
February 2023 Newsletter



Pastor Carlin's Page

Green Bay Packers legendary Head Coach Vince Lombardi is quoted to have said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence." His words ring true for all of humanity and especially Christians. Try as we may, we can never in this life be perfect. The only person to ever achieve this feat was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, we are infected with the disease of sin. It is part of our fallen nature. So, does this mean we should stop trying and give way to every desire or thought that comes into our mind? The resounding answer without equivocation is NO!! However, you may say, if perfection is not attainable and we are infected with sin why try? It is not attainable here and now but one day it will be attained in us. At this present moment, as Luther describes, we wear our flesh around our necks. For the flesh is sinful by nature. But thanks to the merits of Christ and in Him alone, sin does not have to have a strangle-hold on us. We have an example of how to live and overcome the depravity of sin and it is found in the life and actions of Jesus Christ.

Christ beckons for us to take up our cross daily and follow him, denying the self and hungering and thirsting after righteousness. This is the theology behind Philipians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." It is by doing this that we can love the unlovable and pray for those who spitefully use us. It is only in Christ that these things are possible as they remain contrary to our nature and the world, we live in. It is here that the quote from Coach Lombardi rings true we can never in this life achieve perfection, however, by living a life as a disciple of Christ we can catch excellence in our faith voyage.

1 John 3:1-10 English Standard Version (ESV)

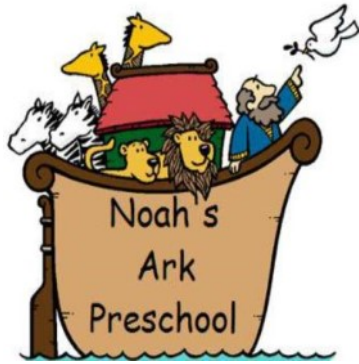
3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared;

but we know that when he appears^[a] we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's^[b] seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

Pastor Carlin



February at Noah's Ark

We have 1 NEW student that we have added to our 4-year-old classroom, and also 2 NEW students to our 3-year-old class! We still have room for more students, in the 4-year-old PM class and 3-year-old MIDS so please tell your family and friends, we can add students any time during the school 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 doing some winter themed activities! They have been hard at work continuing to learn the letters of the alphabet and focusing on the letters specifically in their name. The class has also worked on counting objects and correlating the numbers to the amount of objects they have.

They have welcomed Miss Grove into their classroom and all are working on settling in to the new routine!

Our 4 year olds have been working hard on writing their names without using their nametags in preparation for Kindergarten! They have mastered much of the alphabet already! Since we are learning the alphabet in a developmentally appropriate way for their fine motor skills they are always eager to know what letter they are going to learn next J

We have worked with fun Winter/Snowflake activities for our small groups and learned about mixing colors to make new colors.

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/less (sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy or windy).

We have also been learning 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 J

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 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, February 2, 2023, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We finished the Bible study, "Encouraging One Another" in January. We will begin a new Bible study entitled, "The Women of Easter: Encounter the Savior with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene". As the Lenten season begins, this study will help us concentrate on our Lenten journey as we study the stories of three women who played a vital role in the life and ministry of Jesus. 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 resumed on most Tuesdays from 9:30—11 am

JOYFUL WOMEN: Is on hiatus again until sometime in 2023. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sue Hiatt @ 815/844-7933 or Vicki Day @ 815/844-5420.

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 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 **February** 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. The Pantry is **CURRENTLY** in need of **EVERYTHING** .

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.

February Birthdays

Victoria Roper	2/5	Brad Mehrkens	2/19
Blake Whittle	2/5	Jacki Abraham	2/20
Tiofi Carlson	2/6	Joanne Harn	2/20
Anderson Horning	2/6	Andrew Koeller	2/20
Paula Warren	2/7	August Koeller	2/20
Suzanne Jones	2/8	Jean Miller	2/20
Stephen Weber	2/12	Andrew Jordan	2/21
Megan Donovan	2/13	Peggy Knight	2/21
Mallory Dennis	2/14	Charlene Fahsbender	2/22
Melina Dennis	2/14	Larry Graves	2/22
Sadie Johnson	2/15	Tanya Bell	2/25
Terri Heins	2/16	Dave Tarmann	2/27
Andrea Muzzarelli	2/16	Jace Bressner	2/28
Amber Ray	2/17	Jenna Bressner	2/28



2022/2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

*There are 4 students in the 8th grade class and 5 students in the 7th grade class.
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) is scheduled for 8 am on Palm Sunday (Apr. 2)*

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

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study has returned at 9:30 am and 6 pm on Wednesdays. There will not be Bible Study on Feb 1 or Ash Wednesday (Feb 22).

Prayer Works



Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Sharon Carr, Ron Cox, Deb Follmer, Kerry Foster, Kori Harder, Shelley Hodgson, Mary Ann Johnson, Carol Jones, Jim Jones, Jean Miller, Mike Muzzarelli, Durrelle & Marilyn Pritchard, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Pastor Gabe Baumgardner, Jonathan Becker, Windy Birch, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Marsha Follet-Pauly, Jeff Garetson, Pauline Gibson, Mike Gillispie, Connie Griggs, Katherine Harding, Wolf Knappe, Joni Koch, Owen Lyons, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Stacy Nutgrass, Michael O'Shea, David Robinson, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Steve Shaffer, Kathy Telford, John Winchester, Tim Woodard, & Pat & Jerry.

CHILDREN: Elliot Buchheit, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

Let us pray for the following members

Accolade: Phyllis Bradley

*Evenglow Lodge:
Harley & Marian Mayer*

Evenglow Inn: Delores Schultz

The Pointe: Maurine Kalkwarf

*Goldwater Care (formerly Good Sam):
Ron Cox, Judy L. Sykes*

Homebound: Stephen Weber, & Jim Jones

Meetings in February

**Mondays, Feb. 6 & 20 @ 9:15 am
Bible Study @ The Pointe**

**Mondays, Feb. 6 & 20 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre**

**Wednesdays @ 7 pm
Confirmation (not on Feb 1)**

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

**Thursdays @ 6 pm
Choir**

**Tuesday, Jan. 31—Friday, Feb. 3
Pastor's Conference in San Antonio**

**Thursday, Feb. 2 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle**

**Sunday, Feb. 5 @ 3 pm
Pastor performs installation service in Rantoul**

**Monday, Feb. 13 @ 6:30 pm
Education & Youth Committee Meetings**

**Thursday, Feb. 16 @ 7 pm
Church Council (DAY of week change)**

**Monday, Feb. 20 @ NOON
Newsletter Deadline**

**Wednesday, Feb. 22
Water Mission Collection begins**

**Wednesday, Feb. 22 @ 2 pm
Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, Feb. 22 @ 7 pm
Ash Wednesday Service**

**Friday, Feb. 24 @ 9 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, February 2, 2023, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. We finished the Bible study, "Encouraging One Another" at the January meeting. We will begin a new Bible study entitled, "The Women of Easter: Encounter the Savior with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene". As the Lenten season begins, this study will help us concentrate on our Lenten journey as we study the stories of three women who played a vital role in the life and ministry of Jesus. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the 1st Thursday afternoon of each month.

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

Comforting (Quilting) Ladies

The Comforting Ladies continue to meet on Thursday mornings. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please join us any Thursday morning from 9-11 am in the large SS room.

JOYFUL WOMEN OF FIRST

Joyful Women of First Lutheran has concluded their most recent Bible study and will be on hiatus until sometime in 2023. Joyful Women is open to ALL adult women and friends of First Lutheran. We look forward to seeing everyone. If you have questions, please feel free to call Sue Hiatt @ 815/844-7933 or Vicki Day @ 815/844-5420.

KNITWITS UPDATE—WINTER/SPRING 2023

While we focus mostly on prayer shawls, we also provide mittens, hats, scarves in the winter, and baby blankets which are included in layettes that are given to new mothers in need in our community. Knitwits meets most Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 am in the Munson room from fall through spring. All are welcome to join us, and while it helps if you have basic knitting and/or crocheting skills, we do our best to help beginners develop their skills.

Shawls: Shawls should be at least 60” long and about 24” wide. They need to be long enough to easily wrap around shoulders or be long enough to cover a person taking a nap. Triangle shaped shawls are pretty, but haven’t been as useful to our recipients.

Baby blankets: should be at least 40” x 40”

Hats, mittens, & scarves: There is a bag in the knitwits cabinet labeled for the mitten tree. When the tree goes up in December, we will place those items on it.

Yarn has been donated to us and is available for anyone wishing to make items for our ministry.

Please wash all items before donating them. Thank you.

Anyone may request that a prayer shawl be given. There are guidelines for how to document them and how to wrap them posted inside our cabinet.

Any questions, call Sue Hiatt @ 815/848-7935 (cell) or 815/844-7933 (home).

Thank you for sharing Christ’s love with others.

GRANDVIEW UNIVERSITY CHOIR PRESENTATION

On Saturday, March 11, 2023, the choir from Grandview University (Des Moines, IA) will be in town to present a concert at First Lutheran Church. The concert will be open to the public and the choir will accept a free-will offering that evening. Any proceeds go toward defraying tour expenses and toward furthering the choir’s work at the University.

Additionally, the choir members and directors are looking for “host” families for the evening. The members are in pairs that the directors wish to keep housed together, the directors can be separate (except the married couple) & can also stay with one of the pairs if someone has room. Two pairs need a location with no cats, one pair needs no dogs, and another pair needs gluten-free/no bananas. If you have space to help the choir out for one night, please contact either Pastor Ours or the office for further information.

We look forward to this special music.

OUR TRIBUTE TO JESSE OURS

Our Fall 2022 mission project to honor Jesse Ours has come to an end. As of Nov 28, 2022, \$2645.41 has been donated either through our profit from the RADA cutlery purchased or through direct donations given through the church. What an amazing and extremely generous amount of giving by everyone. Our First Lutheran Church family is a group of very giving people living our mission. As of the last Mission Social meeting on 11/28, \$1000 worth of gift cards were purchased and donated to our Livingston County Veteran's office to be used for veteran's needs in our county. In January when all the donations from December are received the donation to the Veteran's and Families Ministries of Fort Wayne, Indiana, our second designated organization for this year will be sent out. Our Jesse's Ride funds are in a designated account within our FLC accounting system and are not affected by our new church accounting year. Our account with the RADA cutlery company also stays active year-round, and any profit from purchases made using the First Lutheran Church Code will be received and will be designated for Jesse's Ride and distributed to a veteran's group.

In addition to the money given to these two above listed organizations, the Mission Social committee this year, as part of our annual budget, donated funds to the sustaining care of the support dog at Pontiac Jr High.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES...have arrived and are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your patience.

2022 STATEMENT OF GIVING....are available in the East transept.

WATER MISSION...We will once again be supporting the water mission....beginning on Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday) and concluding on Apr. 2 (Palm Sunday). Keep watching for further details.

SOLES FOR SOULS...We plan to support this cause during the month of May only. Start saving those shoes!!

CONFIRMATION (AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM)...is planned for Sunday, April 2nd, 2023 (Palm Sunday) at the 8 am service

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.

Feb 6 & 20 Mar 6 & 20 Apr 3 & 17 May 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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FEBRUARY
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:

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