



From Pastor Bill

My upcoming retirement on January 10 is certainly on my mind daily. Some of that cognitive awareness has to do with practical matters: securing my retirement income, cleaning out the house and the office, thinking about the things that I do that others will have to do in the future. But mostly, I think about how much I will miss what I do and more importantly, how much I will miss you all. This has been my life for 30 years, and it's hard to imagine life without the routine and without you.

As I ponder my departure, I feel strongly about encouraging you all to hang in there and to step up to take on responsibilities in the life of the congregation. The church always belongs to the Holy Spirit and not to one individual. Leaders are essential for all communities, but they are not the community. Yes, I cast a big shadow over the life of this congregation, but ultimately, this congregation is about Jesus and following him.

I suspect that one of the gifts I have offered to this congregation is energy. I am known for the energy I live out of and exude. I realize that with my departure that energy will no longer be available. But that doesn't mean energy isn't available. This congregation has an enormous amount of energy that is so life-giving. I urge you to tap into that energy and contribute toward it. Don't stay at a distance. Don't withdraw. Don't stop giving. In fact, I would urge you to do just the opposite. Find ways to give. Become more connected to people. Your involvement will help create an energy that will help this congregation move into a healthy future.

First has been a healthy congregation for a long time. Past leaders like Gary Hansen and Tom Schutt built a good foundation upon which we could establish a vital community under my leadership.

Transitions definitely challenge the lives of congregations. But I am convinced that you all are very capable of managing the challenge. If you want to give me a gift as I retire, make it the gift of a deep commitment to furthering the work that we are doing here, participating deeply in the great energy of our life together that ultimately flows from the Holy Spirit.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

Several years ago, Emma and I attended a leadership conference hosted by our synod. The keynote speaker, Pastor Jake Mulder, was a graduate from Fuller Seminary and wrote the book, "Growing Young." (I know, wouldn't that be something?) As I recall, one of the primary focal points from the presentation was the importance of *story* and how *story* relates to the church now and how it impacts the church of the future. Mulder discussed what sharing the "big story" of Jesus looks like in relation to our young people of today. He broke it down into three distinct categories: *Your Story*, *Their Story*, and *Our Story*.

The first part of his message focused on how we share our faith journey with young people in our church because let's face it, Christianity can be awkward at times even when the *story* is compelling. But under-telling the story of God's grace and love can leave some wide open spaces, sometimes filled with a toxic view of faith. The importance of authentic honesty, especially when we often live in a world as it shouldn't be, is vital to bridging the generational gap, building healthy relationships and allowing for doubt to be discussed.

The second aspect of *story* focused on *their story* - the kids' story. What's going on in the lives of today's young people? They live in a world of Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter (Z), BeReal, AI generated pictures and who knows what will pop up tomorrow. I have worked with youth most of my life and know for a fact that kids often feel pressured by parents' expectations, judged by older generations and flanked with questions of identity, belonging and purpose. In other words, young people consistently ask themselves: *Who am I? Where do I fit? What difference do I make?* These are difficult coming-of-age questions and if the story we invite kids into is not addressing these, we may need to look at how we tell the story.

Lastly, the conversation led to *our story*. A story which fuels a warm community and is radically focused on relational discipleship and incarnational invitation. A story which invites all of us to come alongside young people with gentle persistence and show up in their lives saying, "Tell me more..." Today's generation is more anxious, adaptive and diverse than ever. I believe that "growing young" for many of us involves creating opportunities to let kids know they belong to the *big story* of Jesus' death and resurrection. They belong to a faith community who cares about them well beyond graduation. They belong in a world where authentic relationships are the foundation for who we are all created to be. Young people need the body of Christ - and vice versa.

We at First Lutheran care deeply for our young people and it shows. Supporting mission trips, mentoring confirmation students, teaching Faith Formation classes, Confirmation classes and attending their extra-curricular activities are just a few ways we tangibly show our love and support. *Our story* is the big story of God's grace. Just think what that looks like to the young people today!

With a grateful heart,
Paula

Confirmation

We are off to a great start in our newly formatted confirmation classes! Our class this year consists of six students across three years of classes. We are looking forward to a great year of learning, growing and serving as a faith community.

Our students come from four different school systems so building community in the initial weeks of classes is vital in order for kids to feel comfortable in sharing.

Please keep Nate Johnston, Paula, and these kids in your prayers as we grow in the grace and knowledge of God's amazing love!



Has your child moved into a new phase of life following high school? We would love to connect with them!

If you have a college-aged student attending a college, university, trade school or working, we would love their addresses so we can send them a card! The transitions after high school can be daunting and we want our young adults to know their family at First Lutheran is thinking and praying for them!

Please contact Paula if you have any questions! Have a little time on your hands? Love to write cards and notes? We need you!!! We need people willing to correspond with our kids! **Again, contact Paula if you are willing to serve in this area.** paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

Youth Events



GATHERING YOUTH GRADES 6-12

CHARGE

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2026 | GREAT WOLF LODGE | TRAVERSE CITY

Youth Hosting Wednesday Night Dinner

The youth going to the National Gathering are hosting Wednesday night dinner on October 7th to raise money for the trip. Please join us!

November 6-8
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City

A high-energy faith experience for students in grades 6–12 to grow in faith, build community, and develop leadership while enjoying the fun of Great Wolf Lodge. \$95/person

There will be a Charge Planning Meeting on October 4th after worship when we will plan to collect registration information and registration fee.

Please Note!

Men's and Women's Breakfast Group will meet on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. on October 17th!

Everyone is welcome!!!



You Don't Want to Miss This!

Bill-ieve it Or Not,
it **IS** All About *You*!

Variety Show



WHEN?
Friday,
October 9th



TIME:
6:00
p.m.



WHERE?
First Lutheran
Church



**PRICE IS
FREE!**



Look for sign-up sheets at either information station if you would like to attend. There will also be sign-ups asking for folks to bring hors d'oeuvres and desserts.



This show is going to be retrospective of
Pastor Bill's years here at First Lutheran,
including his internship.

The celebration will be "All About Bill"!



First Lutheran Church

1206 Whitehall Road
Muskegon, MI. 49445



231-744-1522



Halloween Costume Party

Dress up in your favorite costume at the Wednesday Night Dinner on October 28. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Costume Parade and prizes to follow. Free will offering will be used to support church members in need and buy kitchen supplies. Entertainment will be provided by Burnished Brass.

Menu includes:

Severed Chicken Breast
Monster Chicken Nuggets
Baked Potato Brains
Franken Tots
Corn Casualties
Devilish Desserts

We are asking for donations for Halloween desserts.
Please sign up at the Information Stations.

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



SUPPORT

Benefit Scheduled

We are having a benefit for church member, Julie Traver, to help defray costs for a recent intensive heart surgery, inpatient treatment, medical costs and bills. The benefit will be November 8 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church. We will be serving a Spaghetti Dinner which includes salad, garlic bread, drink, and dessert.

Suggested donation is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids ages 5 to 10; under 4 are free. To-go orders will be available.

We will need all types of volunteers for this event and can use your help in these areas: set up, servers, clean up, and cooking the day before and the day of the event. We will also need Silent Auction and Bake Sale helpers on the day of the event. Please see or call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 to sign up.

We will need volunteers to donate items for the Silent Auction. Call Evie DiPiazza to donate and with any questions at 231-329-2544.

For the Bake Sale, donations of different types of bake goods are needed, especially cookies, brownies, breads, pies, Rice Krispie treats, etc. Please call Lisa Ferski at 231-830 4499 for information including packaging specifics.

Thank you for your consideration.
Deb Roest



Kids' Food Basket

Help Needed!

Ten First Lutheran Members are needed to volunteer 1 1/2 hours at Kids Food Basket monthly on a specific day; the day will be determined after speaking with the leader at Kids Food Basket. They have plenty of sit-down positions for those who can't stand. Duties would include preparing snack bags and packing lunches.

Contact Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 for sign-up opportunities.



Breakfast Benefit:

**Dar Al-Kalima Lutheran School
October 11 after worship service**

Serving Debby Jaquith's Famous French
Toast with sausage, fruit and lots of toppings!

If you have any questions or would like to consider a donation or donation match, please contact:
Paula Dusseljee at: paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org or 231-744-1522.



A Story to Tell

A Note from the Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship, at its core, is about love. It is one of the primary ways that we live out Jesus' commandment to love God and our neighbor with our whole hearts. This October, you will have the opportunity to hear some impactful stories of what that love looks like in our community. We will ask you to consider how God is calling you to share what has been entrusted to your care, by making a financial commitment to support First Lutheran in 2027.

Why do we ask for commitments?

- ◆ It helps our Council and staff to plan for the coming year. Just as we as individuals need to know how much money we will have to spend, and whether we can afford to take a trip or make a purchase, our leaders need to know how much money will be available for our ministries, staffing, and building expenses.
- ◆ Writing down a goal or commitment provides the opportunity to include your giving as part of your (or your family's) budget
- ◆ Making a formal commitment connects you more deeply to our community. We are all part of the shared story of First Lutheran.

No matter the amount, your commitment is important, and we are thankful for your gifts – they help us to share God's love with our neighbors.



*Thanks to the
September Chimes assemblers:*

Dave and Theresa Buchan



Thank you to all the church committees and ministries who helped make the picnic a huge success. Thank you to the grillers Mark Thogerson, Kent Johnson and Andy Luther; the burgers and hot dogs were very tasty. Thank you to Barb Bonifield for supplying all the tablecloths, decorations, paper supplies and beverages her team set up.

Thank you to the Youth Group and Worship and Music Ministries for helping with all the games and dishing up ice cream and popcorn. Thank you to Norm's Ice Cream for supplying the ice cream and to Wesco for providing the popcorn.

Thank you to Outreach and Congregational Care Ministries for their work on all the clean up and to Jim Sutton for all the dishwashing. It really does take a village to help make an event to great.

Thank you, too, to everyone who joined in on all the fun.

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



Weekly Offerings

Week ending 08-02-2026:

General Fund: \$5,885.84
Building Rent: \$151.00
Building Enhancement Fund: \$190.00
Dollar-a-Day (carpet): \$459.52

Week ending 08-09-2026:

General Fund: \$8,827.84
Building Rent: \$1,525.00
Building Enhancement: \$165.00
Dollar-a-Day (carpet): \$180.85
Noisy Offering: (for building maintenance & repairs): \$204.89

Week ending 08-16-2026:

General Fund: \$5,199.19
Building Rent: \$319.00
Building Enhancement: \$160.00
Dollar-a-Day (carpet): \$30.00
Noisy Offering: (for Dar Al Kalima School in Bethlehem): \$160.64

Week ending 08-23-2026:

General Fund: \$7,408.51
Building Rent: \$112.00
Building Enhancement: \$235.00
Noisy Offering: (for Dar Al Kalima): \$237.40

Week ending 08-30-2026:

General Fund: \$3,721.51
Building Rent: \$149.00
Building Enhancement: \$185.00
Noisy Offering (for Dar Al Kalima): \$160.98



October Birthdays

1	James Sutton Aubrey Morrow Alice Workman Patrick Hansen	10	Jamie Neel Janet Naymick Jacob Uetricht	19	Linda Dawson Mimi Irmscher Matthew Shank Grace Werling
2	Alicia Shank Maureen Preston	11	Jeanne Beardsley Larry Hewitt	20	Alexis Roup
3	August Frietsch	12	Dawson Wheeler Travis Wilson Carol Chu	22	Marilyn Eyestone Braden (Brady) Lindell Jordan Pruitt Kurt Schlager
4	Tim Rodriguez	13	Kolten Plekes Rylee Cooke Lorie White Karen Montgomery	23	Amy Morris-Jones Julie Traver
5	Britta Portenga Sadie Thomas	14	Jesse Cooke Jerry Mattson Donn Werling	24	Alyssa Glavich Matt Henry
6	Evelyn Borreson Tom Larson Lanette McCleary Tammy Dahlstrom Robert / Burt Sukup	15	Glenda Borowski Addi Schmitz	26	Larry Bringedahl
7	Rileigh Schmitz Gloria Peterson	16	Larry Holstrom John Arter	27	Marcella Sutton Melissa Rich
8	Marilyn Bradfield	17	Dick Miller	28	Lewis Pluger
9	Jeff Thomas	18	Greg Shunta	29	Sam Udell Amy Hewitt Amy Werling Ruth Basch Joseph Dick

Chimes Articles

Articles and information for the Chimes should be submitted via email to Rhonda Smith at rhondak33@comcast.net no later than the **15th of the month**.

Official Acts



Deaths

Freida "Fritzie" Arnson

Date of Birth: 04-01-1926

Date of Death: 07-09-2026

Michael John Hanophy

Date of Birth: 05-10-1949

Date of Death: 09-11-2026

Sunday

Weekly Scripture Readings

10/4

Isa 5:1-7, Ps 80:7-15
Phil 3:4b-14, Matt 21:33-46

10/11

Isa 25:1-9, Ps 23
Phil 4:1-9, Matt 22:1-14

10/18

Isa 45:1-7, Ps 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thess 1:1-10, Matt 22:15-22

10/25

Jer 31:31-34, Ps 46
Rom 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

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

Fremont, MI 49412

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

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 3:00PM-Milwaukee Clipper Mtg 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 4:00PM-Outreach Ministry Meeting 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	2 7:00PM-AA Meeting	3 11:00AM-Memorial Service Mike Hanophy
** Dollar-A-Day ** 4 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 9:15AM-Youth Choir 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 4:00PM-Unraveled! Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	5 12:00PM-Quilt Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Bd Mtg 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	6 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 12:00PM-MARSP Mtg 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	7 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Dinner 6:10PM-New Members' Class 6:10PM-Bible Study	8 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 6:00PM-Rental 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	9 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 6:00PM-"Bill-ieve It or Not, It's All About You" 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10 8:30AM-Care Team Meeting
11 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 9:15AM-Youth Choir 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12 12:00PM-Muskegon Area Nurse Honorguard 12:00PM-Quilt Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	13 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st and 2nd Quilt Bee 4:30PM-Lion's Officers' Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	14 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Sharing Hope After Loss Group 5:30PM-Wed Dinner 6:10PM-New Members' Class 6:10PM-Bible Study	15 Chimes Deadline 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	16 6:00PM-Crafty Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	17 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast
18 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 9:15AM-Youth Choir 10:00AM-Ministry Fair 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 4:00PM-Unraveled! Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	19 12:00PM-Quilt Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	20 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 6:00PM-Lions Club 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 8:00PM-Lion's Club Board Mtg 9:00PM-Compline	21 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-ABC's of Cooking Class 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Dinner 6:10PM-New Members' Class 6:10PM-Bible Study	22 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 6:00PM-Rental 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	23 2:00PM-Muskegon Nurse Honor Guard Table Setup 7:00PM-AA Meeting	24 8:00AM-Muskegon Nurse Honor Guard 2:00PM-Muskegon Nurse Honor Guard
25 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 9:15AM-Youth Choir 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 12:00PM-New Members Potluck 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 6:00PM-Taize' Worship Service 7:00PM-AA Meeting	26 12:00PM-Quilt Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	27 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 9:00PM-Compline	28 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-ABC's of Cooking Class 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Dinner/ Costume Party	29 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	30 7:00PM-AA Meeting	31 9:00AM-Worship & Music Meeting