

January 2023 Newsletter



Pastor Carlin's Page

Well another year has passed and a new one has arrived. As we look back at the past and forward to the future the question arises what now? What can we as God's people do to fulfill the mission Jesus gave us?

Matthew 28:16-20 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Have a meeting of the minds about the mission of the church and you will get multiple answers depending on who you ask. Some want to focus on growth, some on teaching some on the so-called purpose of their specific ministry. However, Jesus put all this foolishness to rest if we focus on His words toward us.

First of all the power is His and His alone. No one nor any group has the power to exempt themselves or the universal church from the purpose and mission of Christ. You can have any program, type of service or theological teaching you want but if it does not further the mission Christ laid out it is just a preverbal waist of time and energy. If it is not fulfilling the mission of Christ then one must ask whose mission is being fulfilled?

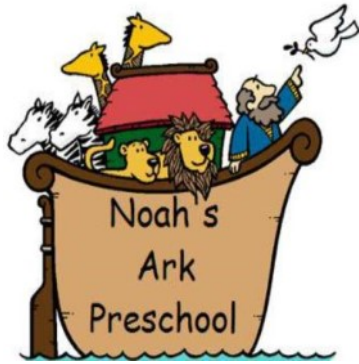
The mission is Christ's that is obvious. Now what is the the mission? "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!" And what prey tell is a disciple. Simply put it is a follower of Jesus Christ. Yes a follower of Jesus not a follower of a minister or of some theological musing but of Jesus Christ Himself and His teachings. I for one love books and commentaries, however, as much light and knowledge as they may pass on to us they are not the teachings of Christ. Only scripture can enlighten us on these teachings. A great place to start is the "Beatitudes" and continuing through "The Sermon On The Mount." In my humble opinion this text is the heart of Christian Discipleship.

We also get all caught up in what is God's will and plan for me? That is all fine and dandy to seek out but Jesus simply says GO. If we just do that perhaps our questions regarding God's will and plans can take care of themselves. Abram was told to go to a place God would show him later; I dare say if it worked for the Patriarch it can be effective in our lives as well. I have come to learn, if we just do what is needed or follow a passion Christ has put in us God will move and grow our efforts beyond our imaginations. The hard part is not finding something to do or somewhere to go but is taking the first step of faith and beginning the journey.

As this new year of 2023 begins let us renew our resolve to follow Christ and His mission and we will be fast on our way to fulfilling "The Great Commission."

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

Pastor Carlin



January at Noah's Ark

We still have 56 students so far this school year! We still have room for more, so please continue to tell your family and friends! We can enroll students at any time during the school year.

Openings in the following classes-

The 3-year-old classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30-12:30.

The 4-year-old classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:45-2:45.

The 3-year-old classroom did some great Christmas activities and that incorporated letters along with a numbers and shapes for practice! The 3 year olds have created some beautiful Christmas artwork for their families! They are continuing to review specific letters each week and working on mastering the letters of their first names.

Both classes were busy learning all about the Nativity this past month. They colored books that told a story about the Nativity, they did a 3 Kings activity and even smelled Frankincense and Myrrh! – We did a poll of how many friends liked each scent J

Our 4 year olds are very busy doing Christmas and winter themed activities! We put together a winter sensory bin with green and red play dough and lots of fun Christmas cookie cutters! Our friends learned all the words for the Nativity scene and we reviewed WHY Christmas is important, who's birthday it is, and why we get presents! It is so important that we help our children understand the birth of our Savior and what the true meaning of Christmas is all about so it does not get lost in the busyness and gifts during this season.

They have done some cutting and gluing of letters, ABAB patterns with stickers and Christmas items, and working on their letter of the week.

We have continued to enjoy 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 were able to have the Christmas Program this year! It was a success thanks to the teachers and our aide Ms. Shelly for continuing to work on these songs for a long time and multiple times per class period J We had quite a few friends out due to illness, but the children who were able to make it did a fantastic job!

This next month we are so excited to welcome Miss Ashley Grove as our official 3 year old teacher J she just finished her degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University and we are so lucky to have her here at The Ark.

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, January 5, 2023, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. Our current Bible study is "Encouraging One Another". Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us for Bible study and fellowship on the first 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~





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 **January** 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.

January Birthdays

Phyllis Myers	1/1	Bryan Diemer	1/17
Natalie Sear	1/1	Jeff Harder	1/19
Cole Marsack	1/3	Carole Graves	1/20
Adam Lawrence	1/4	Cynthia Tribley	1/23
Sydney Schneeman	1/5	Ellis Diemer	1/25
Clare Vogel	1/5	Linda Frank	1/27
Al Fahsbender	1/6	Richard Johnson	1/27
Maya Ray	1/6	Marion Willhoite	1/28
Judith L. Sykes	1/6	Carol Foster	1/29
Avery Horning	1/7	Sherry Roper	1/29
Hunter Melvin	1/9	Matt Wiechmann	1/30
Diana Meister	1/12	Shari VanHoveln	1/30
Elizabeth Diemer	1/13	Vanessa Sheppard	1/31
Mickey Harms	1/16		



2022/2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

There are 4 students in the 8th grade class and 5 students in the 7th grade class.

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

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study had returned at 9:30 am and 6 pm on Wednesdays. Watch the newsletter and First Notes for a new return date.

Prayer Works



Please Pray for our Members & Friends:

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

CHILDREN: Elliot Buchheit, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

Let us pray for the following members

*Evenglow Lodge:
Harley & Marian Mayer*

Evenglow Inn: Delores Schultz

The Pointe: Maurine Kalkwarf

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

*Homebound: Phyllis Bradley,
Stephen Weber, & 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 January

Monday, Jan. 16 @ 9:15 am
Bible Study @ The Pointe

Mondays, Dec. 2 & 16 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre

Wednesdays @ 7 pm
Confirmation (resumes Jan 11th)

Thursdays @ 9 am
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)

Thursdays @ 6 pm
Choir

Sunday, Jan. 1 (after 9 am svc)
Pastor departs—vacation (return 9th or 10th)

Monday, Jan. 2
OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, Jan. 5 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle

Monday, Jan. 9 @ 6:30 pm
Memorial Committee—CANCELLED

Tuesday, Jan. 10 @ 7 pm
Church Council—CANCELLED

Friday, Jan 13 @ 2 pm
Annual Meeting Reports due to Beth

Tuesday, January 17 @ 7 pm
Worship Committee

Monday, Jan. 23 @ NOON
Newsletter Deadline

Monday, Jan. 23 @ 7 pm
Mission/Social Committee

Friday, Jan. 27 @ 9 am
Newsletter Assembly

Sunday, Jan. 29 @ 11:30 am
Annual Congregational Meeting

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

ANNA CIRCLE

Anna Circle will meet on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 1 pm in the Munson Room. Our current Bible study is "Encouraging One Another". Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us on the first Thursday afternoon of each month for Bible study and fellowship.

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 2022

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.



Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29 after the 2nd service!

Please hand in a report to Beth for the ministry you are involved with, by 2 pm on Friday, January 13th!!

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...The company has notified us that they have experienced some difficulties in 2022. Therefore, the envelope delivery to us will be delayed. They would NOT promise a delivery date, but it seems that it will be sometime in January before they are ready to distribute. Until then, everyone is asked to just use leftover 2022 envelopes and be sure to add your last name to the envelope. If you don't have any leftovers, please feel free to use an envelope from your pew. Thank you for your patience.

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.

Jan 2 & 16, 2023

Feb 6 & 20

Mar 6 & 20

Apr 3 & 17

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



Thank You! For Sponsoring Our 2022



Orlando & Fran Becker
In memory of the Becker Family

Roger & Diana Becker
In memory of Harvey & Bernice Becker
In memory of Doyle & Geraldine Santelman

Roger & Diana Becker
In honor of Bill & Mayme Liptak

Gene Coriell
In memory of Chris Coriell

Steve Croft
In memory of Mr & Mrs Fred E Croft, Jr

Jim & Patti Drengwitz
In honor of Jason, Becky, Ande
In honor of Sean, Calen, Lucas, Tyler, Micah Aaron

Jim & Patti Drengwitz
In memory of our parents
In memory of Terry Drengwitz
In memory of Debbie Anderson, Missy, Amy & Heather
In memory of Charles E Worthen III

Chad & Linda Frank
In honor of Nicki, Lisa, Cory, Bella, Charlee, Gizmo & Millie

Lori & Joni Gibson
In memory of mother, father, & grandparents

Larry & Dawn Graves
In honor of our grandchildren

Larry & Dawn Graves
In memory of Richard & Beverly Harder

Karol K. Hall
In memory of my dear husband, Bill Hall

Karol Hall
In memory of our parents, Edward & Gladys Carls
and Will & Grace Hall

Karol Hall, Dee Dee Raube & Roger Carls
In memory of our sister, Cheri Carls Gibbons

Karol K Hall
In honor of my wonderful Sunday School class

Mildred (Mickey) Harms
In memory of Willis Harms

Mildred (Mickey) Harms
In memory of Gregory Harms

Mildred (Mickey) Harms
In honor of the grandchildren

Roger & Donna Henkel
In memory of Don, Marguerite & Jim Huff

Roger & Donna Henkel
In memory of Lester & Hazel Henkel

Michelle Janssen
In honor of Roger & Diana Becker

Mary Lou & Kelly Jones
In memory of Shirley Hendershott

Rick & Candy Jones
In memory of our parents—Kelly & Betty Jones
In memory of our parents—Gene & Clara Ruther

Nancy LoPiccalo
In honor of Amber, Owen, Zhalia, Jason &
grandsons

Nancy LoPiccalo
In memory of Phil LoPiccalo & Helen Rigg

Denny & Paula Myers
In honor of blessings received
In memory of loved ones

Larry & Betty Olson
In honor of our son—Kevin and our family

Larry & Betty Olson
In memory of our son—Keith

Gene & Sharrie Orendorff
In honor of our children, grandchildren &
great-grandchildren

Gene & Sharrie Orendorff
In memory of our parents—Clarence & Ada
Peasley

In memory of our parents—Lyle & Dorothy
Orendorff

Kenny & Karen Robinson
In memory of Delmar & Donna Beecher

Kenny & Karen Robinson
In memory of Kenneth & Helene Robinson

Joyce Ruff
In memory of Mike Ruff

Teri Saxton
In memory of Doug Saxton

Shirley Trainor
In memory of Donald Trainor

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A new year is like a blank
book. The pen is in your
hands. It is your chance
to write a beautiful story
for yourself.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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