

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church
Louisville, KY

November 2023



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

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

Message from the Pastor

On September 27th a group from First Lutheran Church joined a group from Green Street Baptist Church for lunch. The luncheon was the outcome of the relationship developed between Pastor Ray Kiser and me.

A member of the Green Street congregation, who volunteers with the Dare to Care Food Bank suggested that the two pastors meet. I'm so grateful that Pastor Kiser was open and excited about meeting and getting to know one another. Over subsequent lunches with Pastor Kiser, I learned that Green Street and First have a relatively long history of working together, particularly with the food bank, and that both congregations had participated not only in volunteering but also in the leadership and running of the program. The question that Pastor Kiser and I began to ask one another is, "Are there additional ways that we can partner together?" The luncheon that brought together both congregations was the first step in this process.

The congregation of Green Street Baptist Church opened their fellowship hall to us. They provided a wonderful spread of food and created a beautiful setting for our lunch together. We listened as representatives from both congregations talked about the history of each church and the history of our partnership with the food bank. It was a beautiful sight to behold our two congregations breaking bread together.

This effort of building relationships with others is essential to our success as a congregation and vital to solving the problems we face as a community. The extent to which individuals, families and communities are cut off one another is the extent to which people struggle to survive emotionally, physically and spiritually. I look forward to more opportunities to build these vital connections with other congregations, organizations and residents in the neighborhood. Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. May it be so. May we make it so.

Blessings, John



Pastor Ray Kiser



Sharon Lillie



The "spread"

Message from the President

Dear friends,

Often when Vicky and I are working in the office, there will come a knock at the door or a ring of the bell. It is rarely the technician we are waiting on. Usually it is someone living on the streets, asking for a snack bag, which we call a 24-hour bag. In these bags we have items that come from the USDA portion of our food allotment such as walnuts and raisins plus random, easily opened items from the Kroger barrel. We use money donated to the pantry to round it out with a bottle of water and perhaps a granola bar. Everyone is polite, and almost everyone says thank you.

But some that come to our door are, how shall I say? More colorful characters? Many years ago I met on the sidewalk a man who introduced himself as St. Anonymous of Butchertown. Dressed in a bathrobe and carrying a staff, he announced that he would bless our building. I told him okay and he did this, from the sidewalk. I have never seen him since.

Once or twice a week, someone will come down the sidewalk angry, talking, yelling, gesticulating, obviously beset by something from the inside of their mind. Mostly they keep going on down the street, but some have stopped. The diseases that attack the mind corrupt the very system intended to get them help.

The cameras show us that some come late at night and sit on the bench in front of the statue of Jesus and pray, or just talk. One young man has come twice in the last few weeks, asking for a pencil and something to write on. When this has been given, he has sat on the bench, writing over and over, asking for prayers. He has put these papers in the mailbox, and he may also be the person who puts loose change in the mailbox. There's no way of knowing. We can't decipher what he writes because he overlaps letters. The most we can make out is that he wants prayers for his mother.

So after you have said your prayers, please put in one more. Please pray for all those struggling with mental illness and for their family members, for strength and care in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lillie

Veteran's Day

On Saturday, November 11, Vicky Frank, Sharon Lillie and Kristy Peavey helped put flags on the veteran's graves at Cave Hill Cemetery. We are grateful for the sacrifices of all our veterans.



Upcoming Events

December 17 – After church we will be having a cookie swap. Bring three dozen cookies to trade and a container to put yours in. We will also trim the tree for the sanctuary.

December 21 – This is the longest night of the year. We will be in front of the church from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., gathering names of those who have passed in the previous year. At 6:30 we will have a short and simple service of remembrance.

December 24 – December 29 – Food pantry closed.



THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For **thus** says the Lord GOD: I **myself** will search for my **sheep** and will sort them out. As shepherds **sort** out their flocks when they are among **scattered** sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will **rescue** them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick **darkness**. I will bring them out from the **peoples** and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own **land**, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the **watercourses**, and in all the **inhabited** parts of the land. I will feed them with good **pasture**, and the mountain heights of **Israel** shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good **grazing** land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the **mountains** of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the **lost**, and I will bring back the **strays**, and I will bind up the **injured**, and I will **strengthen** the weak, but the fat and the strong I will **destroy**. I will feed them with **justice**.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will **judge** between the fat sheep and the **lean** sheep. Because you pushed with **flank** and shoulder and butted at all the **weak** animals with your horns until you scattered them far and **wide**, I will save my **flock**, and they shall no longer be **ravaged**, and I will judge **between** sheep and sheep.

I will set up **over** them one shepherd, my **servant** David, and he shall feed them; he shall **feed** them and be their **shepherd**. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant **David** shall be **prince** among them; I the LORD have spoken.

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

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Soup and Sandwich Potluck	30 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	31 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 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	14 Food Pantry closed	15 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	16 4:00pm Food Pantry	17 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	18 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
19 10:30am Worship Service 1:00pm Council Meeting	20 Food Pantry closed NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	21 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	22 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	23 4:00pm Food Pantry	24 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	25 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
26 10:30am Worship Service	27 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	28 10:00am Food Pantry	29 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	30 4:00pm Food Pantry	1 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	2 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire