

The Friendly Visitor
First Lutheran Church
June 2025



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Farewell, Pastor Bell

June 1 was Pastor John Bell's final Sunday at First Lutheran. For the future, his contact information will be:

At church: Hinsdale United Methodist Church
945 South Garfield Ave.
Hinsdale, IL 60521

At home: 44 Thornhill Ct.
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Bless you, Pastor John!

The President's Message

By the time you have read this, we will most likely have said goodbye to Pastor Bell. Although he will be available for care visits and emergencies throughout June, he will not be preaching due to obligations to both the ELCA as well as the Methodist church.

The Call Committee and Council had approved a candidate for the position, but our finances were not able to meet their needs in a sustainable way. We will move on and hope that the position will be filled in a reasonable amount of time. In the meantime, everyone can participate in the care of this congregation. Don't hesitate to pick up the phone and give someone a call to see how they are doing.

Sharon Lillie
President of the Church Council

June Food Pantry Report

The number of People using our food pantry declined in the first three months of this year when compared to last year. April broke that trend as our numbers went up by a good bit. Most of that increase was in the 24 hour snack bags that we give to our unhoused neighbors. The second street Kroger has been a great resource. It seems that sometimes we get more product from them than we do from the Dare to Care! As always, our neighbors are grateful for the help we provide. Until there is a grocery store that people in the area can reasonably walk to, we are sometimes their only resource for groceries.

Thank you for all your support.
Sharon and all the volunteers.

Strategic Planning Team Update

Hello everyone,

Just a quick update from the Strategic Planning Team. We held our final session with Pastor Bell on May 20th to reflect on our progress and discuss next steps.

Worship and Music

This area continues to be a top priority, Worship and music will be implementing small but meaningful changes, such as incorporating more member participation in services (e.g., scripture readings).

While we look forward to welcoming a new pastor who can help inspire fresh ideas, we also encourage anyone with suggestions to share them with a team member—we'd love to hear from you.

Education and Fellowship

We're pleased with the continued momentum in this area. Bible studies, craft groups, and the Men's Club are all going strong. We welcome ideas for starting new groups as well—community involvement is always encouraged.

Community and Neighborhood Outreach

We recently invited local businesses to visit with us over light refreshments, and the response was encouraging. We're actively brainstorming ways to further connect with our neighbors and hope to build lasting relationships that strengthen our community presence.

Moving forward, we'll continue holding monthly meetings to explore new ideas. If you're interested in joining us or have suggestions, please reach out. We're optimistic that a new pastor will be joining us soon, and we're excited for the guidance and energy they'll bring to help us grow and thrive.

Warmly,

Kimberly Peavey, Sharon Lillie, Mike Frank

Counter Schedule for June and July

Offering counter for June 1 - Jim Lillie, June 8 - Bruce Sterling, June 15 - Jim Blincoe, June 22 - Ron Caron, June 29 - Jim Lillie, July 6 - Bruce Stirling.

If you are unable to count on your week, please make arrangements for someone else to count. If you are not able to come in until later in the week, you should call the office to make sure someone else has not done the task.

Wednesday Concert Series

Our concert series on Wednesdays has gone very well. A big thank you to all our volunteer ushers and an even bigger thank you to Pastor Bell for obtaining the grant and a huge thank you to Metro Council for providing it.



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

THE FRIENDLY PUZZLER

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

The remaining letters will reveal a hidden message.

Luke 8: 26-39

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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By Puzzlemaster Jay R. Lillie

June 2025

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