

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH + SAINT PETER

# FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER, 2023

Siblings in Christ,

On November 5th we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. All Saints Sunday celebrates all those people, living and deceased, who put their trust, their faith, in Jesus. And so, you are invited to bring a picture of a loved one, living or deceased, to worship and place it on the table that will be positioned close to the communion rail. We will remember and cherish them, their life, and their witness of faith.

Sometimes people struggle with the idea of who or what a “saint” is. So, I will share this brief story with you. A grandfather was walking with his granddaughter down the central isle of one of the great cathedrals of Europe. As the little girl looked up at the magnificent stained-glass windows and the figures pictured therein, she asked her grandfather, “Who are those people in the windows?” Without thinking he replied, “Oh, those are saints!” The little girl thought about that for a second and then asked her grandfather, “What’s a saint?” Looking at the beautiful sunlight streaming in through the stained-glass windows and desperate to find an answer he blurted out, “A saint is someone who allows God’s light to shine through them.”

I think that’s actually a pretty good definition of what a saint is. A saint is someone who allows God’s beautiful light to shine through them unto others. Therefore, during the month of November as we honor all those saints who have joined our family of faith through Holy Baptism and all who have died and entered into their rest over the course of the last year- let us remember that all of us are God’s saints. All of us may shine God’s holy light onto the people and the situations we find ourselves a part of n November and, indeed, throughout the whole year. You are God’s beloved. You are a saint. Let God’s light shine through all you say and do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Chris



## **Council President – Recognizing the Ministry of People**

The list of people to thank who are doing the work of ministry in this congregation is long. There are so many contexts where I can recognize the ministry of the people of this congregation but a good place to start is on Sunday morning. It starts with Sunday school teachers and music leaders busy with the spiritual growth of the children. Before worship, greeters and ushers offer welcome. Worship includes inspirational and meaningful music, liturgy, and preaching. After worship, there is fellowship with coffee and treats.

The rest of the week is just as full. There is Faith Formation, Confirmation instruction and the high school youth group on Wednesday evenings. Council meetings, and the work of 14 different committees takes place at various times each month. Oh, and the building and grounds must be maintained by staff and many volunteers.

It is a valuable exercise to think about all the effort that goes into our ministry. I worked up a big helping of gratitude when I thought about it.

I thank Pastor Chris, Emily, Callie, Dave, Angela, Karen, and the trove of volunteers who keep this congregation humming along. It all takes time and energy. It is valuable work and I appreciate all of you. Thank you. And again, I say thank you.

*-Submitted by Mary Spear, Council President*

## **Safety in the Building – Worst Case Scenario Training**

Remember as kids, we had fire drills in school? Can you instantly recall where you were when the Columbine High School tragedy happened in 1999? As of October 12, 2023, there have been nearly 500 mass shootings in the United States this year. I find it overwhelmingly sad that this is the world in which we live.

Minnesota schools are required by law to conduct 5 fire drills, 5 “lockdown” drills and one severe weather drill annually. FLC held a severe weather drill in August. We are hosting an active shooter defense awareness/training class on Saturday, November 18th from 10am to 1pm. A coffee break with cookies will be provided. I attended this class a month ago and came away with renewed vigilance and awareness of my surroundings (and I thought I was already hyper-aware because of my firefighting/EMS background!). This knowledge can be applied when I’m at church, the grocery store, the mall, or anywhere else.

I would encourage everyone to attend this class, it is open to the public as well. The cost is \$19.99. As a host site, we can have up to 75 of our members attend for free by using the discount code that is found on the posters at church or by calling the church office for info. You do need to pre-register so sign up soon! And please spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

In addition to the class, FLC will receive a site security assessment by the company, Protect His House. Having professionals give us some insight into protecting our members and staff will be a great benefit.

I certainly hope this is knowledge that we never need to use! But I’m thankful we have the opportunity to learn and be prepared for the unthinkable.

*Submitted by Dawn Wenner, Safety & Security Task Force*

## Youth & Family - Out Loud!

October was filled with mischief and mayhem! Check out all we have in store for you this month!

### Thanksgiving Flower Deliveries: Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30pm

Our Youth will be coordinating flower deliveries for homebound members! Please reach out to our office or Calleigh if there's someone specific, you'd like included in this service project.



### Live Nativity

Come one, come all! We're bringing back the Live Nativity Event at First Lutheran and we need YOU to help us make it special this year! We are looking for actors/actresses (all ages) for the event! Please contact Calleigh if you're interested.



### High School Youth Group Schedule:

<b>Wednesday, November 1st</b> <b>7:30pm-8:30pm</b>	<b>Our November Kick-Off!</b> Our combined High School Youth Group will be gathering for food, fun, and games at First Lutheran Church this month!
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### Sunday School Schedule:

<b>Sunday, November 5th</b> <b>9:00am-9:55am</b>	<i>Sunday School Class!</i>
<b>Sunday, November 12th</b> <b>9:00am-9:55am</b>	<i>Sunday School Class!</i>
<b>Sunday, November 19th</b> <b>9:00am-9:55am</b>	<i>Sunday School Class!</i>
<b>Sunday, November 26th</b> <b>9:00am-9:55am</b>	<b>NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving!</b>

**FLC's Live Nativity Event:**  
**December 9th**  
**5:30pm-8:00pm**

### Faith Formation/Confirmation Schedule:

<b>Wednesday, November 1st</b>	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 8th</b>	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 15th</b>	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 22nd</b>	<b>NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 29th</b>	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM</b>



# *Behold Your Saints in Glory*



## *Worshipping with the Saints*

an All Saints Sunday service for SATB Choir with organ, trumpet, and assembly

by *Aaron David Miller*

Emily Bruflat, Director of Music + FLC Sanctuary Choir + David Fienen, accompanist + Ben Bruflat, trumpet

First Lutheran Church + Saint Peter, MN + November 5, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

[Image artwork THE PROCESSION; Copyright © 2007 - John August Swanson Trust; Serigraph, 36" x 24";  
[www.JohnAugustSwanson.com](http://www.JohnAugustSwanson.com) - Used by permission.]

## **All Saints - November 5 – Special Worship**

Throughout the special All Saints worship, led by the choir cantata, you will have opportunities to worship with *your* saints. During the prelude, you can bring a photo or memento in honor or in memory of a saint to tables set up around the baptismal font and/or to light a candle for them. During communion, you will have a chance to light a candle to take to your seat as we sing the final hymn *with* the saints. You are invited to this special day in our church year when we really live into the “thin space” between the tangible world and the spiritual world - and we sing “Alleluia!”

## Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at FLC – Bring a Treat to Share

FLC will be hosting the St Peter Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 23 at 7pm. Dessert and coffee will be served afterwards. Please consider donating a pie or pan of dessert bars for this event. Contact Betty Thompson or the office know if you can provide something so we can make sure we have enough treats.

## Advent Begins on November 26 – Devotionals Available

- Sanctified Art has a digital version of this year's Advent devotional for FLC members to access with this link <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/> Please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media due to our acceptable use agreement. Printed copies will be available beginning Sunday, November 19 in the gathering space. Please contact Angela if you need one before then.
- In this year's church calendar cycle, November 26 would traditionally have been Reign of Christ Sunday. However, that would make December 24 *both* Advent 4 and Christmas Eve. To lighten the burden of worship services on our volunteers and to give Advent a proper four weeks, we shifted the calendar. **There will be no morning worship on December 24**, and our usual Christmas Eve services will take place at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- On Advent 1, we will explore the theme "We Acknowledge Our Weariness." What makes you weary? Tune in to the December newsletter for more information on this year's theme for Advent and Christmas: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?



# How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in  
Luke's Gospel

## Organ Recital Series

November 5: Emily Bruflat

November 12: David Fienen

Celebrate the completed organ repairs!

Recitals begin at 4:00 p.m.

Freewill offerings collected will go toward  
instrument maintenance.

## An Evening with Minnesota Valley Choral at FLC!

The Minnesota Valley Chorale will be presenting their fall concert at First Lutheran Church on Saturday, **November 18, at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 at the door. The concert will feature Vivaldi's "Dixit Dominus" with string quartet and "Three Psalms of Praise" by Dan Forrest, along with other pieces.  
<https://www.minnesotavalleychorale.org/about/>

## Soup & Chilli Cook-off and Dessert Auction - November 19 after Worship

Calling all Cooks! We are now taking entries for the Second Annual Soup Cook-Off and Dessert Auction. On November 19th, immediately after worship you are invited to to sample the entered soups/chilis. Attendees will be voting with their spare change and dollar bills. The cook whose soup raises the most money will win the coveted Golden Ladle trophy. All are welcome. While you are sampling the soups, please look over the auction table and be ready to bid on your choice of the available desserts to take home. That means we are also calling for First Lutheran bakers! Please donate a dessert (cake, pie, or other dessert) for the auction. All proceeds from the event will go to the church's General Fund. Please join us to continue this tradition at FLC. A little bit of good natured "Lutheran" competition never hurt anyone! If you are interested in entering a soup or donating a dessert, please complete the Entry Form. Forms can be turned into Angela in the office or placed in the offering plate. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Timm 507-340-0846 or [iquilt4love@yahoo.com](mailto:iquilt4love@yahoo.com)

### 2023 SOUP COOK-OFF & DESSERT AUCTION

Soup/Chilli Entry

Dessert Entry

Recipe Name

Your Name

E-Mail

Phone

November 19 after Worship. Please Indicate if your recipe includes any of the following allergens:

Gluten/Wheat

Dairy

Eggs

Fish

Tree Nuts

Peanuts

Soy

Crustacean/  
Shellfish



### Live Nativity – SPAFS Donations will be Accepted

Live Nativity will be on December 9 in the FLC Parking lot. Donations of money and non-perishable foods will be collected for the St Peter Area Food Shelf as you exit this drive through event. Live means, yes, live animals! Invite your friends to experience this event. If you would like to volunteer for Live Nativity, please contact Betsy Paul.

## The Generosity Project – Service in the Dining Room, Service to Each Other

September and October have traditionally been a time of year for churches to focus on Stewardship, often with an annual “pledge drive” and a focus on encouraging everyone to submit an “*Estimate of Giving*” card for the coming year. Those estimates of income help the Finance Committee in drafting a budget for the coming year, which will be shared at the congregational meeting on Sunday, Dec. 3. While we deeply appreciate the 92 households that have already submitted their cards and plans to support God’s mission at



### The Generosity Project

Worship in the Dining Hall October 15  
Join us again on November 19!

FLC in the coming year, we must emphasize that stewardship is so much more than just finances and monetary gifts to do “church work.” God desires for everyone to be involved in daily discipleship; acts and words of caring for others and the world that God has made. Yes, we are still receiving Time and Talent Surveys; they are a way for you to share what interests/skills you have and your willingness to use those in service to God through involvement in our congregation and the larger St Peter community. If you have not yet submitted Time and Talent Survey or your 2024 Estimate of Giving card, it is never too late; contact the church office if you need either one.

Since mid-September our Sunday worship life together has centered on the Season of Stewardship and giving thanks to God for all that we have. Sunday, October 15 was Celebration Sunday with a special worship service in the Dining Hall with a focus on *The Generosity Project* (TGP). We learned how generosity is not the same as stewardship; it is an aspect of one’s character; a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). It was a very moving worship experience with hands-on activities, meeting and blessing one another around tables with small groups of 6-8 people and receiving God’s Word and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We watched a very touching video clip of a man in Thailand expressing his generosity in daily living; it reminded us of Jesus’ life of service to others. Let us know if you would like to see the video again, or maybe for the first time. Overall, October 15 was a great day of worship, learning, fellowship and growing in Generosity!

The attendance at the October 15 special TGP worship (first of four services in the dining room) experience was greater than we expected, and we look forward to a similar worship again on Nov. 19. Plan to join us!

November is a time to be THANKFUL. As your Stewardship Committee, we are THANKFUL to God for all that we have and all that we are AND we are thankful for you - the faithful disciples of Jesus here at First Lutheran! God bless you all.

*Submitted by Carl Bruihler*

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*LA GRANDE BANDE presents its 2023-2024 Season  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season*

## *A French Baroque Christmas*

First Lutheran Church, St Peter

*A Christmas tradition centuries in the making*

*Wednesday, December 6*

**4:30PM** | Open Rehearsal @ FLC (free)

*Thursday, December 7*

**6:45PM** | Pre-concert talk (tickets required)

**7:30PM** | Concert Performance (tickets required)

**\$20 (Sec A), \$15 (Sec B), \$10 (Sec C/students)**

Online at [www.lagrandebande.org/tickets](http://www.lagrandebande.org/tickets)

By phone at 507-237-6539