

# June 2023 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.

### 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 from our most relevant Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Carlin

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## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On June 4th, following the 8 am service, there will be a special congregational meeting to discuss and vote on a parking lot project.

The project includes:  
Fill in and level off sinking spots  
Re-seal the lot  
Re-paint all lines/symbols

**REMINDER:** Quotes/bids **GREATER than \$10,000** REQUIRE congregational approval in order to proceed with the project.

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

We are seeking volunteers to clean gutters at the following locations:

Church

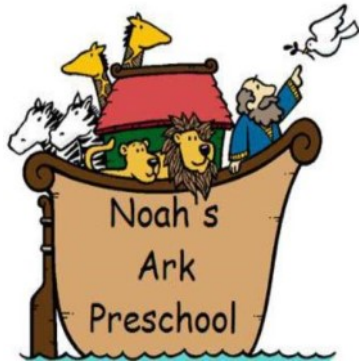
Parsonage

Rental property

Both garages on church property

Please contact the office (or Kurt Lauritzen) to volunteer your services.

Thank you.



## June 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 1<sup>st</sup> from 11-1 and 4-6. OR please feel free to email [pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com) anytime for your questions J*

*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 any obstacle 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 for their graduation celebration! These classes have learned so much this year and last that I know they will be well prepared for Kindergarten! We pray that they show the love of Jesus to all they encounter in their new journey!*

*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 begins June 4th.

**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 mor 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, June 1, 2023, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. 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 **June** 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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## **HOPE CENTER OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY 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.

Bottle collection will end on Father's Day (you may drop off in the office prior if you wish).

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# 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	Betty Oltman	6/25
Zayn Eilts	6/4	Jaden VanHouten	6/15	Candy Miller	6/26
Delbert Robinson	6/4	Elizabeth Alvey	6/16	Thalen Harty	6/28
Dan Hamilton	6/6	Mary Ann Johnson	6/17	Sherry Friedman	6/29
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	6/21		
Andy Torkelson	6/7	Jack Vogel	6/21		



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## 2023/2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Please continue to watch this space for updates when the 2023/2024 school year gets closer to starting.

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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 or drop it off between 8 am & 3:30 pm M-F.

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## MEN IN MISSION

Will once again have their steak fry on Thursday, June 8th @ Del & Cathy Robinson's pond.

Food will be served at 5 pm and the cost will be \$20/person.

A sign-up sheet is on the board in the hall near the offices.

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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, Cindy Renzelman, Rupert & Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, Pastor Gabe Baumgardner, Jonathan Becker, Windy Birch, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Marsha Follet-Pauly, Jeff Garretson, Sheila Geschwind, Dr. Eric & 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, Esther Tuley, Gavin Wallace, John Winchester, John Wolf, Tim Woodard, & Pat & Jerry.

**CHILDREN:** Elliot Buchheit, Lyla Cannon, Able Fuchs, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

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

*Accolade: Phyllis Bradley*

*Evenglow Lodge:  
Harley & Marian Mayer*

*Evenglow Inn: Delores Schultz*

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

*Homebound: 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 June

**Mondays, June 5 & 19 @ 9:15 am**  
**Bible Study @ The Pointe**

**Mondays, June 5 & 19 @ 6:30 pm**  
**Euchre**

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

**Sunday, June 4 @ 9:15 am**  
**SPECIAL Congregational Meeting**

**Thursday, June 8 @ 5 pm**  
**Men in Mission Steak Fry (Robinson's Pond)**

**Tuesday, June 13 @ 7 pm**  
**Council**

**Sunday, June 18, 2023**  
**Baby Bottle Collection ends**

**Monday, June 26 @ NOON**  
**Newsletter Deadline**

**Friday, June 30 @ 9 am**  
**Newsletter Assembly**

**Friday, June 30—Friday July 14**  
**Pastor on vacation**

## 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.

June 5 & 19    July 3 & 17    August 7 & 21    September 4 & 18

### 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

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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*



JUNE  
2023

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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**

**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>