First Impressions

First Lutheran Church January 2021

Jim Eggert
Intentional Interim Pastor
Phone 517-703-6529 or 517-543-4360 ext. 222
pastorjimeggert@gmail.com

Mark Gawura
Specific Ministries Pastor for Care Ministry
Phone 517-667-6853
mgawura@gmail.com

Daniel Longden
Specific Ministry Vicar,
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Phone 517-543-4360 ext. 229
daniellongden@gmail.com

Rebekah Simmons
Preschool/Daycare Director
517-543-3828
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First Lutheran Church

550 E. Shepherd St., Charlotte, MI 48813
Phone 517-543-4360
Email: flcchurchoffice@gmail.com
web: firstlutherancharlotte.org

Amy Garnsay, Office Manager
517-543-4360 ext. 221
Home Office Phone 517-663-6439
flcchurchoffice@gmail.com

Worship Times

Sundays 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 11:15 a.m. with live worship team
Communion 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

Mid-week Worship
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. during Advent & Lent

"That which we have seen and heard concerning the Word of Life, we proclaim to you."

FLC Statistics for December 2020

Confirmed Membership **259**
Baptized Membership **324**
Child Baptisms . . . . . **(0)**
Adult Baptisms . . . . . **(0)**
Jr. Confirmands . . . . . **(0)**
New Confirmed Members . . . . . **(2)** Liz & Jim Eggert
New Baptized Members . . . . . **(0)**
Transfers Out (Confirmed) . . . . . **(0)**
Transfers Out (Baptized) . . . . . **(0)**
Releases (Confirmed) . . . . . **(0)**
Jon Clarke, Nathan Clarke
Releases (Baptized) . . . . . **(0)**
Deaths . . . . . **(0)**
Weddings . . . . . **(0)**

January ANNIVERSARIES

Shane & Shawna Locke . . . . . Jan 7
Steve & Becky Hackney . . . . . Jan 11
Herm & Karen Arends . . . . . Jan 24

Office Deadlines:

- Bulletin announcements are due no later than Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. unless otherwise advertised
- Newsletter articles and information are due no later than the 15th day of the month.

January BIRTHDAYS

Aaron Doig . . . . . Jan 1
Thomas Rasmussen . . . . . Jan 1
Patricia Mishler . . . . . Jan 2
Tim Aben . . . . . Jan 3
Lydia Longden . . . . . Jan 4
Elisa Hatter . . . . . Jan 6
Sylvia VanLangevelde . . . . . Jan 6
Becky Hackney . . . . . Jan 8
Drew Kregel . . . . . Jan 10
Grant Goff . . . . . Jan 15
Blake Dewyse . . . . . Jan 15
Kathy Spotts . . . . . Jan 16
Tyson Vorce . . . . . Jan 17
Jonah Longden . . . . . Jan 18
Chuck Carr . . . . . Jan 21
Justin Keiffer . . . . . Jan 22
Chris Olson . . . . . Jan 23
Amanda Ells . . . . . Jan 26
Liz Latoszewski . . . . . Jan 28
Bruce Doig . . . . . Jan 30
James Beal II . . . . . Jan 31
Rhian Hackney . . . . . Jan 31

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and you do not see your name listed here, please let the church office know so we can update our records. Thank you.
Church office: 517-543-4360 ext. 221

EMERGENCIES!

If you have a pastoral emergency such as a hospitalization, death in the family, or are in need of urgent Christian counsel, please call Intentional Interim Pastor, Jim Eggert (517) 703-6529 OR Specific Ministry Pastor for Care Ministries, Mark Gawura at (517) 667-6853 OR Specific Ministry Vicar for Youth and Family Ministry, Daniel Longden at (248) 802-2392.

BIBLE STUDIES AT FLC

✝ Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 10:00 a.m. for Adults and Teens.
✝ Monday Morning Men's Bible Study (recessed until further notice).
✝ Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study - begins Thursday, January 14, 9:30 a.m. FLC Library. "Becoming a Woman Who Knows God by Name" protected, encouraged, and strengthened by His promises.

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Traditional worship with communion
on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays
at both 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Traditional non-communion worship at 8:30 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays.
Modern Worship with live praise band at 11:15 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

We are meeting in person every Sunday. Masks are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. Hand sanitizing upon entering and leaving the building is also strongly encouraged. Social distancing is being observed in the church and there are currently restrictions on what areas of the building can be accessed.

Streaming and Online Worship is available.

If you are immune compromised and cannot attend in-person worship, or if you are unable to attend for another reason, please join us for worship online by going to https://www.facebook.com/flcharlotte/live
The worship services will be livestreamed at both 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
The worship services will be available for viewing after the livestream has ended.

† † †

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE

First Lutheran has an electronic giving option called Kindrid.
To utilize this option simply go to our website at www.firstlutherancharlotte.org look for the Kindrid smart giving logo below where the sermons are on our homepage and click on it.
Or you may go to the drop down menu (the three lines together) at the top of our website homepage and click on "give."
Thank you for your continued support to your church ❤

† † †

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In-person Sunday School is being held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
(Note: Recessed on January 3)

We are taking extra precautions such as sanitizing, making sure each student has their own individual supplies, etc.

If your child is not feeling well, or has been in close contact with someone who is ill, please keep them home from Sunday School.
If your child has to miss Sunday School due to illness or other reason, please contact Stephanie Keiffer (989-763-3513) or Daniel Longden (517-543-4360 ext. 229) and they will get the class materials to you from the day your child missed.

ELISABETH GUILD

No Elisabeth Guild for January.

† † †

FLC QUILTERS

The FLC Quilt Group will be recessed for the month of January.
We are unsure at this time if we will be quilting in February or not - stay tuned.

† † †

FLC COMMUNITY DINNER

The FLC Community Dinner will be held on Monday, January 18, 6:00 p.m.
This dinner will be *curbside pick up only.*
Helpers are needed. If you would like to help, please contact George Hatter at 517-213-1939.

† † †

FLC BELL CHOIR

The FLC Bell Choir is rehearsing every Monday evening from
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. We are seeking new members for the Bell Choir.
If you are interested, please call Rachel Stambaugh at 517-213-3362.
(Note: No rehearsal on Monday, January 4)

† † †

FLC CHOIR

The FLC Choir is rehearsing Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Masks are required. Questions? Please speak with Patricia Greene 517-543-7564.
(Note: No rehearsal on Wednesday, January 6)

† † †

**THE STAFF OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL DAYCARE
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST LUTHERAN
FOR THE LOVE AND GENEROSITY SHOWN TO US
DURING CHRISTMAS AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ❤**

OFFICE MANAGER

Due to a severe leg injury, FLC Office Manager, Amy Garnsay, will be primarily working from her home office through January. Please use email flcchurchoffice@gmail.com or leave a message at 517-543-4360 ext. 221 and/or 517-663-1865 and Amy will call you back as soon as she is able.
We have made arrangements for deliveries and for mail. If you have someone else scheduled to come to the church (repairman, etc.) please let Amy know at least a couple of days in advance.
Amy will still be coming in to the church several hours a week to make copies, etc.

(My leg is healing but I am still on crutches. I begin physical therapy January 4 to try to regain use of my leg.)
Thank you so much for your prayers, support, and understanding ❤

HOSPITALITY TEAMS

Our Board of Elders would like to create a welcoming atmosphere that engages guests in a way that honors them, sets them at ease, and demonstrates the love of Christ. The Elders hope to achieve these goals through **Hospitality Teams**.

The team for each service will consist of:
† a **Team Leader** (Elder)
† 4 **Ushers** to welcome at three door entrances and the sanctuary entrance
† **Welcome Desk Host** to distribute welcome packets, distribute/collect children's materials, answer questions, and maintain the guest book
† **Greeter/Guide** to engage with guests by showing them to the nursery, bathrooms, coffee, etc., and by introducing them to others
† **Section Host** to be in the sanctuary and be aware of needs, being sensitive, prepared, and flexible

The team will commit to arrive 15 minutes early for the service, welcoming and engaging our guests to make a fantastic first Impression.
To add your name to the list of those willing to help, please contact your elder, the church office (517-543-4360 ext. 221), by putting a note in the offering plate, whatever works for you. We will meet together to train, inform, schedule, and encourage each other. ❤

† † †

USE OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING

Until further notice, the First Lutheran Church building will not be available for use by any private or outside groups, including non-church use by members or employees. Only FLC groups and meetings who are on the calendar to use the building are able to use any portion of the building at this time.
Thank you for your help and understanding.

† † †

TABLES AND CHAIRS

At this time First Lutheran is not lending out tables, chairs, or other equipment do to sanitation concerns.
Thank you for your understanding.

† † †

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

If you, or someone you know of, is homebound or unable to attend church due to the current state of affairs, and you, or they, do not have access to online worship services and/or email/facebook, please let Amy in the church office know
517-543-4360 ext. 221 or 517-663-6439.

Amy is mailing bulletins and DVDs to those who cannot access the online services, and bulletins to those who cannot access the internet and who do not have a DVD player. Newsletters are mailed to those who not have email with which to receive an electronic version.

If you or someone you know would like a visit and/or communion from an Elder or one of the Pastors, please call the church office
517-543-4360 ext. 221.

ELDERS SERVING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 3 C:

8:30 a.m.
Dan Danke
Dennis Sergent
11:15 a.m.
Larry Crouch
Ed Sype

January 10:

8:30 a.m.
Bob Schlueter
Dan Danke
11:15 a.m.
Jim Usitalo
George Hatter

January 17 C:

8:30 a.m.
SM Pastor, Mark Gawura
Justin Keiffer
11:15 a.m.
Ed Sype
Larry Crouch

January 24:

8:30 a.m.
Bob Schlueter
Dan Danke
11:15 a.m.
George Hatter
Jim Usitalo

January 31 C:

8:30 a.m.
Dan Danke
Dennis Sergent
11:15 a.m.
Ed Sype
Larry Crouch

† † †

We are looking for members (male and female) to be ushers at worship services. If you are interested, please contact Cleo Cortright by calling 517-231-5544. Thank you.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – January 2021

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- To whom do I give?
- And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

- Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
- Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?
(Continued on next page . . .)

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

† † †

Traditional Worship with Communion at 8:30 & 11:15 a.m. on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays
Traditional Non-Communion Worship at 8:30 a.m. on 2nd & 4th Sundays
Modern Worship at 11:15 a.m. on 2nd & 4th Sundays

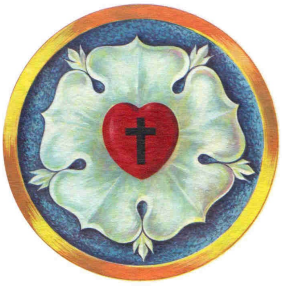
WHAT WE BELIEVE

Scripture Alone

We believe that the Holy Scriptures in their entirety are the inspired and infallible Word of God and that they alone are the only source and norm of faith and life for the Christian. We believe that the Bible is complete and requires no additions from any other source and that it clearly reveals God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Faith Alone

We believe that man was originally created holy by God but later rebelled against God and is now, by his nature, spiritually dead and blind. Only when man is brought to faith by the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God is it possible for man to be saved. Faith is God's work - not man's work - and comes only by hearing the Word of God. Man is justified before God by faith alone and not by good deeds.

Grace Alone

We believe that we are saved by grace alone and that man cannot earn his way into God's favor. Grace is the undeserved love of God who sent His Son Jesus into the world to take our place under God's law and to suffer and die to pay the penalty for our sins. Whoever trusts in that redemptive act of Jesus Christ will not perish but have everlasting life.