

# May 2022 Newsletter



## Pastor Carlin's Page

### Oh How We Have Fallen

Like many of you, I was shocked 3 years ago by the fire that destroyed much of Notre Dame Cathedral. Though, I have never visited and seen its splendor nor traversed its hallowed halls, nonetheless, I was mesmerized by this magnificent edifice. My bucket list included a tour of the Cathedral if circumstances would allow.

The international outpouring of grief was swift and overwhelming. News reports kept pouring in from the scene. And with the toppling of the famous spire many hearts around the world fell as well.

Soon the mourning would begin as Facebook and other social media sites began to swell with thoughts, pictures and memories of many who had stepped through the ancient passages and many who like me dreamed of doing so.

As I watched the famed structure give way to the onslaught and destructive force of the blaze within its hallowed walls, I was hit like a brick by an utterly disturbing and fascinating thought.

The fire devastating Notre Dame Cathedral and bringing it to its proverbial knees is strikingly similar to what is happening to the very faith the Cathedral was supposed to represent.

Again, I detest the tragic event that brought down this historic and revered building. I would like to see it rebuilt, however, it can never be what it was before the fire. Though, when the rubber meets the road what in reality is everyone so worked up about, a building? Yes it may have been revered, it may have been historic and it may even have been iconic but it is just a building.

It seems as if many of the folks in the world are worked up about this event, yet all buildings will

fall at some point. Jesus speaking of the coming destruction of Jerusalem says this about the Temple in Mark 13: "And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"<sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." (ESV)

Jesus is pointing us beyond what we deem as important and seeks to remove the blinders from our eyes to see what is truly important. It is sad the Notre Dame Cathedral was burned. Yet while we focus on a fallen building a lot of suffering and anguish is going unnoticed. Perhaps the greatest loss is that of Christian virtue.

With all eyes on a building very few have seen the ever creeping decline of Christianity and the teachings of Christ. While we watch a very famous building fall and grieve over it, love, forgiveness, joy longsuffering, peace, contentment and much more that can be found as a follower of Jesus Christ have given way to us fulfilling this scripture, "You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!" (Matthew 23: 24 ESV) We often become blind to the realities of Christ and fall headfirst into the phony-reality of this world.

A great building has fallen; it stands as an allegory of what has fallen within the hearts of God's people. We are so often mesmerized by the shiny object within our gaze and fail to see the greater truths God has for us.

Blessings,

Pastor Carlin

## **ATTENTION PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS**

Did your child just complete 3rd grade at the end of the 2021/22 school year? Please submit their name to the office so that they may receive their Bible at the 3rd grade Bible recognition on June 4/5 (Pentecost). Thank you.

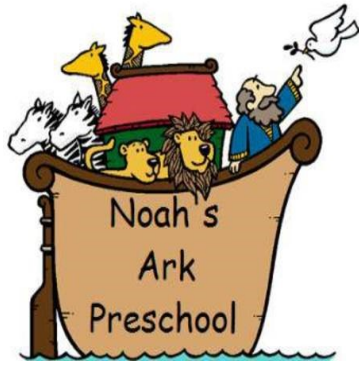
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## **ATTENTION PARENTS & FAMILIES**

Please send the names of your graduates (8th grade, high school, college) to the office (or call the church). Recognition of graduates is currently scheduled for the services of May 21st & 22nd.

Thank you and congratulations to all graduates!!





## May at Noah's Ark

We had a *WONDERFUL* turnout at Pre-Registration (we already have over 50 kids enrolled!) and are so excited for our enrollment for this next school year! We still have room for more students, so please tell your family and friends and we will be holding Registration on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 and 4-6.

We also offer the option of your 3 year old being enrolled the month *AFTER* they turn 3! We are so excited to have added this option to our classroom environment! Previously a child had to turn 3 before September 1st to be enrolled for that year.

The 3-year-old classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-10:15 and 10:30-12:30.  
The 4-year-old classes are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15-11:15 and 11:45-2:45.

The 3-year-old classroom has been working hard to master the letters in their name before summer! They have enjoyed doing St. Patrick's Day activities, and have begun incorporating spring activities before summer break! They also have been working hard on their songs for Spring Concert . 😊

Our 4 year olds have been working hard on learning their last names and focusing more on their lowercase letters in preparation for Kindergarten! They also enjoyed doing lots of St. Patrick's Day activities and playing with Lucky Charm marshmallows in our sensory bin. This week we are transitioning into Spring activities before we end for summer and our friends have a paper chain with the number of days we have left in class! They have worked very hard on the songs that they will perform for their parents at Graduation!

We have continued working on our Calendar binders, inside they trace the number for the day (which is our date), and they chart what our weather is outside that day! This helps them see data and which has more (sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy or windy).

We also talk about our emotions with our emoji dice during circle time at the end of the day. This helps our friends learn that it is okay to share when they have big feelings and that it is *OKAY* to have lots of emotions. We should talk about them with adults if we need to and they can help us, or give hugs if they want one. So often children are told to "stop crying", or children's feelings aren't validated because it isn't convenient but we feel as though we need to communicate to children that "big" feelings are okay (as long as we are not acting out, hitting and kicking) and teach them how to regulate these emotions correctly!

Our primary goal is still to ensure the safety of our students; parents and teachers while at the same time promote a **positive and fun** preschool experience.

Thank you for your support here at Noah's Ark!

Breanne Immke  
Director of Noah's Ark Preschool

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery through adult meets at 9:15 each Sunday.

COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES: meets to "work" downstairs in the large Sunday School room on Thursdays from 9-11 am.

ANNA CIRCLE: Will meet on Thursday, May 5, 2022, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our Bible study with Chapter 4 -"Encouraging Growth" (pages 25-32). Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the first Thursday afternoon of each month. Please bring your own drink with you.

KNITWITS: Knitwits has resumed their ministry on Tuesdays and meet weekly from 9:30—11 am in the Munson Room. We invite all who knit or crochet to join us as we make prayer shawls, along with hats, mittens, scarves, and baby blankets. If you don't know how, but would like to learn, we will do our best to help you learn. NOTE: *Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Knitwits will be taking the summer off and will resume in the fall.*

JOYFUL WOMEN: has resumed our Bible Study "Discovering God's Goodness" on Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm at the church. We will complete our 12 lessons on May 22nd and end until fall. Each of our lessons is an independent study and we welcome new friends at any time. Joyful Women is open to all women and friends of First Lutheran Church.

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## THANK YOU!!!!

A special thank you to everyone who sent us cards for our 75th anniversary!.

It was so nice to hear from everyone and to be remembered.

God Bless You!!

Harley & Marian Mayer

## **Vacation Bible School**

**June 6-10, 2022**

### **Climb aboard the Rocky Railway, the VBS that puts kids on track for trusting Jesus!**

At Rocky Railway VBS, participants will explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Him to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. We're looking forward to an exciting week full of faith, discoveries, memorable music, fun games, and yummy treats.

Vacation Bible School is one of the most important outreach ministries we offer here at First Lutheran Church. It's an opportunity to share the gospel in a fun environment. As we reach out to children to teach them about God's love, we help them grow in faith. Friendships are developed, and relationships are formed. VBS also fulfills our mission of worshiping Christ and serving our neighbor.

#### **As always, we will need your help!**

- Ask God for His blessing as we prepare and plan for this mission. Pray that God leads and guides us as we open our hearts and our church to teach children about Jesus. And pray for the children who will attend, and ask God to open their hearts to the Lord.
- Next, it takes many volunteers to run our VBS smoothly. Please prayerfully consider helping out at VBS this year. Workers of all ages are needed! Remember, God has blessed us with gifts and talents. Becoming involved gives you a chance to share your faith and play an important role in our church and community. Of course, we understand not everyone can dedicate 5 days to VBS. However, we would appreciate any amount of time that you can give.

Finally, we ask that you help us to make this the best Vacation Bible School ever!

#### **DONATED SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL WEEK OF VBS:**

**Napkins (100 count pkg) - 5 pkg**  
**100% Apple Juice (No sugar added) - 8 bottles**  
**100% Grape Juice (No sugar added) - 8 bottles**  
**Sunny Delight - 4 bottles**  
**Graham Crackers - 5 boxes**  
**Rice Krispies (12 oz) - 5 boxes**  
**M & M's (plain) "family size pkg" - 5 packages**

**THANK YOU!!!!**

Questions? See Chris Lauritzen



# Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to all who have continued to generously donate food and supplies to the

Livingston Area Food Pantry during the coronavirus pandemic. The pantry has remained open with limited hours and drive-through pick ups to ensure the safety of the workers and clients. The mission and social committee continues to monetarily support the pantry, especially during these difficult times when so many are unemployed and money is tight. During the month of **May** we will collect (especially personals) **laundry soap, dish soap, bar soap, female hygiene products (sanitary napkins & tampons), toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, COMPLETE pancake mix, & syrup.** And, as always, any food or “non-essential” item is appreciated. All donated items should be **NON-PERISHABLE & NOT OUTDATED**, please.

