

The Friendly Visitor  
First Lutheran Church  
July 2025.



417 East Broadway  
Louisville  
40202

(502)584-4926

Email: [fstluth@bellsouth.net](mailto:fstluth@bellsouth.net)

On the Web: [www.thewelcomeplace.com](http://www.thewelcomeplace.com)

## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this, we will have a new person working in the office. I will let Mr. Tim Hall introduce himself later. Pastor Bell has left for Chicago and we are back into the call process with an updated Ministry Site Profile. The decision was made to list ourselves as a part-time call.

Dexter will have finished repainting the interior of the sanctuary flowers.

For the next six months we will have Pastor Ron Poisel as our Pastor of Record, available for emergencies. Alec, from Mosaic (formerly Third Lutheran) will be preaching once a month. Pastor Poisel will be with us for all of July and may fill in some in later months.

The Food Pantry continues to do well, although the current federal budget contains significant cuts to the program that provides American farm-raised food to our community. Many thanks to those who volunteer!

We are delighted at the new lights in Luther Hall and on the front of the church. We have been updating the lighting, installing LED bulbs which should help reduce our energy bills.

Please keep all of us and the search process in your prayers!

Sharon Lillie



## News from the Art and Environment Committee

We have enjoyed the fruits of labor that were employed in the creation of our origami doves strung through the sanctuary. Doves are a powerful reminder of God's love, guidance and unwavering covenant with humanity. In Christian theology they are particularly seen at the celebration of Pentecost.

The act of folding pieces of paper into doves requires concentration and patience, which many find to be a meditative and calming activity, promoting stress relief and relaxation. Unbeknown to our paper-folding "technicians", they were learning mathematical concepts, especially geometry, and practicing manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination.

Many thanks to those who helped make hundreds of doves, testing their sanity and nursing paper cuts, to make this project a success. Special recognition goes to Kim Peavey who spearheaded the project, and an extra-special recognition goes to Evan Peavey who became an origami expert! His technical and engineering skills far outshone my feeble attempt at paper folding. He made three doves while I struggled to make one, and mine looked...a little odd! Thanks also to Larry, Kim and Alex for stringing them up through the sanctuary.

This peace-inspired art installation is the first project of the Art and Environment Committee, a sub-committee of the Worship and Music Committee. We hope you have enjoyed the results of the time and energy of our origami artists, remembering these symbolize new life, renewal and the promise of God's continued presence and provision.

Larry Atkins  
Art and Environment Committee

## A Word from the Worship and Music Committee

Our strategic planning process identified three areas of consideration that involve worship. Since the Worship and Music Committee was included in that process, we have been brainstorming ways to address the areas.

For those of you who attend Sunday services regularly, you will no doubt have noticed some changes: 1) At the beginning of the service the introductory Welcome statement has been expanded, presenting a short summary of the theme(s) of the day. 2) We have begun a Gospel procession where the Gospel reading is brought among the people to emphasize the central role of the Gospel in peoples' lives. 3) Those lay members of the congregation who are not Assistant Ministers have begun reading scripture lessons, emphasizing that all members are called to participate in ministry. 4) The announcements have been moved from the beginning of the service, a time when we are to focus our hearts and minds on worship, to the end, since they often pertain to our life outside of worship.

## An Update from the Call Committee

As announced at a recent worship service, the Call Committee has released our primary candidate from the pastoral search process. Unfortunately the church and the Candidate requested compensation the church could not provide. When we receive recommendations from Council and the Finance Committee, it will be sent to Synod and the pastoral search will Continue.

Larry Atkins,  
Chair  
Call Committee

## Support for LGBTQIA+ People and Families

First Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation, in partnership with ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation. As a visual symbol of our commitment to full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and families, A Progress Pride Flag was recently displayed in the Window of the education building. The flag disappeared, but, after a short absence, it has been restored to its former location, proclaiming that we freely and lovingly express God's inclusivity to all God's children.

## The Seasons of the Church

In June and throughout the summer we find ourselves in the Season after Pentecost. This is essentially the part of the year that remains after everything has been accounted for. The name of the season can vary widely depending on a church's tradition - it can be called Kingdomtide, Dominiontide, or Ordinary Time. The term Ordinary Time does not mean that this season is plain or unimportant. It is called that because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. In most churches the general theme of the Bible readings concerns the church's mission in the world. The Season after Pentecost begins on the day after Pentecost. In the Western Church, it ends on the Saturday before the First Day of Advent. The main holy days during this season are Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost), The Transfiguration, Holy Cross Day, Reformation Day, and All Saint's Day. You may notice that the parakeets on the altar and the worship leaders' vestments change to green, the liturgical color for the season.

