



# FIRST HAND JULY 2023

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## Mission Statement

Sharing God's grace  
through prayer, witness,  
and service.



## OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

At First Lutheran, all means all, and the gifts of god are free. We welcome, love, affirm, and include everyone in our faith community regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Here in this place, you will find a warm, loving Christian family which strives to faithfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all of God's children. We renounce racism, discrimination, and persecution in any form, in faithfulness to the gospel, and to the best of our ability, we promise to provide ministries and pastoral care to all who seek God in this place.

**GOD WELCOMES ALL, AND SO DO WE.**

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Can you believe that the year is already half over? This certainly has been a fast year. The summer months are usually a little slower around the church, as the major festival days of Christmas and Easter are still a way off. But lots of fun activities are in the works for July:

On Wednesday, July 12, we will have a game night starting at 6 p.m., and a contemporary worship service at 7 p.m. Bring your favorite board game or card game and join us. Popcorn and drinks provided.

One week later, on Wednesday, July 19, our Bell Choir Director, Stephanie Oaks, will be hosting a session on how to play bells. Come ring a bell and join the fun! (If you can't make it July 19, there is a second one scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>).

Believe it or not, plans are already beginning in July for the 2024 ELCA youth gathering. Also this year, there will be a gathering of young adults, age 18-29, for those who were unable to go to the gathering when it was cancelled in 2022 and who now are aged out of high school. Look for information coming soon. If you would like to be an adult leader, (we especially need females), contact the church office.

The four downtown churches are combining for a joint Vacation Bible School, starting Sunday, July 16 and going through Thursday, July 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. each night. Kids in grades K-6 are eligible, and we need volunteers! Contact the office to sign up a child or to sign up to be a volunteer.

On July 29, it's one, two, three strikes, "yer out"-as we go to the old ballgame! The Columbus Clippers play Omaha. They will even have fireworks after the game. Be sure to sign up.

In July, the church doesn't take a vacation, but we can slow down just a bit, enjoy fireworks in Belle Center or Indian Lake over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and have some fun activities for fellowship. May your July be a time of good fun and good family and church get-togethers, as we continue to praise and worship a God who loves us and who sent his only begotten Son into the world, so that the world might be saved through Him!

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,  
Pastor Larry



## ***Report of Director of Music***

Every time I hear a patriotic  
tune I can FEEL the music.



And I'm proud to be an American  
Where at least I know I'm free  
And I won't forget the men who died  
[Who gave that right to me](#)

And I'd gladly stand up  
[Next to you](#) and defend her still today  
Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land  
[God bless the USA](#)

## **God Bless the USA**

Which is your favorite?



**The Bell Choir director, Stephanie Oaks, is holding two bell seminars this summer. They are on Wednesday, July 19th at 6:00 pm and /or Saturday, August 19th at 2:00 pm .**

**This is for anyone who has ever wanted to ring one of the bells. It is meant to be a fun session to enjoy the experience.**

Financial Secretary Newsletter  
July 2023  
Judy Vassar

5so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:5-8; NRSV)

Collectively, we are the body of Christ. As one body, our various gifts flow out of a common heart of love for God. Please remember do your best to express your love through your giving. For as suggested by this text, our giving is a testimony that Christ and His body of Christ are alive and well.





## *Tuesdays In The Park*

*We will continue to meet for Lunch on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in July. The 4th & the 18th.*



*Bring your lunch, lawn chair and a friend.*

*ANY MEMBER OF FLC and their guests are welcome to join us... women or men. We sill enjoy the outdoors sitting over in Oakland Square Park.*

*Come join us for fellowship and fun!*

*(In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the courtyard.)*

\*\*\*\*\*



**We will be serving Our Daily Bread on Monday, July 17th.**

If you would like to volunteer please arrive at 4:15 pm. Please let the office know you will be helping. If you can furnish cookies, brownies or cupcakes for dessert that would be greatly appreciated.

If you need to bring the desserts to church we will make sure they get to Our Daily Bread.



## **“Park Cleanup”**

**Preparing for Outdoor Services**

**We are looking for YOU!**

**We are in need of new volunteers to help spruce up the park a few times this summer! We will be picking up any trash, mulching, trimming, possibly mowing to make the area nice for our service and the neighborhood kids!**

**Please join us with any yard working tools you may have or just your hands are needed!**

**And make sure you stay after for PIZZA!!**

**Hope to see a great group, all ages needed.**

**JULY 8th; Aug. 12th; Sept. 9th 11:00 am**

**(If bad weather the cleanup will be cancelled)**



**Come early on Sunday, July 9th, for an opportunity for fellowship with one another before the outdoor service. Doughnuts, coffee, and juice will be available starting at 9:00am in Oakland Square Park. Our Outdoor Worship service will follow at 10:00.**

**BRING A LAWN CHAIR**

**In the event of inclement weather, Fellowship time will be in Rice Hall with Worship in the Sanctuary as usual.**



*TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!!*

A Night at the Columbus Clippers



Vs Omaha Storm Chasers  
Saturday July 29th

Game 7:05 pm

All Tickets \$16      Fireworks Included!

**Everyone Welcome!**

Sign-up in the lower narthex or call the church office

Deadline to order: Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup>



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**THE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INVITES  
YOU TO JOIN US FOR  
GAME NIGHT AND WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023**

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite game.

**Game night starts at 6 pm.**

**Contemporary Worship service  
starts at 7:00 p.m.**



**VBS this year will be July 16<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.**

**This is a joint VBS and will be held at the First Christian Church. (See bulletin board in back hallway across from nursery.)**

**Volunteers are needed from all the churches.**



**To register or volunteer see Kris Shannon or contact her at  
330-951-6563**



# *Sandwich and Sundae Bar*

*sponsored by Faith Circle*

**Sunday July 23rd following Worship**



**Sandwiches**



**Varieties of Ice cream with  
many toppings**



**Freewill Donations**

+++++



Coming in August will be the “**Backpack**” Sunday at the  
August 13th Park Service.

**(Backpacks will be needed by August 6th, a  
container will be located in the Lower Narthex)**

**More details** to come in the bulletins and August newsletter.

**2023**



**President-** Chris Hildreth Blair

**Vice-President-** John Bodin

**Secretary-** Carolyn Novak

**Treasurer –** John Belser

**Financial Secretary –** Judy Vassar

**Members-** Ray Kramer, Judy Lunz, Brittany Porter, Liz Rose, Kris Shannon, Brenda Shively, Ray Swisher



**Sunday Attendance for May**

	On site	Online
May 1	72	35
May 8	72	29
May 15	56	28
May 22	69	25
May 29	75	38
Average	69	31

**Ministry Team Highlights**

**Faith Circle**

- Plans for sandwich & sundae bar 7/23
- Plans for a Clippers Game 7/29

**Faith Formation Ministry Team**

- VBS

**Fellowship and Christian Service and Mission Ministry Team**

- Park clean up
- Park Services

**Finance Ministry Team**

- Monitor church finances

**FLIRT**

- Upcoming Fire drill

**Outreach Ministry Team**

- Continue program to reach out to those unable to attend services

**Property Ministry Team**

- Continued repairs and maintenance

**Worship Ministry Team**

- Summer services
- Contemporary Service

*Copies of reports from the monthly meetings of each ministry team is available for you to view in the Partners In Ministry Book located in the upper narthex.*



*During the past month we have remembered many in prayer. We remember in prayer all who are in need of God's presence and care ... especially:*

*Health Issues:*

*Jordan Banks*

*Zach Hogan*

*Art Mortimer*

*Mary Pummel*

*Diane Broyles*

*Pat Mitchell*

*Judy Hadley*

*Jan VanHoose*

*Judie Muchmore*

*Gene Barger*

*John Gensemer*

*Surgery:*

*Gloria Kipker*

*Brenda Shively*

*Entered the Church Triumphant*

*Bev Dixon*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 7/02 Dave Comstock
- 7/03 Stephanie Oaks
- 7/05 Hayden Baxley
- 7/11 Tom Weikart
- 7/13 Betty Vondenhuevel
- 7/14 Tommy Belser
- 7/15 Dave O'Brien
- 7/17 Ray Swisher
- 7/20 Brenda Shively
- 7/20 Sherri Hodies
- 7/22 Andrew Detrick
- 7/23 Abbey Shields
- 7/25 John Belser
- 7/29 Gene Barger
- 7/29 Scott Chamberlain
- 7/29 Hannah Young



- Bill & Joy Badenhop 7/2/1988
- Chris & Karen Gamble 7/7/2012
- Carl & Rachel Gillespie 7/25/1971
- Steve & Beth Harman 7/28/1984
- Tom & April Jameson 7/06/1991
- Chris & Jennifer McKenrick 7/08/1995
- Tom & Liz Rose 7/17/1993



Dear First Lutheran Church,  
 Thank you so much for granting me this scholarship (CHEF). I am so appreciative for everything that this congregation has done for me as I have grown up. Being awarded this scholarship will aid me so much in preparing for my future and I feel so blessed.

Thanks again, Connor Rose

Good Morning,  
 I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for the CHEF scholarship! This will be really helpful this semester!

Thank You, Brett Belser

Thanks so much for prayers and kind words. I'm on the mend and feeling much better. So grateful for church, Pastor, flowers & soup from Carolyn.

Jan VanHoose

**Worship Assistant:**

July 2 Beth Harman  
July 9 Brenda Shively  
July 16 Chris Hildreth Blair  
July 23 Dick Griffith  
July 30 Sherri Hodies

**Communion Assistant:**

July 2 Carl Gillespie  
July 16 Jean Wright

**Usher:**

July 2 Cheri Comstock  
July 9 Jean Wright (Park)  
July 16 Susan Wyckoff  
July 23 Carl Gillespie  
July 30 David Keck

**Reader:**

July 2 John Gensemer  
July 9 Dan Shively (Park)  
July 16 Carl Gillespie  
July 23 Susan Wyckoff  
July 30 Cindy Weikart

**Greeter(s):**

July 2 Larry Walker  
July 9 Ray & Kris Swisher (Park)  
July 16 Sue Neer  
July 23 Connie Regula  
July 30 Barb Triplett

**Acolyte:**

July 2 Lottie Bodin  
July 16 Declan Shannon  
July 23 Chris McKenrick  
July 30 Ray Kramer

**Altar Guild:**

Margie Bixler & Susan Wyckoff

**Communion Bread:**

Rachel Gillespie



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Office Closed 10:00am Extending the Branch
2 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	3 Office Closed 12:00pm AA (RH) 6:30pm Dulcimers	4 Office Closed in observance of July 4th 12:00pm Lunch in the Park	5 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm NA (RH)	6 11:30am Horn Family (Lounge) 12:00pm NA (RH)	7 Office Closed 10:00am Logan Carpet Cleaning	8 9:00am Property Meeting [Lounge] 10:00am Extending the Branch 11:00am Park Cleanup 11:30am Extending the Branch
9 9:00am Fellowship Time (In the Park) 10:00am Park Worship Service 12:00pm Shannon Family Gathering RH 4:00pm Extending the Branch	10 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Council	11 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	12 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Game Night 7:00pm Contemporary Service	13 12:00pm NA (RH)	14 Office Closed	15 Office Closed 6:30pm Dulcimers
16 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 6:00pm VBS (First Christian Church)	17 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread 6:00pm LCS Board Meeting @ Daily Bread 6:00pm VBS (First Christian Church)	18 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm Lunch in the Park 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 6:00pm VBS (First Christian Church) 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting [Lounge]	19 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm Bell Seminar 6:00pm VBS (First Christian Church)	20 12:00pm NA (RH) 6:00pm VBS (First Christian Church)	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed 1:00pm Extending the Branch
23 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Sandwich & Sundae Bar	24 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study	25 9:00am Quilters	26 12:00pm NA (RH)	27 12:00pm NA (RH)	28 Office Closed	29 Clippers Game Office Closed
30 CHEF Sunday Noisy Money Sunday 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Worship Service	31 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH)	1	2	3	4	5