

# FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER, 2023

Siblings in Christ,

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 64, verse 8 we read this, “Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” I have always loved this Bible verse! Plus, it fits in well with what we will be focusing on during the month of October!

During October, we will celebrate the ongoing Reformation of the Christian Church. Lutherans wear red to worship on this date (Oct. 29th this year). We sing traditional Lutheran hymns that honor God’s Holy Word and the work of the Holy Spirit reforming us into the people God has envisioned us to be. An important element to remember about Reformation Sunday connects to our reading from the prophet Isaiah. God works on us all throughout our lives- not just when we’re in Sunday School, or Confirmation, or when we’re young. God works on shaping us into his children all throughout our lives- when we are young, middle aged and old! Through God’s Holy Word and Sacraments, God shapes and reshapes (reforms!) us into his people at work here in this world. That is a beautiful and reassuring thing. When Christ returns to make all things new- that will include us as we are raised and given a new body made from the old!

Also, this month, we will be gathering for a special service in the Dining Hall on October 15th. I won’t give any surprises away but, I can tell you that we will be able to use our hands and make our own creation using modeling clay. You will be able to take your creations home with you following worship that day. Come and see how clay connects to our scripture lesson for that day and the concept that we will be focusing on: Generosity! Until I see you next, remember that you are held in God’s loving hands and God will continue to work on shaping and re-shaping you all throughout your life!

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Chris*



## Council President – FLC Explores Land Planning

As facilitator for the strategic priority “Engaging and Collaborating with the Community” I would like to update you on our group’s progress. Before I begin, if you have not read FLC’s strategic plan 2023-2028, please do so on the church’s website. Also, if you have not read my past articles on this group’s work regarding this strategic priority, please read my First Out Loud newsletter articles from June/July and August. Also found on the church website.

We have had several new members join our original group so thank you to our new members Bruce Gray, Mike Stewart, and Barb Wilkinson. They join Emily Bruflat, Randy Frey-Hawkins, Kristy Larson, Shanon Nowell, and Keith Stelter. A stellar group of people who have provided thoughtful, respectful, and creative leadership in progressing this strategic priority.

We are still in the discernment phase for developing a plan for the underutilized land, but we are putting together more pieces to this puzzle every month. Most of our time has been spent exploring an affordable housing development on some of the land and to that end we have accomplished the following:

Invited our city administrator, Todd Prafke, to speak to us about the need for affordable housing in St. Peter. He said that there is a need for all types of housing in St. Peter but there is a real need for affordable rental housing that has 3+ bedrooms. He said the city of St. Peter will be doing a market/feasibility study this fall which will give us a clearer picture of existing and projected levels of demand for affordable housing.

Overview of our site by the director of community development, Ben Baker. He suggested areas that would be better for housing based on access to utilities, topography, and parking needs. He also talked about the zoning of the land and the need for variances. Paul Tanis, a lawyer with real estate expertise, talked to us mainly about issues related to selling versus leasing the land to a developer. The important thing being that we hire our own lawyer if we plan to sell or lease the land.

An informal appraisal of the land was done in April of 2022 but not all the underutilized land was included in this appraisal. We will arrange to have a formal, written appraisal of the land done as soon as possible.

In October we will meet representatives of the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMNHP) to discuss the feasibility of an affordable housing project and answer other questions related to the development of the land. The SWMNHP is a nonprofit with experience and expertise in developing affordable housing. They were the developers for the Central Square apartments and Park Row Crossing, to name two. This is a broad brush of the group’s progress. The congregation will need to weigh in on these factors too. We plan to have a congregation-wide meeting soon to present our preliminary plans. In the

meantime, this group welcomes your input and attention to this important and exciting opportunity to be the Church our community needs.

*-Submitted by Mary Spear, Council President*



### Blood Drive at FLC – Donating is a Gift!

The Red Cross ‘national blood supply has fallen by about 25% since early August, as donor turnout dropped on the heels of one of the busiest travel seasons on record, back-to-school activities and an already active hurricane season.

Hurricane Idalia further strained the blood supply with blood drive cancellations and reduced blood and platelet donations in affected areas. This has compounded a shortfall of about 30,000 donations in August. Please sign up to donate on October 23.

### **Blood Drive** **First Lutheran Church**

Dining Room  
Sunrise Drive & Traverse Road  
Saint Peter, MN

**Monday, October 23, 2023**  
**11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



## **Christ in Our Home – Author in the House!**

The October-December issue of the daily devotional booklet, "Christ in Our Home" is now available in the Gathering Space. You may recognize a name from the list of Writers: FLC member Pastor Ted Kunze wrote the devotions for December 16-31. The Kunze's also recently welcomed their 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild! Congratulations and thank you Pastor Kunze for your many contributions.

## **Book Review – “Doors Through the Great Wall” by Esther Yoder Stenson**

Why are David Stenson (who is a brother of Jim and Bob Stenson) and Esther Yoder Stenson building a house in St. Peter? And how did they meet in China? What were their struggles teaching English as a Second Language in China?

This is a new and fascinating book in our church library. Until it is catalogued, you can borrow a copy from Cheryl Kautt (507-301-7086). For Esther's books of poetry, you can contact any of the Stensons.

