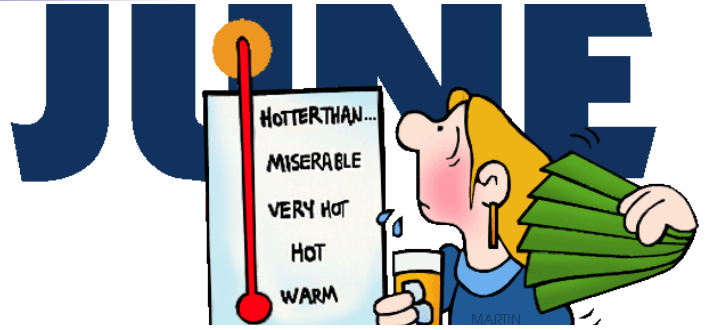

June 2022 Newsletter



Pastor Carlin's Page

Romans 8:15

¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

2 Timothy 1:7

⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

1 John 4:18

¹⁸There 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.

On March 4th 1933 at his first inaugural speech President Franklin D. Roosevelt made what has become one of the most famous statements of all time. Mr. Roosevelt exclaimed "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." President Roosevelt made this statement at arguably one of the lowest points in the history of the United States at the height of The Great Depression. The country as a whole was mired with mass unemployment, food rationing, a stagnate economy and little hope on the horizon. The threat of starvation was a daily reality for millions; and the promise of the Promised Land called America seemed totally lost for many.

The circumstances of The Great Depression brought about and fostered an atmosphere of unmitigated fear; and President Roosevelt sought to quell the nation's fears with his now famous speech.

In much the same manner, God quells our fear. All one needs to do is look up the word fear in a concordance and they will find that the most voiced command in all of scripture is "Fear not." Fear is a paralyzing emotion that limits our ability in all facets of life. The fear of dying or harm often keeps us from truly living. Fear of loss and failure keeps many from starting a dream business, going to college, reaching their potential, or even from asking out that special someone. These are but a few examples of the destructive and hindering power of fear. However, one fear may trump all others. This would be fear of learning the truth.

Yes, often times we are hindered, harmed and many have even been destroyed for fear of learning the truth. It is a very hard thing to come to grips with our own self-imposed limits we have placed on digging deeper into the mysteries of God. Most of us are afraid to step outside the boundaries of our theological comfort zone. To do so could bring all we have based our world around crashing down on us; literally pulling the rug out from under the neat little religious box we have attempted to confine the creator of the universe known as God into. Confining God to our standards and limited understanding puts God in our control; and who is really in charge in our lives when we do this? In my humble opinion, when we do this we are breaking the first commandment (I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods).

For many Christians it is easier to lie to themselves and pretend they have the unlimited God, (in every facet), figured out, than it is to admit that in reality none of us has even fathomed the tip of the proverbial iceberg that is our almighty God and Father. The Apostle Paul gave this advice to a young preacher named Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Words that should bring fear to all who fail to heed them, but unending joy and abundant life to all who do.

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

Pastor Carlin

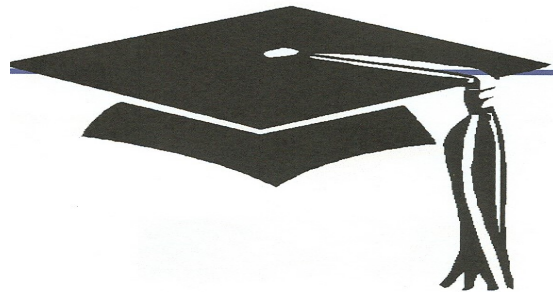
2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV).

CONGRATULATION GRADUATES

First Lutheran Church would like to congratulate our 2022 graduates:

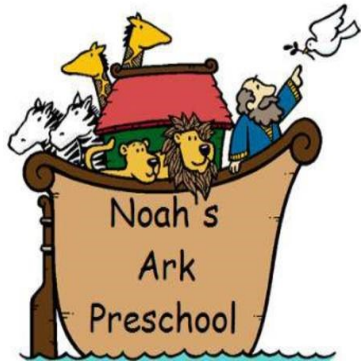
From High School

Grace Brown
Demaris (Demi) Carlson
Corey Gesell
Sam Kelly
Hattie Koehler
Landyn Mehrkens
Paige Olson
Natalie Sear



From 8th grade

Lyla Donovan
Anderson Horning
Landon Jordan
Henry Puryear
Cole Rapp
Jasmine Ray
Megan Wiechmann



June 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 16th 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.

The 3-year-olds did a fantastic job at their Spring Concert and are off to Summer Break! We have a majority of our 3 year olds coming back for our 4 year old program in September and we are so thankful they have once again chosen Noah's Ark for their child's education!

Our 4 year olds have officially GRADUATED! It truly was such a blessing to have these two groups this year! They did not let one obstacle this year bring down their love of school and interactions with their friends! They did such a fantastic job singing their songs for parents and everyone who was in attendance! We pray that they show the love of Jesus to all they encounter in their new journey!

*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. (NO sewing on June 9th due to VBS).

ANNA CIRCLE: Will meet on Thursday, June 2, 2022, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. Don't forget to do your **HOMework** assignment (pg 38 in our study book — Ponder and Pray)!! We will start our time together by discussing our homework. Please bring your own drink with you.

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.

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 worshipping Christ and serving our neighbor.

Questions? See Chris Lauritzen





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 **June** 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.

June Birthdays

Jared Bressner	6/1	Michelle Ours	6/8	Stephanie Durbin	6/22
Eileen Robinson	6/2	Dawn Graves	6/9	Barry Johnson	6/23
Harley Mayer	6/3	Amy Coates	6/12	Demi Carlson	6/24
Gene Orendorff	6/3	Liam Lawrence	6/14	Robert Heins	6/25
Brittany Roper	6/3	Martin Wiechmann	6/14	Jim Jones	6/25
Joseph Durbin	6/4	Aden Holzhauser	6/15	Candy Miller	6/26
Zayn Eilts	6/4	Jaden VanHouten	6/15	Thalen Harty	6/28
Delbert Robinson	6/4	Elizabeth Alvey	6/16	Sherry Friedman	6/29
Dan Hamilton	6/6	Mary Ann Johnson	6/17		
Betty Olson	6/6	Jim Day	6/18		
Mike Ray	6/6	Carolyn Moore	6/19		
Marion Harding	6/7	Mary Sue Patterson	6/20		
Riley Kelly	6/7	James Bartley	6/20		
Andy Torkelson	6/7	Jack Vogel	6/21		



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.

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).

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.

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, BJ Lamar, Owen Lyons, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Stacy Nutgrass, Rick Ours, David Robinson, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Francis Schumacher, Jr., Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Marsha Follet-Pauly, & 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: Delores Schultz

The Pointe: Judy L Sykes & Maurine Kalkwarf

Homebound: Phyllis Bradley, Stephen Weber, & Jim Jones

Meetings in June

Thursdays @ 9 am
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)
NO sewing on June 9 (VBS)

Mondays, June 6 & 20 @ 9:15 am
Pastor-Bible Study @ The Pointe

Mondays, June 6 & 20 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre

Thursday, June 2 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle

Tuesday, June 14 @ 7 pm
Church Council

Thursday, June 16 @ 5 pm
Men's Steak Fry @ Delbert's Pond

Thursday, June 16 @ 5-7pm
Pavilion Reserved—United Way

Monday, June 20 @ NOON
Newsletter Deadline

Monday, June 20 @ 6:30 pm
Jesse's Ride Planning Meeting

Friday, June 24 @ 9:00 am
Newsletter Assembly

June 6—10 @ 8:15—11:45 am
Vacation Bible School

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, June 2, 2022, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. Don't forget to do your HOMEWORK assignment (pg 38 in our study book — Ponder and Pray)!! We will start our time together by discussing our homework. You may feel uncomfortable sharing because it seems like BRAGGING. It is not bragging, but evaluating our "gifts". Two weeks ago, Pastor Ours (in his sermon) gave us encouragement toward our homework by using the phrases "Here am I, send me, send me" OR "Are you standing in God's way?" Jim Drengwitz also gave us encouragement (in his sermonette) this past weekend by reminding us that one of the reasons we attend church services is to "practice" for living a Christian life in the world each day. 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.

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. **NOTE**: No sewing on June 9th due to Vacation Bible School

JOYFUL WOMEN OF FIRST

Joyful Women will be taking a break until the fall. 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.

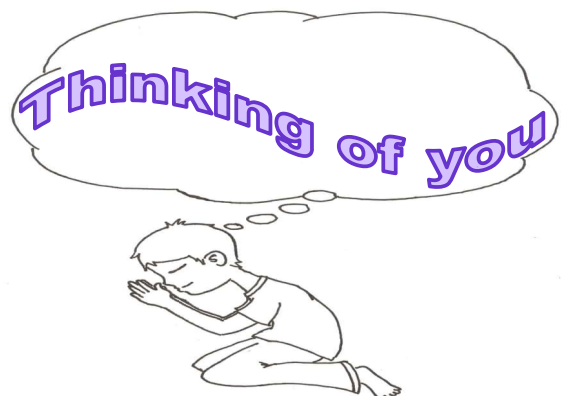
~~Vicki Day~~

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~



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

MEN IN MISSION

The Men in Mission Steak Fry will be held Thursday, June 16 at 5 pm at Delbert Robinson's pond.

The menu will include steak, potato salad, baked beans and a beverage for \$15 (payable upon arrival at the meal).

Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board between the church offices. Sign-up is required BY June 1st, 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.

June 6 & 20

July 18 (only one this month)

Aug 1 & 15

HOW TO WATCH OUR CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE:

YOUTUBE: 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



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

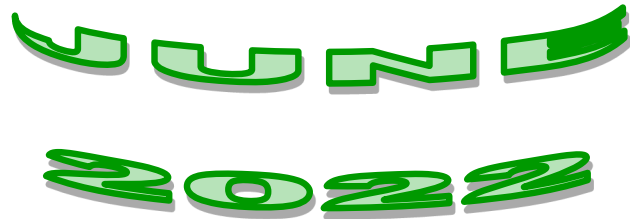
Phone: 815-844-3695
Fax: 815-844-7580
Email: info@firstlutheranpontiac.org
Pastor Carlin: carlinours@gmail.com
704/775-9823

www.firstlutheranpontiac.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



JUNE



**JUNE
2022**

“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:

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