

# The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church

October 2024



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## The Pastor's Message

*Of Gods and Men* is a 2010 French drama film. It is based on the true story of nine Cistercian monks living in the monastery of Tibhirine and abiding mostly in harmony with the largely Muslim population in Algeria. That all changed as extremists began a civil war in Algeria. The movie centers on the monks' decision to stay or abandon the monastery. I highly recommend it.

The movie begins by highlighting the deep connections the monks have with the community. In addition to providing the only doctor and healthcare clinic in the community, the monks participate in the local market and attend community celebrations. As attacks by the extremists against non-Muslims increase, the monks (who are French Roman Catholic) begin discussing whether to stay in the community. Initially they are divided on what to do.

The movie follows the rhythm and pattern of their discernment process. The monks meet with each other one-on-one, they spend time alone in prayer, and they meet as a group. They repeat this pattern several times until by the end of the movie they have come to an agreement.

This process of discussing with others what is important to oneself, spending time in prayer and meeting as a group is a useful process for discernment. Most organizations have a "one and done" approach to strategic planning. You come together, decide, and then move on. But I think this "get it over with" approach is short sighted. Indeed, who among us always makes accurate decisions on the spot? I certainly do not. Most of the time my first response does not represent my best thinking. It's usually an automatic reaction to a perceived threat.

The best decisions are developed over time, according to Daniel Kahneman, the winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. We often look for quick fixes or make decisions without enough information. Our brains run on two tracks. One is a quick, automatic track that can make split decisions, often in error. The second is a slower, more thoughtful and reflective process that takes advantage of learning and observations.

ELCA Pastor Peter Steinke called our prefrontal cortex our "heavenly lobe." According to Steinke, it allows humans a level of awareness that puts us in touch with God. The heavenly lobe is essential for operating this second track of thinking that makes slower, more accurate decisions. It is one reason prayer, mediation and contemplation often lead to better decisions.

Our Strategic Planning Day is coming up on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5 pm. It will be held at the Highland Library in their conference room. This event is for everyone who attends First Lutheran Church. The success of this event depends on two things: the number of people who attend and the number of one-on-one conversations you can have with other members of the congregation prior to the event.

I invite you to continue the conversations with each other about what you think we need to be doing as a congregation in the next year. And, to spend time in prayer. I look forward to gathering with you on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions about the strategic planning day, please contact me, Sharon Lillie, Kim Peavey or Mike Frank.

Blessings,  
John

## Church News

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, employees of Walmart Company participated in Food Fight, an all-day volunteer event. They were assigned to First Lutheran Church. Everyone had a great time. They cleaned coolers and refrigerators and assembled shelving units for the new choice style pantry. In addition, they collected personal hygiene items which we will soon be giving away. Their generosity and willingness to help were much appreciated!

Sharon Lillie

On Reformation Sunday October 27 at 3 PM we will be hosting a Lutheran/Catholic event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Joint Justification Doctrine along with our collaboration with Catholic Charities. Special guests will be our new Indiana/Kentucky Synod Bishop Tim Graham and representing the Louisville Archdiocese the Vicar General Fr. Jeffery Shooner. There will be prayer and remarks in Luther Hall followed by a reception in the dining hall.

Paul Nellis

We just received an email from the Water Step Shoe program concerning future pickup of shoes. After discussion with Sharon Lillie, Sharon and I decided to announce to the congregation that any future Water Step shoe donations should be made to other organizations in our community.

Vicky Frank, Council President

I would like church members to join us for the Bible Study going through October 6, 2024. I believe it has been very informing and challenges us to admit to what we believe in the words of the Bible. What do we believe and how can we share those beliefs to others? Please read any Chapter of Romans and then the Book of Jude. Give me an email response to what you read and I will be glad to respond to your email. Looking forward to hearing from our membership.

Vicky Frank, Council President

## **Guide Dog Etiquette at First Lutheran Church**

Guide dogs are essential companions for people who are blind, Deafblind, or have low vision, offering independence and mobility. It's important to note that blindness exists on a spectrum, ranging from no vision to low vision, and anyone on this spectrum can benefit from a guide dog. These dogs aren't pets—they are highly trained partners in mobility, and while they are among the most skilled dogs in the world, they're still dogs. Distracting them while they're working can jeopardize both their safety and their handler's. Jacob's guide dog, Hoyt, is a yellow Labrador, and Amelia will soon receive a German shepherd named Coco. While these guide dogs are part of our community, here are some important guidelines for interacting with them:

1. **Harness On, Hands Off**

A guide dog in a harness means, "Please don't interact with me. I'm working." Please avoid petting, talking to, or making eye contact with the dog, as it could distract them from their important duties.

2. **A Sleeping Dog is Still Working**

It's perfectly normal for a guide dog to nap if the handler is sitting for an extended period. However, just because a guide dog is taking a snooze doesn't mean it's off duty. The same guidelines apply—don't interact with the dog even when it's sleeping, as it's still working.

3. **Don't Offer Food or Treats**

Never offer food or treats to a guide dog without the handler's permission. Guide dogs must maintain a strict routine and diet, and distractions like food can interfere with their work.

4. **Just Call Them Guide Dogs**

While some may refer to them as "Seeing Eye dogs," that term specifically applies to dogs trained by The Seeing Eye, a particular guide dog organization. Not all guide dogs come from this organization, so the correct and inclusive term is simply guide dog. They are not lead dogs, helper dogs, or anything else—just guide dogs.

5. **Don't Use Their Names or Give Cues**

While many of you have seen Hoyt, and will soon meet Coco, please avoid using their names or giving them any cues. A guide dog should only hear commands from its handler. Frequent distractions, like petting or calling their name, can lead to inappropriate behaviors, such as seeking attention or begging for food.

6. **Guide Dogs Are Vital Tools**

Like a wheelchair or cane, a guide dog is essential for its handler's independence. Please respect the dog's role and don't treat them like a pet.

7. **Tell the Handler if the Dog Approaches You**

Guide dogs are trained to remain focused, but sometimes they may approach or interact with someone unintentionally. If a guide dog approaches you by sniffing or nosing, please inform the handler right away. This could be behavior that needs correcting. Even though the dog is seeking your attention, it's important to ignore the dog and communicate directly with the handler.

**8. Avoid Distracting the Dog**

Don't engage in playful behavior, make loud noises, or try to get the dog's attention. Distractions can interfere with the dog's work.

**9. Keep Your Pets at a Distance**

If you have a pet, keep them away from the guide dog. Even friendly interactions can be distracting and interfere with the dog's ability to stay focused.

Amelia Lillie



At First Lutheran Church we believe that God delights in the diversity of all creation. As a Reconciling in Christ community, we welcome all into fellowship; recognizing the dignity of every human being regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, race, or any other identifier. You are accepted and welcome here, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

If you need to contact one of the church's committee chairs, here is a list of all the committees and their chairs. Please let them know if you have any problems, suggestions for improvements, or compliments.

Building Users	Vicky Frank
Christian Education	Lori Caron
Endowment Funds Subcommittee	Harley Butler
Finance	Drew Wartschlager
Food Pantry	Sharon Lillie
Membership	Vicky Frank
Property	Paul Nellis
Social Ministry	Stephanie McCoy
Vision and Outreach	Paul Nellis
Worship and Music	Nancy Brian

## THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

Find the underlined words amongst the letter grid at the bottom.

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Mark 10: 17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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C C R E H C A E T E G L A N R E T E

By Puzzlemaster Jay R. Lillie

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Jennifer Twyman, Vocal-KY	<b>30</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>1</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	<b>2</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>3</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>4</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>5</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>6</b> 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	<b>7</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>8</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities	<b>9</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG	<b>10</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 12:00pm Craft Day 4:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>12</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire 1:00pm Strategic Planning Event
<b>13</b> 9:30am Bible Study 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	<b>14</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>15</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	<b>16</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>17</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>18</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>19</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>20</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>22</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>23</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG	<b>24</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>25</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>26</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>27</b> 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	<b>28</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>29</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>30</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>31</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>1</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>2</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire