

# July 2022 Newsletter



## Pastor Carlin's Page

### Ecclesiastes 3:17-22

<sup>17</sup>I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for he has appointed a time for every matter, and for every work. <sup>18</sup>I said in my heart with regard to human beings that God is testing them to show that they are but animals. <sup>19</sup>For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals; for all is vanity. <sup>20</sup>All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. <sup>21</sup>Who knows whether the human spirit goes upward and the spirit of animals goes downward to the earth? <sup>22</sup>So I saw that there is nothing better than that all should enjoy their work, for that is their lot; who can bring them to see what will be after them?

\*Qoheleth is the Hebrew name of the writer of Ecclesiastes many believe King Solomon is this writer.

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Here are some thoughts on Ecclesiastes 3: 17- 22  
**Thesis**

We fail to enjoy our present life and what we have, because we strive for more things and a future, which is not, guaranteed us.

### **“Don't let living stop you from living”**

When I grew up in West Virginia, I couldn't wait to leave the mountains behind and go to a place where the grass was greener on the other side. If I would ever see another mountain again it would be too soon. Some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world was right in front of me, but I could not see the preverbal forest for the trees. Just like many people today, I did not appreciate what was

already given me, to enjoy. I desired to have bigger and better, but what I failed to realize is that we are not guaranteed anything beyond what we have right now. We cannot even count on tomorrow for it may never come for us. You see, God has given us today and we should embrace every moment as though it may be our last, because sometimes we let living keep us from living.

I. *A time for every experience* (17). Different experiences come and go in our lives. If I've learned anything we all will have our ups and downs. I've made good money and I've been broke. I have had extreme highs in life and lows. My life is not much different than many of the people we read about in scripture. Job had his moment of blessing and his great time of tragedy. He was blessed with a large family and many possessions only to have all taken away in a moment. So did Qoheleth. He had striven for greatness, wisdom, and riches and found that his striving was all in vain. Because, fame can come and go, just ask a once famous celebrity, whom few remember anymore. Wisdom and money can also be fleeting as those of you who were given advice as to where to invest your money can attest. All our striving, many times, leads us to invest time and effort, just like Qoheleth, into things that in the end are not that important.

II. *The only guarantee is death.* (18-21). Death, is a pretty morbid subject, but it is the one certainty in life. No one gets a pass when it comes to death. Animals die and people die; as morbid as it may sound it is inevitable. Nothing is guaranteed to us, not even tomorrow. It sounds clichéd but it is true, time is our most precious commodity and I know I have wasted my fair share by worrying about future events that may never come and are not promised. I have failed many times to enjoy my time at work and with my family and friends. Time is limited and should be used wisely and enjoyed because tomorrow is not guaranteed, but death is.

III. *Enjoy your possessions* (22). Each of us, no matter our lot in life has been given certain possessions. Possessions are not just the things you have, but family, friends, and life. According to Qoheleth, it is our portion to enjoy what we have. The family we have should be a focal point in our lives. Enjoy your family, for I am sure many of you are like me and would desire to have more time with loved ones who are gone. How many times do we take for granted the friends in our lives and fail to give them the love and support they need. We also take for granted our own life, many times we dread each day of work or of time spent with family and friends because of some minor hang-up on our part that we allow to interfere with our relationships. How often do we give all our time and initiative to getting some possession or a better job at the expense of our relationships? I can raise my hand as one who is guilty, what about you?

Conclusion. Let us now turn over a new leaf, to enjoy the present. Maybe we can each do a self-inventory and find what areas of our lives we have neglected. For we each have so many things in our life to enjoy here and now. Hopefully, each of us can find ways to enjoy the life we have now. For nothing is guaranteed to us except today. Let's all not let living keep us from living.

Many blessings to each of you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!

Pastor Carlin

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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 (or any "address" changes).

Thank you.

~Beth Ray~



## July at Noah's Ark

*We had a WONDERFUL turnout at Pre-Registration 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!*

*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.*

*We still have openings in our 3's PM class on Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-12:30 and our 4's class MWF from 11:45-2:45! Morning classes fill up fast, and our 4 year olds who attended as a 3 year old get first choice! J*

*Noah's Ark offers a safe, Christian environment where we treat each child with the love and respect we believe our Heavenly Father would. Our classes are designed according to a play-based theory while incorporating multiple fine motor and sensory activities throughout their day! We believe children benefit from socializing with peers their age and engaging in many different types of activities to ensure growth for each developmental milestone!*

*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*

*Please contact me at [pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com) for any questions!*

*Check out our Facebook page too!*



## 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, July 7, 2022, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our Bible study—"Encouraging One Another" - chapter 6 (Your Experience Can Encourage Others on pages 41-38). Visitors and new members are always welcome.

**KNITWITS:** *Knitwits will be taking the summer off and will resume in the fall.*

**JOYFUL WOMEN:** Joyful Women will be taking the summer off and will return in the fall. Joyful Women is open to all women and friends of First Lutheran Church.

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## Vacation Bible School

VBS shirts are still available and are now buy one for \$10 and get a 2nd one free!!!

As of June 21, 2021 the following sizes are available (with available quantities in parentheses).

|       |        |     |
|-------|--------|-----|
| Youth | XL     | (7) |
| Adult | Small  | (8) |
| Adult | Medium | (3) |
| Adult | Large  | (4) |
| Adult | XL     | (2) |

Please stop by the office from 8-3:30 M-F to get yours today!!!



Lutheran World Relief

### **Mission/Social Committee Project: LWR School Kits**

Impossible to believe, but it is once again time to think of collecting supplies for school kits that are distributed to needy children throughout the world. We will run the collection from mid-July through September. Again, there will be bins placed at the entrances to the church. I will also run off extra sheets near the bins, so feel free to take on for when you are shopping.

Items needed for the School Kits:

- \* 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper 8" x 10 ½" (**NO** loose-leaf paper)
- \* 30 centimeter rulers, or rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- \* Pencil sharpeners
- \* Blunt end scissors (**NO** pointed ends)
- \* Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- \* Black or blue ballpoint pens (**NO** gel ink)
- \* Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons (**ONLY** sizes)
- \* 2 ½ inch erasers

**NOTE:** LWR **cannot** accept any supplies other than those on the list. We ended last year with an abundance of pencils that will carry over to this year. We are usually mostly in need of the spiral notebooks, as **FOUR** of them go in each kit. Please make sure they are the 70-sheet, 8 x 10½ spiral notebooks. They are often sold for 15-25 cents during the back-to-school sales during July & August.

Last year we delivered 98 school kits for distribution! Hopefully, we can do as well this year. Thank you to First Lutheran for your support and generosity.

Linda Frank, School Kit Chair





# 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 **July** 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.

# July Birthdays

|                  |     |                   |      |                 |      |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Kaitlyn Hamilton | 7/3 | Erma Hesterberg   | 7/9  | Roger Weber     | 7/23 |
| Jpanie Swenson   | 7/3 | Melissa Horning   | 7/9  | Betty Bartley   | 7/25 |
| Tina Melvin      | 7/4 | Stephen Hartke    | 7/10 | Karol Hall      | 7/25 |
| Rupert Rodriguez | 7/4 | Christine Brown   | 7/13 | Candy Jones     | 7/27 |
| Phyllis Bradley  | 7/5 | Kara Mehrkens     | 7/13 | Patti Drengwitz | 7/29 |
| Korri Mehrkens   | 7/5 | Steven Croft      | 7/14 | Bob Thompson    | 7/29 |
| Dylan Melvin     | 7/6 | Sharrie Orendorff | 7/14 | Kerry Foster    | 7/30 |
| Roger Henkel     | 7/7 | Winnifred Cox     | 7/16 | Drew Myers      | 7/29 |
| Parker Krominga  | 7/7 | Terry Pinkerton   | 7/17 |                 |      |
| James Brown      | 7/8 | Keith Tribley     | 7/17 |                 |      |
| Carson Kelly     | 7/8 | Brian Friedman    | 7/18 |                 |      |
| Nancy LoPiccalo  | 7/8 | Corey Gesell      | 7/19 |                 |      |
| Cathy Robinson   | 7/8 | Julie Rapp        | 7/23 |                 |      |
| Katy Wiechmann   | 7/8 | Barbara Sear      | 7/23 |                 |      |



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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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REMINDER—If you wish to make a contribution to the church and are uncomfortable/unable to attend in person, you may mail it, drop it off between 8 am & 3:30 pm or use the PayPal option.

