

# First Lutheran Church

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## Upcoming Events

**Summer Worship will continue: Divine Worship- 9:30AM Bible Class beginning 15 minutes following worship.**

**National Youth Gathering:**

## From the Vacancy Pastor

"My life is for the birds," someone said to me recently, bemoaning one personal crisis after another with no prognosis for improvement in the foreseeable future. "My life is for the birds!" As if birds hold little worth. To be sure, we tend to view birds on the "cheap side" of things. After all, in the days of Jesus, two sparrows would be purchased for a penny (Matt. 10:29), and the real bargain was five sparrows for two pennies (Luke 12:6). Yet, from God's way of valuing, birds were precious. Says Jesus, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God." And the point of Jesus? Simply this: If God is keeping track of sparrows, you better believe He's keeping track of you—you and I are even more precious in His sight! "Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "You are worth more than many sparrows." God values us in the love He has for us, love He has shown to us and given to us in His beloved Son, Jesus. By His death and resurrection for us, Jesus took away from us all that could finally devalue and empty us, and He filled us with the worth of being children of the heavenly Father. Even through those days that twist us into knots with hurt and loss, Jesus is God's in-the-flesh promise that He will never forget us—that He values us as dear and precious children whom He holds and carries and cares for in faithful, unchanging love. Because God so values us, our life—even in the darkest and most trying days—can be like the birds. Looking skyward one day, Jesus caught sight of several birds lifted and carried upon the breezes of the Father's good pleasure. "Consider the birds of the air," said Jesus. "They do not sow or reap or store away into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Therefore do not worry about your life..." (Matt. 6:25-34). So my brother and sister in Christ: when you come upon times and situations where you feel like your life may be of little value and worth, look skyward. Catch sight of those winged creatures and recall how precious in God's sight they are—and even more so, you! And, considering them, thank God that your life is like the birds, especially

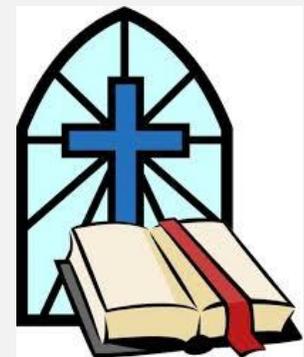
## Monthly Readings:

July 7<sup>th</sup>: Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18; Luke 10:1-20

July 14<sup>th</sup>: Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 21<sup>st</sup>: Genesis 18:1-14; Colossians 1:1-21; Luke 10:38-42

July 28<sup>th</sup>: Genesis 18:17-33; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11: 1-13



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during those times when it seems little more than “for the birds.” The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Pastor Rockemann

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## Weekly Happenings

Sunday: Divine Worship 9:30AM Bible Class following worship service

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays: Quilting 9:30 AM (Meeting Room)

## Prayer Requests

Prayer for Schools and Students

Lord, hear us as we pray: for all schools and those who teach and those who learn,

For all the schools of the Church, For all the colleges and seminaries of the Church,

For all the teachers and students of the Word, For all missionaries and evangelists,

For teachers and students: in particular our those who have attended, are attending and will attend First Lutheran School and ECE.

*Serving Our Country:* Brett Anthonijs, Robert Boatman, Isaac Davis, Chad Kaiser, Adam Smith, Jeff Stone, Neil Whitehead, William Smolter

*Members:* Brion Bissell (needs kidney) Eric Lintz, Margot Bridges (homebound) Carl Testerman (stroke) Gene Franklin, the Varner family, Don & Carolyn Weaver, Karla Hood, Kris Weaver, Mike & Mary Jones Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound) Don & Sandy Linde, Sharon Mueller, Marilyn Wing (homebound) Douglas Rodenbeck(transition to being homebound) Jim and Rosa Beck,

*Non Members:* Jonathan Campbell (Diane Baum's co-worker's brother) fighting infection after an appendectomy to remove his ruptured appendix, Steven Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend), Bill Flynn (Sharon Mueller's brother), whose cancer has returned Ken Hamilton (father of Anna Marie Hamilton, UT student from Alabama) Judy Hamrick (Shirley Watson's neighbor) with a tumor that is growing, JoAnn Harbaugh (Kathleen Holliday's mother) Cheryl Hooks (Diane Baum's friend)

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## Board Happenings

**7/2 - Stewardship 7PM**

**7/9- Elder's Meeting 7PM**

**7/20 - Trustee Workday 9AM**

undergoing months of chemotherapy after removal of part of her colon and intestines due to cancer ,Helen Linderfelt (Lynda Graves' friend) Joyce Lipscomb (Rick Elmore's friend) Annette Lotivio (Marc Blais's friend) with pancreatic cancer, Joanne Mattingly, Joan Mincey (Shirley Watson's friend) with stage 4 COPD and breast cancer Karen Nall Travis Parrott (the Wolford's son-in-law) needing a kidney transplant Tom Roberts (Sara's grandfather) with Alzheimer's Daniel Rule (the Slifkas' friend) suffering from RSD, Kristy Shirk (Lynda Graves' friend) with cancer of the sinuses Barbara Thornton (Janice Kaiser's relative) Sam and Alex Weaver, and Jean Anderson (Mike Anderson's Mom)

## In Other News

**Stewardship:** Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.

This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us – with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

**55 Alive:** We will resume meeting in the fall. Have a wonderful summer!

**Youth News:** The National Youth Gathering is this month! We will head to Minneapolis, MN. July 10<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for safe travels and that the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of all that are attending the gathering. Members attending: Shellia Bryd, MaryAnn Wheat, Lois Blais, Marc Blais, Olivia Wolford, Jayda Turner, Ronnie Sanderson, Abby Sanderson, Zach Blais, Alexandre Blais, Araine Blais, Josh Keyes.

## News from First Lutheran School

### Lutheran Teachers are a Blessing

Greetings to you each of you in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord and Savior! God's great peace through His Son is yours today.

We (Amy and I) celebrate with you as you begin to close out another academic year. Lutheran schools throughout the Indiana District, including the northern portions of Kentucky, offer students outstanding Christian instruction. Teachers continually strive for excellence in their instruction as well as the curricular content prepared and offered to their students on a regular basis.

It is with great joy that we have a tremendous partnership together. It is with great peace that we also have that same partnership with our heavenly Father because of Jesus' death and resurrection for all believers. I pen these concluding thoughts to recognize and affirm your marvelous effort to teach young adults and children about their Lord and Savior.

**Nurturers Indeed:** When one chooses to serve the church, or to instruct adults or children in a God-fearing manor, the reason is not for wealth or fame; rather, that decision is made in prayer and continued with a life-long yearning for growth in two areas: professional and spiritual.

**Professional** Teachers in our Lutheran schools are indeed very professional. Professional is just what it implies – growth in the profession of teaching. Your academic training has equipped you to know what is best in pedagogy and curriculum, child psychology and development as well as planning and assessment for the students entrusted to you. You strive to remain current in those areas through conferences, workshops, and additional course work. You readily seek to maintain a positive relationship with colleagues, parents, and students through written and oral



communication. You give 100% of your effort to your Christian vocation in grateful response for God's grace, mercy and love shown to you.

**Spiritual** Spiritual embodies our growth in faithfulness. Christian educators in our 100 Lutheran schools commit and vow to grow in Lutheran doctrine and ministry. How wonderful that is as this doctrine is built on the solid foundation of God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions – an expectation of all teaching ministries. As Paul teaches, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). The Christian faith continues to strengthen as you attend worship, partake in Holy Communion, attend Bible studies, confess your sins, receive absolution, and give thanks and praise with all believers.

**A Builder of Christian Community with Parent(s) and Child(ren)** You most certainly are a builder among other Christians. The apostle Paul talks to the people of Philippi regarding relationships: "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6). Parents have that primary responsibility from God to bring their children up in that Christian faith. Proper relationships among parents, students, and teachers grow from mutual understanding of and respect for the roles God has assigned. Parents demonstrate a supreme conferral of trust when they place their children into the hands of their child's teacher. You, in return, continually earn that trust by treating your students with respect, love, and care while investing yourselves in the lives of your students as God's representative. Out of respect and love for each other, we pray for each other and nurture a spirit of cooperation and helpfulness. When this happens, the Holy Spirit works within and among all of us to strengthen that Christian community.

**Sowers of the Seed** Each of you are fabulous "Sowers of the Seed." Not only do you trust in God's promises and rely on the Holy Spirit to strengthen the faith of those you teach, but your lessons about creation, exodus, flood, incarnation of Christ, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, Paul's journeys, history of the Israelites, the early church in Acts, and work of the early Apostles are meshed with and taught with curricular content. And by doing so, your instruction brings about a learning experience for a life "worthy of one's calling" to which we have been called (Ephesians 4:1-5). That same Word that is present and powerful in our public preaching and the Sacraments is this same Word entangled with curricular content in the classroom. *Published on May 28th, 2018*  
by: Dr. Jon Mielke <https://in.lcms.org/lutheran-teachers-are-a-blessing-2/>

Jessie Irwin, Principal

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### Anniversaries:

2: Lawrence & Ingrid Capparelli    12: Scott & Karen Spaid

17: Seth & Rebecca Nutter        21: Fred & Melissa Schell

24: Greg & Beth Buckner and John and Lindsey Hofman

28: Darryl & Pam Veenstra        31: Mark & Debbie Fettig

## Birthdays:

1: Jacob Cloninger; Holly Flanigan; Nick Weideman    16: Avery Anderson; Amy Keller  
2: Trevor Anderson; Joy Witt    17: Michael Vennstra  
3: Stever Wheat    19: Tara Chrapliwy; Karen DeArmond; Sheila Wolford  
4: Brett Anthonijs    22: Melissa Schell; Marilyn Wing  
8: Abby Bushur; Bobby Eisold; Tabitha Lukens; Monica Rash; Tatum Smolter  
9: Cameron Brown; Angela Lukens    23: Theo Anthonijs; Kim Smith  
12: Zachary Mueller; Brain Poore; Melissa Sanders    25: Gianna Haun-Harshaw  
13: Michleen Jones    26: Jonathan Boatman  
14: Lin Holloway Jr.    27: Liz Etzel  
29: Elizabeth Smith; Jayda Turner; Lisa Wade    30: Ron Mahs; Wendy Slifka; Drew Slomski

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### Deadline for August Newsletter is Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Sundays: 9:30AM Worship Service    Bible Class Following

Rev. Larry Rockemann, Vacancy Pastor,    Rev. John Schulz, Pastor Emeritus,    Jessie Irwin, Principal