A close-up of a white background

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October, 2024

**MARK: MY WORDS**

It may seem redundant. For well over ten years now, we have offered the Laying on of Hands, Anointing with Oil, and Prayer for Healing on the second weekend of the month. It has been a rich blessing to see how participation in that rite has grown. When we first introduced it, some seemed hesitant to come forward for it; but over the years, many more have joined the procession of those seeking God’s healing touch.

So, to call special attention to it seems unnecessary; but we have an opportunity this month to connect this rite with the Biblical figure with whom it is most closely associated, St. Luke. His feast day is October 18, which this year falls on a Friday. The *third* Friday of the month. The Friday *after* our usual offering of our healing part of the liturgy. Therefore, this month we will delay the rite until that third weekend so that we might celebrate his festival day on the 19th and 20th. Luke is one of the most important figures of the early church. Besides authoring one of the four Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, he also wrote a follow-up volume on the life of the Jesus movement after Jesus’ Ascension. Between his Gospel and this “Acts of the Apostles.” his writings take up over one-fourth of the New Testament.

His theology plays a large part in what we know of life for the Church in those early years. Most scholars believe that sometimes in Acts he paints a rosier picture of the community’s life than was true; but overall, he provides an invaluable account of how the Church grew and developed in the years immediately after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension to the Father.

Luke’s writings are vital for another reason. In Acts, he is often a first-person reporter of the missionary work of perhaps the greatest New Testament figure of all, St. Paul. His eyewitness accounts of Paul’s travels, travails, hardships, sufferings, and preaching richly supplement Paul’s own accounts in his letters to various congregations that are part of our New Testament list of books. His faithfulness to Paul was unmatched. In one of the readings for his day, Paul writes, “Only Luke is with me.” When everyone else had deserted or given up on him, Luke was an incredible friend, support, helper, and companion.

For all of those reasons, Luke deserves to have a day on which we remember and give thanks for his ministry. We offer healing on that day because tradition says that Luke was a physician. He is a sign of God’s ongoing and ever-present work of bringing health and wholeness to whatever ailments of body, mind, or spirit with which we suffer. By my files, it has been ten years since we honored his Day.

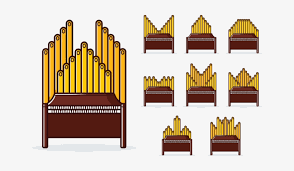
We will be blessed by holding up him and God’s promise of touching us with His mercy, favor, and compassion before us again.



**JOINT MINISTRY PROJECT**

In my homily several weeks ago, I mentioned a joint project with the congregations of First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and the Salvation Army to assess the needs of our neighborhood, what gifts we each and together possess to address those needs, and developing a concrete plan for carrying out that work. It has taken a while to get that going, but the first step will take place at our September Council meeting on the 26th.

The governing board of First Presbyterian will join us in the St. Paul Room to begin discerning how to go about this project. I wanted to let you know that we have begun that work. Periodic updates will be forthcoming as well as ways for congregation members to assist in the background work of learning the needs of our community.



**MUSICIAN UPDATE**

There has been no progress in finding an organist/choir director. Maggie has again expressed her interest and willingness to continue to play and direct the choir as long as we need her, and Dr. George Karst from Trinity Episcopal Church has been available for funerals and Saturdays when Maggie cannot play.

One new resource we are going to try is the ALCM, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. This is a national organization made up of organists, choir directors, pastors, and other planners of worship. They provide education for members and regularly schedule conventions of music and worship. In their monthly newsletter, they have an “employment” section where congregations looking for church musicians may list their positions. Although we feel we have thoroughly covered the local resources for musicians, it cannot hurt to expand our search beyond that scope. Perhaps someone from out of town/state is planning to relocate to our area and would be interested in our position.

As always, we will keep you updated on any progress that develops.

A towel and comb with a few items

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A bag with school supplies

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**LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION KITS**

For the past several months, we have been collecting donations to purchase supplies for the personal care (formerly known as health care) and school kits that Lutheran World Relief sends around the world. We have 100 personal care kits and 100 school kits to pack. As we did last year, we will gather in the St. Paul Room to pack up the supplies on **Saturday, October 5, at 1:30 p.m.**  Last year we had a wonderful turnout, and the work went quickly. All ages are welcome, no skill required; whether you purchased a kit or not, we have jobs suitable for anyone! We hope you will be able to spend an hour or so helping this year. “Many hands make light work.” Snacks will be provided after all the hard work is done! See you on the 5th.

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**ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

For a variety of reasons, the 150th Anniversary Committee has not met for a number of months. Although the anniversary year is still about two years out, we know the need to regather and continue planning. We hope to meet again before the end of September and will have any information available for the November newsletter.

**A cake with writing on it

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On Sunday, September 1, we were privileged to welcome four new members into our community of faith: **Mike Knoll, Jim Albano, Tay Klare, and Pam Soule.** We are deeply grateful for their presence among us and thank God for the gifts they bring to our mission and ministry. Please make sure to warmly greet them when you see them.

A group of people standing in front of a cake

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From left to right: Pastor Reshan, Mike Knoll, Pam Soule, Tay Klare, Jim Albano



**“THE CHOSEN”**

Several months ago, I wrote about the series about Jesus’ life and ministry called “The Chosen” and invited responses from any who might want to begin watching and meeting to discuss it. Only two people indicated interest, so for now we will not form the “watch and discussion” group. Perhaps down the road more will desire to be part of the group.



**MONTHLY MISSIONS**

Thank you to everyone who donated to Fried's Cat Shelter! We donated $292 along with some supplies. The shelter staff (and one very sweet black cat at the front door) was very appreciative of our support!

**Our October Monthly Mission is the Tannehill Community Soup Kitchen. T**he Tannehill Community Soup Kitchen has been temporarily displaced due to building issues at First United Methodist Church. While they have found temporary locations to continue serving our community, the issue resulted in a lot of food being lost. We will be collecting monetary donations this month to support the Soup Kitchen. Please place your donations in the offering plate marked for the Tannehill Community Soup Kitchen. The Noisy Coin Offering will also go to the mission of the month. Thanks for your continued support each month!



**PILL BOTTLES**

The County no longer takes empty pill bottles for recycling, and it is likely that the Lion’s Club no longer takes them as well. However, you can now recycle your empty pill bottles in your recycling bin at home.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT FRANCISCAN HEALTH**

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available at Franciscan Hospital in Michigan City and its sister sites in Chesterton. These opportunities are open to everyone of all abilities who are at least 16 years old. If you are interested or have any questions or concerns, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Audrey Goress at [audrey.goress@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:audrey.goress@franciscanalliance.org) or at 219-877-1421.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

A thank you card with butterflies

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Let’s let Pastor Reshan know how much we appreciate him with cards and notes thanking him for all he does for us.



**SEPTEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

* A contract has been signed with NuToys for a new all inclusive playground.
* The Worship & Music Team suggested the congregation resume Sharing of the Peace by handshake. Council agreed we would start doing so as long as everyone respected others’ preferences.
* Due to problems in their building, First United Methodist Church will be using the middle office in Luther House for the next few months. Also, an AA meeting will be using the green meeting room in the lower level of the church.
* The following 501(c)3 organizations were recommended for donations from the school sale money: Junior Achievement of LaPorte county, Service League, Arise and Shine Food Ministry, Nest Community, Jane Bernard Small Animal Shelter, Soul Steppers, School of American Music, Tannehill Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Dunebrook, and Citizens Concerned for the Homeless. The Council will prayerfully consider each request.

Full copies of the approved minutes are available in the church narthex.



**October Birthdays October Anniversaries**

1 Jacob Tannehill 4 James & Susan Tomsheck

2 Amy VanGemeren 9 James & Sandra Galinowski

4 Natalie Kendricks 18 Rick & Nancy Hawkins

5 Cynthia Payeur 20 Craig & Judy Hunt

Gary Larson 21 Warren & Karen Schacht

7 Dan McNabb 24 James & Kimberly Summers

Milenda Simerlein

8 Anthony Gebbink

9 Judy Gustum

Carol Thomas

11 Laura Childers

12 George Martin

18 Richard Fleming, Jr.

24 Kenneth Hanft, Sr.

25 Judy Mutchler

26 Bob Kiser

28 Sandra Sobecki

29 Warren Schacht

31 Kenneth Wilson

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**Long-Term Prayer List**

Laura Dovey Russ Fischer Marla Furness

Janet Green Nancy Hoover Jess Kalvaitis

Marsha Kenney Christine Kiser Bethany Manning

Christian Martinez Shirley McCarty Ken Mulder

Shane Nevels Jan Paholski Kay Peglow

Jeanie Boatman Shepple Joan Siefert Kathy Stein

Jary Tannehill Mark Tannehill Kathy Thielman

Jana Thomas Venia Wendt Brian Wiseman



Monday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**St. Paul Lutheran Church Staff**

Pastor Rev. Mark Reshan

Secretary Libby Pollock

Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

Custodian Mark Kloess

Thank$ for $haring

Our Raising Cane’s give back raised $150. Thank you for your participation!

This month, we will see you at Holly’s on Tuesday, October 15. Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.

A black and white paper with a black and white text

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