



# First Impressions

First Lutheran Church

November 2022

Rev. Sean Esterline

Pastor

Phone 812-431-1923 or 517-543-4360 ext. 222

[sesterline@msn.com](mailto:sesterline@msn.com)

Mark Gawura

Specific Ministries Pastor for Care Ministry

Phone 517-667-6853

[mgawura@gmail.com](mailto:mgawura@gmail.com)

Daniel Longden

Specific Ministry Pastor for

Youth & Family Ministry

Phone 517-543-4360 ext. 229

[daniellongden@gmail.com](mailto:daniellongden@gmail.com)

Rebekah Simmons

Preschool/Daycare Director

517-543-3828

[flpddirector@gmail.com](mailto:flpddirector@gmail.com)

## First Lutheran Church

550 E. Shepherd St., Charlotte, MI 48813

Phone 517-543-4360

Email: [flcchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcchurchoffice@gmail.com)

web: [firstlutherancharlotte.org](http://firstlutherancharlotte.org)

Amy Garnsay, Office Manager

517-543-4360 ext. 221

[flcchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcchurchoffice@gmail.com)

## Worship Times

Sundays 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @

11:15 a.m. with live worship team

Communion 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 OCT. 2022

Confirmed Membership.....	251
Baptized Membership.....	317
Child Baptisms .....	(0)
Adult Baptisms .....	(0)
Jr. Confirmands .....	(0)
New Confirmed Members .....	(0)
New Baptized Members .....	(0)
Transfers Out (Confirmed) .....	(0)
Transfers Out (Baptized) .....	(0)
Releases (Confirmed) .....	(0)
Releases (Baptized) .....	(0)
Deaths.....	(0)
Weddings .....	(0)



Kathryn Conrad .....	Nov 5
Carol Luukkonen .....	Nov 6
Mark Jorgensen.....	Nov 8
Mark Packowski .....	Nov 8
James Olson .....	Nov 9
Angela Rasmussen .....	Nov 9
Andrew Backus.....	Nov 13
Kalvin Miller .....	Nov 13
Lynette Thomas .....	Nov 13
Audrianna Pease.....	Nov 16
Mary Sype.....	Nov 16
Vincent Murray.....	Nov 17
Daynan Johnson .....	Nov 19
Dave Bursley .....	Nov 20
Richard Deitrich.....	Nov 20
Beth Sherman .....	Nov 21
Kearson Keiffer .....	Nov 25
Nathan Miller .....	Nov 26



Ronald & Kathy Geiger .....	Nov 1
Steve & Diane Johncock.....	Nov 6
Paul & Vickie Yankee .....	Nov 17
Joey & Kellye Youngs .....	Nov 26

**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 Pastor Sean Esterline (812) 431-1923 OR Specific Ministry Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry, Daniel Longden at (248) 802-2392.

## **First Lutheran Phone Number is 517-543-4360:**

**Church Office (Amy) - extension 221**

**Pastor Esterline - extension 222**

**Pastor Daniel Longden - extension 229**

**Kitchen - extension 224**

*\*If you call the church and do not get an answer, please leave a message.*

*Please do not leave **emergency** messages on these extensions as we may not access them in a timely manner.*

## **BIBLE STUDIES AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

**Please join us for Bible Study . . .**

† Sunday Morning Bible Studies for Adults and Teens - 10:00 a.m.

† Men's Monday Morning Bible Study - 7:00 a.m., Eaton Place Restaurant, Charlotte

† Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., FLC Library

† JR Confirmation Classes - 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays (*recessed during Advent*)

## *Thanks Be to God!*

As you all know, the biggest holiday in November is Thanksgiving. Sure, we've just wrapped up Halloween and are coming down from our sugar rush. And yes, now we need to go buy more pumpkins since we defaced (or rather, "faced") the last bunch—making them into Jack-O-Lanterns and the like. But we're ready to celebrate and give thanks... by stuffing not only the turkey, but also ourselves. This begs the question then, for what are we giving thanks? And to whom? On this national day of thanksgiving, what concept is our nation actually gathered around? To answer that, I'll point you to the very first Thanksgiving Proclamation, which came well before the official 1863 presidential proclamation that created the annual Day of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November.

