

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church

May 2024



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Message from the Pastor

The church council has decided to move forward with a strategic planning process. The first step is to organize a strategic planning team that will bring forward a recommended process of discernment to the congregation. At our meeting in April, I recommended a process for selected members of the strategic planning team.

We are now looking for individuals in the congregation to join the team. Please read the information below. If you are interested in learning more about the team, please reach out to me either by email revjohnbell@gmail.com or by phone 630-417-8202.

Strategic Planning Team

Description: to facilitate a process through which the congregation at First Lutheran Church adopts a strategic plan for the next one to two years and possibly beyond.

The team will be made up of individuals who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Feels called or internally motivated to be a part of this process.
- When faced with a problem, instead of shutting down, one tends to be resourceful when problem solving.
- When confronted with tension in relationships (between two other people or between you and someone else), instead of ignoring the tension, one tends to acknowledge it and manage how one responds to it.
- Instead of keeping a distance from others, one tends to stay connected with individuals in the congregation by always extending a welcome because one understands the importance of interconnectedness.
- When it comes to solving problems, instead of using conventional thinking to focus on an issue, one tends to use systems thinking by focusing on the process.
- When one thinks about the year ahead, one has one or more goals they hope to accomplish for themselves.

Expectations

The Strategic Planning Team will be meeting regularly to develop and implement a process for the congregation to prayerfully discern where God is calling us to focus our resources (money

and people) based on a specific set of goals to be achieved. A successful process will consist of adopting two to five specific SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.

hold If you are interested in helping our congregation develop a strategic plan, please let me know. And please this process in your prayers.

Blessings!
John

Message from the President

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone will be enjoying all the festivities of the 150th Kentucky Derby. There were about 8 of us church members that participated in the Kentucky Derby Mini-Marathon or Marathon on March 27th. I hope you have a lot of winners at the racetrack! I pray we have a safe two weeks of fun.

I will be wanting to know if anyone is interested in attending some sporting events or concert events during the summer. Please let me know.

Keep checking your email box or regular mailbox for upcoming events/happenings that will need your attention. It has been nice seeing new faces at the Sunday services. I hope we can attract more visitors.

Catholic Charities had its Grand Opening, and we look forward in welcoming them to the neighborhood, along with working with them throughout the community.

This monthly message is short but sweet. Let's think of ways to better our church and the community. See you on Sunday.

Vicky Frank, President of Church Council

News

Virginia Lee Kelley, 95, of Louisville, Kentucky passed away on March 27, 2024. She was born on March 17, 1929 in Louisville to the late Lewis and Ella Whitworth. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Vernon Kelley, son-in-law, James Davenport, and her brother and sisters. She is survived by her children, Glen Kelley and Jo Ann Davenport, grandchildren, Dale Kelley, Lori Kelley, Melissa Davenport, and Lisa Davenport (Billy), great-grandchildren Mark Martin, Tiffany Braden, Kellie Long (Nick) and Sean, and great-great-grandchildren Laila Braden, Aniya Braden, Eleanor Martin and Layton Long.

Mrs. Kelley was laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery.

On April 15, Catholic Charities finally had their Grand Opening. We're so glad to have them as next door neighbors!



We are pleased to announce that Catholic Charities will be using some under-utilized rooms of the church, as announced and explained at the annual meeting. There have been several changes throughout the building to accommodate this agreement. The furniture (mostly from the Pfingst Lounge/Library) has currently been moved to Luther Hall and can be acquired by church members. Photos of many of the items will be posted below. If no one wants them, we will likely donate them to appropriate organizations. The Catholic Charities move-in date was

May 1. Let's pray for a wonderful working partnership. If you have any questions, you can contact me, Sharon Lillie or Pastor John.

Vicky Frank

At the Worship and Music Committee on April 18, the following statement was adopted regarding Reconciling in Christ and will now appear every month in The Friendly Visitor:

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.

Acts 8: 26-39

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.

B N A I P O I H T E A R T H R E J T
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P A S S A G E L P U S L W A T E R Y

May 2024

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