David McNease  
Director of Music and Organist.

## Report on the 2025 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly

In the first week of June, I represented First Lutheran at the I-K Synod Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The theme of this year's assembly was "Faith, Hope, Love: Embracing the Journey". In his keynotes, Bishop Tim Graham spoke of how "dramatic" the stories of our faith are, how they bring us hope, and that our mission is to tell the story. He challenged us to think of our faith as a gift.

We heard from Jayme Beneker, Director for IK Disaster Relief, who spoke at length about how her office has been supporting the work in Somerset, Kentucky following the tornadoes there.

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Senior Director for Witness in Society in the ELCA, spoke about the intersection of civics and faith, and pointed out that "politics is the art of living together".

We saw a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, in which she visited Good Soil Lutheran Church in her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Good Soil was created by a merger of two churches, and she spoke of the challenges and successes created from this merger. I recommend watching the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHJdcAB2G5U>

I had the opportunity to attend two breakouts:

1) Pastor Andy Rutlough hosted a breakout called "Conversations around Christian Nationalism". Rev. Angela Denker joined us via Zoom to discuss this topic. She has written several books on the subject, most recently *Red State Christians*. She made a lot of important

points, but to me the most valuable piece of information was summed up in the words of Jesus when he was being questioned by Pilate: “My kingdom is not of this world.”

2) The second breakout I attended was called “E-Connect - A Transformational Journey for Your Congregation”, presented by E-Connect’s Assistant Director, Missy Schroeder. E-Connect sounds like an app for your phone, but the “E” actually stands for “Ecumenical”. This is a “learning and renewal process that helps congregations rediscover their purpose, energize their ministries, and deepen their connection with God, each other, and their communities”. The program will assign a coach who will help the congregation make supporting connections with the wider church.

We elected a new Synod Vice President, Anne Simerman, from Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. And after considerable debate, we adopted the following resolutions:

- Supporting religious liberty and against Christian Nationalism
- Instructing the I-K Synod to reinforce its support of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOMIK)
- Encouraging the ELCA churchwide body to consider disinvestment from companies whose leadership has said harmful things about Lutheran nonprofits.
- Recommending that the Churchwide Assembly establish a National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools.

Jay R. Lillie





Happy Birthday, Bill!

First Lutheran member William will be 100 years old on August 23rd. We all hope it'll be a great day for you, Bill! He also was made an honorary member of the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.

CHEERS  
To  
100  
YEARS



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  
Christian Education  
Endowment Funds Subcommittee  
Finance  
Food Pantry  
Membership  
Property  
Social Ministry  
Vision and Outreach  
Worship and Music

Vicky Frank  
Lori Caron  
Harley Butler  
Drew Wartschlager  
Sharon Lillie  
Vicky Frank  
Paul Nellis  
Stephanie McCoy  
Paul Nellis  
Nancy Brian

## THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Genesis 18: 1-15

The LORD **appeared** to Abraham by the oaks of **Mamre**, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw **three** men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent **entrance** to meet them and **bowed** down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find **favor** with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and **wash** your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little **bread**, that you may **refresh** yourselves, and after that you may **pass** on—since you have come to your **servant**." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham **hastened** into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready **quickly** three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make **cakes**." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, **tender** and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to **prepare** it. Then he took **curds** and milk and the **calf** that he had prepared and set it before them, and he **stood** by them under the **tree** while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife **Sarah**?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due **season**, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was **listening** at the tent entrance behind him. Now **Abraham** and Sarah were old, **advanced** in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the **manner** of women. So Sarah **laughed** to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my **husband** is old, shall I be **fruitful**?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I **indeed** bear a **child**, now that I am old?' Is anything too **wonderful** for the LORD? At the set time I will **return** to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah **denied**, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was **afraid**. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

P M A F R A I D M A H A R B A T R A  
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V P R T U H A H E D E I A A O D E N  
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N H P A T E D R L D E T S E K A C G  
C T A A F B F S R I E E R H T B H E  
E L R A U U S T O O D A E R B S N D  
D R E E L R E T U R N A P H A U I A  
D E I N E D Y L K C I U Q W E H L L

By Puzzlemaster Jay R. Lillie

## July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>30</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 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> 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	<b>5</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>6</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>7</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>8</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 10:00am Food Pantry	<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> 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	<b>12</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>13</b> 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	<b>14</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 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> 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	<b>19</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>20</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 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> 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	<b>26</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>27</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>28</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 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> 9:00am Catholic Charities Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	<b>2</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire