



September 2026
#798

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Bill

When I established my retirement date (January 11, 2027), I thought it was a time in the far-off future. As we enter the fall, I now experience the far-off future as drawing very near. It will be very difficult for me to say goodbye to this work and to the relationship that we have had as pastor and people. I want to make sure that we can take advantage of the time that we have left.

Clearly, some of my favorite memories of my tenure at First include those associated with education. I am a big fan of adult Christian education and am convinced that it is one of the keys for vital church life. I know that is true here at First. So much good has occurred because we have studied together. Many have grown in Christian maturity because we have explored the deeper things. Many have left behind Biblical literalism because we did faithful study of our sacred texts and our tradition.

Beginning on September 13, I will start an adult class on the subject of the world's religions. Although I have led this kind of study several times before, I felt it is important at this time in our nation's and state's histories that we explore the varieties of ways that the world tries to make sense of life lived in light of Something Bigger, Something Deeper. Clearly, there are many misunderstandings of other religions these days, especially Islam. I want to help guide us toward a better understanding of other traditions so that we can make good decisions in terms of our common life.

I invite you to join me on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. as we explore the world's religions, perhaps meet some new friends who are a part of these religions, and grow in love more fully with each other and with God.

I personally think that teaching adults is one of my best gifts. I urge you not to miss this particular opportunity and any other educational experience that we host here at First. Our Thursday Bible study at noon and our Wednesday study at 6:10 p.m. also are great times to experience growth in understanding and wisdom.

These fall educational experiences will be some of the last that I will be able to offer as your pastor. Make my joy complete by participating in as many as you are able.



From Pastoral Assistant Paula

My entry this month is a spotlight on some of our youth. Fall is when we gather again in classes, youth activities and learning more about worship participation. I am a firm believer that the church has a wonderful opportunity to connect people across generations. It's important we listen to our kids, tell stories and share our faith. First Lutheran is blessed to have so many young people, middle people and "older" - not "old" - people among us. It is my hope and prayer that this year we, as a congregation, are purposeful to connect to one another in ways that may make us a bit uncomfortable at times, but nonetheless, help us grow as Christians and serve a world in need of generational love! So enjoy the SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH!

Last month I met with three of our youth from First Lutheran: Emily, Elizabeth and Ethan Lucht. All three of the siblings have been active members in the local 4-H organization for many years. Elizabeth now serves as president of their chapter. These kids put their "head, heart, hands and health" into raising animals, preparing food, learning archery, shooting skills and serving the community at large. I am incredibly proud of these kids and their dedication to 4-H. Here is a snippet of my conversation with each of the kids:



"Ethan, what are three highlights for you as a member of 4-H?"

(Ethan) "I like meeting people, spending time with my friends in 4-H and caring for the animals every day from March, which is when you purchase your animal, until the County Fair in July." Ethan added that you will often make your money back (they purchase their own animals) when your animal is purchased for breeding and/or meat. This year Ethan cared for a pig and found out that pigs are full of emotion, i.e., joy, sadness. Ethan also earned a 3rd place in Jr. Team Showmanship.

"Elizabeth, how would you describe your experience in 4-H?"

(Elizabeth) "I like the fact that it is a self-taught experience. There are people to guide you but the hands-on experience with your animals is where you learn. You know, 'You live, you learn.' My pig this year, Winnie the Pooh, took 5th in the heavy weight market category and was sold for \$1,000 - which will help fund my new animal in the spring. My lamb was awarded Reserve Champion Market Lamb. I also enjoy mentoring little kids and help them develop a passion for the 'full circle of life' when you participate in 4-H."



"Emily, what is it like to participate in the County Fair in July?"

(Emily) "It's a lot of work to transport your animals to the fairgrounds, get set up and help them become familiar with their new surroundings. We spend so much time feeding, grooming, exercising and monitoring our animals for five months and then it's finally time to show your animal. But by now, they are more than just an animal; you have developed a relationship with them and they know your voice. Which is why the last day of the fair is the hardest, the day you say goodbye. This year my lamb was the Grand Champion Market



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From Shar Music Coordinator

From the *Upper Music Room!*

Greetings! As you may have noticed, we now have TWO music rooms at First! 'Shar World' continues to be located at the top of the half-stairway at the end of the office area/south entrance. Lisa's 'kid-friendly' room is located near the alcove area/stairway to the real Upper room. Please feel free to visit any time!

Lisa Ziemelis and I have been embracing our new partnership! The synergy we create is invigorating and rife with creative opportunities. We would LOVE to see the musical possibilities span all generations! We welcome ideas and suggestions.

The 'musical' life of First Lutheran gets into full swing again on September 13. Band and Choir Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, the 15th. Hand bell rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 20 after the church service. ALL are welcome! Please see Shar or Lisa about joining the music ministry.



Women's Retreat September 18-20

Don't forget to get your reservation in for the 2026 Women's Retreat:

Borderlands: Faith in the Threshold

When: September 18 - 20

Where: Grace Adventures in Mears, MI

See Paula if you have any questions
paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

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Lamb!"

All three of the kids shared this sentiment: "It's hard to say goodbye. And it's sad. You work hard, you're handed a trophy and then you lead your animal to slaughter. There are market animals and breeding stocks. But either way, it's hard to say goodbye. But then you start to think about next spring and you wonder what type of animal you will purchase and that's what keeps you going."

I learned so much about how Ethan, Emily and Elizabeth participate in 4-H and I encourage you to dialogue with them and learn more about their hard work and dedication. They are all good bakers, too!

In Peace,
Paula



Confirmation

We are excited to begin a new year of instruction with our 6-8 grade students. Nate Johnston and Paula are eager to gather our group, build relationships, and teach the kids the foundational principles of what it means to be a Lutheran and how we foster our faith and grow in a diverse world!

Note: Parent information meetings were held on August 30 & 31. If you were unable to attend either one of these meetings, please see Paula ASAP and pick up your Parent Packet!!!

Confirmation classes begin **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m. in the gallery.**



**IMAGINE
more**

ELCA National Youth Gathering 2027
June 28, 2027—July 2, 2027

There will be a planning meeting on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Please join us.



Church Picnic September 13

Join us on September 13 for our Country Themed Church Picnic after the 10:30 a.m. service. Wear them country duds and make yourself at home.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Last names which begin with:

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.



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.



S U P P O R T

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 expenses 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: setting up, serving, cleaning 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



Ushers, sacristy, lector and communion volunteers are needed for worship services. Please contact Laura Lucht if interested.

The next schedule will begin in October.

Donations Needed!

Fellowship and Youth Ministries are looking for unwanted or new items which include

- ★ (4) 6 foot fold-up tables
- ★ 6 large coolers
- ★ 4 smaller coolers that can fit a 12 pack of pop and ice
- ★ a flat stone grill.

If anyone has any of these items and would like to donate, please see or call Deb Roest 231-557-4637 or Jeff Lucht.

Thank you.



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.

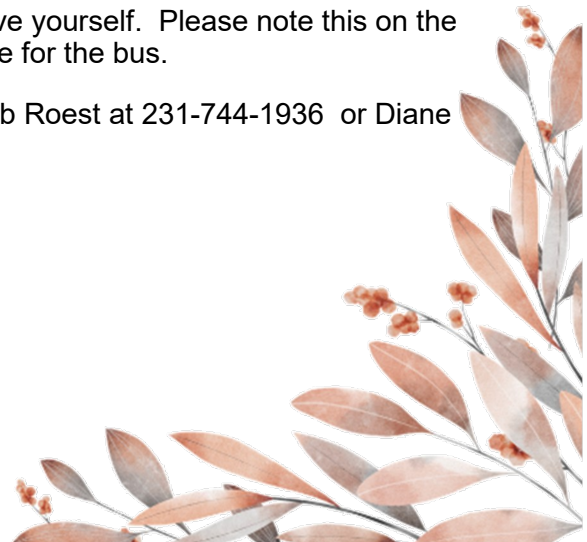
We plan on leaving the church at 10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. We will be having lunch at the Gardens and you may order off the menu in the Cafe on the first floor next to gift shop. Please see menu before you go. We can also bring our own lunch and eat in their lunchroom downstairs.

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 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 in 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
August Chimes assemblers:*

Dave and Theresa Buchan

New Men's Group

All men are invited to join us for breakfast and group formation on Saturday, September 19 at 8:00am. Our main goal of this men's group is to provide support for our youth to attend the National Gathering of Youth of the ELCA and kids going to church camp. Our gatherings will have a spiritual component, sometimes a speaker about community events, and planning a fund raiser for our youth goals. Men with a purpose: Supporting our Youth and their spiritual development. For questions or concerns, call Pat Clifford (616-301-5536)



Fall Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, September 13!

