The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church

June 2024

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

Email: fstluth@bellsouth.net
www.thewelcomeplace.com

Message from the Pastor

By now you are aware that my time at First Lutheran is limited. It was my hope to stay for several years and create with you a more sustainable First Lutheran Church. I do think sustainability is possible. And I'm happy to contribute to it the best I can over the next year. It's still possible because success does not depend on one person. It depends on all of us.

A great example of this is the famous story of scientist Francis Galton. In 1906 he found himself walking through a village fair that included, among many things, a contest. The villagers were invited to guess the weight of an ox on display. 800 villagers ventured a guess. No one guessed the weight exactly, 1,198 pounds. After it was over Francis asked if he could collect all the guesses. He was interested in averaging them out. And wouldn't you know it. The average equaled 1,197 pounds!

For years, scientists have recreated this experiment proving its validity. Collectively, a group of people knows the right answer. When it comes to knowing what's really real, groups can function as a sort of collective intelligence.

Paul understood this idea. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 Paul goes through a long description of the "body" of Christ. While Paul acknowledges the importance of each part of the "body", what is paramount for Paul is that the body requires everyone to work together. Paul picks up this idea again in Romans 12:4-8. He states that even though we may be individuals, we desperately need each other to survive.

These stories have stuck with me for a long time. I've incorporated them into my discernment practices. Whenever I'm trying to figure out what to do, I identify five people to talk to. I find that by asking 5 people what they think I should do, I'm somehow able decide. It's not a foolproof technique, but I find the practice extraordinarily useful. It brings clarity out of confusion.

I think it's the same for congregations. I've watched churches discern a vision for the future by relying on the pastor to come up with a plan. While the vision may be inspiring and plausible, it often falls short. It lacks the wisdom and knowledge of the group that is necessary to solve the problem at hand.

So, whenever I lead a vision process, I always provide ample opportunity for the congregation to talk to each other. It's important to talk about our hopes and dreams for the future, our fears about the uncertainty of life and the importance of having God walk with us.   Out of these efforts can come robust and vibrant visions for a congregation that move beyond surviving to thriving.

As First Lutheran Church begins to consider where God is calling us to go in the coming years, I hope you will join me in these conversations. Our future will be discerned not by me, or by you, but by all of us, collectively deciding where it is God is calling us to go.

So, let's go!
John

The President's Message

I've been reading random verses from the Old and New Testaments. This month I've chosen three texts: The Book of Ruth and Psalm 15 from the Old Testament and The Epistle of Jude from the New Testament. Feel free to email any of your thoughts to me.

Vicky Frank

Church News

Service on June 9, 2024

Very Important! The church service this day will be at the I-K Synod Convention at the Crowne's Plaza Hotel, in the Coronet Ballroom, at 11:00. This is the former Executive Inn West that is just off the Watterson, by the Fairgrounds (830 Phillips Lane). Come and join us!

Vicky Frank is getting together a group from First to go to the Louisville Bats baseball game on July 21 at 6:05 pm. Please let her know if you'd like to go so that she can get the tickets. You can also call the church or send an email to: fstluth@bellsouth.net.

Thursday, June 13th, the Craft Group will be meeting on the first floor of the primary wing at about 12:00. Feel free to bring anything you're working on and hang out while (hopefully) making progress on your project.

If anyone is interested in becoming one of our weekly counters of the offering, please contact Jim Lillie. Typically, counters come in on Monday or Tuesday, open the offering envelopes and record the amounts. They also put together the deposit and take it to a PNC Bank. Counters only count one week a month. Calculators provided!

Catholic Charities of Louisville is using space at First Lutheran to work with clients. The picture shows the staff from Migration and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities gathered in Luther Hall. We are excited about this new partnership!

The sign-up link for the Parade is:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9Rb0lavDRFlRUgKxaarzmd56b7jgxhXQGXTHA4C
K9Im_qYw/viewform

Prepare in a Year

Step 1: Communications Plan

Prepare to be separated from your loved ones

Fill out an out-of-area contact card for each household member to keep in a wallet, purse or backpack at all times. If you are separated from your loved ones in the event of disaster, your first thoughts will be about your family, their location and if they are safe. The stress of the event may make it hard to remember even routine information.

Out-of-area contacts

Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your contact person. This person should live at least 100 miles away from you. They can send messages to your family in the affected area and then reply back to you. An out-of-area contact is the key piece of a great communications plan. Especially since the internet and cell phone signals may be sparse following a major event. *You may be able to send text messages to your loved ones on your cell phone. Keep these messages short.*
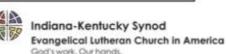
Use the Web

Research Emergency Apps. The American Red Cross has an Emergency app that lets you link your contacts and send a safety message, as well as a place you can register yourself as "safe and well." Facebook also has a "safety check" that can be implemented after a disaster.

Official Sources

Register with your local alert system. Find out how officials will communicate with you. The Red Cross Emergency app will also send weather alerts.

Print out a card for every member of your household and fill in all information. Carry card to reference in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

My Emergency Contact Information (American Red Cross)

My Name: _____
Phone: _____
Home Address: _____
_____
Email: _____

Important Phone Nos. (American Red Cross)

Police: Call 9-1-1 or _____
Fire Dept.: Call 9-1-1 or _____
Doctor: _____
Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222

People to Call or Text in an Emeregency (American Red Cross)

_____
_____
_____
_____

_____
_____
Out-of-Area Contact Person _____
Phone _____
Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood:
_____

Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

1 Samuel 3:1-11

Now the boy Samuel was **ministering** to the LORD **under** Eli. The **word** of the LORD was **rare** in those days; **visions** were not **widespread**.

At that **time** Eli, whose **eyesight** had begun to **grow** dim so that he could not see, was **lying** down in his room; the **lamp** of God had not yet gone out, and **Samuel** was lying down in the **temple** of the LORD, **where** the ark of God was. Then the LORD **called**, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; **lie** down again." So he **went** and lay down. The LORD called **again**, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and **said**, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie **down** again." Now Samuel did not yet **know** the LORD, and the word of the **LORD** had not yet been **revealed** to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a **third** time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." **Then** Eli **perceived** that the LORD was calling the boy. **Therefore** Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you **shall** say, 'Speak, LORD, for your **servant** is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his **place**.

Now the LORD came and **stood** there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "**Speak**, for your servant is **listening**." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in **Israel** that **will** make both ears of **anyone** who **hears** of it **tingle**.

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E  L  I  E  L  I  H  A  R  D  E  R  E  H  W  S  A  S
D  L  Y  I  N  G  N  S  E  U  A  G  A  I  N  M  E  D
L  A  E  T  N  E  W  A  V  R  D  L  W  O  R  G  S  L
T  H  E  R  E  F  O  R  E  E  C  I  I  R  N  R  O  E
S  S  H  R  I  P  D  Y  A  A  O  S  S  I  A  R  T  A
E  P  F  T  P  H  E  N  L  E  I  T  R  E  D  I  N  R
L  E  U  M  A  S  Y  L  E  V  O  E  H  S  D  I  A  S
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By Puzzlemaster Jay R. Lillie

June 2024

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