

FIRST HAND JULY 2024

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

Love, love, love...all you need is love...love is all you need. These of course are lyrics to a famous song by the Beatles. We are in the middle of a six-week sermon series on the first letter of John, which is often called the love sermon. And perhaps the most famous verses in 1 John are found in Chapter 4, beginning at verse 7:

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

These words are the core of the Christian message. But it raises the question-what do we do with someone we find difficult to love? A woman once confessed to her pastor (not me, by the way, but the pastor this happened to gave me permission to share this story): "Pastor, I do not know what to do about my next door neighbor. He is a nasty, mean spirited fellow. He never has a smile or a kind word to say to anyone. Even his own (grown) children hardly ever

come to visit him, because he is so horrible to be around. How in the world can I possibly love him the way that God asks me to?

The pastor's answer was a bit of a shocker. What he said was: "Pretend! Pretend that you DO love him. Treat him with the kindness that you wish he would show to others. And pray for him. It's hard to hate someone that you are praying for."

But what if the person we are called to love is worse than a nasty neighbor? How do we love, say, a Hamas terrorist who kills innocent women and children? How do we love a child molester? How do we love people who commit rape and murder? Of course, loving someone does not mean that we condone sin, or that we let crimes go unpunished.

The Bible is clear that God is love, but the Bible is equally clear about what God hates:

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. Proverbs 6: 16-19

For people who commit horrible atrocities, of course we hold them legally accountable. But at the same time, we pray for them-pray that God will change their heart-pray that the love of Christ will take hold in their lives-pray that they repent and change their lives.

And in these prayers, we must remember to include ourselves as well. For all people commit sin, and all people fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23). But God wants no one to suffer death. God wants all people to turn from their sin and live. (Ezekiel 18:23). One of the most surprising statements in John's letter is that he says the way to stop sinning is NOT to try harder not to sin. It is to have faith in Jesus! To modify the Beatle's song just a bit: God's love is all we need!

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Larry



Report of Director of Music

July 2024



On this Fourth of July, let's recall,
The heroes who stood tall for us all.
With grateful hearts, we honor their fight,
For the red, white, and blue, shining so bright.

Special Music plan for July 2024 include:
Hogan family, Worship in the Park, Carolyn Novak, and Chris Hildreth Blair.

I am still looking for someone to provide special music at Green Hills Care Center worship service July 28, 2024, 2:30 PM. Any volunteers?

Are You Going On Vacation?

Many of our families are planning to get away for some summer fun and relaxation in the next few months. We pray that your vacation time will be safe and a source of many happy memories. However, please don't take your offering with you. Each summer our Sunday offerings decrease significantly. Remember to keep God at the top of your giving list even when you are away!





Tuesdays In The Park

Tuesdays, July 2nd and 16th join us for lunch in Oakland Square Park. Bring your lunch and a lawn chair.



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

Sandwich and Sundae Bar *sponsored by Faith Circle*

Sunday July 21st following Worship



Sandwiches



Freewill Donations

Varieties of Ice cream with many toppings





Park Cleanup – July 13th @ 11:00 am –
please help to clean up Oakland Square
Park for our worship service on July 14th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Bring gloves and garden/work tools.

Pizza after the cleanup.

Other park cleanup dates: 8/10 & 9/7



Come early on Sunday, July 14th, 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.



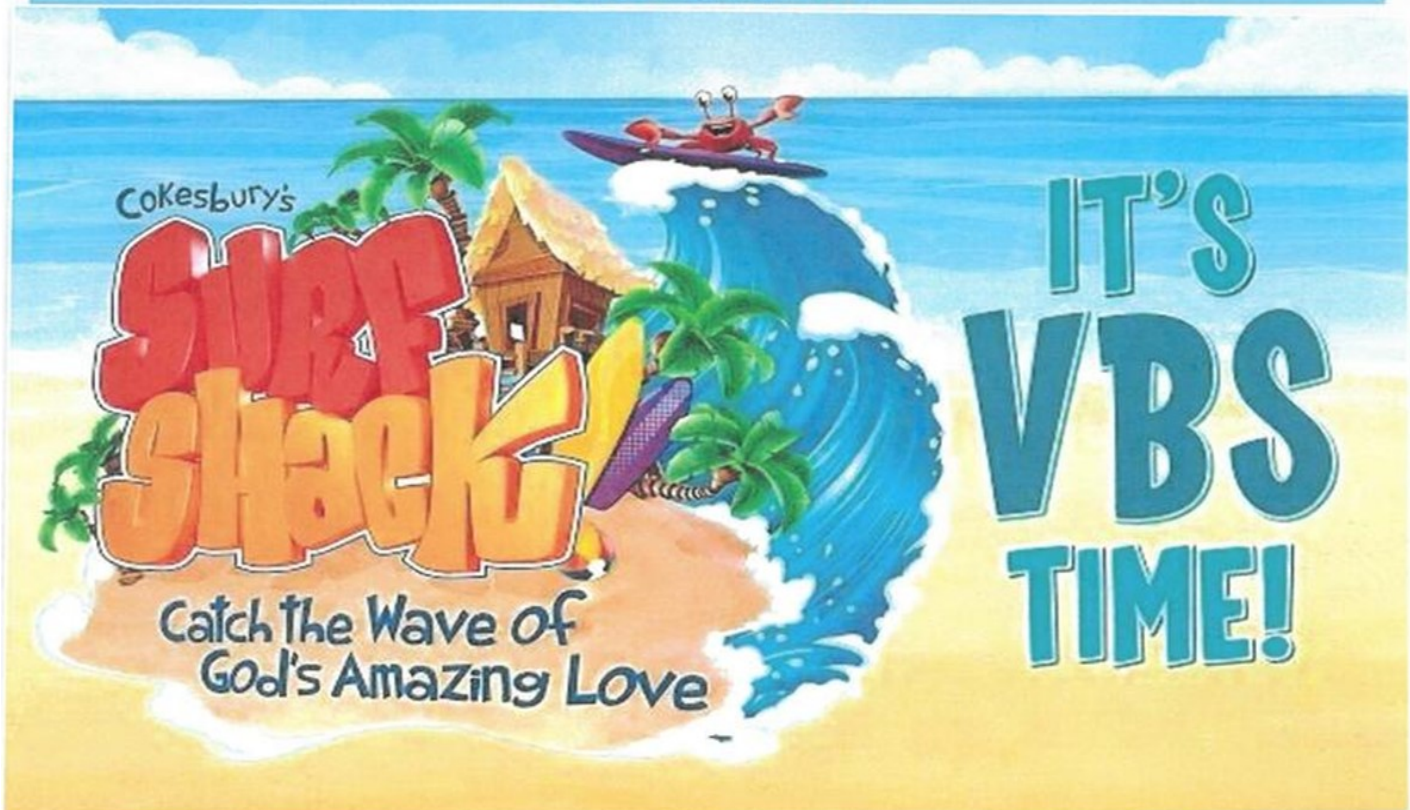
First Lutheran Church will be serving “Daily Bread” on July 15th. Helpers arrive at 4:15 pm.

Cookies, brownies and cupcakes are always needed.

Can be left at the church and they will be taken to Daily Bread.

JOINT CHURCH Vacation Bible School
(Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, First Christian)
Will be held at the Presbyterian Church. Volunteers needed.
Registration forms in the upper narthex.

REMEMBER THAT THE LORD IS GREAT AND AWESOME
NEHEMIAH 4:14B



JULY 14-18

5:30-8:00 pm

**Grades
preK-8**

**1st United Presbyterian
Church**

117 N. Main St.

937-592-6611

1stups@bellefontainepres.com

Register before July 13

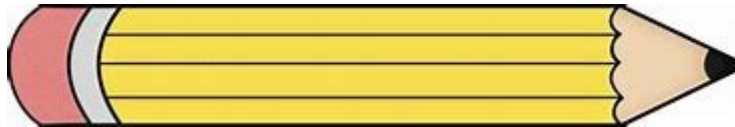
**Registration forms
available in church office**

Monday-Thursday 8-4



This year First Lutheran Church will be participating in the "Stuff the Bus" Program which is sponsored by United Way. A container will be placed in the lower narthex for the collection of school supplies beginning 7/21. We will try to get a list of suggested supplies.

The program will begin on 7/21 and supplies can be left at church through 8/19.



I wanted to say thank you to the congregation for the CHEF college scholarship. I am grateful for the donations that help ease the financial burden of college. I always look forward to coming home over break to see my church family.

Jacob McKenrick

**THANK
YOU!**

I would like to thank the CHEF organization and all those at First Lutheran Church for the scholarship. It will help greatly as I pursue my degree and I can't thank you enough for the continued support over the years.

Luke McKenrick

COMING IN AUGUST

OUTING AT “PUTT & PLAY”

AUGUST 3RD – 6:00 – 9 :00 PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL PAY FOR THE YOUTH.

ADULTS WILL PAY FOR THEMSELVES.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (937-592-7699) TO MAKE
RESERVATIONS

PIZZA AND POP SERVED AT THE EVENT BEFORE
BEGINNING THE GAMES.

INDOOR GOLF



LASER TAG



VIRTUAL REALITY



MINIATURE GOLF



2024



President- Chris Hildreth Blair

Vice-President- John Bodin

Secretary- Carolyn Novak

Treasurer – John Belser

Financial Secretary – Judy Vassar

Members- Kathy Fultz, Brian Hogan, Gary Kauffman, Judy Lunz, Sue Neer, Brittany Porter, Liz Rose



Sunday Attendance for May

	On site	Online
May 5	75	25
May 12	69	69
May 19	86	39
May 26	77	28
Average	76	40



Faith Circle (WELCA)

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Christian Service and Mission Ministry Team

Finance Ministry Team

FLIRT

Outreach Ministry Team

Property Ministry Team

Worship Ministry Team

Copies of reports from the monthly meetings of each ministry team is available for you to view in the Ministry Team Reports located in the lower narthex.



The deadline for articles for the August Newsletter is July 18th.



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:

Brittanny Porter

Gloria Kipker

Jordan Banks

David Schwarm

Judy Vassar (fall)

Surgery:

Margie Anderson

Jim Donnelly

Josh Bock

Misty Kipker

Rachel Gillespie

Entered the Church Triumphant

Paul Karn

Darlys Mennanga



My Thanks go out to our congregation and our Church family for all of the cards, prayers, and thoughts. God is Good!

Jim Donnelly



happy anniversary

Bill & Joy Badenhop	7/2/1988
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



7/02	Dave Comstock
7/03	Stephanie Oaks
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



A big Thank you to Pastor Larry for his visit and prayer, and he showed a video of the congregation singing Happy birthday for my 90th birthday. Sorry I wasn't there but Thank you for thinking of me. God bless each of you for your kindness.

Betty Fultz



I want to thank everyone for all they did during Paul's brief illness and death. I appreciated all the phone calls, cards, visits with Paul and I and especially the prayers and kind thoughts. Thanks to Pastor Larry for his visits and funeral service. Thanks to Jean and her team for the delicious meal following the burial. You all made a difficult time a little easier. God bless you all.

Joann Karn and family

Worship Assistant:

July 7 Cindy Weikart
July 14 Chris Hildreth Blair (Park)
July 21 Dick Griffith
July 28 Dave Vassar

Communion Assistant:

July 7 Ray Swisher
July 14 N/A (Park)
July 21 Jean Wright
July 28 Sue Neer

Usher:

July 7 Susan Wyckoff
July 14 Susan Wyckoff (Park)
July 21 Chris Hildreth Blair
July 28 Dave Comstock

Reader:

July 7 Carl Gillespie
July 14 Margie Bixler (Park)
July 21 Chris Tillman
July 28 Jean Wright

Greeter(s):

July 7 Larry Walker
July 14 Max & Margie Bixler (Park)
July 21 Barb Triplett
July 28 Ted & Carolyn Hoy

Acolyte:

July 7 Alexis Hogan
July 14 N/A Park)
July 21 Ray Kramer
July 28 Delaney Reffner

Altar Guild:

Margie Bixler & Susan Wyckoff

Communion Bread:

Chris Hildreth Blair

Special Music

July 7 Brian & Alexis Hogan
July 14
July 21 Carolyn Novak
July 28 Chris Hildreth Blair

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 CHEF & Noisy Money Sunday 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	1 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Dulcimers 7:00pm Book Study	2 9:00am Quilters 12:00pm "Lunch in the Park" 1:00pm Faith & Politics - zoom	3 3:00pm NA (RH)	4 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY Office Closed 3:00pm NA (RH)	5 Office Closed	6 Office Closed
7 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service	8 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study	9 9:00am Quilters	10 3:00pm NA (RH)	11 7:30am Day of Prayer - courthouse 9:00am Homeless Shelter Board Meeting 1:00pm GOAT Program (RH) 3:00pm NA (RH) 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	12 Office Closed	13 9:00am Property Meeting [Lounge] 10:00am ETB 11:00am Park Cleanup 11:30am ETB
14 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Park Service 1:00pm Starkey Family (RH) 5:30pm VBS (Presbyterian Church)	15 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am MRH Chaplain 12:00pm AA (RH) 1:30pm Bible Study 4:15pm Our Daily Bread 5:30pm VBS (Presbyterian Church) 6:00pm Lutheran Community Services Board Meeting	16 9:00am Quilters 11:00am MRH Chaplain 12:00pm "Lunch in the Park" 5:30pm VBS (Presbyterian Church) 7:00pm FLIRT Meeting [Lounge]	17 11:00am Chaplain MRH 3:00pm NA (RH) 5:30pm VBS (Presbyterian Church)	18 9:00am Housing Coalition Meeting 11:00am Chaplain MRH 1:00pm GOAT Program (RH) 3:00pm NA (RH) 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting 5:30pm VBS (Hoffman Pool)	19 Office Closed 11:00am Chaplain MRH	20 Office Closed 6:30pm Dulcimers
21 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 11:30am Sundaes and Sandwich Bar	22 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH) 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	23 9:00am Quilters	24 3:00pm NA (RH)	25 1:00pm GOAT Program (RH) 3:00pm NA (RH) 3:00pm Pastor's Meeting	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed
28 9:00am Fellowship Time 10:00am Communion Worship Service 1:00pm Faith Formation Meeting 2:30pm Green Hills Service	29 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm AA (RH)	30 9:00am Quilters	31 3:00pm NA (RH)	1	2	3