



From Pastor Bill

As I am writing this, I am sitting in the hospital room with Bev. At this point, we are rejoicing at her remarkable progress. Her new liver is making itself fully at home. And we say, miracles happen.

There is much that I think about as I accompany Bev in this endeavor. First, we both are bedazzled by human ingenuity and creativity. When Psalm eight claims that we humans have been made a little lower than the angels, it knows what it is talking about. While human beings can be remarkably narcissistic, we also can be amazingly creative and giving. Bev and I have experienced the creativity and the generosity. And we are so grateful.

For some odd reason, during this time with Bev I have been reflecting on the Apostles' Creed, not because I am its biggest fan (I am not!) but because its description of God in a three-fold way is making some sense to me at this point.

When we traveled to Ann Arbor, in the middle of last Tuesday night, we were haunted and amazed by the huge half orange moon that hung in the sky. We couldn't keep our eyes off of it. I think for both of us this incredible moon reminded us that we live in light of Something Big, something much larger than either one of us or our situations. Article one of the Creed speaks of this bigness as it points to God, "the father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

The bigness of life doesn't protect us, though, from suffering. We all must deal with its cruelty and its ability to inflict pain and injustice on us. Christianity doesn't run from this aspect of life, though. In fact, this aspect is at the center of our concern. While I personally think that Jesus is about more than just suffering and pain (something I believe the Apostles' Creed downplays), his suffering and the injustice that brought about his death are at the center of our collective memory of him. Both Bev and I have hated the suffering she has gone through, and sometimes it has often felt like abandonment. But somehow, we have known that even in the midst of suffering, God is present. That is the message of the life of Jesus, the focus of the second article of the Creed.

The third article of the Creed speaks of the Holy Spirit, the God encountered in connection—the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints. We, without a doubt, have experienced this God regularly. We have been blown away by the connection we have experienced in you all—this community of faith, our friends, our family, folks who hardly know us, and people who know us only because they know you. We can't imagine living life and enduring what we have been through without our encounter with the God who links us all together. There is power, courage, and resilience that flows not from our personal strength but from the strength that comes because we are in this

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From Pastoral Assistant Paula

I have just returned from the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Triennial Gathering on July 16 - 19 as I write this entry. It was an amazing experience seeing 1,100 Lutheran women assemble in Des Moines, Iowa. The amount of time and energy it takes to put this type of event together is mind-boggling. Kudos to Rev. Sara Olson-Smith who led us in Bible study each day. I will never view the story of Zacchaeus the same way again. The plenary speakers were: Rev. Martha Ambarangu who pastors a church in Tanzania and is currently working on her Ph.D. in New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski - Adjunct Faculty in Theology and Honors at Dominica University and Elise Seyfried, who speaks on behalf of women's mental health.

The plenary speakers provided the attendees with a glimpse into their lives through personal stories, their studied disciplines and as everyday women who seek to make a difference in a world often complicated by gender equality, racial diversity and misinterpretation of the scriptures. The theme for the gathering was, *I Am Worthy*. This theme was also woven into the messages from Bishop Amy Currant of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills who is the Secretary of the ELCA in Chicago. Both were powerful preachers! And with any experience like this, I find myself a bit overwhelmed and still processing and reflecting on everything that transpired during the course of four days. Stay tuned!

Yes, the gathering was great and as the result of a months long process, I am thrilled to announced that I was elected to an executive position on the WELCA Churchwide Board, representing women throughout the nation. I am grateful to serve in this capacity but what I *really* want to highlight today, are the people I encountered along the way to and from Des Moines. People who are worthy of being recognized but never get the recognition they deserve. People who made my trip and I'm sure yours, too, at times, possible. The people who push cleaning carts through crowded airports and stand in the corridor waiting for people to step aside so they can clean toilets and refresh paper towels and wipe residue off the sinks and countertops, most of which smile as they struggle to say excuse me in a language other than my own. Or the people who make beds, clean showers, refresh towels, hold doors, drive shuttles, run roadside stands, clean windows, prepare meals in hot kitchens, do dishes and mop floors. Most of "these" people are immigrants, All of "these" people are worthy, too.

As I encountered people in the service areas who made my trip comfortable, I wondered what their life is like. Do they worry on their way to work if they will be apprehended by ICE agents? Will their job pay enough to feed their family or pay bus fair? Do they ever get a moment of peace and have people serve them? I wish I could gather all the people together and let them know that they are worthy of God's love. They are worthy of our love. They are *us* - one human race helping one another.

The month of August is upon us and many of you will be traveling. I encourage you to be mindful of the people "behind" the scenes. To step aside for the cart to enter, look into their eyes and lavishly smile and say thank you...in any language you can!

Love and peace,
Paula



From Shar Music Coordinator

Save the Date Music Peeps!

The Summer picnic Hoop-de-doo for FLC musicians is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m.** this year. This gathering provides us with the opportunity to meet in a relaxing setting to reconnect with our fellow musicians before the 'busy-ness' of the Fall season begins.

As in the past, I will provide a main course, and you may each bring a dish to pass. Once again, Sande and Jim Borushko have agreed to host the event in their lovely backyard so an **RSVP** will be helpful. Please respond to Sande or me (Shar) in person or leave me a text message: (231) 750-6275. Let us know the number attending by **Sunday, August 16!**

Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, September 15. I look forward to getting an early start on the fellowship we already have when we make music together!

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together.

I believe that life is penetrated by Something Big, something that puts life in some kind of perspective. I believe that life's suffering, while very real, is not absent of the loving, compassionate presence of the Something Big. And I believe that Something Big is always being revealed in the energy that flows between all of us and links us all together.

These have been some of the hardest days of our lives. And we know that the struggles aren't over, but we move into the future encouraged. Life belongs to Something Bigger.



Women's Retreat September 18, 19, 20 Grace Adventures

Stay tuned for more details and sign-up sheets!

Confirmation

If you have a child or grandchild entering 6th grade, it's time to get them signed up for Confirmation classes! We will begin on Sunday, September 13th at 9:15 am. Please see Paula Dusseljee or Pastor Bill if you have any questions!!!

Parent meetings and acolyte schedules will be held prior to September 13th! Stay tuned!



Family Beach Day

August 2, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Calling all elementary-aged kids and their families -- and all our Mostly Millennials friends! Join us for a fun beach day on the Lake Michigan side of the bridge at Duck Lake State Park. Bring your favorite beach toys, and come enjoy a relaxing afternoon together!

Questions? Contact Lisa Ziemelis at lisa.ziemelis@gmail.com.

IMAGINE more

ELCA National Youth Gathering 2027

June 28, 2027—July 2, 2027

It's time to start thinking about the 2027 National Youth Gathering happening June 28-July 2, 2027 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Registration will be in October. This is an amazing experience to gather with thousands of other Lutheran youth from around the world to worship and serve together. We will likely need additional adults as chaperones as well depending on the number of youth that are going.

Join us for our first planning meeting for the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering. We will discuss registration date, cost, fundraising, transportation, etc. If you have any interest in attending the gathering, please plan to come to this meeting. Questions can be directed to Jeff or Laura Lucht.



Save the Date

Mark you calendars on September 13 for our Country Themed Church Picnic after the 10:30am Service. Wear them country duds and make yourself at home.

Hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages provided. Please bring a dish to pass:

A-H – cold dishes

I-R – hot dishes

S-Z – desserts

The Youth and Worship and Music Ministries will provide popcorn, cotton candy and games for everyone's pleasure. We will also have a bounce house provided by the Fellowship Ministry.

Any questions? Please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637.



Named 2026 Agency of the Year

Samaritas named 2026 Agency of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers – Michigan Chapter! The team at NASW-MI shared that Samaritas was selected thanks to a long history of service and, “when a federal Stop Work Order abruptly ended support to 431 recently resettled refugees in Michigan, Samaritas mobilized partners to ensure their clients received essential resettlement services. This response exemplified the profession’s commitment to human dignity.”

Former Interns and Synodical Bishop to Visit August 23

As a part of our celebration of Pastor Bill’s ministry among us, former intern pastors and our synodical bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas will be here on August 23 during worship. Join us as we welcome folks we haven’t seen for a while and our synodical leader. A special coffee hour will be held after worship on that day.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

sponsored by

First Lutheran Church

Walker Park 7:00 p.m.

August 5—Steeple Hill Band

August 12—Stolen Horses

August 19—West Side Soul Surfers

Hot dogs and refreshments will be available at each concert through the Fellowship and Youth Ministries of First Lutheran. Freewill donations are appreciated.

Bring a lawn chair, invite your friends, and enjoy an evening of great music, good food and community fellowship!

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Summer Concert Series from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. See sign-up sheets at the information stations or call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637.

VBS 2026 was a BLAST!



