

# News & Views

First Lutheran Church  
October - November, 2024



## *A Word from Our Pastor*

### **Happy Birthday, First Lutheran: A Century of Worshiping, Serving and Sharing**

First is about to celebrate a big birthday. Our congregation was founded in the summer of 1925 and next year First will be turning one-hundred years old! How should we celebrate a century of ministry and mission in this community?

First Lutheran has been an important part of our community for a century, bringing innovative ministries to meet the needs of the people around us. First members helped to form Housing for Low Income Elderly (H.O.L.I.E.) and created the first food pantry in our area to serve our neighbors and do God's work.

Every 25 years, First Lutheran has celebrated its formation and rich history by rededicating our congregation for a future of mission and ministry in West Allis. Often these anniversaries have been used as motivation to raise resources for new projects.

In 1950, the congregation announced plans to begin a new building program which led to the groundbreaking of our current church building in 1956. The remodeling of the Fireside Room occurred through a bequest after the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration. Leading up to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the sanctuary was updated and a new computer system and fire alarm were installed.

This year we are following the Holy Spirit into a mission renaissance by working with a mission coach and the Synod's Adventures in Renewal process as a way to celebrate our anniversary. At our September meeting, the council voted to form a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and create a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to help us prepare for this special anniversary.

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## **Pet Blessing SERVICE**



**October 5, 10:00 a.m.  
in the courtyard**

First Lutheran and  
First United Methodist  
invite you to our pet blessing  
for the community.

Bring your caged or leashed pet  
to receive a blessing. If you're un-  
able to bring your pet,  
bring a picture.

Afterward, join us for  
refreshments and fellowship.

## ***First Lutheran Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair***



***Saturday, Oct. 26th***

***9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.***

***Free Admission!***

***Consider bringing an item for our food pantry!***



# God's Work. Our Hands Sunday



## WHAT A DAY!

On Sept. 8th we had food pantry cleaners, Lutheran World Relief quilt knotters, garbage picker-uppers, masons, card signers, sandwich makers, and gardeners!





## *A Word from Our Pastor*

*Continued from p. 1*

As we prepare, gather and celebrate the last century and look forward to many years to come, we will also beautify our building with fresh paint, new art, and an updated worship space and narthex. We will also be contributing to a new boiler.

I am excited to share that a non-member who participates in a First Lutheran ministry has broken ground in raising money for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund with a generous \$5000 gift. In the coming weeks and months, we will be inviting you to grow this fund, as we prepare our building and our congregation as a tool for God's mission in the world, inspired by the generous love of Jesus to continue to be God's hands and feet in our community.

*Pastor Josh*

### **ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL SEPT. 22, 2024**



- The Council confirmed the appointment of Mike Plicka to the Endowment Committee, filling Dolores Hurst's term until the end of the year.
- The Council approved an envelope redesign for next year's giving.
- The Council created a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund to collect money for church improvements celebrating our anniversary.
- The Council rescheduled the next Council meeting to Tuesday, October 22, at 1:00 PM.
- The Council began a discussion of updating our child abuse prevention plan. The plan will be finalized and voted on at the October meeting.

## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND**

As we have entered into a new season of the year, we are getting ready to enter into another season of stewardship at First Lutheran. One way we try to be good stewards at First Lutheran is by sharing at least 10% of our endowment income with mission partners, including the synod, ministries, organizations and charities that extend the mission and values of First Lutheran, and do work in the community we support.

We want to remind you that the deadline for applying for a charitable gift from our endowment committee is fast approaching. The deadline for submitting an application is November 10th.

The application is easy, it's not even an application. All you need to do is submit us a written letter. If an organization you care about or are a part of is interested in applying for a charitable gift, a written letter for fund requests must be submitted for consideration by the committee. Included in the letter should be the proposed nature of the request, the amount sought, the category (see below) in which the request best fits, and specifically how the funding would be used. The application must also include a detailed explanation of how the request will enhance and expand the mission of First Lutheran Church West Allis.

No request for funding will be considered or granted without a written letter requesting funding. The committee shall determine if the request or any part of the request meets the letter and spirit of the purposes of the Fund, and its determination shall be final.

