



November 2024
#758

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

The Fall, because of the Thanksgiving holiday and because many congregations often use this season for their stewardship campaigns, is often a time to reflect on the significance of gratitude and generosity in our lives. Such reflection, it seems to me, is a sign of a healthy life. Healthy people are grateful and generous.

Many people think that the church is preoccupied with money, and sometimes that is and has been true. Watch television religion, think about the church of the Reformation when fundraising for St. Peter's in Rome was at the center of church life, and you will rightfully conclude that sometimes the church has and has had an obsessive preoccupation with money. We need to be honest and confess that.

But the church's call to generosity, when it is framed in a healthy way, is not primarily about building an institution or paying bills, although we do have bills and need money to keep an institution functioning. Our call to generosity really is about recognizing that life fundamentally is rooted in abundance, not scarcity. It is about giving people the opportunity to discipline their lives so that they can indeed live out their values, values that stem from the abundance of God's kingdom.

If I don't discipline my money, soon I find myself simply responding to what the culture says I need or what I, in my reactive self, think I need. If I give away a portion of my income, then I know that the latest bicycle that I am tempted to believe I cannot live without will run my show. Disciplined giving is a gift that helps me and frankly, Bev and me live out our values. And for us, our values include a deep commitment to a gospel-centered community, an emphasis on the importance of the care for the poor and the vulnerable, a desire for growth in Christian understanding and action not only locally, but globally. Our support for the church through financial giving helps us support those values.

Determining the amount we give away (to the church and to other causes we support) is for me a matter of proportionality. I like the notion of the tithe, that is, giving away ten percent of our income. If our income goes up, our giving goes up, too. Giving what we gave ten years ago, frankly for me, is not a matter of generosity. I have more, so I want to give more.

From my perspective, generosity is not a burden, but really a gift. I feel like I have been given unto, so I want to give. Generosity is a flow of positive, life-giving energy. To not give is to disrupt the flow



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

The month of November invites us to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. We celebrate Thanksgiving during November so it just makes sense to be thankful at this time of the year. Right? Right. My list this year goes something like this: I am grateful for all of you at First Lutheran, my family and friends, the beauty of Lake Michigan, Pastor El-Yateem's visit in September and my "family" in Bethlehem, fresh vegetables from the market, a vocation I love although it is challenging at times, and of course, God's continuing grace in my life.

However, this year I am pondering thankfulness as a gift - not just a list. Thankfulness not bound to a month or out of obligation. Rest assured, I recognize that God has given me people to love and stuff. I see that he's been at work. But God's at work the other eleven months, also. I know gratitude is important even when life is a struggle.

I can't help but think of my Palestinian family. Each time I speak with Nisreen, she speaks of giving thanks...even in the midst of occupation. As I speak with Nisreen from the comfort of my home, I sense her thankfulness in these dark days. I wonder if Nisreen is expressing thanksgiving because she sees it as a gift. The Greek word for gift is *charisma* meaning "to give graciously and generously." The root word is *charis* meaning grace. Could it be that Nisreen and other Palestinian Christians are able to speak with a heart of gratitude because they see it as gift from God?

This year has certainly come with its share of challenges: personal ones like death of a loved one or unexpected diagnoses in our faith community; global challenges where war and genocide go against God's call for justice; political rhetoric and divisiveness; global warming where natural disasters have ravaged lives and livelihoods in our nation and around the planet; gun violence that continues to mar children and rob them of their innocence or rob them of life itself. But throughout all these challenges, we can embrace the call to gratitude and reflect on how our faith shapes our lives and our relationships and our 'thanksgivings'.

Perhaps giving the gift of thanksgiving is a process which requires practice. And truthfully, when I surrender the things that bear down on me heavily, when I look woefully at the world's brokenness but choose hope, or when I long to linger in hopelessness and grief, I can remember the gift of thanksgiving. I can extend the gift of gratitude to others beyond the month of November. It is my prayer that each of us embrace the call to gratitude, reflecting on how our thanksgiving shapes our lives, our faith and our relationships.

So today, I wish you the *gift* of thanksgiving.

With a grateful heart,
Paula



November 8-10

PreK-5th Grade
Sunday, November 3rd, 12:00 p.m.

Middle School/High School students
Charge Youth Retreat
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City

Please RSVP to Emma via text (712-395-0502) or email (emma@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)



November 17

Summer Mission Trip Planning Meeting
November 17th after worship

Care Team

“Go and spread God’s love through helping others.” For the past thirty years, First Lutheran has helped each other and shared God’s love by utilizing Stephen Ministry as a care model. After much discussion with Pastor Bill and Paula about the current needs of our congregation, we have made the decision to expand our care ministry by developing a care ministry team. This model of care enables more people in the congregation to serve and use their individual gifts.

Our newly created Care Team will include more visitations and serving communion to our shut-ins or those who are temporarily unable to attend services. Parishioners who wish to care for others as part of this team will receive training. So whether you are new to First Lutheran or have been a Stephen Minister in the past, this may be the perfect time to step into service.

Sometime in the future, we will offer 7.5 hours of training in three (2.5) hour training sessions. If you have a desire to assist others, this may be the ministry for you. Upon completion of training, you will be commissioned into this ministry and be a part of this vital service in our church.

Some areas in which we need ministers are as follows:

- Visiting the homebound, taking communion and sharing Christ’s love
- Meeting with those who are hospitalized
- Visiting those in nursing facilities
- Calling and checking on those who haven’t attended worship for an extended period
- Facilitating Grief Share classes (13 weeks)
- Visiting those who are experiencing a life crisis or life change

The faith community at First Lutheran has always been eager to serve and care for one another as part of our mission. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this vital ministry as we continue to serve one another through Christian love. If you would like more information or would like to sign up for our training sessions, please sign up on the sheet provided at either information station. You may also ask Pastor Bill, Paula, Shar, Diane Madej, or Evie DiPiazza for more information.

In Christ’s love,
Lynda Ferry



November 2024 Gratitude Project



Items Needed

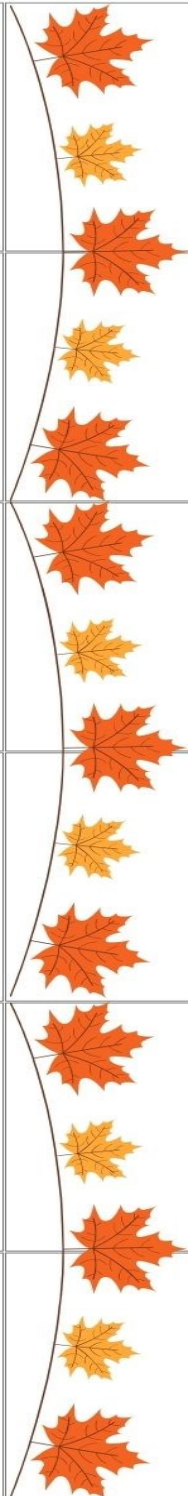
- Feminine Pads
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toilet Paper
- Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- Cleaning Products
- Deodorant
- Paper Towel
- Toothbrushes
- Body Wash
- Noodles
- Marinara Sauce
- Alfredo Sauce
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Tuna Helper
- Chicken Helper
- Rice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Tuna Helper
- Chicken Helper
- Rice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Soups
- Canned Beans
(Kidney, black...)
- Canned Gravy
- Meals in a Box
- Mac & Cheese
- Pop Tarts
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Oatmeal
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Stew
- Canned Chili

Many people in our communities continue to struggle with food insecurity. Please consider collecting the items listed to the left. Then bring them to the church in reusable shopping bags (available at all grocery stores), by **Sunday, November 24th**. Look for tables by the entrances to drop off your food bags.

We will be giving your donations to the Reeths-Puffer Schools so that the food and items may be given to area families in need of assistance.

Thank you for sharing your love and care with our community neighbors!