Official Acts



Baptism

Mary Wyhowski

Date of Baptism: 6/21/2026

Date of Birth: 08/20/1945

Sponsor: Roger LeMieux

Death

Bonnie Hoekstra Kleis

Date of Birth: 04/16/1942

Date of Death: 06/16/2026

Sunday

Weekly Scripture Readings

08/02

Isa 55:1-5, Ps145:8-9, 14-21
Rom 9:1-5, Matt14:13-21

08/09

1 Kings 19:9-18, Ps 85:8-13
Rom 10:5-15, Matt 14:22-33

08/16

Isa 56:1,6-8, Ps 67
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matt 15:[10-20] 21-28

08/23

Isa 51:1-6 Ps 138
Rom 12:1-8 29-32, Matt 16:13-20

08/30

Jer 15:15-21, Ps 26-1-8
Rom 12:9-21, Matt 16:16-28

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

*Chihuly Glass Exhibit
Meijer Gardens
September 24*

The Fellowship Ministry invites you and your friends to attend the Chihuly Glass Exhibit at Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on Thursday, September 24.

We plan on leaving the church at 10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. We will be having lunch at the Gardens and you may order off the menu in the Cafe on the first floor next to gift shop. Please see menu before you go. We can also bring our own lunch and eat in their lunchroom downstairs.

Group prices are \$19.00 for admission to the Garden and \$8.00 for a private tram tour through the garden; a total of \$27.00. There is also an indoor tour that that can be added separately for \$9.00 extra; you will pay for this at the Garden.

We have sign-up sheets with details at the Information Stations. Please put your name, phone number and the number of people n your party. Indicate if you would like lunch from the menu, or if you will be bringing your own. Also note if you would like to do the indoor tour and pay on your own when we arrive; this will help determine how much time we need at the Gardens.

We are taking the bus, or you may wish to drive yourself. Please note this on the sign-up sheet. There will be a minimum charge for the bus.

Hope to see you there. Any questions, call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637.



*Thanks to the
June/July Chimes assemblers:*

Dave and Theresa Buchan

First Lutheran Church,

We would like to thank Barb Pellerin, Burt Sukup, Susan Besteman Sandy Rodriguez, Amy Werling and Tammy Coulier for decorating a table for the fundraiser Treasured Tablesapes at First Lutheran Church on May 17. Their tables were beautiful, fun and festive. They all stepped right up to volunteer to decorate and host the tables. Everyone really enjoyed the food and entertainment as well as the silent auction items and 50/50 prizes.

Thanks also go to our church members Barb Bonifield, Dick Miller and Kim Fenbert for their wonderful silent auction items and monetary gifts they donated to help this fundraiser for the Nurse Honor Guard, Noah's Project and the FLC Youth.

Thank you to all the church members who had the pleasure of being guests at the tables and supporting these great charities. Without everyone's help we would not be able to raise funds to help our community.

The Treasured Tablesapes was a huge success with our sponsors and all the businesses who gave silent auction gift certificates and donated food, family and friends, our church family and our caterers Dave and Cindy Short of (DKK), Noah's Project and the Nurse Honor Guard who helped and donated in many ways. Thank you to Barb Bonifield and her set-up committee who came in Friday to make the FLC look so nice and help Cindy too. We could not have done this without all of you. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

First Lutheran is proud to be able to donate \$ 2,500.00 to the Nurse Honor Guard and \$2,500.00 to Noah's Project from this fundraiser.

Sincerely,
Deb Roest and Diane Kroll
Co-Chairpersons of First Lutheran Fellowship Ministry



Muskegon Area Nurse Honor Guard accepting fundraiser check from Deb Roest and Diane Kroll



Noah Project staff with Deb Roest and Diane Kroll accepting fundraiser check



Weekly Offerings

Week Ending 05/03/2026

General Fund: \$12,577.59
 Building Rent: \$1,363.00
 Building Enhancement: \$380.00
 Abiding Memorial (in memory of Bill Naymick): \$895.00
 Dollar-A-Day (carpet): \$812.90

Week Ending 05/10/2026

General Fund: \$7,700.84
 Building Rent: \$437.01
 Building Enhancement: \$135.00
 Abiding Memorial - \$1,180.00
 (in memory of Bill Naymick: \$170.00
 in memory of Scott Injerd: \$1,010.00)
 Dollar-A-Day: (carpet): \$120.85
 Noisy Offering: (Building Repairs): \$285.40

Week Ending 05/17/2026

General Fund: \$7,127.19
 Building Rent: \$302.00
 Building Enhancement: \$160.00
 Noisy Offering: (Samaritas New Americans Kits): \$224.53

Week Ending 05/24/2026

General Fund: \$4,398.18
 Building Rent: \$161.00
 Building Enhancement: \$95.00
 Noisy Offering: (Samaritas New Americans Kits): \$164.87
 Abiding Memorial: (in memory of Bill Naymick): \$100.00

