

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky



January, 2023

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Notes from the President

Hello and Happy New Year to all! 2023 is upon us, and First Lutheran is halfway through the 151st year of its ministry. 2022 was a very good year, in spite of the ups and downs with the air conditioning problems, which have been resolved. 2023 promises to be a good year also. The Archdiocese of Louisville purchased the property next door to First from Stock Yards Bank, and Catholic Charities will be moving in sometime in the coming year. I have reached out to a couple of their administrators, Ellen Houber and Bart Weigel, and the plans are underway for a “Welcome to the neighborhood” reception to be held at First for the leadership and staff sometime in the future. I believe having the two church bodies next door to one another will be a positive thing for both our ministries and the surrounding neighborhood, along with giving our next pastor something to expand upon.

Having served as Council President for the past two years, at the end of January I will be passing these duties on to someone else, but I will remain on the council and beginning a second three-year term. We will also have two vacancies to fill. If you are not currently serving on the call committee and are approached to serve on the council, please give it careful consideration. Serving is not a huge commitment. We have meetings once a month, and if someone can just attend and offer their voice, that’s enough. It will be an exciting time to be on the council, with welcoming our new neighbors and potentially calling a new pastor in the coming year.

As always, thanks to David McNease for continuing to schedule our pulpit supply. He has acquired the services of Pastor M. David Kiel for several Sundays of pulpit supply, beginning this month! Thanks again to all those continuing to work in the office and our custodian David Patton, who repaired our outside sign board.

Once again, Happy New Year and peace to all!

Paul

News from the Call Committee

As you may know, the Call Committee's Synod rep, Rev. Heather Apel, has left her Synod position for an opportunity to co-pastor a congregation in one of the Carolinas with her husband. We are happy for her and wish her the best. Our new Synod contact is Pastor Dan Forehand. Rev. Forehand drove down to Louisville on January 5 to see the area and visit with our committee and the council. The "meet and greet" went well, and Pastor Dan said the meeting gave him a good feeling about our prospects for the future. First Lutheran is not alone in our long wait for the right candidate, but he expects to be sending more candidates our way soon.

From the Altar Guild

A heart-felt "Thank You!" goes out to each of you on the Altar Guild who has served and continues to serve Sunday after Sunday, preparing the altar and chancel area for worship services. Your faithful work is an important responsibility and is greatly appreciated!

Larry E. Askins, DMD

Chair



For most of January, we are in the season after Epiphany – the climax of the Advent/Christmas season. The season after Epiphany actually extends from January 6, the day of Epiphany, to Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. The term *epiphany* means an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity. In the Western church, Epiphany is celebrated as a commemoration of the manifestation of Christ, especially to the Magi, and also at his baptism and at the wedding feast of Cana. The ELCA lists the principal themes of the season as the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, Christ as the light of the world, the public ministry of Jesus (including Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana), growth in a Christian's baptized identity. The season's gospel readings focus on numerous events in the early life and ministry of Jesus. Look ahead and consider how the stories in these readings prepare and inform us as they lead us into the next season of the Church Year, the season of Lent.

David McNease

Food Pantry Report

Thank you to everyone who donated to the coffee drive for our customers. Unfortunately, we were not as organized as we should have been and we are busier than ever, so we have postponed the actual provision of coffee for later. We do sincerely thank everyone who brought in supplies, and promise the coffee will benefit our customers in the cold weather.

Also - Mark your calendars! On Saturday, January 21 at 10 a.m. – we have a lot of old items in the basement that need to be hauled away. Most of them are already in the old Dare to Dare office (the West Office), so they just need to be loaded onto cars and carted off. Contact Vicky for more details.

Sharon Lillie

PUZZLE FOR JANUARY

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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T A E E V O D E R A L C E D A N S A

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEARS DAY 10:30am Worship Service	2 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	3 11:00am Food Pantry	4 11:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 4:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm NA - Cool Changes	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 11:00am Food Pantry	11 11:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Craft Day 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 4:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm NA - Cool Changes 7:30pm 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 1:00pm Council Meeting 2:00pm PFLAG Meeting	16 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	17 11:00am Food Pantry	18 11:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 4:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm NA - Cool Changes	20 Food Pantry closed NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00pm LYG	21 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
22 10:30am Worship Service	23 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	24 11:00am Food Pantry	25 11:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 4:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm NA - Cool Changes	27 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	28 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
29 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Annual Congregational Meeting	30 Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	31 11:00am Food Pantry	1 11:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 4:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm NA - Cool Changes	3 Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	4 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire