

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church
Louisville, KY

October 2023



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Message from the Pastor

When I arrived in July, I put out an open invitation to meet with each of you. I've enjoyed the opportunities I've had to learn about you and your family. And I've especially enjoyed hearing your stories about First Lutheran Church. For those of you who haven't met with me yet, I look forward to setting up a time to have lunch or enjoy a coffee together.

Since I'm asking you to tell me stories, it only seems right to share a story with you. My decision to become a pastor started as a kid growing up in my home church in Downers Grove, IL. First United Methodist Church was not just a place for worship, it became the center of my social life. It was my community and it shaped and formed the way I see God and see myself.

As a teenager, I struggled to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. My experience growing up in the church moved me towards doing something ministry related. I'd thought about being a teacher or even doing something with music. But God had other plans.

During the summer before my senior year in high school, I decided to work at a conference campground from my childhood. I'm not sure what made me want to be a lifeguard. Maybe it was the status of it all. Whatever the motivation, I got Red Cross certified in the spring and then started working at the camp after school let out in early June.

For twelve weeks I worked at Wesley Woods Campground in Lake Geneva, IL as a lifeguard. It turned out to be a lifechanging summer. Each week of camp, a different pastor would spend a week living in the staff house as a chaplain. They would lead nightly Bible studies with the staff, and they were available to council staff as needed. After spending twelve weeks with twelve different pastors, I started to sense that maybe I was being called to ordained ministry.

When I returned home at the end of the summer, I setup a meeting with the pastor of my church. They were supportive of my call but wanted to make sure I had a realistic understanding of what it would be like to be a pastor. I listened and appreciated the perspective. I decided that if God wanted me to be a pastor, God would make a way and open opportunities for me. And that's exactly what happened. God continued to open doors for me. I've always believed that if God wanted me to be doing something else, God would show me the way.

I continue to serve as a pastor because I continue to sense God's calling. My calling to First Lutheran Church is no different. From the moment I met with the call committee, I sensed God calling me to be your pastor. I'm so grateful that you all sensed it, too.

That's a part of my story. I look forward to hearing your stories.

Blessings!

John

From the President

A short note this time – Jay and I just returned from visiting with our daughter Bethany, in Tacoma Washington. It is a very interesting city and she showed us all the sites that could be seen in five days. It is also tiring to see all the sites in 5 days.

I am very grateful to Cassi, for filling in for me with the food pantry and to Vicky who managed the office on her own.

It is October and though the new year is months away, it is time to start planning events and budgets for 2024. If you have an idea, please let me or another member of Council know.

Sharon



Food Pantry News

The First Lutheran/Dare to Care Food Pantry has been doing well. We thank you for all your contributions of egg money and plastic grocery bags. We welcome back returning volunteers Mary Rodriguez (a new homeowner!) and Barbara Rollins, a member of Green Street Baptist. Some of you may remember Ms. Rollins from her time as secretary of the East Louisville Community Ministries.

We received a grant from FOOD FIGHT which enabled us to have a cadre of volunteers from Norton Health who deep cleaned the storage room, which was sorely needed. I was out of town, so David Patton hosted that event.

Church Potluck

On October 29 we will have a potluck "Soup and Sandwich" after church. Please bring either a pot of soup, completed sandwiches or a sandwich fixin' platter. We will enjoy fellowship and talk about reforming our church and ourselves. Please join us for this informal "Snack and Yak".

Committee News

Miss Patsy Heck has stepped down from leadership of the Social Ministry Committee. We all thank you, Patsy, for all your years of service to and leadership of this ministry. Stephanie McCoy will be taking over the leadership role.

Report on Catholic Charities

On Tuesday, September 12, Pastor, Vicky and I met with Bart Weigel of Catholic Charities. They purchased the old AAA/Stockyards building next door. Originally planning to move in over the summer, they have had to postpone that until December/January.

In this building, they are going to consolidate the management and operations of three facilities. They serve the community in different ways. One is as Ombudsman for Long Term Care. They investigate concerns about treatment in long term care facilities.

They also manage the resettlement of migrant and refugee families, helping them with translating paperwork, finding housing and services when needed. In that area, they also aide victims of human trafficking and train First Responders to recognize signs of that crime. The Gray Street Farmer's market (which happens on Thursday mornings) has also become one of their ministries, after their partnership with Norton healthcare ended.

Overall, Mr. Weigel is delighted to be moving into an area surrounded by other agencies involved in serving the community. We showed him our space, in case they needed a larger gathering area, and introduced him to Em and Elana.

We welcome Catholic Charities to the neighborhood. They plan to have an open house sometime in the new year and we plan to have them visit us on a future Sunday for a luncheon.

Sharon

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The LORD **spoke** to **Moses**, saying:

Speak to all the **congregation** of the **Israelites** and say to them: You shall be **holy**, for I the **LORD** your God am holy.

“You shall not **render** an **unjust** judgment; you shall not be **partial** to the **poor** or **defer** to the **great**: with **justice** you shall **judge** your **neighbor**. You shall not go **around** as a **slanderer** among your **people**, and you shall not stand **idly** by when the **blood** of your neighbor is at **stake**: I am the LORD.

“You shall not **hate** in your heart **anyone** of your **kin**; you shall **reprove** your neighbor, or you will **incur** guilt yourself. You **shall** not take **vengeance** or **bear** a **grudge** against any of your people, but you shall **love** your neighbor as **yourself**: I am the LORD.

A T H J U S T I C E I S C F H A E P
T N E A R P S P O O R C O L S N V T
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D E F E R E D N E R E U S Y L D I S

October 2023

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