Week Ending 05/31/2026

General Fund: \$10,673.84
 Building Rent: \$76.00
 Building Enhancement: \$320.00
 Noisy Offering (Samaritas New Americans Kits) \$249.56
 Abiding Memorial: (in memory of Bonnie Nolan): \$100.00

Week Ending 06/07/2026

General Fund: \$15,832.69
 Building Rent: \$1,158.00
 Building Enhancement: \$190.00
 Dollar-A-Day: (carpeting): \$10,234.00

Week Ending 06/14/2026

General Fund: \$6,225.19
 Building Rent: \$254.00
 Building Enhancement: \$65.00
 Noisy Offering (for Building Repairs): \$233.76
 Abiding Memorial (in memory of Bill Naymick): \$400.00

Week Ending 06/21/2026

General Fund: \$6,955.00
 Building Rent: \$885.16
 Building Enhancement: \$325.00
 Noisy Offering (Kids' Food Basket): \$142.28

Week Ending 06/28/2026

General Fund: \$5,017.18
 Building Rent: \$423.00
 Building Enhancement: \$245.00
 Noisy Offering (Kids' Food Basket): \$145.95
 Abiding Memorial (in memory of Bonnie Kleis): \$15.00

August Birthdays

2	Erik Trulsen Betty Crenno	14	Tyler Lindell	28	Ryan Camp Kristina Gallo
3	Susan Aker	15	Kaitlin Rich Matthew Badley Jen Giles	29	Carter Pruitt Haley Pruitt
4	Carroll Loughrige Emily Traub Bonnie Gouine	16	Corky Gust	31	Sabina Freeman Kelley Peel
5	Denise Studeman	17	Ethan Lucht Andrea Nisja		
6	Mary Schoonover	18	David Harrell		
7	David Anderson Brady Wheeler	19	William Gallo Haile Will		
8	Jeff Lindell	22	Kelly Smith		
9	Michele Rogers	24	Cameron Moore		
11	Cindi Archer-Mitchell	25	Logan Montgomery		
12	Dani Zizak Noah Ziemelis	27	George Bramer		



Keepers

Evelyn Borreson

60 Viridian Drive/Harbor Terrace
Apt 514
Muskegon, MI 49440

Gerald and Betty Crenno

1740 Village Dr Apt 318
Village at the Oaks
Muskegon, MI 49442-4288

Theresa Hansen

Robbinswood-Northcrest Campus
2650 Ruddiman Dr
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Jordis Hutchins

2734 Patricia Drive
Muskegon, MI 49445

Norma Kanaar

2327 Aurora Pond Dr SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

Tom Mullinnex

2284 Riverwood Dr
Twin Lake, MI 49457-8868

Cheryl Parmeter

Caroline Pendell

Hillcrest Nursing Ctr. Rm 18a
695 Mitzi St
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Jerry Tyler

1901 Duck Lake Rd
Whitehall, MI 49461-9719

Dave Walborn

18552 W Spring Lake Rd
Spring Lake, MI 49456



First Lutheran Church

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
** Dollar-A-Day ** 2 10:00AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 11:30AM-2027 Nat'l Gathering Meeting 1:00PM-Family Beach Day-Duck Lake Pk! 7:00PM-AA Meeting	3 4:30PM-P.E.O. Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	4 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	5 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 7:00PM-Concert Series—Steeple Hill Band	6 10:00AM-Summer Meal Distribution 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 3:00PM-Milwaukee Clipper Mtg 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:00PM-Northside Parade	7 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8 8:30AM-Care Team Meeting
9 10:00AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10 12:00PM-Muskegon Area Nurse Honorguard 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Mtg 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	11 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st and 2nd Quilt Bee 3:30PM-Lion's Officer's Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	12 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 7:00PM-Concert Series—Stolen Horses Band	13 10:00AM-Summer Meal Distribution 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	14 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 7:00PM-AA Meeting	15 Chimes Deadline
16 10:00AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 1:00PM-Triathlon 4:00PM-Unraveled! Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	17 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	18 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 6:00PM-Choir Party (Borushko's home) 6:00PM-Lion's Club 8:00PM-Lion's Club Board Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	19 8:00AM-PEO Mahjong Tournament 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 7:00PM-Concert Series—West Side Soul Surfers	20 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 4:00PM-Outreach Ministry Mtg 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	21 6:00PM-Crafty Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	22 12:00PM-Pastor Bill- Intern Event
23 10:00AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 11:00AM-Interns Visit 6:00PM-Taize' Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	24 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	25 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30PM-Compline	26 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting	27 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	28 7:00PM-AA Meeting	29
30 10:00AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	31 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming					