

The Friendly Visitor  
First Lutheran Church

July 2024



417 East Broadway  
Louisville, KY 40202  
(502) 584-4926

Email: [fstluth@bellsouth.net](mailto:fstluth@bellsouth.net)  
[www.thewelcomeplace.com](http://www.thewelcomeplace.com)

## The Pastor's Message

I grew up with the children's book, Stone Soup. Some may know it by other names, but the story is essentially the same: Hungry strangers visiting a town encounter townsfolk who are unwilling to feed them. So, the visiting strangers make a fire, find a kettle and boil a stone in water. Curious residents stop by to see what they are making. "The most delicious soup you have ever tasted," is the reply. And then they add, "But it would be even better if we had a few herbs to add to it." So, back to their houses the townsfolk go to find something to contribute to the soup. Some people bring carrots, some bring potatoes, etc. Before long, everyone in the town has contributed something to the soup and it tastes amazing, with enough for everyone to share.

There are a couple of lessons from this classic tale. One is the importance of generosity. When everyone shares a little, there is always enough and some to share. Think Jesus feeding the 5000. Another lesson is how something as simple as a stone can motivate others to share. Think Jesus pointing out the widow's tithe. Perhaps you can think of other lessons to be learned from this classic story.

One of the lessons I learned was this: Everyone, no matter how rich or poor, has something they can share. Stone soup is communal soup. It exists because a community exists. I sometimes hear people say that they don't have anything to contribute to the community because they are poor, old, or weak. But that is just not the case. Everybody has something they can contribute, no matter how small it might be.

I was a history major in college. This decision came after taking a class on the civil rights movement. The following semester I took a history major seminar. One day we were discussing historical facts. A thought had crossed my mind during class but I was afraid to share it. I was surrounded by people I perceived as having more intelligence than I did. I was worried my thoughts would sound nonsensical. Finally, with a minute left in the class, I made my comment. My teacher looked at me, a bit stunned, and said, Mr. Bell, that's an excellent point. You need to speak up more often. "Huh," I thought to myself. Maybe I do have something to contribute.

I'm always on the lookout for the quiet ones, the ones who keep to themselves. They often have great insights and have something important to say. Their perspective matters to me.

As a congregation, it's easy to defer to other people. And while there is no getting around the fact that the experience and wisdom of some is important and necessary for the stability of an organization, it's also important to listen and learn from one another.

As we prayerfully move into a time of discernment, I hope that we can create a stone soup that represents the contributions of everyone. First Lutheran Church will become a rich and satisfying experience when everyone has an opportunity to contribute.

Blessings,  
John

## Message from the President

Hi Church Members,

Just letting you all know that we are doing fine with our new neighbors, Catholic Charities, using our building during the week. There's a little bump in the road with the parking lot accessibility, but it is getting better. I have been asked to be a judge for one session of contests with the newcomers. It was a fun way to watch the participants learn the English alphabet.

I was disheartened that I only received one reply to any of the 3 Bible verses from last month. I was hoping to start up a small bible study, either online or by phone. I have chosen 2 other verses for this month of July. From the Old Testament - Exodus 35 and from the New Testament - Titus Chapters 1-3. Hope to hear from more Church Members this month.

Remember, we will be going to the Louisville Bats game on July 21st. Please let me know if anyone is going so I can order the tickets for our group.

I hope everyone will be safe and pray for all in need. See you at church.

Vicky Frank  
President of Church Council

## A Connection to the Past!

A year or so ago, a few of us began a project of clearing things out of the church basement. This past week, I uncovered a box with forgotten bowling trophies. Most had heavy bases, but I took a small silver (ish) cup upstairs. It was from 1926 and was awarded to the First Lutheran Church Bowling league for Sportsmanship. The captain was listed as Russell Hieronymous. We have a food pantry volunteer named John Hieronymous and I asked him if this could be a relative. He consulted his family's genealogy record book and found that although John is not a direct descendant of Russell Hieronymous, they are in the same family, John's branch having moved out to Somerset, KY. The Grandfather of Russell Hieronymous emigrated from Germany around 1851, a time of unrest in Austria. Russell was born in 1900, so was 26 when the First Lutheran bowling team showed good Sportsmanship. I attempted to polish the cup but it is very tarnished. Larry has taken it home to see if he has better luck.

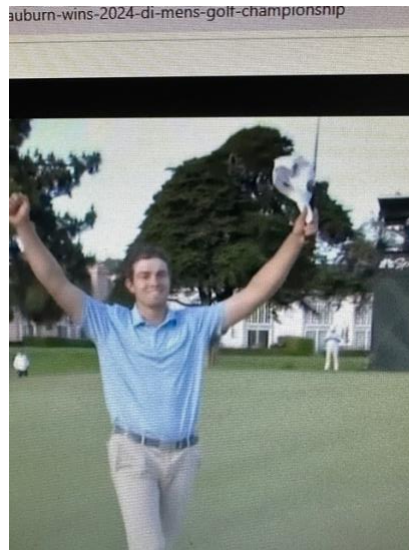
Sharon Lillie

## LYG News

LYG programs will be shut down for the month of July, beginning right after the 4<sup>th</sup>. The staff and volunteers annually take vacation then. However, they'll be in the building for the mentorship training programs on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We wish all of them a safe and restful break.

Sharon

J.M. Butler, grandson of Harley and Joan Butler, along with his Auburn teammates won the NCAA Golf Championship this year. Congratulations to J.M. and the team!



## Pride Parade 2024 Photos







## Committee Chairs

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

Building Users	Vicky Frank
Christian Education	Lori Caron
Endowment of 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

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.



## THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

## July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>1</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	<b>2</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	<b>3</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>4</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>5</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>6</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>7</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>8</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here	<b>9</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities	<b>10</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>11</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 12:00pm Craft Day 4:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>13</b> 9:45am NAMI meeting 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>14</b> 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	<b>15</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here	<b>16</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	<b>17</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>18</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>19</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities	<b>20</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>21</b> 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here	<b>23</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>24</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG	<b>25</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>26</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>27</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
<b>28</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>29</b> Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here	<b>30</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry	<b>31</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	<b>1</b> 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>2</b> Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	<b>3</b> 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire