



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2019 Newsletter

We want to welcome ALL members of First Lutheran Church
home!

Fall Family Festival with food and activities to follow...

“Welcome Home” Sunday
October 20th – 9:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars!

Be Rich Toward God... Without Being Complacent

He (Jesus) told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced very well. He was thinking to himself, 'What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?' He said, 'This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. And I will tell my soul, "Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared.' That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasures for himself and is not rich toward God. (Luke 12:16-21)

The rich man had a good year of harvest. He had taken in so much that he had to build bigger barns in order to store all the crops. His plan was wise in taking care of what he had been given. However, he became complacent. You might even say he got lazy. He decided he had enough to last a long time, so he thought it better to kick back and take it easy. How foolish he was! God had given him what he needed and even more, but he assumed that he could live life with what he had. This rich fool was living in the moment.

Like the rich man, we can become complacent - overconfident - in what we have. We think we can be lazy and live however we want, in order to gratify our desires. Instead of wise use, we live in the moment through frivolous spending without considering the future or properly caring for our possessions. God calls our foolish hearts away from sinfully complacency and lazy attitudes that seek to gratify its own immediate cravings.

As beneficiaries of his rich grace, he calls us to be faithful stewards not only of his grace, but also of the riches he gives us. He invites us to see what he has given us as opportunities throughout our whole life to continually serve him through the wise use of those riches. Rich toward God, we are not complacent or lazy with what he has given us. God will continue to bless us and provide for us. He has promised us that he will continue to care for us. We trust that he will do this, but we never take his providing grace for granted. Instead we treasure it and give thanks to God through faithful stewardship of all that he has given.

Prayer:

Forgive my complacent and lazy heart. May my whole life be focused on never taking for granted what you have given to me. Amen.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
Christian Book Club – 6:00 p.m.
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Family Bible Hour – 9:15 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Fall Bible Study Guide

On September 8, our Sunday service times here at First Lutheran return to 8:00 and 10:30. At the same time many opportunities to grow in his Word in addition to worship resume as well. Here is a snapshot of what is being offered this fall each week here growing together in God's grace not just as individuals, but as a family.

Sunday: Family Bible Hour (Sunday School and Bible Study, 9:15): In year's past Sunday School and Bible Study have had different studies, but this year there will be a different approach. Family Bible Hour unites what is being taught on Sunday between services so that the family, both home and church family, could gather together to study the same portion of God's Word. While focusing on the same truth each group will have different faith applications. The Family Bible Hour concept makes Sunday morning all about reaching people where they are at to grow in faith together just as we do in worship. Beginning together in Mr. Falk's room, we will open with prayer, get a brief introduction for the day and then we separate to study the lesson. This year our studies walk through the Scriptures from Creation to Christ's triumphant return.

Thursday: Morning Bible Study (9:00): We continue to look at very important chapters of the Bible.

Christian Book Club (6:00): This study resumes on September 5. Instead of a traditional study, this study will be more in a book club format. We read Christian books, taking a chapter or two a week, and then freely discussing what we have read. Our next book to read is called *Agents of Grace: The People in David's Life and in Yours* by Robert Koester. This book examines how the Lord used people in David's life to guide and mold him into a true servant of God and shows how the Lord also does this in our own lives today. David, one of the most revered people in the Old Testament, certainly had his share of human flaws. However, God used his agents - the people around David - to influence David and lead him back to the righteous path. God does the same for us in our present-day world; whether it's a family member, friend, coworker, or a stranger on the street, people all around us can be God's agents of grace. If you would like to participate in this study and need a copy of the book, a sign up sheet is on the brown door. Each book is \$17.

Saturday: Men's Bible Study (2nd Saturday 8:00): The men have been reading through the Gospels walking through the life and work of Jesus, our Savior.

Women's Bible Study (3rd Saturday 8:00): The women have been studying prayer, growing in both their understanding of prayer and the importance of prayer in life.

Welcome Home Sunday

Save the date for Welcome Home Sunday - October 20 at 9:00 AM. Worshiping our God - listening to him speak to us in his Word and responding with our praise - is always special. However, it can be especially joyful when the house is packed. Think of the singing on Christmas Eve... or the way we need to set up chairs for the children's Christmas service. Yet, even on those days, we have members who are out of town. The goal of Welcome Home Sunday is a day when everyone that is part of our Christian family comes together. After all, church is supposed to be a home, and believers are kin. Our focus of worship that day is the blessing of Christian community. Thus, we want 100% of our members here. Please do everything possible to set that date aside so that we can pack the house that day. That weekend there will only be one service so that we can come together as a Christian family. After the service, we will have a Fall Family Festival with food and activities for all.

MOM (Moms of Might)

All moms with preschool age or younger are welcome to join our mom's group. The first meeting of this school year is on Monday, September 9th at 9:30 a.m. Meetings will then be held the first Monday of every month through May. If school is not in session on a first Monday, the meeting will be held the second Monday. Other activities are also planned during the year.

Volunteers are needed to help with childcare during the meetings. A sign-up sheet for the year is on the brown door. We would like to have at least 2 volunteers signed up to help for each meeting, with a 3rd signed up as a backup if needed. Please contact Trista Heuer - tsheuer@gmail.com or call/text 1-920-222-1510 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your time and support!

Toddler Open Gym

This program is intended for children age 0 – 5, along with their parent/caregiver and will take place from 9 – 10:30 in the school gym on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from September through May. The first TOG is Wednesday, September 18th. This program is open to our members as well as the community. Please invite friends! There is open play in the gym with various toys as well as games, crafts, coloring, and area just for babies, and more! We will also have a devotion and snack during the playtime. As this is a non-budgeted outreach event, your support is appreciated! Please contact Allison Lauderdale 262-945-7951 with any questions.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If *you* have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the “church” box near the tract rack. *“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”* James 5:16

Christian Assistance Fund

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ’s directive to “love one another”. Contributions to this account are appreciated, please use the Designated Gift Envelopes, available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, applications are available from pastor. Requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please contact the office.

Church Library News

The church/school library has been updated. Feel free to check out items you’d like to read. On the clipboard sheet that is on top of the card catalog, write your name, the date, and book title. When you return the books just put them in the crate provided for returned books, and someone will re-shelve the books in their proper place. Parents – feel free to take books from the specially marked bookshelves to use with your children during church services. Please put them back on that same shelf after the church service. Feel free to enjoy the materials that are in that room!

WELS Radio and TV Ministry

Music for The Master followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM “JOY 1340” WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRS – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider’s channel listing for more information.

Meals on Wheels

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

ACH Offerings

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is designating Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you to participate. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. Go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization with this member benefit.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street. Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

Pastoral Acts: Baptism – Sunday, August 11, 2019 – *Charles Logan Sweeney*

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Tues., Sept. 3	First day of School – Opening Service – 8:00 a.m.
Fri., Sept. 6	Soccer @ Elkhorn – 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 11	Welcome Back to School meal – 6:00 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 18	Soccer @ SCORE – 4:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 27	Soccer @ Elkhorn – 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 29	Grades 3-8 sing in BOTH services
Mon., Sept. 30	No School - SLTC

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstelkhorn.com/school – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.

Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.

Welcome Back to School!

The teachers and staff of First Lutheran School are looking forward to the new school year. Our theme this year is “Be Faithful” ~Revelation 2:10. We start this 39th year with 36 students in 4K - 8th grade. It is through the kindness, generosity and prayers of our congregation that our school can continue to teach His Lambs and help prepare them for life and for eternity. Your continued support is appreciated.

Welcome New Staff!

We welcome Mr. Michael Falk as our principal and 7th & 8th grade teacher. We also welcome (back!) Ms. Kathy Szmanda as our 1st and 2nd grade teacher. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newest staff/members of First.

Soccer

This year we have a co-ed soccer team for our fall sport for our 4th – 8th graders. Games will be held at Rotary Soccer Park (behind Kunes). We would love to see you at the games!

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school’s non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, Spanish, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in General Mills Boxtops and Frank’s Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also participate in SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchases. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact the office.

Thank you for helping your school!

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please contact the office. Gifts can be given at any time. Thank you for supporting Christian Education.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities to help serve the school. Grandparents and others who may not have children in school are invited to help out with a variety of activities such as: preparing and/or serving special meals, assisting students with reading, math, or other skills, etc. Whether you are able to help out once, or are able to set up something more scheduled, we appreciate it and will work with you and your schedule! Please contact the office if you are interested.

September 2019

Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>9:30/10:30</u>
Sept. 1	M. Schwark	
Sept. 8	T. Stech	B. Holtz
Sept. 15	M. Hoyord	M. Dorn
Sept. 22	J. Kuehl	P. Rote
Sept. 29	M. Hoyord	M. Dorn

Ushers:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>9:30/10:30</u>
D. Mangold	S. Beaver (9:30)
R. Smith	C. Collins
D. Hintz	M. Yunker
C. Greving	M. Papenfus
D. Hintz	M. Yunker

Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>9:30/10:30</u>
Sept. 1	Dennis & Terri Carnes	Bill Holtz
Sept. 8	Jim & Vickie Mueller	Doreen Grams
Sept. 15	Barb Schinke	Paul & Michelle Lemke
Sept. 22	Mike & Marsha Schwark	Gordon & Nancy Haak
Sept. 29	Alice Lembach	Deb Buelow

Birthdays: shut in members are in **bold print**

2- Sharee Yunker	22- Vickie Mueller
Dan Nolte	23- Nancy Brugger
3- Joey Sweeney	26- Melinda Schulz
4- Matthew LeNoble	Meghan Mertes
James Ihnen	Matthew Helfvogt
5- Jennifer Voss	27- Justin Kimble
Kathy DuBois	Laken Dahlberg
6- Miles Holder	28- Brody Bidlack
Ireland Schultz	29 -Morena Rote
8- Lorraine Count	30- Kelly Guzman
9- Jessica Stech	Cathy Verdick
11- Chace Lanser	
15- Cynthia Cooper	
Carla Baudais	
18- Patricia Basinski	
Amanda Glodowski	
19- Olivia Joitke	
20- Dennis Carnes	
Sandra Olson	
Pamela Hoyord	
21- John Hauerwas	
Cade Fink	

Anniversaries:

Michael & Lina Gilbert, September 5, 1981
Roger & Karen Meinen, September 13, 1969
Don & Jean Willms, September 13, 1958
Chris & Kimberly Collins, September 24, 2000
James & Deborah Clark, September 20, 1975



Phone: 262-723-4191-church
262-723-1091-school

FIRST LUTHERAN

CHURCH

415 S. Devendorf Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121

www.firstelkhorn.com

E-mail:
pastorheuer@firststatthecross.com
principal@firststatthecross.com
secretary@firststatthecross.com

September 2019

Council Hosts:

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T. Stech
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9:30/10:30
B. Holtz
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Sept. 1
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Ushers:

8:00 D. Mangold
R. Smith
D. Hintz
C. Greving
D. Hintz

9:30/10:30
S. Beaver (9:30)
C. Collins
M. Yunker
M. Papenfus
M. Yunker

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Services 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.	2 Labor Day	3 <i>First day of School</i> Opening Service - 8:00 a.m.	4 Ladies Aid - 1:30 pm	5 Bible Class - 9:00 am Christian Book Club - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	6 FLS Chapel - 8 a.m.	7
8 Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	9 MOM - 9:30 a.m. Board of Elders - 6:30 p.m.	10	11 Sparks & Flames - 6-7 p.m.	12 Bible Class - 9:00 am Christian Book Club - 6:00 p.m. Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.	13 FLS Chapel - 8 a.m.	14 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m.
15 Communion Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	16 Board of Ed. - 6 pm Board Meetings - 6:30 p.m. Church Council - 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Toddler Open Gym - 9-10:30 a.m. Ladies Book Club - 7:00 p.m.	19 Bible Class - 9:00 am Christian Book Club - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	20 FLS Chapel - 8 a.m.	21 Women's Bible Study - 8-9 a.m.
22 Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	23	24	25	26 Bible Class - 9:00 am Christian Book Club - 6:00 p.m. Worship Service - 7:00 p.m.	27 FLS Chapel - 8 a.m.	28 Schwark/Goplen Wedding - 2:30 p.m.
29 Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Hour - 9:15 a.m.	30 <i>No School</i> Altar Committee - 6:30 p.m.					