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# August 2023 Newsletter

goodbye July, hello  
**AUGUST**

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## Pastor Carlin's Page

### The Highest Office

On February 14<sup>th</sup> of 2018 a horrific shooting took place in Parkland Florida at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. Unfortunately, seventeen students and faculty members were killed and many others injured. On that day, I found out about the shooting on my way to pick-up my high schooler. As I heard the reports on my car radio my heart began to sink. My thoughts went to my son as well as the other children at Organ Church, where I served at the time, who attended various schools within Rowan County. These schools are not any different from the one in Florida. This truly hit home for me and many throughout our nation. As usual at events like these emotions run high and discussions ensue about ways to end this sort of senseless violence from happening again.

Since this tragic day, I have heard a plethora of things many folks think will help. Most of these folks, I think are well meaning and have the best of intentions. I do not think this of the political class weighing in on the issue as both sides seek only a political advantage over the other. I have a very jaded view of politicians and feel they care little about the folks affected and are more interested in the talking point and issue to use for advantage. However, as much discussion as has taken place and it should, I have not heard anyone discuss what I consider the root cause of this and all other similar events. I believe the weak state of the family is the reason behind these events and most of the decline in our society.

The main reason the issue of the family is not mentioned is because it is not political and will not get clicks on social media or bring in viewers or readers to TV or print media. In other words, politicians and TV talking heads find little or no benefit in discussing this most pressing issue. Also, the thought of marriage and family has become passé and is thought to be a relic from our past that has outlasted its relevance. However, if one just delves briefly into statistical data from the past

several decades we can see a direct correlation between social decline, violence, drug abuse, murder, as well as declines in adult behavior, student behavior and success in school and beyond. All this and more can be attributed to a decline in the family system.

How we got to this place can be traced over many decades and to various reasons. Though, when you find yourself in a ditch it is not as important how you got there as it is how you get out.

Many will not like my prescription because the places most look for help, the Government and pop culture cannot help. In fact, I would argue they are part of the problem. The remedy will not cost tax payers one red dime and does not require a new program from the Government or for Hollywood stars or famous singers of to give time or fortune toward. It is quite simple, really.

Here it is: we need to begin to take marriage and the raising of children seriously. You say come on preacher it can't be that simple, but yet it is. We as parents and couples need to take responsibility for the high office we hold. What office is that you may ask? Husband and wife and father and mother, these are the highest office anyone can hold, President, senator, congressman, doctor, esquire, pastor or any other position or office pales in comparison.

If people would just take their marriage vows seriously and the vows they take at Baptism for a child seriously and if children take affirmation of Baptism vows seriously many of the issues and ailments our society faces would shrink significantly. This requires personal responsibility from each of us. Our lives communities and nation rely on each other. Thus, when we have strong marriages and families we have strong children, schools, communities, and a nation. It is up to us to teach the next generation morals, ethics, common sense, manners and proper behavior as well

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as respect for the rights and life of everyone. Only, "We The People" can insure this to happen if we take marriage, family, children and especially God seriously.

Just for your information here are the vows for Baptism and affirmation of Baptism is very similar as the same promises are made:

As you present you child/yourself for baptism in Christian love, you are entrusted with gifts & responsibilities: LIVE with them among God's faithful people, BRING them to the services of worship in God's house, TEACH them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As they grows in years, you should: PLACE in their hands the Holy Scriptures, PROVIDE for their instruction in the Christian faith, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations? Brian do you also take these promises for yourself?

**I do.**

Family and friends, do you promise to nurture this family in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, help them live in the covenant of baptism, support and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**We do.**

### **Marriage declaration intention:**

**Bride**, will you have **Groom** to be your husband, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

**Groom**, will you have **Bride** to be your wife, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

### **Marriage Vows**

In the presence of God and this community, I **Bride**, take you, **Groom**, to be my husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

In the presence of God and this community, I **Groom**, take you, **Bride**, to be my wife; to have and to hold from this day forward, in joy and sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

May the Lord restore our families and our nation. Amen

Many blessings from our most relevant Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Carlin

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## August at Noah's Ark

We had a good turnout at Pre-Registration and are excited for our enrollment for this

next school year! We still have lots of room for more students, so PLEASE tell your family and friends and we will be holding Registration on Tuesday, August 1st from 11-1 and 4-6. OR please feel free to email [pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com) anytime for your questions.

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 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!

We are blessed to have First Lutheran Church provide our classroom with new lighting AND new flooring for our classroom this month! It is so wonderful that they saw this classroom as a need for our community and families and provided the funding for this upgrade for our staff and students! THANK YOU FLC!

Our primary goal is to always 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:** Summer Sunday School will conclude on August 20 and regular schedule will resume on September 10.

**COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES:** meets on Saturdays from 9 am—5 pm in the large Sunday School room downstairs. You don't have to come every Saturday and you are free to choose which hours are best for you (whatever fits your schedule) . Come first thing in the morning OR come just before lunch; work a while, take a lunch break; come back and work some more OR come to work later in the afternoon and then attend the 5:30 pm worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Lynnette @ 815/796-3216

**ANNA CIRCLE:** Will meet on Thursday, August 3, 2023, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our current Bible study, The Women of Easter. We will be continuing our discussion of Chapter 5— O Most Afflicted—pages 87 to 113. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the 1st Thursday afternoon of each month. Questions—please call Lynnette @ 815/796-3216.

**KNITWITS:** *Knitwits has gone on hiatus until after Labor Day*

**JOYFUL WOMEN:** Will be on hiatus until after Labor Day. Joyful Women is open to all ladies of First Lutheran, as well as their family and friends. Contact: Vicki Day @ 815/844-5420. or Sue Hiatt @ 815/844-7933 with questions

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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~





Thank you to all who have continued to generously donate food and supplies to the Livingston Area Food Pantry. 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 **August** we would like to suggest:

**Complete Pancake Mix (& syrup)**

**Peanut Butter (& Jelly)**

**Canned Meats (such as: Spam, chicken, etc.)**

**Laundry Detergent**

**Dish Soap**

**Toilet Paper**

**Paper Towels**

**Women's Feminine Products (including "pads" & tampons)**

The pantry will accept **ALL** donations of **UNOPENED, NON-PERISHABLE** FOOD/SUPPLIES.

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 are checked weekly so that I might 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~~

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# August Birthdays

Neil Marsack	8/5	Grace Brown	8/20
Roger Ruther	8/5	Ryson Eilts	8/20
Brett VonHolten	8/6	Beth Ray	8/22
Stewart Alvey	8/7	Kurt Swenson	8/22
Ted Cagley	8/10	Sherrill Wilson	8/22
Laura Baumgardner	8/11	Joni Gibson	8/24
Kurt Lauritzen	8/11	Hattie Koeller	8/25
Peggy Mundschenk	8/11	Violette Torkelson	8/25
Marcia Legner	8/11	James Onken	8/27
Aaron Adcock	8/13	Preston Brown	8/28
Michael Carlson	8/15	Richard Hiatt	8/29
Tom Goley	8/16	Devon Pritchard	8/30
Angel Hall	8/18	Landon Jordan	8/31
Tyler Monahan	8/18		



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## Mission/Social Committee Project: LWR School Kits

We will continue to collect school supplies during the next couple of months. The bins are out for collection, and feel free to take a sheet with the supply list. The list will be included in the bulletin each week, also. **NO** pencils are needed at this time. We have plenty left from last year!! Thank you again for your continued support..

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 (**NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME, THANK YOU**)
- \* 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

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## Prayer Works



## Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Sharon Carr, Ron Cox, Deb Follmer, Kerry Foster, Terri Heins, Carol Jones, Jim Jones, Jean Miller, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Pastor Gabe Baumgardner, Jonathan Becker, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Marsha Follet-Pauly, Jeff Garretson, Sheila Geschwind, Skip Hahn, Katherine Harding, Wolf Knappe, Joni Koch, Alisha Landrus, Owen Lyons, Tim Mehn, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Michael O'Shea, Rick Ours, Matthew Paternoster, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Steve Shaffer, Eric Smith, Kathy Telford, Gavin Wallace, John Winchester, John Wolf, & Pat & Jerry.

**CHILDREN:** Finn Bennett, Elliot Buchheit, Able Fuchs, Kysten Krominga, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

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

*Accolade: Phyllis Bradley*

*Evenglow Lodge:  
Harley & Marian Mayer*

*Goldwater Care (formerly Good Sam):  
Ron Cox, Kerry Foster & Maurine Kalkwarf*

*IL Veteran's Home, LaSalle: Jim Jones*

**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).

## Meetings in August

Monday, August 21 @ 9:15 am  
Bible Study @ The Pointe

Mondays, August 7 & 21 @ 6:30 pm  
Euchre

Saturdays from 9 am—5 pm  
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)

Thursday, August 3 @ 1 pm  
Anna Circle

Mon, August 7—Fri, August 11  
Lutheran Week 2023 Conference in OKC

Tuesday, August 8 @ 7 pm  
Council

Tuesday, August 15 @ 6 pm  
Choir Practice

Sunday, August 20 @ Noon  
Caring Ministry

Thursday, August 24 & 31 @ 6 pm  
Choir Practice

Monday, August 21 @ NOON  
Newsletter Deadline

Friday, August 25 @ 9 am  
Newsletter Assembly

Sunday, August 27 @ 10:30 am  
Combined Service—Outdoors  
Picnic, etc. to follow

## **SAVE THE DATE — FLC POTLUCK & COOKOUT**

On Sunday, October 1, 2023 we will be having an all-church picnic at the Robinson Pond from 3 pm to 6:30 pm. The church will provide hot dogs, etc. w/buns and all the “fixins”, as well as eating utensils and drinks.

Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair and plan an afternoon of fun, games, and fellowship. Keep watching Facebook and the weekly bulletin for further information. As the date gets closer we will send around a sign-up sheet for an attendance number and to have an idea of what “side” dishes we will have.



**DONATION REMINDER**—If you wish to make a contribution to the church but are still uncomfortable/unable to attend in person, you may mail it to the church or drop it off between 8 am and 3:30 pm M-F.

## **2023/2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Please continue to watch this space for updates regarding the beginning of class as the



## 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.

August 7 & 21    September 4 & 18    October 2 & 16    November 6 & 20

### 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



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Pontiac, IL  
Permit 108

**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*



**AUGUST**  
**2023**

**“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**

**2023 Congregational Council:**

<b>Jim Drengwitz, President</b>	<b>Jeff Bressner</b>
<b>Michael Carlson, V. President</b>	<b>Christine Brown</b>
<b>Cathy Robinson, Secretary</b>	<b>Elizabeth Diemer</b>
<b>Steve Ray, Treasurer</b>	<b>Al Fahsbender</b>
<b>Michelle Janssen, Fin. Secretary</b>	<b>MaryAnn Johnson</b>
<b>Stewart Alvey</b>	<b>Julie Rapp</b>