

The Friendly Visitor

First Lutheran Church

November 2024



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The Pastor's Message

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7

What a time to be alive! I'm writing this article before the general election in November. Most everyone I talk to is experiencing some sort of existential dread regardless of the outcomes. No matter who wins the election, we will have to contend with the fact that we are a deeply divided country. Despite my own anxiety, I am confident that things will get better as we progress as a nation. I just pray they don't get any worse before they get better. Paul reminds us that in order to lower our anxiety we must take our concerns to God in prayer AND give thanks.

November is a time of thanksgiving. Historically, it is a time to give thanks for the harvest and to celebrate the abundance of God's good creation. It is a time to gather with friends and family and to take stock of our blessings and enjoy good food and engage in peaceful fellowship. I am thankful for each of you and I'm thankful to be your pastor.

Our congregation recently gathered to discern what God is calling us to do. Over the course of an afternoon, we identified three major ways to be in ministry together: create education & fellowship opportunities, revamping our worship and create opportunities to connect with our neighbors. In our discernment process we used a point system to vote for our top choices. Worship and education/fellowship were tied for first place with 30 points each. Of the two, worship had the most votes placing it as a top priority.

The church council in October approved these three areas as a focus for our work together as a church. The next steps include developing SMART goals for each of these areas (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound).

As we develop clarity about these goals, we will need to keep these things in mind: 1) what resources do we need to work on these goals and how do we make the best use of the resources we have? 2) how will we address the tension that is stirred as we lean into these goals? 3) how can we be more flexible and adaptable to new ideas? And 4) how do we stay focused on these goals?

I look forward to continuing to work with the strategic planning team and each of you around these goals. I ask that you continue to take these goals to God in prayer. And let us give thanks that God has led us to such a time as this. God, who has been faithful in the past, is with us in the present and promises to lead us into the future, will never fail us. God is with us!

Blessings!

John

President's Message

Church Members,

The end of the year is upon us. This is a good time to think about our Stewardship commitment to the church for this year and in the future. We have been working on our Strategic Planning for the church's future. Anyone is encouraged to propose ideas that could enhance our continuing future. One can either call the church's office (502-584-4926) or email your thoughts to fstluth@bellsouth.net.

I would like to encourage everyone to read the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament and James in the New Testament. Email me your thoughts on these books. Thank you to those members who have responded to me their thoughts from the other Bible passages in previous Friendly Visitors.

I would like to thank Nola Lillie for her leadership of our past Bible Study before Sunday church services. With the good turnout, I believe we will be able to schedule another Bible Study before the end of the year. Anyone want to be the leader of our next Bible Study? Please let me know.

We are looking to plan some future activities for our membership. If anyone has any ideas, I will welcome them. We need to "Come Alive" and be active in our church.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our church services on Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Vicky Frank
President of Church Council



Church News

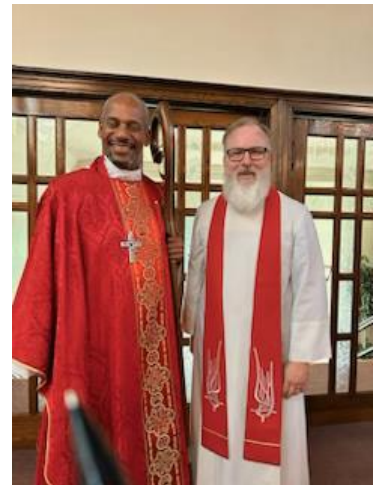
The happiest bit of church news we had this month was a wedding. Amelia Lillie and Jacob Hack were married in our church on October 26. We wish them all the best and every happiness in their life together!

Food Pantry News (Sort of)

Dexter, a volunteer with the Food Pantry, has been painting the downstairs hallway and also took care of the water damage in the dining room. If you would like to contribute a thank you gift to Dexter, please put your donation into an envelope and mark it "Dexter". You can give it to Vicky or Sharon or put it in the offering plate.

Sharon Lillie

On Sunday, October 27, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. Vicar General of the diocese, Jeffrey Shooner, gave a message.





Vicky Frank's grandkids learning Craft Day techniques from her. Craft Day Is the 2nd Thursday of the month at around noonish.

Happy family rejoicing In Cora Frances's Co-Captain field hockey senior game on September 17. Cora's team won 2-0!



Nola Lillie led a Bible study from September 8 to October 6th. The theme was an overview of different types of books included, for example the gospels, the epistles, etc. Included in the study were Play-Doh sculptures. Who doesn't like to play with Play-Doh? On September 29 the group made musical instruments. In the first photo, you see some made by Vicky Frank, and In the second Is a piano made by Pastor Bell.



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



Happy Thanksgiving

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

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By Puzzlemaster Jay R. Lillie

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:30am Worship Service	28 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	29 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry	30 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	31 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	1 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	2 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
3 10:30am Worship Service	4 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	5 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	6 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG Staff Meeting 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	7 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	8 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	9 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
10 9:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	11 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	12 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities	13 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	14 8:30am Catholic Charities 12:00pm Craft Day 4:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	15 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	16 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
17 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Council Meeting	18 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	19 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 7:30pm NA	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 4:30pm LYG 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	21 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	22 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	23 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire
24 10:30am Worship Service	25 Food Pantry closed 8:30am Catholic Charities 5:30pm NA - Why Are We Here 7:30pm LYG	26 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry	27 8:30am Catholic Charities 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm NA - Escape from Denial 6:30pm LYG 7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	28 8:30am Catholic Charities 4:00pm Food Pantry	29 Food Pantry closed 9:00am Catholic Charities 6:00pm LYG	30 12:30pm NA - Lose the Desire