
September 2023 Newsletter



Pastor Carlin's Page

Stewardship as Purpose

Stewardship: the position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc.

the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving:

Steward: a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.

We often hear the word stewardship and turn our focus on to the financial aspect of the term. Stewardship certainly does center on our tithes and offerings. All of our earthly possessions in reality belong to God. He is just gracious to lend us these things during our lifetime and expects us to use them in a proper way for his kingdom and glory. Last month we discussed this aspect of stewardship with "Change Stewardship."

This month we move our gaze to our time, talents and life as pertains to stewardship. In each and every church community God has placed the gifts needed for that particular body of Christ to implement the mission he has given that specific congregation. In essence, the gifts needed here at First Lutheran are in each of you. Yes, you have gifts; given to you by God to do his will in this church and community.

Many folks just want to leave the work of God's kingdom to others. However, we are all called to participate in the mission of the church. Only you can as Paul reminds young Timothy in 2 Timothy 1: 6 "stir up the gift of God, which is in thee." Sometimes we must extract the gifts of God within us. It is not easy or convenient to do the work of the kingdom but it is necessary. Once we have begun to mature in Christ we move from being recipients of the churches mission to being participants. This is part of worship and worship is an active practice for each and every Christian. Young and old alike have a role to play in this mission.

If we all take our work for God' kingdom to heart we can easily fulfill First Lutherans role in the greater work of the whole church. I ask each of you to find your place and stir up your gift for God today. If we all do this, the necessary work of FLC will continue and no one person or group will be overloaded in the process.

We have much to be done here at First Lutheran; and I encourage YOU to consider the gifts you have and how you can use them for the work of God here in the church and our community.

What makes for a good steward? Throughout Scripture we are given many examples of what it means to be a good steward of God's gifts. Here are just a few verses from the Bible that describe the way this happens:

SHARING ... see Mark 10:17-22 God's people have always seen the need to share what they have with others. As much as we have a need to receive, we all have a need to give as well.

TEAMWORK ... see Acts 2:44-47 Just as it was in the early church, we have to work together in using our resources, in order for the message of Jesus to be spread among all people.

ENTHUSIASM ... see Matthew 13:44-45 Jesus spoke of the joy we receive in recognizing the treasure of God in our life. This joy allows us to see our money and possessions in a different light.

WITNESS ... see 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 Stewardship is the way we live out our Christian lives. By the sharing of our resources, we bear witness to our faith and trust in God.

ACCEPTANCE ... see Luke 16:13 Being a good steward demonstrates our acceptance of God's lordship in our lives. As Jesus said, we cannot serve both God and money.

RESPONSE ... see Deuteronomy 26:1-11 The reason we give is because we ourselves have first received all things from God. Sharing what we have is our response to what God has done for us.

DETERMINATION ... see 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Being a good steward requires fore-thought and commitment. It is a personal discipline carried out with regularity on a week-by-week basis.

Thank you and many blessings!!

Pastor Carlin



September 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 can get them enrolled for this coming school year! Feel free to email pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com anytime for your questions.

We 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 this past 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.

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 for any questions!

Check out our Facebook page too!





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 **September** 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~~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Will resume on September 10.

COMFORTING (QUILTING) LADIES: The Comforting Ladies are expanding their work hours beginning in September. We will continue to work on Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm. We will be adding two afternoons—both Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-5 pm. We meet in the large Sunday School room downstairs. We are flexible. You do not have to work the same days or times. Join us when it is convenient for you. If you have any questions, please contact Lynnette @ 815/796-3216

ANNA CIRCLE: Will meet on Thursday, September 7, 2023, @ 1 pm in the Munson Room. We will continue our current Bible study, The Women of Easter. 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: will resume on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. We meet MOST Tuesdays from 9:30—11 am and we knit or crochet prayer shawls, mittens, hats, scarves, baby blankets, and baptismal cloths that are given to appropriate recipients. While we would love to be able to say that we will teach anyone wanting to learn to knit or crochet, we really aren't skilled teachers. We can, however, help you find good online videos to learn from. If you think you might be interested in joining us, please come and try us out. ~~Sue Hiatt~~

JOYFUL WOMEN: will resume their Bible study on Sunday, September 24 at 6:30 pm in the Munson Room at First. Our study will be from the Stonecroft series which we used last spring. Books will be available at our first session. We will not be meeting on October 1, 2023, as that is the day of our church picnic. It is planned on completing the book before Thanksgiving. Joyful Women is open to all women of First Lutheran Church and friends. We usually compete a lesson each week and then share fellowship afterwards with a snack. We would love to see new faces at any time. See you all soon. If you have any questions, please call either

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~



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.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

If you have ever wondered about the study of the end times, the upcoming Wednesday Bible study is one you will not want to miss. We will be taking a deep dive into the book of “The Revelation”. This book has taken on many variations over the years. There are many popular interpretations of Revelation and most fail to take into consideration the history of Apocalypse and the way the Genre of Apocalypse has taken root in nearly every time period and culture. We will discuss its history and place in the Canon of scripture as well as the different popular views of the text. Then we will work our way, verse by verse, and seek to exegete (interpret) the text in a solid theological and Biblical manner. Come join us for this very interesting study of “The Book of Revelation” on Wednesdays at 9:30 am or 6 pm at the church.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We are starting a new outreach ministry of First Lutheran Church. Beginning September 28th at 7 pm , we invite all who are struggling with loss and grief to join us for a time of healing and reflection as we begin a “Grief Support Group” here in Pontiac. This group is for **ALL** who are struggling with the loss of a loved one or with the varied issues life can bring our way. The group is open to all, regardless of church affiliation. Please come out and join with others in very similar situations as yourself and find a place of healing, comfort and understanding. Light refreshments will be available.

Meetings will be held at 7 pm at “The Breakroom”, 210 N Ladd St, Unit 4, (by Lola’s Restaurant) in Pontiac, IL beginning 9/28/23. Blessings as you come to begin the journey of recovery!

September Birthdays

Robert Sear	9/1	Cindy Renzelman	9/20	Shirley Onken	9/28
Ellie Carlson	9/4	Patti Shirley	9/20	Linda Schneeman	9-29
Michelle Marsack	9/4	Brooke Whittle	9/20	Shelley Hodgson	9/29
Megan Wiechmann	9/5	Marcie Trainor	9/21	Jim Vogel	9/29
Orlando Becker	9/6	Kay Thompson	9/23		
Betty Winterland	9/6	Riley Brown	9/24		
Andrea Mehrkens	9/8	Kinsley Hamilton	9/24		
Sean Ahern	9/8	Marian Mayer	9/24		
Toby Coates	9/16	Dennis Myers	9/24		
David Harding	9/17	Renee Tucker	9/24		
Judi Leonard	9/18	Timothy Schulta II	9/25		
Perry Wilson	9/18	Arnold Bradley	9/26		
Kristi Becker	9/19	Roy Alvey	9/27		
Sam Kelly	9/19	Bernie Miller	9/28		



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

Prayer Works



**Please Pray
for our
Members &
Friends:**

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

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

Let us pray for the following members

*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 September

**Monday, September 11 & 25 @ 9:15 am
Bible Study @ The Pointe**

**Mondays, September 4 & 18 @ 6:30 pm
Euchre**

**Tuesdays/Thursdays from 1-5 pm
Saturdays from 9 am—5 pm
Comforting Ladies (Quilters)**

**Monday, September 4
LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED**

**Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, & 27
Bible Study @ 9:30 am & 6 pm**

**Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, & 27 @ 7 pm
Confirmation**

**Thursday, September 7 @ 1 pm
Anna Circle**

**Thursdays, Sept 7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 6 pm
Choir**

**Monday, September 11 @ 6:30 pm
Memorial Committee**

**Tuesday, September 12 @ 7 pm
Council**

**Friday, Sept. 15—Friday, Sept. 22
Pastor—on vacation**

**Monday, Sept. 18 @ 7 pm
Mission/Social Committee**

**Tuesday, Sept. 19 @ 9:30—11 am
Knitwits returns**

**Tuesday, Sept. 19 @ 7 pm
Worship Committee (?)**

**Sunday, Sept. 24 @ 6:30 pm
Joyful Women returns**

**Monday, September 25 @ NOON
Newsletter Deadline**

**Friday, August 25 @ 9 am
Newsletter Assembly**

THANK YOU

Bob Thompson and his assistant, Gunner, have been busy painting this summer. The dungeon has a whole new look, along with the tunnel. Our Sunday School hallway floor has a new coat of paint that matches the tile along the wall. We ALL owe Bob our gratitude as he continues to improve the looks of our church. Thank you, Bob and Gunner!!

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

Confirmation class began on Wednesday, August 30 @ 7 pm.

There will not be class on September 20 due to Pastor Ours being on vacation.

We are anticipating a potential of five students in each grade!!

Good luck and blessed learning!!

NOAH'S ARK RECOGNITION

Sunday, Sept. 24, church service will be a combined service at 10:30 am in order to recognize the 2023/24 Noah's Ark attendees. A special time for Noah's Ark families will be held in the fellowship hall beginning at 9:30 am until 10:15 am.

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.

September 4 & 18 October 2 & 16 November 6 & 20 December 4 & 18

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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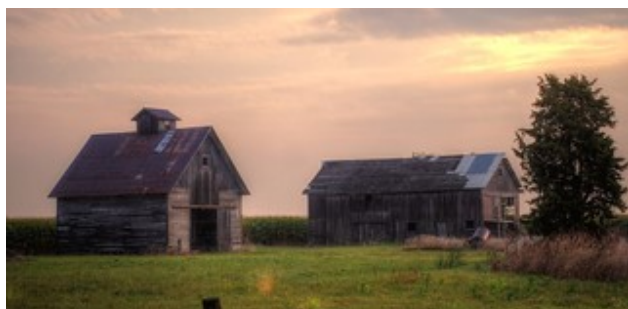
Email: info@firstlutheranpontiac.org

Pastor Carlin: carlinours@gmail.com

704/775-9823

www.firstlutheranpontiac.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SEPTEMBER

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