On June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving, our first. That proclamation is reproduced here in the same language and spelling as the original.

"The Holy God having by a long and Continual Series of his Afflictive dispensations in and by the present War with the Heathen Natives of this land, written and brought to pass bitter things against his own Covenant people in this wilderness, yet so that we evidently discern that in the midst of his judgments he hath remembered mercy, having remembered his Footstool in the day of his sore displeasure against us for our sins, with many singular Intimations of his Fatherly Compassion, and regard; reserving many of our Towns from Desolation Threatened, and attempted by the Enemy, and giving us especially of late with many of our Confederates many signal Advantages against them, without such Disadvantage to ourselves as formerly we have been sensible of, if it be the Lord's mercy that we are not consumed, It certainly bespeaks our positive Thankfulness, when our Enemies are in any measure disappointed or destroyed; and fearing the Lord should take notice under so many Intimations of his returning mercy, we should be found an Insensible people, as not standing before Him with Thanksgiving, as well as lading him with our Complaints in the time of pressing Afflictions:

The Council has thought meet to appoint and set apart the 29th day of this instant June, as a day of Solemn Thanksgiving and praise to God for such his Goodness and Favour, many Particulars of which mercy might be Instanced, but we doubt not those who are sensible of God's Afflictions, have been as diligent to espy him returning to us; and that the Lord may behold us as a People offering Praise and thereby glorifying Him; the Council doth commend it to the Respective Ministers, Elders and people of this Jurisdiction; Solemnly and seriously to keep the same Beseeching that being persuaded by the mercies of God we may all, even this whole people offer up our bodies and souls as a living and acceptable Service unto God by Jesus Christ."

So, from its inception, our Thanksgiving Day celebration has always been directed towards our Father in heaven. I hope and pray that this is always the case, as it should be. We should always give thanks to God for His great love and mercy, and all His blessings.

In Him,

-Pastor Esterline



### **THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**

Please join us Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m.  
for Thanksgiving Even Worship.

*(FLC offices will be closed on November 24 & 25)*

## **FLC HAM AND TURKEY GIVEAWAY**

**Saturday, November 19, 8:00 a.m.**

Helpers are needed prior to 8am to help unload the truck(s) and stuff the bags and to help direct traffic.

Helpers are needed at 7:55 a.m. to help hand out the turkeys and hams.

**Questions? Please speak with George Hatter 517-213-1939.**



## **Free Curb-side Thanksgiving Dinner:**

The congregations of Peace Lutheran and First Lutheran will be hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner.

**Menu includes: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Pumpkin and Apple Pie.**

Meals will be served Curbside - please drive through and pick up your meal(s). All are welcome regardless of need!



## **FLC VOTERS MEETING**

**Sunday, November 20, 12:30 p.m.**

Tentative Agenda: Opening Prayer, Pastors' Reports, Secretary's Report, Board Reports, Election of Officers/Chairs, Old Business, New Business, Closing Prayer, Adjourn.

**Questions? Please speak with Council Chairman, Herm Arends.**



## **FLC COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.

## **FLC ELDERS MEETING**

The next Board of Elders' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.



## **FLC ELISABETH GUILD**

The next Elisabeth Guild meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3, 1:30 p.m.

All ladies are welcome to attend.

For more information please call Marj 517-543-1615.



## **FLC COMMUNITY DINNER**

Our next Community Dinner will be held on

**Monday, November 21, 6:00 p.m.**

This dinner is free to anyone in our community or congregation regardless of need. Helpers are needed please. Questions? Please contact George Hatter at 517-213-1939.

## WHAT IS A STEWARD?

Steward is not a term we use very often these days. Several years ago, flight attendants were known as stewards or stewardesses, but their role on airplanes simply does not fit what a steward does. A good example of this term is found in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.

In Tolkien's story, there is a character named Denethor who holds the title and office "steward of Gondor" (Gondor being a geographic region in Tolkien's Middle Earth). The steward of Gondor was tasked with being the chief adviser to the king; however, the line of kings who reigned in Gondor had been broken many years before Denethor. The stewards of Gondor had reigned in place of the absent kings for generations.

As steward, it was Denethor's charge to reign in the stead of the absent king. He had all authority and power to reign and rule as he saw fit. Everything in the kingdom was entrusted to the steward—lands, armies, treasure, servants, buildings, and the lives of all his subjects. The stewards were limited in only two ways: First, they were not allowed to ascend to the throne of the king; the stewards had their own lesser throne below the throne of the king, even though the king's throne sat empty for centuries. Second, no steward could deny the return of the king. If the king returned, the stewards had to return to being advisers to him.

## Our Role as Stewards of God

When God creates the world, He sets Adam as His steward. Adam is given dominion over everything. He rules and reigns in Eden as God charged him to do. God remains King over all creation. He is not absent, as the kings of Gondor are. He is still ever present with us, but He gives Adam and Eve authority that remains even after they are banished from Eden. We, as heirs and descendants of Adam and Eve, inherit their stewardship of the earth and all of God's creation.

Our role as stewards cannot be reduced to only how we handle our finances, nor can it be reduced to "time, talent, and treasures." Our role as stewards involves the entirety of our lives and the entirety of God's creation, God's kingdom.



Written by  
Andrew R. Jones

Andrew R. Jones serves as the pastor of First Lutheran Church and Preschool in Concord, CA. He served in mission and ministry for seven years on three continents before moving to St. Louis to attend Concordia Seminary (Master of Divinity, 2017, Master of Sacred Theology, 2018). He enjoys writing, running, and adventures with his wife, Stephanie. You can find more of his writings at [patreon.com/c3pojones](https://patreon.com/c3pojones).



## 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](http://www.firstlutherancharlotte.org) look for the kindrid smart giving logo and click on it or go to the drop down menu on our website (three lines together at the top) and then click on "give."

Thank you for your continued support to First Lutheran and your church family.



## WORSHIP with us

**Weekly Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.**

**Traditional worship with communion**

**on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at both 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.**

**Traditional worship with communion at 8:30 a.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.**

**Contemporary Worship with Live Band and Communion  
at 11:15 a.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.**



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**BEGINNING NOVEMBER 6, 2022**

**there will Communion every Sunday, and every service at FLC ❤️**

### **STREAMING AND ONLINE WORSHIP**

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>

All worship services will be livestreamed.

The worship services will be available for viewing after the livestream has ended.



### **USHERS**

We are in need of men, women, and teenagers  
to serve as Ushers at Worship Services and special events.

If you are interested, please contact Mark Wells 269-274-6352. Thank you.



### **ALTAR GUILD**

We are in need of ladies to serve on the First Lutheran Altar Guild.

If you are interested, please contact Wendy Jorgensen 517-420-7062. Thank you.



### **HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY IN GREAT NEED OF HELP!**

Donations to Helping Hands Food Pantry are at an all time low. The food pantry is one of the main sources of help for struggling families for food and personal care items in our area. Donations from stores have all but ceased since the stores are unable to get enough supplies for themselves and no longer have a surplus to share. Donations from other agencies and USDA products have decreased by 50% or more.

Please consider donating to Helping Hands Food Bank to help struggling families. You may drop donations directly to the food bank at 621 Jefferson St., Charlotte. or you may leave donations in the collection box located in the FLC narthex. Donations need to be in-date and unopened. Donations of non-perishable food items and personal care items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, and cleaning supplies, are needed.

You may also send a monetary donation to:

Helping Hands Food Pantry - 621 Jefferson St., Charlotte, MI 48813.

For questions please call the food bank at 517-543-8737.

Thank you.



## COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is held every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the FLC Fellowship Hall.

Hosts and Hostesses are needed to serve coffee and refreshments every Sunday.

The church provides coffee, other beverages. Volunteers make and serve the coffee/beverages.

The volunteers provide and serve the snacks (cookies, bagels, fruit, etc.)

**Please wear gloves and observe good sanitation while serving at Coffee Hour.**

**Please be sure to clean up following Coffee Hour and turn the coffee pot off.**

**Thank you to all who serve ♥**



## USE OF TABLES AND CHAIRS

First Lutheran loans tables and chairs to members of First Lutheran.

Only tables and chairs located in the FLC garage are available for use off-site by members.

Tables and chairs from inside the church building are not available for use outside of the church.

To use tables and chairs please sign up through the church office. Please do not take tables and chairs without a reservation as someone else may already have them reserved.

Please be sure to bring tables and chairs back promptly at the end of your reservation. Thank you.



## ✿ ALTAR FLOWERS ✿

Please consider signing up to provide flowers to beautify our Sunday altar.

Cost is currently \$20 per bouquet.. Please make checks payable to FLC Elisabeth Guild and place in Shirley Lea's mailbox.

You may take your flowers home with you following the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service.

A sign-up sheet is located in the office hallway.

When you sign up you may state a reason for your flowers

(this will appear in the Sunday announcements) such as celebrating a birthday or anniversary, in loving memory of someone, in thanksgiving for blessings, etc.

Thank you for helping make our altar beautiful.



## USE OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING

The First Lutheran Church fellowship hall, kitchen, and Pastor Olson Memorial Room, are available for use by members and outside groups for their private events, meetings, etc. To make a reservation please contact the church office 517-543-4360 ext. 221. Please do not make plans to use the facilities without making a reservation through the church office as someone may already have the space reserved.

A member of FLC must be present for the duration of any event/meeting held at First by an outside group. FLC is not available for for-profit events (Tupperware, Candlelight, craft sale, etc.). A deposit of \$150 is required for any use of the FLC facilities other than for non-profit or church events. A list of facility use rules and a cleaning check list can be obtained through the church office. Be sure to clean and secure the building after your event. Thank you.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN NEED

**Here is a list of ways you can help those in need in our community and congregation:**

- ☛ **FLC Esther Fund.** This fund helps provide emergency housing to the homeless in our community. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write “Esther Fund” and the amount you wish to contribute on your offering envelope.
- ☛ **FLC Good Samaritan Fund.** This fund helps members of First Lutheran who have a financial need. If you are a member struggling with a financial need, please contact the church office to apply for help. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write “Good Samaritan Fund” and the amount you wish to contribute on your offering envelope.
- ☛ **Helping Hands Food Bank.** You may make donations at FLC or directly to the food bank: 621 Jefferson St., Charlotte. For questions please call the food bank at 517-543-8737.
- ☛ **Pregnancy Center for Eaton County.** The pregnancy center helps women in need and encourages those considering abortion to choose life instead. We are collecting donations of diapers (size newborn thru size four), wipes, sleepers (size newborn thru one year), receiving blankets, and maternity clothes (of all sizes). The center is also in need of monetary donations. Please send monetary donations directly to Pregnancy Center of Eaton County, PO Box 480, Charlotte, MI 48813. Volunteers are needed to help clean and organize at the pregnancy center (337 State St., Charlotte), and help greet clients, Thursdays from Noon - 3pm. Questions? Please contact Gina at 517-543-7077.
- ☛ **SIREN Eaton Shelter.**  
Please make donations directly to the shelter:  
520 Robinson St., Charlotte, MI. For questions please call the shelter at 517-543-0748.



## 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.