9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Classes
9:15 a.m.	Faith Formation
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service



Official Acts



Death

Cheryl Parmeter

Date of Birth: 07/31/1944

Date of Death: 08/04/2026

Weekly Offerings

Week ending 07-05-2026

General Fund: \$12,594.84

Building Rent: \$101.00

Building Enhancement Fund: \$95.00

Dollar-a-Day (new carpet): \$1,256.60

Week ending 07-12-2026

General Fund: \$7,818.84

Building Rent: \$204.00

Building Enhancement Fund: \$220.00

Dollar-a-Day (new carpet): \$623.00

Noisy Offering: (building repairs/maintenance): \$226.19

Week ending 07-19-2026

General Fund: \$8,557.19

Building Rent: \$321.00

Building Enhancement Fund: \$125.00

Dollar-a-Day (new carpet): \$30.00

Noisy Offering (Love, Inc.): \$145.26

Week ending 07-27-2026

General Fund: \$5,030.18

Building Rent: \$187.00

Building Enhancement: \$125.00

Noisy Offering (Love, Inc.): \$207.24

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Weekly Scripture Readings</i>
09/06	Ezek 33:7-11, Ps 119:33-40 Rom 13:8-14, Matt 18:15-20
09/13	Gen 50:15-21, Ps 103:[1-7] 8-13 Rom 14:1-12, Matt 18:21-35
09/20	Jonah 33:10-4:11, Ps 145:1-8 Phil 1:21-30, Matt 20:1-16
09/27	Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Ps 25:1-9 Phil 2:1-13, Matt 21:23-32

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.**

September Birthdays

1	Jeff Lucht Lorey Montgomery	12	Patricia Shafer	22	Beverly Uetrict Gerald Crenno Kaleb Kitchka
2	Karl Ziemelis Chris Corbett	13	Erin Schmitz	23	Deborah Roest Mike Strait
3	Jacob Frietsch Penny Hayne	14	Carolyn Ness	25	Amia Mackay
5	LouAnn Hansen	15	Renee Petersen Mary Beth Liskey	26	Gail Taggart
6	Chloe O'Connor	17	Nancy Burton Matthew Cregg	28	Mylie Neel
8	Roland Crummel Kaitlyn Sutton Andy Will Roger LeMieux Sarah Strong	18	Ronald Hansen Sylvia Koski	28	Richard Sahlhoff
9	Einar Ness Debra Shields	19	Merritt Archer Lana Cassidy Sarah Matlage Audrey Matlage	30	Marcy Joy
11	Jeri Staudacher Cama Shunta Nancy Witt-Johnson	21	Charles Joy Dianna Radel Nancy Miller-Corbett Kim Westerholm		



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

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

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 12:00PM-MARSP Mtg 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting	12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 3:00PM-Milwaukee Clipper Mtg 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	7:00PM-AA Meeting	
** Dollar-A-Day ** 10:00AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	**Labor Day** Office Closed 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting	9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st and 2nd Quilt Bee 4:30PM-Lion's Officer's Meeting 6:00PM-Grief Share 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Mtg	12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 6:00PM-Rental 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	4:00PM-Lion's Club—Counting 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 7:00PM-AA Meeting	10:00AM-Lion's Club-Counting
9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 12:00PM-Church Picnic 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Muskegon Area Nurse Honorguard 12:00PM-Quilt Group 4:30PM-P.E.O. Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline Chimes Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30PM-Muskegon County Garden Club 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 7:30PM-Band 8:00PM-Lion's Club Board Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting	12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	6:00PM-Crafty Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8:00AM-Men's Group
9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 9:15AM-Kids' Music 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 12:00PM-Bells 4:00PM-Unraveled! 6:30PM-National Gathering Meeting 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12:00PM-Quilt Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting	10:00PM-Chihuly Glass Exhibit Outing 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship 6:00PM-Rental 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	7:00PM-AA Meeting	9:00AM-Rental
Women's Retreat					Women's Retreat	
9:15AM-Confirmation 9:15AM-Faith Formation 9:15AM-Kids' Music 10:30AM-In-Person/ On-Line Worship 6:00PM-Taize' Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11:30PM- Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilt Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 6:00PM-Grief Share 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:10PM-New Members' Class			