



JANUARY

THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

2026

417 E. Broadway, Lou, KY, 40202 • thewelcomeplace.com • (502) 584-4926 • fstluth@bellsouth.net

WELCOME TO

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Whether you're new to the area or seeking a spiritual home, we're glad you're here. Nestled in a beautiful historic building in downtown Louisville, we are a vibrant community committed to worship, service, and growth in faith.

At First Lutheran, we strive to create a welcoming environment where love, grace, and peace guide our shared journey. Our mission is to help all people connect with God, grow in faith, and contribute to the work of Christ.

As a Reconciling In Christ congregation, we celebrate and affirm the dignity of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We look forward to serving you and walking together in faith.

In this newsletter:

Latest news, projects, workshops, and more. Keep Reading!

Add to your calendar:

01/04: 12:00 PM Called Council Meeting
01/11: 9:30 AM Breakfast before Service
01/18: 12:00 PM Church Council Meeting
01/25: 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Dinner

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Updates from the Office Manager

- We are thrilled to have replaced the door entering into Luther Hall and are currently taking suggestions for paint colors!
- If anyone has changed their mailing address, please reach out to me at (flcfinance417@gmail.com). We will begin mailing 2025 Giving Statements this month.

Scrapbooking Opportunity!

If anyone is interested in Scrapbooking, or just needs to get their photographs in order, the JCPS teachers of the Visually Impaired have a fundraiser for you. On February 21st, at Audubon Baptist Church they will host a scapathon. The cost for the entire day is \$45 and pre registration is required.

The event runs from 9 am to 9 pm and the cost includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

If you are interested, contact Sharon Lillie.



Music Ministry

For most of January we are in the season after Epiphany – the climax of the Advent/Christmas season. The season after Epiphany actually extends from January 6, the day of Epiphany, to Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. The term epiphany means an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity. In the Western church, Epiphany is celebrated as a commemoration of the manifestation of Christ, especially to the Magi, and also at his baptism and at the wedding feast of Cana. The ELCA lists the principal themes of the season as the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, Christ as the light of the world, the public ministry of Jesus (including Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana), growth in a Christian's baptized identity. The season's gospel readings focus on numerous events in the early life and ministry of Jesus. The hymns we sing also refer to the early life and events of Jesus. Take a look through the section of our hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, which contains hymns related to the season after Epiphany. Think how the messages of those hymns relate the stories and experiences of the early ministry of Jesus. Then look ahead and consider how these hymns prepare and inform us as they lead us into the next season of the Church Year, the season of Lent.

David McNease



Altar Guild

A heart-felt "Thank you!" goes out to each of you on the Altar Guild who have served and continue to serve Sunday after Sunday preparing the altar and chancel area for worship services. Your faithful work is an important responsibility and is greatly appreciated.

Larry E. Askins, DMD

Chair

Altar Guild



Arts & Crafts

We want to thank everyone who participated in this year's Nativity scene. We hope this brought you as much joy as it did us.

A special thanks to Kim Peavy who hosted the Nativity Craft at the potluck.

NOTICE: The date of the Arts and Crafts meeting is changing to every second Tuesday of the month (formerly every second Thursday). We hope to see you there.

Melody Sterling



CORA FRANCE (GRANDDAUGHTER OF VICKY FRANK) DECORATING SANTUARY TREE

Social Ministries

We are excited to announce this quarter's recipients of our local giving stipend. They are as follows:

Ronald McDonald House

St. Vincent DePaul

Sister Visitor

First Lutheran Food Pantry



Stephanie McCoy

Bookmobile!

On the first Wednesday of the month, First Lutheran will be hosting a BookMobile from LFPL - Parked right out on Broadway. They will be there from 10 until 1 and offer a chance to check out books to residents of downtown, while the Main Library is being renovated. Come by and Check it out!



Sharon Lillie

The Longest Day Prayer Service

A thank you to Sharon Lillie, Council President, who led our 2025 Longest Day Prayer service.



Bruce and Melody Sterling, Visitor, "Beanie", Sharon Lillie, and Mary Rodriguez



Mike Freeman, Kathy Goss, and Teresa Holley



Mary Rodriguez and Vicky Frank

"During the Food Pantry day, we collected names from visitors of those who had passed away this year. At the close of Food Pantry, all volunteers and a visitor gathered at the prayer garden. Each name was read aloud and a prayer said for them.

It is well to remember that the homeless often don't get a chance to attend a funeral service for those who pass away. This prayer service was appreciated by many."

Sharon Lillie
Council President



If you look at this newsletter banner you will see it's from January of 1906 when your congregational ancestors held their annual meeting on the 17th. As your own churchmouse, I know that you are also having an annual meeting this January, so I found a few reports from 120 yrs ago that might interest you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Our superintendent, Mr. Wm. G. Haggmann, made an encouraging report of the work of the school. The past year's work, while greatly embarrassed by the repairing of our rooms, has been one of uninterrupted activity. Not a session was omitted while the work was going on. The total cost of the repairs, amounting to \$1,300, was assumed by the school; \$422.00 of this has already been paid. The school is the child of the church and as a loving daughter desires to give its whole heart of love and effort to the mother. While paying all its current expenses, and making a large payment on the repair fund, the school gave \$196 to missionary benevolences. Through its various departments it reaches every class, from the infant to the aged ones.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Our treasurer, Mr. Carl H. Finck, made a very full and satisfactory report of both the current expenses of the past year and of the entire building fund. Every item of importance was given in detail so all may know the cost of every part of the building; the current expense of the church for 1905; and the receipts from all sources. It was especially gratifying to know how the different departments of our church had united in the effort of money raising. If any of our people do not recollect the exact financial status of the building or current expense fund, the treasurer will be glad to give the information desired.

Two items are of especial interest for 1905. The total receipts for the year from all sources for all purposes were \$14,196.18. The current expenses for the year were met and a balance of \$3.13 left in the treasury.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Mrs. Ida Beecher, president of this active and efficient society, made its report. In her interesting review of its work she said an old copy of The Church Visitor of 1877 gives an account of the organization of the society and the election of Mrs. Barbara Quest as its first president. She is its oldest living member and no one rejoices more in its work and welfare than she. A church like our's, organized in a missionary spirit, might be expected among its first efforts, to organize a missionary society. All along its history it has held up the missionary banner and cultivated the missionary spirit. Its work is so precious to our Saviour's heart; so helpful to those we seek to aid, and so cheering to those engaged in it, we earnestly ask every woman of our church to join us in it.



Residence, 419 East Broadway. Telephone 766

OUR PEWS ARE ALL FREE. STRANGERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Letter from the Council President

"2025 is finally over!!
2026 is actually here!!
YIPPEE!!!

Do you remember being excited for the New Year? Maybe you still are. I remember as a kid staying home with a babysitter, or older sisters and trying my hardest to stay up until the magic strike of 12 chimes from the clock. We would go outside with pots and lids and bang them together, yelling "HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!"

Now, not so much. Most likely I will wish Jay a good night and go up to bed long before any ball drops in Times Square or any bell strikes the hour. I think my excitement about New Year's Day stopped on the morning of Jan 1 2000. We stayed up to see a new millennium dawn and nothing was new. Especially not the weather.

But each day is new. Each day is a chance to fix a mistake, reflect and count your blessings, try something new and try to make the world a little better than it was. It is also the opportunity to do none of those things.

Each day is a gift from God. Always remember that and try to use it as He would wish. When you arise on January 1, 2026, take some time to think of how you can use this New Year to make His world a better place."



Sharon Lillie
Council President

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

Find the underlined words amongst the letter grid at the bottom.
The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Matthew 4: 12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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I A N S D E T S E R R A A N D R E W

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30am Worship Service	29 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	30 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed	31 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	1 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities	2 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	3 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
4 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Called Council meeting	5 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	6 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	7 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	8 8:30am Catholic Charities 12:00pm Craft Day 4:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	9 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	10 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
11 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	12 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	13 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 10:00am Food Pantry	14 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	15 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	16 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	17 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
18 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Council Meeting	19 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	20 8:30am Catholic Charities NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	21 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	22 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	23 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	24 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
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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