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## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study is taking a break until the fall.

**Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years:** The movie Sabina was shown at First Lutheran in March. If you missed the showing and would like to see it, the DVD is available in the church office to borrow for viewing. Please sign the sign-out sheet when you take the movie out and please return it within a week.

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## Prayer Works



**Please Pray  
for our  
Members &  
Friends:**

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Sharon Carr, Debbie Clardy, Deb Follmer, Kerry Foster, Shelley Hodgson, Carol Jones, Jim Jones, Mike Muzzarelli, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Pastor Gabe Baumgardner, Jonathan Becker, Charoletta Bergin, Windy Birch, Roy Bracy, Sam Carlson, Katherine Harding, J. Sunday Joyner, Wolf Knappe, Owen Lyons, Chris Miller, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Stacy Nutgrass, Rick Ours, Matt Perry, David Robinson, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Francis Schumacher, Jr., Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Marsha Follet-Pauly, & Pat & Jerry. **CHILDREN:** Finn Bennett, Elliot Buchheit, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

### ***Let us pray for the following members***

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

*Evenglow Inn: Delores Schultz*

*The Pointe: Judy L Sykes & Maurine Kalkwarf*

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

## Meetings in July

**Pastor on vacation through July 8th**

**Monday, July 4—OFFICE CLOSED**

**Thursdays @ 9 am  
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)**

**Thursday, July 7 @ 1 pm  
Anna Circle**

**Monday, July 11 @ 6:30 pm  
Memorial Committee**

**Tuesday, July 12 @ 7 pm  
Church Council**

**Sunday, July 17 @ Noon  
Caring Ministry**

**Monday, July 18 @ 9:15 am  
Pastor-Bible Study @ The Pointe**

**Monday, July 18 @ 6:30 pm  
Euchre**

**Tuesday, July 19 @ 7 pm  
Worship Committee**

**Monday, July 25 @ NOON  
Newsletter Deadline**

**Monday, July 25 @ 7 pm (?)  
Mission/Social Committee**

**Friday, July 29 @ 9:00 am  
Newsletter Assembly**

**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, July 7, 2022, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our Bible study—"Encouraging One Another" with chapter 6 (Your Experience Can Encourage Others) on pages 41-48. 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 will be taking a break until the fall. Joyful Women is open to all women and friends of First 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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## Vacation Bible School

Another successful VBS—riding on the Rocky Railway! Approximately 75 children boarded the train during the first full week of June. Everyone had a great time learning that Jesus' power always pulls us through when we trust in Him. It was a busy week full of fun, games, snacks, music, crafts, lessons, and Bible stories. Thank you to First Lutheran Church—a kind, generous congregation that is willing to support this important outreach ministry. Thank you to all who stepped up to help in any way, especially our awesome team members! We couldn't have done it without you. God blessed us with many wonderful people who willingly and generously gave of their time, gifts, and talents from the beginning to the end of VBS. It was all greatly appreciated, and I am grateful for each and every one who helped to make our Vacation Bible School the best one ever!

~~Chris Lauritzen~~

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## Come join the fun every other Monday night



Mark your calendars for the first and third Mondays of the month. Spread the word. .

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 . If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley.

July 18 (only one this month)

Aug 1 & 15

Sept 5 & 19

### 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



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

Phone: 815-844-3695

Fax: 815-844-7580

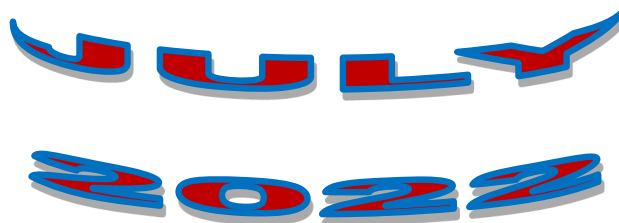
Email: [info@firstlutheranpontiac.org](mailto:info@firstlutheranpontiac.org)

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 Drengwitz</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>     |