NOVEMBER 2024 GRATITUDE PROJECT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>(Oct) 27 REFORMATION SUNDAY</p> <p>Start a gratitude journal for November</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Psalm 118:1</p> <p>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his love endures forever</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Leave a note of encouragement in a public place</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Give thanks for the people in our daily lives who lift our spirits and inspire our faith</p>	<p>31 HALLOWEEN</p> <p>What are 10 items you own that make your life easier?</p>	<p>(November) 1</p> <p>Reach out to someone you haven't connected with in a while</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Tour and enjoy Muskegon like a tourist</p>
<p>3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</p> <p>Psalm 69:30</p> <p>I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Make yourself your favorite hot beverage today</p>	<p>5</p> <p>What dream or desire of yours are you grateful for and why?</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Recall a favorite memory that you're grateful for</p>	<p>7</p> <p>What changes in your life are you grateful for?</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Tell your loved ones why you love them</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Write a list of 5 things you're grateful for that don't cost anything</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Do a random act of kindness</p>	<p>11 VETERAN'S DAY</p> <p>Thank a veteran for their service to our country</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Write a letter to at least one person you are giving thanks for this week</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Volunteer to do an unpleasant task</p>	<p>14</p> <p>List some of the qualities of people you admire. Then find ways to add these qualities to yourself</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Write a list of 5 things you're grateful for that don't cost anything</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Name one person who makes your life more exciting</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Spend time with someone you care about today</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Spend time in nature today and thank God for his creation</p>	<p>19</p> <p>What is one good thing that you often take for granted?</p>	<p>20</p> <p>What do you appreciate about yourself?</p>	<p>21</p> <p>What made you smile today?</p>	<p>22</p> <p>What is the best gift that you have ever received?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>What are your favorite nourishing meals?</p>
<p>24 CHRIST THE KING</p> <p>Bring your items to the church in reusable shopping bags</p>						

Official Acts



Deaths

Matthew Olsen

Date of Death: 8/14/2024

Tom Lindrup

Date of Birth: 3/11/1947

Date of Death: 07/12/2024

Dale Wheeler

Date of Birth: 9-3-1952

Date of Death: 8/28/2024

Terri Hoffman-Forward

Date of Birth: 3/31/1953

Date of Death: 9/22/2024

Maria Mayo

Date of Birth: 5-9-1952

Date of Death: 9-24-2024

Patricia (Patty) Wall

Date of Birth: 10/11/1973

Date of Death: 9/27/2024

New Members

October 20

Nick Mock

Andy Luther

Evie Hulka

Randy Tardy

Peter Nyblad

Catherine Tolley

Barb Jammer

Kathy VanPopering

Chris Patterson

Bill Patterson

Cora Del Percio

Bowling for All—*Date Change*

The date of the bowling event has been changed to **November 17**. We will be having lunch at the church at 12:30 p.m. and leave around 1:30 p.m. to go to Northway Lanes. Two games are included in the cost. You may play more on your own if time permits. Cost for lunch and bowling is \$15.00 per person. If you just want to bowl, the cost is \$9.00.

Due to the date change, ***new sign-up sheets*** have been placed at the Information Stations. **You must RSVP on sign-up sheet as soon as possible to reserve lanes.**

Please contact Stan Daszko at 231-343-4486 or Cameron Moore at 231-742-1467 or Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637 for more information.



The Fellowship Committee is attempting to procure tickets to the Mona Shores Singing Christmas Tree Performance on Thursday Evening December 5th . Please call Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637 for information ASAP to get your tickets.



Christmas Cookie Exchange

Everyone is welcome to join a cookie exchange and potluck on December 14th at noon in Fellowship Hall. You must RSVP to Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 by December 10.



62-year-old woman at Christian Manor is seeking a Christian female to do housekeeping and oversee shower and time on exercise bike. No hands-on care is needed. About two hours a day, five days a week. Could become employed by Martel in-home assistance company for payment. If interested, please call Audrey at 231-246-8719 or mobile/text at 231-402-1972.

Thank you!



Stewardship Report

We are happy to report that the Dollar-a-Day Family Life Center project is almost complete. Thanks to your contributions and some private donations, the new sound system and the elegant stage curtain are in place and almost paid for. The requests will continue for this project for a few more months so that a new screen can be purchased.

Of course, there will always be new improvement projects to consider. Thank you for your support. We can all be proud of the results and the enhancements for our Family Life Center activities.

Joe Labiak
Stewardship Chairperson



Chimes Assemblers

Thanks to Dave and Theresa Buchan who assembled the September Chimes.



Weekly Offerings

Week ending 9-1-2024

General Fund: \$7,239.51
 Building Rent: \$94.00
 Building Enhancement: \$200.00
 Dollar-A-Day: \$363.96

Week ending: 9-8-2024

General Fund: \$10,872.67
 Building Rent: \$1,774.50
 Building Enhancement: \$370.00
 Dollar-A-Day: \$118.85
 Noisy Offering (for Dar Al Kalima School): \$334.06
 Abiding Memorial: \$120.00

Week ending: 9-15-2024

General Fund: \$9,542.50
 Building Rent: \$121.00
 Building Enhancement: \$85.00
 Dollar-A-Day: \$62.00
 Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima School)- \$612.98

