
May 2023 Newsletter

Pastor Carlin's Page

Peace

I must admit - I have grown weary of our vitriolic, divided and hateful society. Each day we, as a culture, appear to devolve even further into the abyss of disharmony, disunion, and dysfunction. I used to think it would settle down and folks would come to terms with our differences, in thought and life. However, with each passing day, we trod inch by inch away from civility, togetherness, and love for one another. This is certainly a sad commentary on our society.

Though one could focus this frustration on the secular world, I will not; for the world is acting just as it should. One can expect nothing more from the world in general. My frustration is tuned into a group that should know better and are expected to act in restraint and peace - Christians!! Yes, the beloved body of Christ, those who have been made new creatures in Jesus Christ. However, many times, I can see little difference from those who claim to be in Christ and therefore new creatures and the aforementioned secular world.

Many think when Paul wrote to Timothy and divulged the following list of offences that he was discussing the secular world. Those who assume this could not be further from the truth, he was discussing the future state of Christians and it would appear we have not disappointed.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 English Standard Version (ESV)

Godlessness in the Last Days

3 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-

control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Not a very good list at all. And remember he is talking to Christians here and primarily to pastors and teachers. These acts and the aforementioned vitriol, dividedness and hatefulness are a far cry from who Jesus calls us to be. As his disciples, we are called to rise above the way of society and seek his ways. Instead of seeking to divide each other on petty political and cultural means we should be the ones leading the charge for unity and peace. Matthew 5: 9 English Standard Version (ESV) ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God."

Here is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer offered on this particular Beatitude:

Jesus' followers are called to peace. When Jesus called them, they found their peace. Jesus is their peace. Now they are not only to have peace, but they are to make peace. To do this they renounce violence and strife. Those things never help the cause of Christ. Christ's kingdom is a realm of peace, and those in Christ's community greet each other with a greeting of peace. Jesus' disciples maintain peace by choosing to suffer instead of causing others to suffer. They preserve community when others destroy it. They renounce self-assertion and are silent in the face of hatred and injustice. That is how they overcome evil with good. That is, they are

makers of divine peace in a world of hatred and war. But their peace will never be greater than when they encounter evil people in peace and are willing to suffer from them. Peacemakers will bear the cross with their Lord, for peace was made at the cross. Because they are drawn into Christ's work of peace and called to the work of the Son of God, they themselves will be called children of God.

We are not called to a political party or to a country in reality, nor to a political policy, but to Christ. I love this country and its people, however, my first and foremost allegiance is to Christ. My actions cannot be those of the world but of Christ. He called us to be "peacemakers." We seem to have thrown off this mantle for the mantle of discord. It is time for us as Christians, as those who claim Christ as Lord and Savior, to become the disciples he called us to be.

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

Pastor Carlin

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Works*, Volume 4, Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2003, 108

VBS 2023

Unfortunately, I am unable to head up VBS in 2023; therefore, I am looking for someone who is willing to lead the important outreach ministry. I would be happy to assist whomever is willing to take it over. I have looked at the available kits and have found a simple one that will work for us. I have numerous documents available that I will share (they would save SO much time and energy for someone new to leading VBS). You will have an ample budget to work with and our congregation is extremely generous in sharing their time and talents. In addition, Concordia Supply Co. provides online registration.

Please prayerfully consider accepting the position of VBS director this summer. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Chris Lauritzen 815/674-5326

ATTENTION PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS

Did your child just complete 3rd grade at the end of the 2022/23 school year? Please submit their name to the office so that they may receive their Bible at the 3rd grade Bible recognition on May 27/28 (Pentecost).

Thank you



May at Noah's Ark

We had a good turnout at Pre-Registration 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.

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-old classroom has been working hard to master the letters in their name before summer! They have enjoyed doing St. Patrick's Day activities and have begun incorporating spring activities before summer break! They also have been working hard on their songs for Spring Concert J

Our 4-year-olds have been working hard on learning their last names and focusing more on their lowercase letter in preparation for Kindergarten! They also enjoyed doing lots of St. Patrick's Day activities. This week we are transitioning into Spring activities before we end for summer and our friends have a countdown with the number of days we have left in class! They have worked very hard on the song that they will perform for their parents at Graduation!

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

We have been focusing a lot on how we show kindness to others. We have learned about ways we can show kindness to our friends physically and through our words. We have been reading the book *I'm Almost Always Kind* and our friends have really learned a lot! I believe it is one of the most important values in life is to be able to show kindness to others even when it is difficult because that is what Jesus did to all!

Our primary goal is still to ensure the safety of our students, parents and teachers while at the same time promoting 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 for any questions!

Check out our Facebook page too!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery through adult meets at 9:15 each Sunday.

COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES: has moved to 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, May 4, 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 resumed on most Tuesdays from 9:30—11 am*

JOYFUL WOMEN: “A Guide to Prayer: Connecting with God”, an 8-lesson program, has been the Bible study for Joyful Women. We will conclude this study in the Munson Room on 5/7 @ 6:30 pm. 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

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 **May** 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~~

HOPE CENTER OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY BABY BOTTLE PROJECT

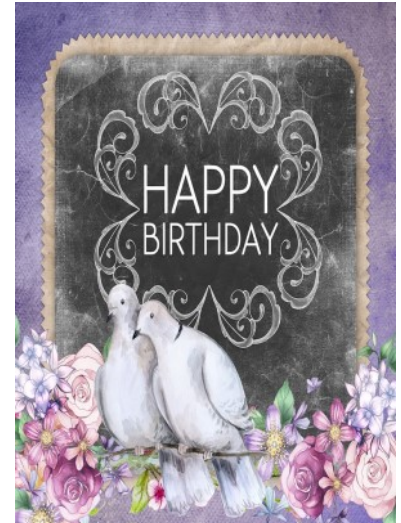


Please pick up a baby bottle located near the bulletins in the Narthex and East transept to fill with your spare change, etc. The money collected will be used to help babies and mothers across the entire area.

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).

May Birthdays

Duncan Eilts	5/3	Chris Johnson	5/20
Sue Mundschenk	5/3	Donna Dixon	5/22
Brady Donovan	5/6	Steve Mays	5/22
Elijah Durbin	5/8	Paula Myers	5/22
Mike Muzzarelli	5/8	Starlette Torkelson	5/23
Collins Miller	5/11	Stacy Eilts	5/26
Lauren Mehrkens	5/13	Frannie Becker	5/28
Joe Kelly	5/15	Jeff Melvin	5/28
Tom Myers	5/16	Dee Dee Tarmann	5/28
Judy Crawford	5/18	Jessica Warren	5/28
Gary Crull	5/18	Diana Becker	5/29
Dale Oltman	5/18	Maurine Kalkwarf	5/30
Sandy Freeston	5/19	Julie Branz	5/31
Chad Frank	5/20		



2023/2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

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.

WATER MISSION INTERNATIONAL MISSION PROJECT

Our mission project to benefit Water Mission International has come to an end.

\$1702 was collected during the project and will be forwarded to WMI. The Mission/Social committee would like to sincerely thank all of our First Lutheran family who gave to this mission project. Water Mission will apply it to one of their many global projects working to provide clean water and sanitation to the billions of people worldwide without those resources.

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, Andy Alvey, 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, Owen Lyons, Tim Mehn, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Michael O'Shea, Rick Ours, David Robinson, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Steve Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Gavin Wallace, John Winchester, John Wolf, Tim Woodard, & Pat & Jerry.

CHILDREN: Elliot Buchheit, Able Fuchs, Hudson Lanning, 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 May

Entire Month—Soles for Souls collection

Mondays, May 1 & 15 @ 9:15 am
Bible Study @ The Pointe

Mondays, May 1 & 15 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am & 6 pm
Adult Bible Study

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

Thursdays @ 6 pm
Choir

Tuesday, May 2 @ 7 pm
SPECIAL Worship Committee Meeting

Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7
Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 7 @ Noon
Caring Ministry

Sunday, May 7 @ 6:30 pm
Joyful Women

Monday, May 8 @ 6:30 pm
Memorial Committee

Tuesday, May 9 @ 7 pm
Council

Monday, May 15 @ 7 pm
Mission/Social Committee

Tuesday, May 16 @ 7 pm
TENTATIVE Regular Worship Committee

Thursday, May 18 & Friday, May 19
Great Rivers Mission District Conference in
Magnolia, IL

Monday, May 22 @ NOON
Newsletter Deadline

Friday, May 26 @ 9 am
Newsletter Assembly

ANNA CIRCLE

Will meet on Thursday, May 4, 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.

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

Comforting (Quilting) Ladies

has moved to 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

JOYFUL WOMEN OF FIRST

Joyful Women will conclude on May 7th at 6:30 pm, and will then take a summer hiatus. We look forward to seeing you for our new study in the fall. 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.

ATTENTION PARENTS & FAMILIES

Recognition of graduates is scheduled for the services of May 6th & 7th.
Congratulations to all graduates!



COLLEGE - Samantha Mehrkens

HIGH SCHOOL - Julie Branz
Claire Corrigan
Zayn Eilts
Thalen Harty
Isaac Torkelson
Annika VonHolten
Mackenzie Coates
Brady Donovan
Kaitlyn Hamilton
Kalyne Kinderman
Levy Tucker
Matthew Wiechmann

8TH GRADE - Preston Brown
Conner Johnson
Riley Brown
Carley Schneeman

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.

May 1 & 15 June 5 & 19 July 3 & 17 August 7 & 21



The 2023 Pontiac Church League Softball season is planned to begin late May and end early August. Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The league is co-ed and players should be at least 16 years of age. All those interested in playing are to contact their church's team representative soon: Stacy Eilts, 1st Lutheran (815) 822-1377; Cody Leach, St. Paul, Pontiac (815) 674 3341; or Roger Wahls, St. Paul, Chenoa (815) 848-1415.

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



SOLES

4

SOULS

The POWER of a Pair of Shoes—
providing *short-term relief* and *long-term solutions*

With your help, we can provide a life-changing solution: a good pair of shoes.

First Lutheran Church is collecting shoes for Soles4Souls through the end of May.

Soles4Souls is a non-profit organization that provides relief by distributing shoes in the USA and around the world, fights poverty by helping people launch and sustain small businesses, and protects the environment by putting used goods to good use.

New and gently-worn shoes—any size and any style—can be placed in designated boxes located around the church. Two years ago we collected over 1,000 pairs! Just think of the many lives those shoes impacted!

For your convenience, collection boxes are located throughout the church. Feel free to spread the word! Wouldn't it be fantastic to collect over 2,000 pairs of shoes this year?

Look at the many ways your shoes can be repurposed!

Shoes keep people healthy, happy and thriving.

In many developing nations, walking is the primary mode of transportation. When bare feet are exposed to unsanitary conditions, disease, sickness, or even death can occur. Shoes add a layer of protection helping to break that cycle.

Shoes provide hope in times of distress.

Soles4Souls is a relief organization that acts as second-wave responders by providing footwear during times of disaster such as tornados, hurricanes, and flooding.

The shoes you no longer want create opportunities for people in need.

Using donated shoes, Soles4Souls gives people the ability to start small businesses that allow them to lift- themselves and their families out of poverty.

Everyone deserves a good pair of shoes.

Without shoes children are prevented from attending school and adults are unable to work because walking becomes unbearable. A new pair of shoes provides relief in many developing nations.

Questions? Feel free to call Chris Lauritzen @815.674.5326.

Nonprofit Org.
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Email: info@firstlutheranpontiac.org

Pastor Carlin: carlinours@gmail.com

704/775-9823

www.firstlutheranpontiac.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**MAY
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