### **Specified Percentage of Endowment Income may be distributed in four categories:**

- A. Outreach into the community, the Greater Milwaukee Synod and beyond (minimum of 10%)**
- B. Capital improvements or for debt reduction for a building or remodeling program (up to 20%)
- C. Development of any special ministry and/or program of the congregation (up to 50%)
- D. Causes and programs which are consistent with the purpose of the fund in enhancing and expanding the missional outreach of the congregation (up to 20%)

**Send Requests To:** First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund,  
7400 W. Lapham St., West Allis, WI 53214  
or: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)

Mark Henschel,  
Endowment Chairperson

## A WORD FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

From the Council President

Exciting things have been happening here at church services recently. Our "service" service, where we spent time helping others in the community, was a chance to live the ELCA motto: "God's work, our hands". After a shortened service, we broke into groups to pick up trash in the neighborhood, pack lunches for the homeless, tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and pray for our community. It was a perfect chance to walk the walk of our Mission Statement: **Inspired and called into action, we celebrate God's abundance with our neighbors throughout creation.**

On our new member Sunday, we heard the testimony of a new member, detailing the values and actions that made First a place God provided her a home.

One Sunday we explored "Dwelling in the Word," a process where we read a section of scripture and discussed what it meant to us. People sought out others they didn't know well, to share ideas and learn more about each other.

To close the month, we shared a healing service for healing in society, featuring Breaking the Chains, a prison ministry, during and after the service. Other Coffee and... sessions have featured speakers from a number of mission partners, explaining their work and how they use the money we donate.

Through it all, First members have been curious and open to learning new ways to approach worship and each other. We will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church next year, and the way God has invited us into an inventive, living relationship.

Sincerely,  
Gayle Falk, Council President



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



In August we handed out 76 bags and had 196 visitors who received vegetables, meats/salads, bread and bakery for an August total of 272. **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.

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.

We would like to thank everyone who helped clean the food pantry on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. They helped clean the shelves, baseboards, carts, tables, restock the shelves and wash the floors.

We are grateful for the support we receive from Festival Foods, Feeding America, and St. Lukes Lutheran Church (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



If you're interested in Sunday School opportunities for your children, please contact Linda Grulke or the church office.



## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

In October and November the Tuesday Bible Study will be learning about other faiths, starting with the Abrahamic religions of Judaism and Islam. We will be listening and learning from those that practice these faiths. This will involve our own research using the ELCA resource "Honoring Our Neighbors Faith", special speakers and trips to other worshipping communities.

As we move into Advent, Christmas and Epiphany we are also planning to study how Jesus and the disciples have been presented in media and how these versions compare with the biblical version and the depictions of The Chosen.

We meet at 10am on Tuesdays, unless we are traveling, and you are welcome to join us for one session if you are free or many!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING



Operation Christmas Stocking is a year-round project that provides gift bags for Serenity Inns (a program supported by our synod), Food Pantry clients at First Lutheran, and stockings filled with age appropriate items for our clients' children/grandchildren.

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is only two 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.

This month the congregation donated men's socks (12 pairs), paint sets, coloring books, stuffed animals, Christmas mugs (5) and men's disposable razors. Thank you for your continued support.

Greta Plicka and Colleen Siarnicki

### Recipes from Matt

#### Cheese Ham Strata

- 8 slices of white bread
- 2 C cheddar cheese, grated
- 3 C buttermilk
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 3/4 tsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 C sliced ham, chopped



Alternate buttered layers of bread, cheese and ham in a greased baking dish, ending with cheese on top. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over layers. Allow to stand one hour in refrigerator. Bake at 325° F for 50-60 minutes or until golden brown on top. Cut into squares and serve.

## All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is on November 3rd, at which time we will remember those members of First Lutheran who died in the past year. We will also read the names of those who were close to us who you'd like remembered. There are slips in the narthex to fill out if you'd like a name added to the list, or you can contact the church office.

## God's Work. Our Hands. 100 Years.

Stewardship Sunday will be held on Nov. 10th. Watch the bulletins and your mail for more information in the coming weeks.

As we've seen in the past few months, The Spirit is definitely using our hands to do God's work!



Barb will be on vacation the weeks of Oct. 13th & 20th. She'll return to work on Oct. 28th. Gayle Falk will be checking mail and messages while she's gone.

## This 'n That Around Here



### Birthdays

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

### Anniversaries

10/26 - Sheri & Joe Newell - 2 yrs.

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



*Pat Carus, Shirley Cogan, Marty Duke, David Frailey, Bishop Medardo Gomez, Janet Kramer, Carol Peterson, Dale Phillippo, Roger and Tina Ritz, Jesse Rofritz, Lora Sackett, Randy Schwartz and Nellie*



When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob's well
- D. the Pool of Bethesda

Answer: See John 4:6



Set your clocks back one hour on Sat., Nov. 2nd!



### Birthdays

11/6 - Karlie Marquez  
 11/8 - Steve Oakland  
 11/8 - Ron Schneider  
 11/17 - Pastor Josh Graber

### Anniversaries

11/15 - Gayle & Jerry Falk - 49 yrs.



*Be sure to WEAR RED on Reformation Sunday, October 27th!*

*October is Pastor Appreciation month!*



*Please accept our donation to express our gratitude to Pastor Graber and the members of First Lutheran. Over these past few years our group has always felt welcome and accepted. Our sincerest thank you and God bless all of you,*

*Wednesday night AA, group 23*



### **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

10/6 - Quilt Sunday  
 10/26 - Holiday Craft Fair  
 10/26 - Trunk or Treat at 1st United Methodist  
 11/2 - Turn your clocks  
 11/3 - All Saints Sunday  
 11/10 - Stewardship Sunday  
 11/27 - Thanksgiving Eve at Luther Memorial

*Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be held at Luther Memorial on Wednesday, Nov. 27th at 7:00 p.m. The service will be followed by a pie social.*



# What We've Been Doing



Above, Eli finished a David & Goliath puzzle during 'Grandma' Sunday School.



L, Sam and Karlie are now 8th & 6th graders!

Below, Jeanie and Cooper's photo was selected for the Capri Communities home office!



Pastor Peterson (R) and Lois have made bread, eggplant, soup and oatmeal in their new solar oven.



Above L, Pastor doing a special blessing for James and Peggy's motorcycle. Above R and below R, Steve & Deb had a great time in Boston celebrating their grandson Calvin's birthday with their son Alex and his wife, Samara.



After being recognized as a new member of First, Laurel (above) gave testimony about what she found at First to make it a spiritual home



Above, Spencer and friends removed the display case in the narthex to give us more room.



R, Jackie holds the quilt she made out of her old kitchen curtains.

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

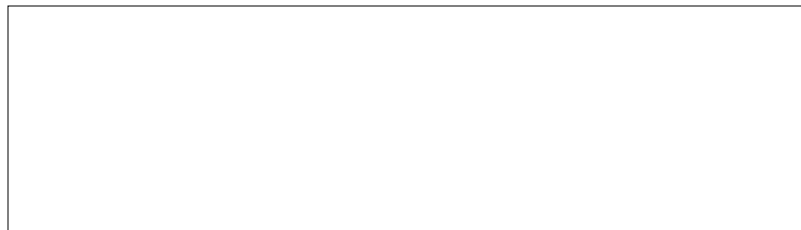
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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

7400 W. Lapham St.

West Allis, WI

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

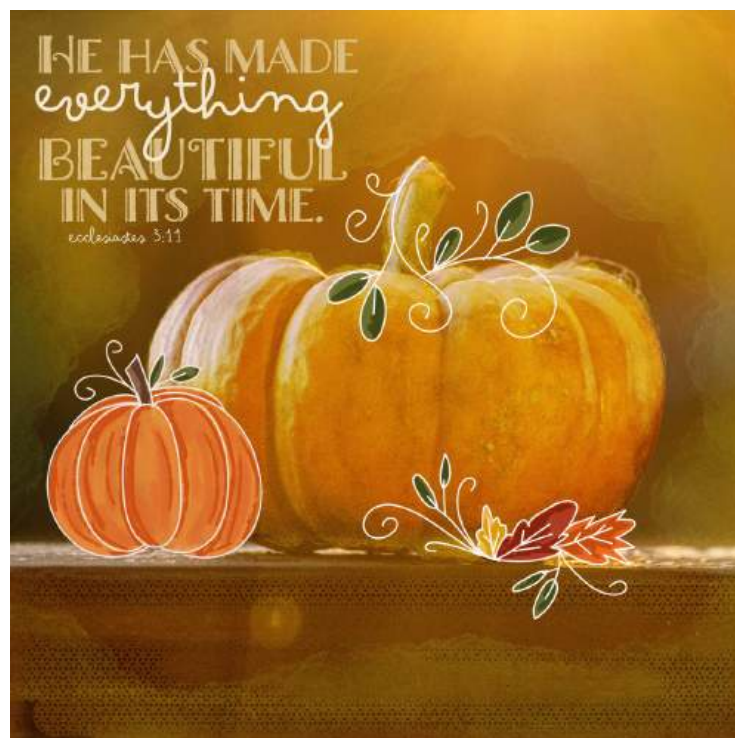
Phone: 414-476-4664

***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.**



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