

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church

January 2025



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Message from the Pastor

Happy New Year!

I've made several resolutions over the years in January. I'm sure you have as well. I've resolved to be everything from more organized to going to the gym to extending more grace to others. I have on occasion taken day-long retreats to snow-covered Midwest cabins to find perspective and motivation. One practice that has remained with me is turning over a new journal book in January. And I still retreat for a couple of days in the winter to plan for the coming year. But I've grown less interested in new year's resolutions.

For those living in the northern half of the United States, January is decidedly winter. The cold and occasional snow that falls on Louisville is a reminder that the earth is at rest. Hibernation and dormancy are a top priority for nature during the winter months. It's fitting that the birth of Jesus comes during the cold and snow of winter. Like any birth, it can be a time for staying in, snuggling and swaddled kiddos and resting from the labor of labor. Winter is a time of rest.

What are ways in which you can rest this winter, to pay attention to the dormancy around you and to find time to just be?

There will be a time for resolutions. It will come at the time of renewal, revival and rebirth. Spring! There will come a time in a few months for us to make good on our intentions to live differently. Like a toddler with their newfound legs, there will be a time for us to get up and try out our resolutions for 2025. For now, we simply take a deep breath and exhale. And we wait. Not a passive waiting. But an active waiting. Waiting for signs of the changing seasons. The sounds of earth coming back to life. Resuscitation and Resurrection! A time to smile again as the warm sun begins to shine on your face. The warm southern winds will lift our spirits and we will join our spirit with the Holy Spirit to proclaim at Easter, Christ is risen!

For now, we journey with Christ. Through baptism. Through the calling of the twelve. Through fishing for people. Through the sermon on the mount. Through many miracles and parables. Through Cana, Jerusalem, Calgary and a garden. What we will resolve this spring will become clear to us as we journey with Christ.

May this season of Epiphany be a time of rest. A time to rest in the knowledge that God is with us. Emmanuel. Love is here!

Blessings!
John



Message from the President

Hi Church Members,

It has been a long and tiring year, and we have changes that we will need to continue to make in order for our church to continue having a noticeable presence in the downtown area. We will need to communicate with each other and pray for the correct decisions for our future. We are in another call process for the leadership of our church. Please voice your opinions on what you'd like to see our church involved in within our community. Our Strategic Planning Process found three areas to be our top priorities, and your thoughts about them are very valuable to us. These top 3 areas are: Education/Fellowship opportunities, Worship, and Neighborhood focus. I'm expecting replies and some wonderful ideas from our Congregation. You can email them to fstluth@bellsouth.net, mail your views to the church's address (417 E. Broadway Louisville, KY 40202) or call on the church's phone number (502-584-4926). If you would like, you can call any of the Church Council members and talk with them about your ideas.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have Everlasting Life (John 3:16). Let all you do, be done in LOVE (1 Corinthians 16:14). And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them (Luke 6:13). I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).

See you all on Sunday.

Vicky Frank
Church Council President

On January 30th we will be hosting a 1:00 pm lunchtime gathering for our local business neighbors. This is a great way for the local business managers to exchange information about issues and concerns in the area.

We will be serving soup, bread and desserts. If anyone would like to bring something to serve, or just to join us, please contact the office.

Sharon Lillie

The photos on the next page are from the Dare-to-Care Christmas Appreciation Luncheon that was held on December 10, 2024. We also appreciate all our valuable volunteers this year!



THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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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.

If you need to contact one of the church's committee chairs, here is a list of all the committees and their chairs. Please let them know if you have any problems, suggestions for improvements, or compliments.

Building Users	Vicky Frank
Christian Education	Lori Caron
Endowment Funds Subcommittee	Harley Butler
Finance	Drew Wartschlager
Food Pantry	Sharon Lillie
Membership	Vicky Frank
Property	Paul Nellis
Social Ministry	Stephanie McCoy
Vision and Outreach	Paul Nellis
Worship and Music	Nancy Brian

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30am Worship Service	30 Catholic Charities - closed Food Pantry closed 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	31 Catholic Charities - closed Food Pantry - closed	1 Catholic Charities - closed Food Pantry - closed 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial	2 Catholic Charities - closed 4:00pm Food Pantry	3 Catholic Charities - closed Food Pantry closed 6:00pm LYG	4 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
5 10:30am Worship Service	6 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	7 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	8 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	9 8:30am Catholic Charities 12:00pm Craft Day 4:00pm Food Pantry	10 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	11 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
12 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Presentation and soup potluck	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	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 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	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 1:00pm Luncheon/local businesses 4:00pm Food Pantry	31 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	1 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire