting congregations and seminaries through the ELCA synod. The same contribution helps fund our local mission partners, like Street Angels and Serenity Inns. We've had a close up look at our local mission partners through presentations following "coffee and..." these last several months. One gift on the benevolence line of the envelope can do good worldwide and here at home!

On September 8 we are celebrating a Rally Sunday. Taking to heart the ELCA principle "God's work, our hands" we will celebrate a short service, followed by opportunities to work outside on the church grounds, or inside assisting our quilters or making bag lunches for the Street Angels to distribute. Additionally, envelopes will be available for a special benevolence offering. We can answer by specifying one effort we want to support, or join the support of synod and local mission partners with an unspecified donation. God's work, Our hands, Your choice!

Sincerely,  
Gayle Falk, Council President



**Bring Your Bags!** The food pantry has plenty of plastic bags now, but is still in **desperate need of paper bags**. Please ask for paper bags when you shop and bring them to the church office.



## We have about fifty people visiting the First Lutheran Food Pantry every week.

We would appreciate donations of jelly, cereal, pasta, and soup. Feeding America is getting less food and monetary donations, which affects the items they can offer us on a monthly basis. The number of people who visited the First Lutheran Church Food Pantry during the last three months: May 276, June 212 and July 160.

Volunteers are needed to help carry bags upstairs for many of our clients. The first hour is usually the busiest with about 20 to 25 people already in line waiting to be served. If anyone is able to help out for an hour or two on Fridays, talk to Mike Plicka, John Hrovat or contact the office.

A representative from Feeding America did a site visit in July. She spent the morning talking to our visitors about the various programs that are offered and how to contact each individual group.

We are grateful for the support we receive from Festival Foods, Feeding America, St. Luke's Lutheran in Greendale, Gary who delivers the bread every week, and donations in cash or food from members of our congregation. We would not be able to operate without the help of our volunteers that pick up food and assist during our Friday operating hours.

Members of the congregation are welcome to visit us on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

John Hrovat & Mike Plicka

## This 'n That Around Here



Who helped Samuel understand that it was the Lord calling him in the night?

- A. his mother, Hannah
- B. Moses
- C. his father, Elkanah
- D. Eli



Answer: See 1 Samuel 3:1-10



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

*Marty Duke, David Frailey, Bishop Medardo Gomez, Janet Kramer, Bill Nyback and Nellie*



### Birthdays

- 9/12 - Mark Henschel
- 9/12 - Jesse Rofritz
- 9/13 - Nadia Bivens
- 9/14 - Jeanie Stummeier
- 9/16 - Mike Lindner
- 9/18 - Sharan Kruschka
- 9/22 - Mary McNeal
- 9/27 - Dale Phillippo
- 9/30 - Werner Bayer
- 9/30 - Sharon Phillippo

### Anniversaries

- 9/15 - Mike & Barb Lindner - 45 yrs.
- 9/22 - Colleen & Spencer Siarnicki - 23 yrs.
- 9/24 - Sheri & Joe Newell - 2 yrs.



We got plenty of “likes” on Facebook for our sign during State Fair!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

- 9/8 - God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
- 9/15 - New Member Sunday
- 9/21 - Outreach for Hope Ride, Run, Walk
- 9/29 - Healing Service
- 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.*

**ACTIONS OF THE  
COUNCIL  
AUGUST 18, 2024**



- The Endowment committee was directed to recruit a new member, as per church constitution.
- A motion was passed to express the council's sympathy to Sarah Carter on the death of her father.
- Discussions were held of Safety policy, church insurance policy, Mission Listening team, scheduling work on updating of the church constitution, and plans for the church's 100th anniversary. Discussions will be continued at the next council meeting pending additional information.



**OUR CRAFT FAIR IS NEXT MONTH!**

Our annual Holiday Craft and Vendor fair is just a month away! It's always well attended and is a lot of fun for those selling, shopping and volunteering. It's also a great opportunity to welcome visitors to our church.

A sign-up sheet will be out mid-Sept. where you can check out the volunteer opportunities at the fair. We hope everyone will take some role in helping make this a successful event. And yes, there are some jobs that involve sitting!

We'll also have flyers in the narthex for you to take and distribute to businesses you patronize. Be sure to share the information with your friends!

**PASTOR JOSH'S CONTINUING  
EDUCATION TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC**

*I continue to benefit from learning with my wife as she does research trips and has conferences around the country. I get to travel at low cost and go deeper into shared interests that relate to her work and mine.*

At the end of July Sarah and I spent three days in Washington DC visiting several Smithsonian Museums: The African American History Museum, The American Indian History Museum and the Museum of American Art, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum and monuments in the National Mall like the Vietnam War Memorial. Some of the continuing education topics I have been trying to learn more about are the African-American and American Indian experience in our society and the impact of war and the life of veterans. This trip gave me an overview of many of these topics and visual images, displays and art that speak volumes and inspire my continuing study.

**Continuing Education in DC! July 25-27. Pictures next page.**

1. The Cafeteria at the National Museum of African American History and Culture features historical photos, including this one of a lunch counter sit-in
2. The Contemplative Court at the NMAAHC features a waterfall from street level and quotes like this one from Martin Luther King Jr. quoting the Prophet Micah.
3. The lower level of the NMAAHC focuses on slavery and the slave trade. One of the first displays reminds people that it was Europeans' addiction to sugar that created the initial push for slave trade in the Americas.
4. The Electronic Superhighway was created by the "Father of Video Art" Nam Junn Paik in 1995 and features televisions playing cultural videos and news from each state and region along with audio and a neon map frame. It hangs at the Smithsonian American Art Museum where Sarah used to work.
5. A display about the Black Church features votive candles representing parishioners and a quote that speaks to church communities everywhere.
6. The National Museum of the American Indian features many historical displays and exhibits like this one about the American Indian Movement in the 1970s and the Longest Walk which was supported by American Lutheran Churches (ALC) across the country.
7. The "Americans" exhibit features an overpowering multitude of historical cultural and commercial products that use American Indian names and images.
8. Sarah stands outside the uniquely shaped NMAI building.
9. Sarah, Josh and Pearl's reflection in the Vietnam War Memorial.
10. Sarah and Pearl point to the Wisconsin patch on a quilt featuring US States and territories at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum.

# What We've Been Doing

1



2



3



4



5



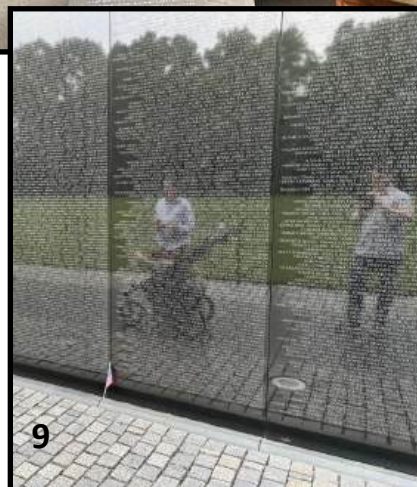
6



7



8



9



10

For descriptions of pictures, see p. 3

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 8-26-24

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material  
Please deliver 8-31-24



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

7400 W. Lapham St.

West Allis, WI

E-mail: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)

Phone: 414-476-4664

***Worship With Us:  
Sundays at 10 a.m.***

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.**



**“God’s work. Our hands.”**

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