Week ending: 9-23-2024

General Fund: \$8,591.82
 Building Rent: \$181.10
 Building Enhancement: \$250.00
 Dollar-A-Day: \$62.00
 Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima School) - \$167.44

Week ending: 9-30-2024

General Fund: \$5,346.69
 Building Rent: \$99.00
 Building Enhancement: \$175.00
 Noisy Offering (Dar Al Kalima School): \$221.86

Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings
11/3	Isa 25:3-9, Ps 24 Rev 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44
11/10	1 Kings 17:8-16, Ps 146 Heb 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44
11/17	Dan 12:1-3, Ps 16 Heb 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25, Mark 12:38-44
11/24	Dan 7:9-10, 13-14, Ps 93 Rev 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37



November Birthdays

1	Olivia LaChapelle	12	Nick Garcia	27	Karen Crummel Sandie Fazer Dorie Cvengros
2	Bill Uetrict Noah Rop Ben Rop Deb McCarthy	13	Stefanie Freeland Michael Shields	28	Jennifer LaChapelle
3	Megan Tanis	15	Rachel Metiva Barbara A. Pellerin Lincoln Daniell	29	Mac McDonnell Natalie Dunlap
5	Dale Roest Sharon Genter Amber Cahill	16	Scott Hanson Kathy Arends Simon Werling Beth Milligan	29	Ellen Bisson
6	Mitchell Anderson	21	Mark Nelson		
7	Judy Larabee	22	Mandy Wheeler Darrell Van Fossan		
8	Ronald Rich Cassidy Alger	23	T.J. Udell Sandra Nord Steve Byrd		
9	Rachel Glavich	25	Suzie Udell		
10	Barbara Bonifield Rhonda Meloche Daniel Breunsbach Cynthia Russell	26	Douglas Fenbert		
11	Michael Jones				



Keepers

Gerald and Betty Crenno

1740 Village Dr Apt 318
Village at the Oaks
Muskegon, MI 49442-4288

Theresa Hansen

Robbinswood-Northcrest Campus
2650 Ruddiman Dr
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Rosemary Loch

704 Miller Drive
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Pat Mullinex

Newaygo County Medical Care
Facility
4465 W. 48th St.
Fremont, MI 49412

Mailing Address:

2284 Riverwood Drive
Twin Lake, MI 49457

Warren Robinson

Poppen Hospice House
2065 East Mt Garfield Rd
Muskegon, MI 49444

Keith Stapel

1228 Lawrence St
Muskegon, MI 49442

Margaret Tyler

1901 Duck Lake Rd
Whitehall, MI 49461-9719

Marjorie Visscher

White Lake Assisted Living
6827 Whitehall Rd
Whitehall, MI 49461

Dave Walborn

18552 W Spring Lake Rd
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Mary Warden

1740 Village Dr. Apt 222
Muskegon, MI 49442-4283

First Lutheran Church

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dollar-A-Day Weekend 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Pre-K—5th grade Thanksgiving Activity 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilters' Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	Wednesday Night Programming 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 5-6 years 6:00PM-GriefShare 6:10PM-Bible Study 6:30PM-Kids' Music 7yrs & up	9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting **Wed Night Programming**	12:00PM-Lectioary Bible Study 3:00PM-Clipper Preservation Group 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	7:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8:30AM-Stephen Ministry Day 9:00AM-Outside Work Day
9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 11:30PM-MARSP Meeting 3:00PM-Burnished Brass 5:30PM-Ministry Council Mtg 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Lion's Club Officers **Wed Night Programming**	12:00PM-Lectioary Bible Study 6:00PM-Private Group 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Charge Retreat	8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 10:30AM-Worship & Music Meeting
9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 12:00PM-New Members' Potluck 12:00PM-Bowling for Everyone 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11:30PM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 3:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:30PM-Choir 8:00PM-Lion's Club Board Mtg 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 7:00PM-Confirmation for 3rd Year Students **Wed Night Programming**	12:00PM-Lectioary Bible Study 4:00PM-Grief Group Reunion 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Council Meeting	6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	6:00PM-Restore Your Soul Yoga Event
9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 12:00PM-Bells 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 3:00PM-Burnished Brass 7:00PM-Worship at Edgewood Lutheran Church	9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share Group	**Thanksgiving** **Office Closed** 10:00AM-Rental	7:00PM-AA Meeting	7:00PM-AA Meeting