I realize the list is long. Please feel free to choose as few or as many items as you wish. Moreover, the pantry encourages us to purchase items inexpensively at Dollar Tree and Dollar General.

The church is open daily (M-F) from 8:00 am-3:30 pm. The grocery carts are located in the fellowship hall & by the ramp door, and I check them weekly to make deliveries to assist in feeding our community members. I truly appreciate the support members of First Lutheran have given to our pantry for so many years. Bless you all for your generous and giving hearts! ~~Chris Lauritzen~~



Questions?? Please contact Jessica Warren for updates.

# May Birthdays

Duncan Eilts	5/3	Donna Dixon	5/22
Sue Mundschenk	5/3	Steve Mays	5/22
Brady Donovan	5/6	Paula Myers	5/22
Elijah Durbin	5/8	Starlette Torkelson	5/23
Mike Muzzarelli	5/8	Paul Adams	5/25
Collins Miller	5/11	Stacy Eilts	5/26
Lauren Mehrkens	5/13	Frannie Becker	5/28
Joe Kelly	5/15	Jeff Melvin	5/28
Tom Myers	5/16	Dee Dee Tarmann	5/28
Judy Crawford	5/18	Jessica Warren	5/28
Gary Crull	5/18	Diana Becker	5/29
Sandy Freeston	5/19	Maurine Kalkwarf	5/30
Chad Frank	5/20	Julie Branz	5/31
Chris Johnson	5/20		



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## 2022/2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

*Please continue to watch this space for additional information regarding the fall classes. There will be 4 students in the 8th grade class and ? students in the 7th grade class.*

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## HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER BABY BOTTLE PROJECT



Please pick up a baby bottle located near the bulletins in the Narthex and East transept to fill with your spare change, etc. The money collected will be used to help babies and mothers across the entire area.

Bottles will be available beginning on Mother's Day and collection will end on Father's Day (you may drop off in the office prior if you wish).

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## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. The evening Bible Study has moved to Thursday evenings @ 6:30 pm. May 25 & 26 will be the final classes until the Fall.

May 25th will be the final Wednesday morning session until the fall.

May 26th will be the final Thursday evening session until the fall.

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## Prayer Works



## Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Sharon Carr, Deb Follmer, Kerry Foster, Kori Harder, Carol Jones, Jim Jones, Mike Muzzarelli, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Avis Schulz, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Jonathan Becker, Charoletta Bergin, Windy Birch, Larry Blair, Roy Bracy, Sam Carlson, Katherine Harding, Wolf Knappe, Owen Lyons, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Rick Ours, David Robinson, Carl & Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Francis Schumacher, Jr., Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, & Pat & Jerry.

**CHILDREN:** Finn Bennett, Elliot Buchheit, Jonah Henkel, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

### ***Let us pray for the following members who are homebound or nursing home***

*Evenglow Lodge: Helen Rigg, Blanche Swedlund, Harley & Marian Mayer*

*Evenglow Inn: Avis Schulz & Delores Schultz*

*The Pointe: Judy L Sykes & Maurine Kalkwarf*

*Homebound: Phyllis Bradley, Stephen Weber, & Jim Jones*

### Meetings in May

Tuesdays @ 9:30 am  
Knitwits

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am  
Adult Bible Study (last one on 5/25)

Wednesdays @ 6 pm  
Choir

Thursdays @ 9 am  
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study (last one on 5/26)

Sunday, May 1 @ 8 & 10:30 am  
Noah's Ark Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 1 @ Noon  
Rogation Service @ Block 59  
Caring Ministry Training

Mondays, May 2 & 16 @ 9:15 am  
Pastor-Bible Study @ The Pointe

Mondays, May 2 & 16 @ 6:30 pm  
Euchre

Thursday, May 5 @ 1 pm  
Anna Circle

Sunday, May 8 @ 2 pm  
Blessing of the Bikes @ Block 59

Monday, May 9 @ 6:30 pm  
Memorial Committee

Tuesday, May 10 @ 7 pm  
Church Council

Tuesday, May 17 @ 7 pm  
Worship Committee

Saturday/Sunday, May 21/22  
Graduation Recognition @ all services

Monday, May 23 @ NOON  
Newsletter Deadline

Friday, May 27 @ 9:00 am  
Newsletter Assembly

Monday, May 30  
Memorial Day—OFFICE CLOSED

**HIPAA Laws...**Because of the HIPAA Laws, if you would like the Pastor to visit you in the hospital, **you must call the church office** (or have the Chaplain at the hospital call the office).



## ANNA CIRCLE

Anna Circle will meet on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our Bible study entitled, Encouraging One Another—Chapter 4 “Encouraging Growth” (pages 25-32). Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the first Thursday afternoon of each month.

Please bring your own drink with you.

If you have any questions, please call Lynnette at (815) 796-3216.

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## Comforting (Quilting) Ladies

The Comforting (Quilting) Ladies continue to meet in the large Sunday School room on Thursday mornings from 9-11 am. Anyone is welcome to join us on any Thursday. You don't have to come every week. If you enjoy cutting squares, laying out squares for tops, sewing squares, knotting or pinning hems — come whenever you wish.

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## JOYFUL WOMEN OF FIRST

Joyful Women has resumed our Bible Study “Discovering God’s Goodness” on Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm at the church. We will complete our 12 lessons on 5/22 and end until fall. Each of our lessons is an independent study, we welcome new friends at any time. Joyful Women is open to all women and friends of Frst Lutheran Church. There is no fee to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 815/674-5420.

~~Vicki Day~~

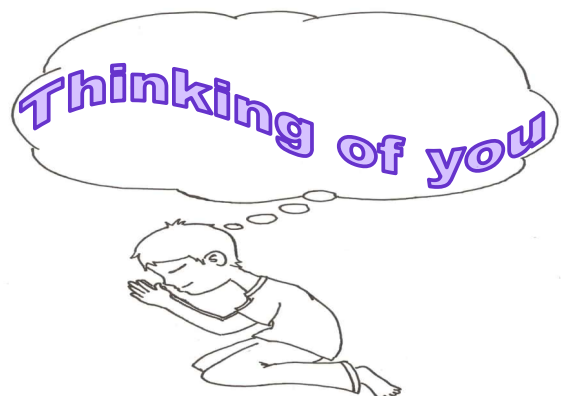
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### Please Note:

If you have submitted a name for the prayer list & would like them to receive a “Thinking of You” card, please provide the church office with a good address so that the volunteer coordinator can mail the card to the proper address. Also, please update the office if/when the name on the prayer list can be removed.

Thank you.

~Beth Ray~



## CARING MINISTRY PROGRAM

Are you in need of someone to support you in good or difficult times? Your Caring Ministers at First Lutheran are available to pray with you and support and encourage you. If you would like a Caring Minister to call upon you, please contact one of the Caring Minister coordinators or the church office to set up a visit.

The Caring Ministry team is also in need of additional ministers. If you are interested in becoming a Caring Minister, please contact Keith Tribley @ 674-7486, Kathy Weber @ 842-2433 or Pastor Ours for more information.

The next training meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 1 at noon**. We look forward to seeing you there!!

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## MEN IN MISSION

The annual steak fry is about to make a comeback!!!! The steak fry will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 starting at 5 pm.

The steak fry will be held at Delbert Robinson's pond this year (as it was in 2019!)

Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board between the church offices. Sign-up is required BY June 10th, please.

Come join us for some great food and fellowship!



## Come join the fun every other Monday night



We can get together again to play, so mark your calendars for the first and third Mondays of the month. Spread the word. We have waterproof cards and plastic cards that will be cleaned before the night starts and after we are done for the evening. Hand sanitizer will be available for each table. Each table will be sanitized for the evening and after we are done. At this time, we ask that you do NOT bring any snacks. Please bring your own drink for the evening.

We will open doors at 6 pm, play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$4/person

We want everyone who attends to feel safe and comfortable. Please do not attend if you do not feel well or if you are uncomfortable in playing at this time. If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley.

May 2 & 16      June 6 & 20      July 18 (only one this month)

### HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

**YOUTUBE:** [www.firstlutheranyoutube.org](http://www.firstlutheranyoutube.org)

*You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by going to YouTube and searching for "Pontiac First Lutheran"*

**OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:** <https://firstlutheranpontiac.org/live-stream/>

**APPLE TV & ROKU:** *Download an app called "Box Cast" and search for a channel called "Pontiac First Lutheran" Once you find it, make it one of your favorites and you can watch from your tv or phone!*

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pontiacfirstlutheran/>

*Go to this link and request to be added to the group. Once you are added you will get notifications of our next service and see past services!*

**TWITTER:** <https://twitter.com/FirstPontiac>

*If you have the twitter app, search for "First Pontiac" and you can 'follow' us on Twitter!*



**First Lutheran Church**  
Worshiping Christ - Serving Our Neighbor



## **LUTHERAN SOFTBALL 2022**

The 2022 Pontiac Church League season will begin May 31 and end with a tournament in July. All games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with three games played each evening at 6:15, 7:30 and 8:45 pm. Teams will usually play only one of these games per evening. All games will be played at the Pontiac Rec Plex, south of Pontiac Correctional Center. The league is co-ed and players should be **at least 16** years of age. Team colors are green and white. All interested players should contact either Stacy Eilts of First Lutheran Church, Pontiac at 815/822-1377, or Roger Wahls of St. Paul, Chenoa at 815/848-1415 ASAP. Practices are planned for Sunday, May 22 & 29 from 4-5:30 pm at the Rec Plex for those available to attend. A schedule will be posted in the Narthex. We need a minimum of 10 COMMITTED players to field a team.



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## **JESSE'S RIDE FOR PTSD**

On Monday, June 20, all those interested in participating in an event to honor Jesse Ours at First Lutheran are invited to meet in the Munson Room at 6:30 pm to begin organizing our event for 2022. Jesse's Ride for PTSD was held in September of 2020 and 2021. It was a benefit in honor of Jesse, who served his country in the Army in Iraq, suffered from PTSD and subsequently took his own life. Funds raised at these events, and donations from the congregation, were donated to groups treating individuals with PTSD, local veterans' groups, and Lutheran organizations serving veterans with PTSD in the U.S. Based upon the review of our previous years' events, we can decide how we want to proceed this year to help raise awareness of PTSD and support the treatment and services provided to veterans and others with PTSD.

Please prayerfully consider joining us as we begin to plan our event for this year.

Thank you, Vicki Day

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
311 W GROVE  
PONTIAC, IL 61764**

Phone: 815-844-3695

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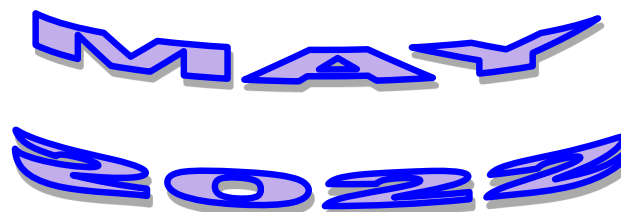
Email: [info@firstlutheranpontiac.org](mailto:info@firstlutheranpontiac.org)

Pastor Carlin: [carlinours@gmail.com](mailto:carlinours@gmail.com)

704/775-9823

[www.firstlutheranpontiac.org](http://www.firstlutheranpontiac.org)

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*



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**“Worshiping Christ, Serving Our Neighbor”**

**Weekend Worship Schedule**

**Sat. 5:30 pm**

**Sun. 8:00 am**

**Sun. 10:30 am**

**Sunday School 9:15 am**

**Our Staff**

**Pastor:** Carlin Ours  
**Office Admin:** Beth Ray  
**Acct:** Angel Hall  
**Custodian:** DeAnn Dennis  
**Vol. Coord:** Beth Ray  
**Choir Dir:** Joseph Durbin

**2022 Congregational Council:**

<b>Stewart Alvey, President</b>	<b>Jim Drengwittz</b>
<b>Michael Carlson, V. President</b>	<b>Brian Friedman</b>
<b>Jane Yate, Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Ann Johnson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kori Mehrkens</b>
<b>Michelle Janssen, Fin. Secretary</b>	<b>Julie Rapp</b>
<b>Jeff Bressner</b>	<b>Cathy Robinson</b>
	<b>Fred Shirley</b>