

First Impressions

First Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 2023

Rev. Sean Esterline

Lead Pastor

Phone 812-431-1923 or 517-543-4360 ext. 1000

sesterline@msn.com

Mark Gawura

Specific Ministries Pastor for Care Ministry

Phone 517-667-6853

mgawura@gmail.com

Daniel Longden

Specific Ministry Pastor for

Youth & Family Ministry

Phone 517-543-4360 ext. 1001

daniellongden@gmail.com

Rebekah Simmons

Preschool/Daycare Director

517-543-3828

flpddirector@gmail.com

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. 1004

flcchurchoffice@gmail.com

Worship Times

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

Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays @

11:15 a.m. with live worship band

Communion Every Sunday

Mid-week Worship

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. during Advent & Lent



“That which we have seen
of Life, we proclaim to you.”



FLC Statistics for SEPTEMBER 2023

Confirmed Membership.....	244
Baptized Membership.....	319
Child Baptisms	(0)
Adult Baptisms	(1) Chloe Johns
Jr. Confirmands	(0)
New Confirmed Members	(0)
New Baptized Members	(0)
Transfers Out (Confirmed) ..	(2) Ed & Sherry Allen
Transfers Out (Baptized).....	(0)
Releases (Confirmed)	(0)
Releases (Baptized).....	(0)
Deaths.....	(0)
Weddings	(0)



Ruth Aben	Oct 1
Barb Dodge	Oct 2
Karen Bursley	Oct 3
Sky Esterline	Oct 4
Ian Livingston	Oct 5
Janet Hamilton	Oct 7
Sophia Murray	Oct 7
Butch Martens	Oct 8
Tanner Gingrich.....	Oct 9
Stephanie Keiffer.....	Oct 10
Cory Whitaker	Oct 11
Solomon LaGuire.....	Oct 12
Mark Wells.....	Oct 12
Carol Hamilton	Oct 13
Dakota Bryan	Oct 14
Traci Backus	Oct 15
Kim Doig	Oct 15
Emma Esterline.....	Oct 29
Angela (Brendlinger) Hester.....	Oct 19
Michelle Goff	Oct 20
Cameron Greene.....	Oct 20
Tina Lietzke	Oct 22
Isabel Hackney	Oct 23
Amelia Alger.....	Oct 24
Jennifer Sadler	Oct 26
Brayden Wing.....	Oct 26
Grace Longden	Oct 27
Kay Reppuhn	Oct 28
Nicholas Schalk	Oct 28
Herman Arends.....	Oct 29
Liz Eggert	Oct 29
Charley Green	Oct 29
Dillon Jorgensen	Oct 29
Vincent Stuck	Oct 29
Nolan Spotts	Oct 31



Tom & Carolyn Little	Oct 11
Aaron & Adrienne Van Langevelde	Oct 16



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 prior.

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 Lead 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 1004

Pastor Esterline - extension 1000

Pastor Daniel Longden - extension 1001

Kitchen - extension 1002

**If you call the church and do not get an answer, please leave a message.
Please do not leave **emergency** messages on these extensions. Thank you.*

THE WORLD HATES THE GOSPEL!

That is why the Reformation was needed. The church as we see it in this world is part of the world. The Church Militant, part of the one, holy Christian and Apostolic Church - the part that is in this world but not of this world - is hidden within the church we see in this world, but is not co-extensive with the church in this world. There are many in the church we see in this world who are not believers. Some of them think they are, and some know that they are not, but they have their reasons for being inside the earthly church. The many various denominations that exist, the sects of the church, and even some cults, are symptoms of this reality. The church in the world, visible to us and audible by us in this world, is peopled both by Christians and enemies of Christ. For the sake of definition, we will count anyone who is not a true believer (a genuine Christian) as an enemy of Christ, for Christ says (Matthew 12:30), He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. The enemies of Christ want the church to be something else, to teach something other than the Gospel, to worship something or someone other than the true God, and to do anything but draw attention to the Gospel or give glory in any way to God through Jesus Christ. They would spend the energies and the resources of the church on anything other than the Gospel and upon anyone other than God's people.

The Church (note the capital "C") is happy to do good things in this world, imitating God and reflecting His love, but the enemies of Christ would silence any witness to God or confession of Christ, and use the energy and resources of the church in any way that disguises the source of the generosity of the church, or which advances agendas and dogmas hostile to the great truths of the Church. They also aim to change the focus of the church from Christ and forgiveness and the truth to something - anything - else. The focus shifts from the Word of God, the grace and mercy of God, to various programs and slogans that sound good, but actually do very little to prepare and encourage true, Biblical discipleship, true growth in Christ.

Slowly over time, the grace of God is diminished in the eyes of church body after church body. The Word of God is put to doubt, twisted by new and exciting teachings, and ignored by "churchmen" and "theologians" - the self-proclaimed prophets and teachers of the latter days. Deprived of consistent and faithful teachers, the people who fill the pews also grow weak in faith and in the knowledge of the things their parents and predecessors once held so dear. This process has been repeated time after time for more than a millennium. It happened after the time of the Apostles. It followed its course in the church of Rome before the time of Luther. This same thing has happened time and time again among the nominal Confessors. It has taken the usual course among the Protestants of the Reformed stripe. It is happening in the visible church today.

That is why the church is always in need of reformation. It is not that we do not know or cannot arrive at the truth. We possess the truth. The problem is that no body of men in this world can long retain the truth in all of its purity and power. Time and the weakness of our sinful flesh, and the demonic influence of the true enemy of the Cross, simply erodes the light of the Gospel among men just as dripping water slowly dissolves and erodes the hardest of rocks, given enough time.

But God is generous, loving, and gracious. He continually moves men by His Holy Spirit, through His Word, to find and love the truth - and proclaim it new and fresh in every generation, calling men and women to faith and salvation by that precious Gospel. Sometimes God uses a man like Luther, and in His lovingkindness He leaves us a clear testimony to the truth and its nature and elements (and to Scripture), so that we may find and cling to such symbols and find re-assurance among men.

Such symbols include the Reformation emphases of "Sola Gratia", "Sola Fide", "Sola Scriptura", and "Solus Christus"; meaning "By grace alone", "Through Faith alone", as taught in "Scripture Alone", and "through Christ alone". These phrases are a sort of shorthand for the entire truth of the Gospel, and are the substance of the Reformation we celebrate each year. They can be and have been abused and misused in the past at times, but they stand as reminders and a call to arms for those who understand the nature of the battle the church faces. Remember, the world hates the Gospel and

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(The World Hates the Gospel . . .) is always seeking to distort it or destroy it. No one knows better than the old, evil foe that when the Gospel is distorted it ceases to be the Gospel. Please keep in mind that there is nothing exclusively Lutheran about any of those Reformation slogans. They simply belong to the right understanding of the Christian faith. Lutherans have just identified with them more commonly than others. I suppose that is natural, since I believe that the farther one wanders from historic Lutheranism, the farther one wanders from the foundations of the Christian faith itself. Let me illustrate that point.

Sola Gratia means "by grace alone". It reminds us that our salvation is by grace, that is, by God's free choosing of us with no cause for that choice in us that we can identify. Without that choice, we cannot believe, for faith is the work of the Holy Spirit in men and women, when and where it pleases Him, by means of the Word and the Sacraments. Our nature is hostile toward God and sinful since the time of Adam and Eve. We do not possess the ability to believe without God's working within us. More than that, He chose to send His Son while we were enemies and content to be lost and condemned. His love and His choice to rescue us are the only reasons that any of us have hope. Otherwise, we have each deserved death of both body and soul, and eternal destruction in hell. So our salvation, and our personal participation in that salvation is by grace alone.

People have taken that "slogan" and tried to do things with it (caricature the doctrine) that are not justified by God's Word. They have tried to blame God for the damnation of those who do not believe. They have attempted to teach a sort of fatalism that suggests that since it is by grace, we should not be concerned with our eternal destination - you know, eat drink and be merry for tomorrow you will die. Some have seized upon it to teach a doctrine of universalism, believing that since it rests in God's hands, all must somehow be saved. Each of these distortions make sense to the human mind, but each ignores something of what God has clearly revealed. The phrase can be misused, but what it intends is merely to remind us of the truth of the grace of God, so that we do not become arrogant and begin to think that we are saved because we are somehow superior to others, in and of ourselves.

Sola Fide stands to point our hearts and minds to the truth that the riches of Christ are ours through faith alone. Faith is the "medium leptikon" or the "means of receiving" of the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. One might think of it as something like a pipe, through which the 'water' salvation flows. Just as pipes do not cause or earn or deserve the water flowing through them (for many pipes are empty because there is no water supplied to them), so faith is not a cause of forgiveness or of eternal life, nor a way of deserving them, but merely the conduit, the means by which we receive these blessings. Now if the Latin or Greek terms used by theologians (such as "medium leptikon") are confusing, ignore them, but remember the meanings behind them. The technical language is just a shorthand for the student of God's Word to summarize a lot of word with just a few.

Continuing our survey of the Reformation "slogans", Sola Scriptura is our reminder that everything we know about this wonderful Gospel is learned from Holy Scriptures. That is why Lutherans insist that Scriptures are the sole norm and source of all doctrine and practice in the Church. Because we are all infected with sin in the flesh, and naturally share the world's visceral hatred of the Gospel to some extent, mere men could not be entrusted with the truth. We would, as history so amply demonstrates, twist it and distort it to our own sinful ends. Scripture, on the other hand, is less flexible. Scripture preserves for us information that we could not know, because we were not there. Because God has inspired its writing, and has continued to preserve it among men, often in spite of the best efforts of those charged with preserving it, Scriptures can tell us what happened, and why, and what it all means. Because it is the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit works through it (something we learn from Scripture itself) we have an unfailing guide to knowledge about God, His will, and our salvation, and access to His saving power.

And that salvation is in connection with Jesus Christ alone. Although most folks seem to think it is counter-intuitive, only in Christ is there salvation, and only in Christ can we know God in truth at all. People have a lot of ideas about God, most of them quite unlike the reality of God, but only in Christ Jesus is God revealed to us. His grace is shown in Christ. His glory is revealed in Christ and the salvation He has wrought (that means "worked", but isn't "wrought" a cool word?). God's intentions toward us become clear only when we look at Christ, and when we study Him in Scriptures, we discover that the only contact we really have with God is in Christ and through Christ, and that other than Christ we don't know God at all - all we really know of God outside of Christ are our fears about Him or our foolish fantasies which bear no real resemblance to the Almighty as He is.

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(The World Hates the Gospel . . .)

As I was saying, even in the church, or perhaps, especially in the church, the principle that the world hates the Gospel is hard at work. That hatred is guided by and serves the agenda of the devil, the original foe of both God and man. That hatred is at work all around us, and, when we are not on our guard, within us, to distort and destroy the work of God in Jesus Christ to rescue, redeem, and save us. There is nothing the devil can do about the redeem part. Jesus already did that. Everyone has been purchased at great price by His death and the receipt is His resurrection on Easter. That marvelous truth declares our redemption was accomplished. Your salvation is complete, just as Jesus declared from the cross. All the devil can do is lead men and women to reject it. Just as the one that believes and is baptized is saved, so the one that refuses to believe, or cannot because they have never heard, is condemned.

The battle against the distortions and lies and destruction of the proclamation of this wonderful good news of salvation is always on-going. Sometimes in history it goes rather poorly, at least as viewed by men. At other times, however, there is a moment of glorious triumph - say, as when Luther was lifted up by God's power to lead what we now call "the Reformation". Moments like those - that moment in history in particular - are so wonderful and refreshing, we have to pause and remember and give God thanks for them. And so we celebrate the Reformation – I look forward to celebrating with you, every Sunday!

In Him,
-Pastor Sean

**PLEASE JOIN US . . .
WEEKLY SUNDAY WORSHIP**

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

Traditional worship at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Traditional worship on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Worship with Live Band at 11:15 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

All Sunday services include communion.

🔔 PLEASE NOTE: 🔔

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 (Reformation & Confirmation) - ONE service at 10:00 a.m.

“Foods of the World” Potluck at 11:15 p.m.

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.



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 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.



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



TAILGATE PARTY!

**Everyone is invited to join us for a Tailgate Party during Coffee Hour
Sunday, October 1, 2023, 9:45 a.m., FLC Fellowship Hall.**

Hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream, and beverages will be provided.

Join the fun and wear your favorite team's shirt or sweatshirt.

Questions? Please call Kathryn 517-652-9133.



YOUTH GROUP MIDNIGHT MADNESS!!

Friday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. - Midnight

Adult helpers are needed (even if you can only stay for part of the evening).

Please call or text Pastor Dan if you are willing to help out 248-802-2392.



FLC ELISABETH GUILD ANNUAL AUCTION

Saturday, October 14, 1:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited!

Please bring your used treasures, baked goods, crafts, garden produce, etc., to place into the auction. Please also bring you wallet so you can bid on items. All proceeds go toward Elisabeth Guild mission projects for the upcoming year. Questions? Please speak with Marj Huva 543-1615 or Nola Buck 517-543-2681.



WE CELEBRATE WITH

Cloe Johns

who was brought into the Kingdom of God
through the Holy Waters of Baptism

September 15, 2023

FLC COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.



FLC COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next Community Dinner will be held on
Monday, October 16, 6:00 p.m.
This dinner is free to all in our community
& congregation regardless of need.



FLC ELDERS MEETING
Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.



THANKSGIVING DINNER PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 5:30 p.m., FLC Library.

Anyone who is interested in helping plan this year's Thanksgiving Dinner
at the Charlotte Senior Center is encouraged to attend.

Questions? Please speak with Jennifer Packowski 517-231-0010.



REFORMATION AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

October 29, ONE Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

This is Reformation Sunday

and Confirmation will take place during the worship service.

A "Foods of the World" Potluck Luncheon will be held at 11:15 p.m.

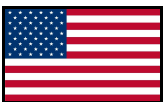
FOODS OF THE WORLD POTLUCK LUNCHEON

October 29, 11:15 p.m.

Bring your favorite ethnic or heritage food to share (Italian, German, Irish, American, Etc.)
Please sign-up to let us know what you will be bringing and what country of origin it is from.

We are having a sheet cake in honor of our confirmands on this day
so not a lot of desserts are needed (but they are still appreciated).

Questions? Please call Kathryn Conrad 517-652-9133.



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY IN A WORLD OF DYSPHORIA

A Conference for Clergy and Laity

Saturday, October 28, 2023,

8 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. Matins,

9 a.m. Conference Begins (concludes by 2 p.m.)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer

Cost: \$25 per person, \$15 per student

Lunch provided

Please RSVP to Hope Lutheran Church 575-669-3930.



PROJECT RESOURCE CONNECT

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

First Lutheran Church

Project Resource Connect is an event for individuals and families in need in Eaton County to get connected to community organizations and resources.



Resources include:

Education and Employment

Food and Nutrition

Health and Wellness

Housing and Finance

Members of First Lutheran to help oversee the building and answer facility related questions are needed on Wednesday, November 1 during set-up (time TBA) and also on Thursday, November 2, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thank you for your help.

FLC ANNUAL HAM AND TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Saturday, November 18, 8:00 a.m.

Curb-side pickup.

Helpers will be needed to help unload the truck (time TBA) and to hand out hams and turkeys at 8:00 a.m.

If you would like to contribute financially to the Ham and Turkey Giveaway, please write Ham/Turkey on your giving envelope along with the dollar amount that you wish to go towards this outreach to our community.

Thank you.



PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation month.

When you get a chance, please consider taking a few minutes to let our Pastors know they are valued and appreciated 🍷



ADULT CHOIR

Adult Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

If you can carry a tune and you are 18 years old or older, please consider joining the FLC Adult Choir.

Questions? Please call Kathryn Conrad 517-652-9133. Thank you.



MARCH FOR LIFE

**The Michigan March for Life will be held
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, Michigan State Capitol steps,
11:00 a.m. Rally at the Statehouse steps
12:00 p.m. March for Life**

Note for all Michigan District LCMS Congregations:

*One of the most important events this year for all those who value the God-given sanctity of human life will be the **Michigan March for Life** at the Capitol on Wednesday, November 8, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

This will be held on the anniversary of last year's horrific passage of Proposal 3, which basically struck down all protections for the unborn in Michigan.

By joining in this Rally and March, pro-life citizens of Michigan will make their voice heard, in defending the right of our unborn children to be protected in the womb.

*Besides strongly encouraging your presence at the Rally and March for Life in Lansing, we would like to invite you and the members of your congregations to a **FOLLOW-UP LUTHERAN GATHERING** for our own LCMS people who are coming to the march. This gathering will be held at **Hope Lutheran Church, Dewitt**, following the rally and march at the Capitol. We are very thankful to the congregation of Hope Lutheran for doing this. This will enable us to rest a bit after the march, have some light refreshments (which Lutherans for Life of Michigan will provide). We are very pleased to announce that we have a special speaker for the event - **Pastor Michael Salemink** - the Executive Director of National Lutherans for Life. There may be other speakers as well.*

Please do everything you can to spread the word!

Thank you and God bless! - Pastor Paul Clark, President, Lutheran for Life of MI

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Helping Hands Food Pantry is one of the greatest resources in our area for families experiencing hunger. Recently the Food Pantry lost a tremendous amount of funding as well as suppliers of food products. The following are ways you can help support Helping Hands and help make sure food is available to those in need:

Helping Hands Fall Harvest Gathering

Friday, October 27, 5 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.,

Hidden Creek Farms, 2181 E. Vermontville Hwy, Charlotte.

Everyone is invited to this family-friendly fundraiser for Helping Hands Food Pantry!

Enjoy fall-themed games, music, food, and more.

FLC Helping Hands collection box -

drop off in-date, unopened, non-perishable food items
to the collection box located in the FLC narthex.

Direct Donations -

You can also make donations of food items directly to Helping Hands Food Pantry,
or mail a monetary donation to them with which they can purchase food.

Helping Hands Food Pantry

621 Jefferson St., Charlotte, MI 48813

Thank you for helping those in need in our community ♥



HATS OFF TO LIFE!

Hosted by: Pregnancy Center of Eaton County.

Friday, November 10, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Mount Hope Church Event Center - 202 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing.

Enjoy an evening of good food, comedy, and fellowship - while supporting life!

Tickets: www.pcecmi.org/community

Call/text: 517-543-7077



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!

**Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour
before heading to bed on
Saturday, November 4, 2023.**

PRE-PLAN YOUR CHURCH FUNERAL

Did you know you can pre-arrange your church funeral?

If you would like to let us and your loved ones know your preferences for hymns, scripture, etc., please request a *Funeral Planning Form* from Amy in the FLC Office. Completed forms are kept on file in the FLC Office.

FLC SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023-2024 CALENDAR

For special dates, please see below. All other dates will follow our class schedule of Sunday School from 10 - 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Sunday, October 29th: No Sunday School - ONE service at 10 a.m. (Reformation)

Sunday, November 26th: No Sunday School - Thanksgiving Break.

Sunday, December 10th: Christmas Program Rehearsal 10 - 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 17th: Christmas Program Rehearsal 10 - 11 a.m.

Christmas Program at the 11:15 a.m. service

Sunday, December 24th: No Sunday School - Christmas Break.

Sunday, December 31st: No Sunday School - Christmas Break.

Sunday, March 31st: No Sunday School - Easter (Holy Treasure Hunt 9:20 a.m.)

Sunday, April 7th: No Sunday School -Spring Break.

Sunday, May 12th: No Sunday School - Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 19th: Last day of Sunday School for this School year.



ELDER MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

A new Elder/Member list is available.

If you would like to know who your elder is, please see the list posted on the bulletin board or pick up a copy from the church credenza.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Volunteers are needed every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. to provide and serve refreshments, and to make and serve coffee.

(Volunteers provide the refreshments, the church provides coffee/juice.)

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the office hallway for those wishing to sign-up to provide and serve refreshments. Thank you.



USE OF TABLES AND CHAIRS

Tables and chairs located in the FLC garage are available for use by members for their events off-site.

(Please note: tables and chairs from inside the church are not to be removed from the church.)

To make a reservation please contact the church office 517-543-4360 ext. 221. Please do not take tables and/or chairs without making a reservation through the church office as someone may already have them reserved. Thank you.



USE OF FLC FACILITIES

If you would like to use the FLC fellowship hall, kitchen, or Pastor Olson Room for your private non-FLC event, you must sign-up through the church office (see Amy in the office).

Use of the building is a \$150 refundable deposit for members and no-charge to non-profits.

No event held at FLC can be a for-profit event
(rummage sale, sales of tupperware, sales of good baked or cooked at FLC, etc.).



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 2nd 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.



SUPPORT CONCORDIA SEMINARY STUDENTS . . .

Lutheran Fraternities of America is holding their annual Food-A-Thon to help feed seminary students and their families at Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Please consider giving a monetary donation to be used to fill the Campus Food Bank.

Please write "Seminary Food-A-Thon" on your giving envelope,
along with the dollar amount you wish to go to the Campus Food Bank.

Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.

Deadline to make a donation to the food bank will be Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Thank you for helping feed the seminary students
while they prepare to deliver food to the souls of those they will be serving
in a future congregation where the Lord leads them.



PLEASE BE SURE TO LOCK ALL EXTERIOR DOORS AFTER YOUR EVENT AND ON SUNDAYS.

*Thank you for protecting our church facilities, our church family, and employees
by being attentive to locking all of the exterior doors
on Sunday and after all events.*

Your help is appreciated ♥



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.

PREGNANCY CENTER OF EATON COUNTY

337 State St., Charlotte, MI - 517-543-7077

The Pregnancy Center encourages women to choose life instead of abortion by sharing the love of Christ with them, and by providing help and services that they need.

The pregnancy center serves almost 100 clients every month - providing them with diapers, clothing, baby equipment, ultrasounds, and pregnancy tests.

The center is always in need of donations of the following:

Diapers (size 3-6) and baby wipes

Clean baby clothing up to size 2

Pac’N’Play playpens/playyards

Please drop donations off to the center during business hours:

Tuesdays Noon - 5 p.m.; Thursdays Noon - 5 p.m.; Saturdays 1 - 4 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer your time at the center, please call Nancy 517-543-7077.

If you would like to donate monetary funds to help the center pay their monthly bills please mail your check to PCEC 337 State Rd., Charlotte, MI 48813 or go to www.pcecmi.org and click on the donate tab.

Please keep the Pregnancy Center, it’s staff/volunteers, and clients in your prayers. Thank you.



FIFTY-TWO WEEK BIBLE READING PROGRAM

It's never too late to join in the 52 Week Bible Reading Program!

Bible readings for OCTOBER:

Week 40

Oct 1	Micah 3-7
Oct 2	Nahum 103; Habakkuk 1-2
Oct 3	Habakkuk 31 Zephaniah 1-3
Oct 4	Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-3
Oct 5	Zechariah 4-8
Oct 6	Zechariah 9-13
Oct 7	Zechariah 14; Malachi 1-3

Week 41

Oct 8	Malachi 4; Matthew 1-3
Oct 9	Matthew 4-6
Oct 10	Matthew 7-9
Oct 11	Matthew 10-11
Oct 12	Matthew 12-13
Oct 13	Matthew 14-16
Oct 14	Matthew 17-19

Week 42

Oct 15	Matthew 20-21
Oct 16	Matthew 22-24
Oct 17	Matthew 25-26
Oct 18	Matthew 27
Oct 19	Matthew 28; Mark 1-2
Oct 20	Mark 3-5
Oct 21	Mark 6-7

Week 43

Oct 22	Mark 8-9
Oct 23	Mark 10-11
Oct 24	Mark 12-14
Oct 25	Mark 15-16
Oct 26	Luke 1-2
Oct 27	Luke 3-4
Oct 28	Luke 5-6

Week 44

Oct 29	Luke 7-8
Oct 30	Luke 9
Oct 31	Luke 10-11
Nov 1	Luke 12-13
Nov 2	Luke 14-16
Nov 3	Luke 17-18
Nov 4	Luke 19-21



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.