*--Submitted by Dorothy Lutz*

## **Refugee Hygiene Kits GWOH Project**

A BIG Thank you to everyone who donated items and participated in the assembly of the GWOH Refugee Hygiene Kits project. With these generous donations and the Thrivent Community Impact Card, we were able to put together 25 kits that were donated to Lutheran Social Services.

A special thanks to Nancy Thorkelson for organizing this effort!



## **Carolyn Wilkins &**

## **Philip Bryant Presentation, Oct. 18 - Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit**

Please join pianist, composer, writer, and Professor of Music Carolyn Wilkins (Berklee College of Music) and Professor Philip Bryant (Gustavus Adolphus College) in Christ Chapel on Wednesday, October 18 at 7 pm for an evening presentation on the many and various ways spirituality is expressed in African American music. Genres include Spirituals, Black Gospel music, Blues, R&B, Rock n' Roll, Soul, Jazz, Classical, Country, and Hip-Hop. In this conversational style presentation, Ms. Wilkins and Professor Bryant will tackle the daunting question of “what is the basic nature of spirituality in African American music and how does this spirit make its presence felt in all the multiple genres of Black American music?” Along with their conversation there will be accompanying recorded music and some short musical selections performed on piano by Ms. Wilkins herself.

*--Submitted by Dr. Chad Winterfeldt*

## **Did You Skip Picture Day? Please Call or Email the Church**

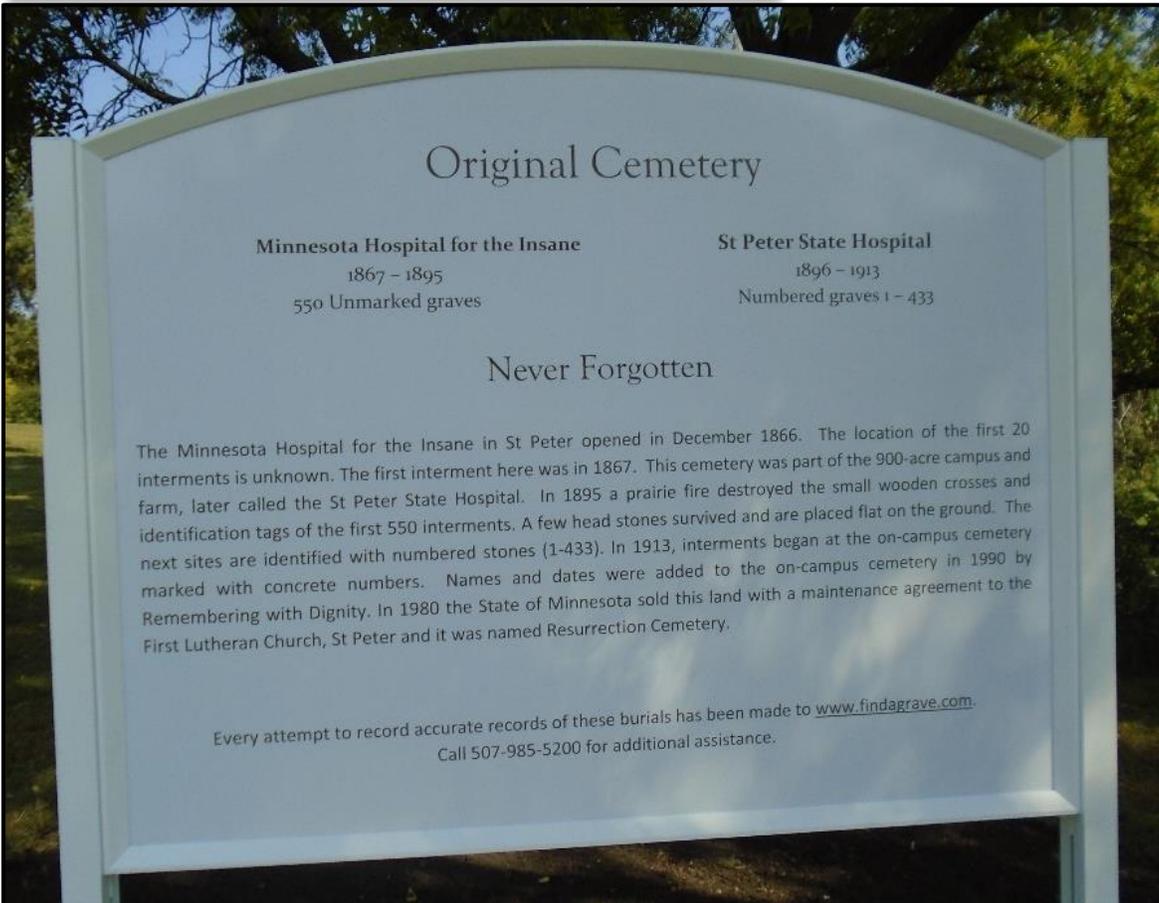
Thanks everyone who participated in photos for the directory. If you were unable to come to a session, please call or email the church to update your contact information. [flcstpooffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcstpooffice@gmail.com)

## Remembering with Dignity -State Hospital Cemetery



For decades the St. Peter State Hospital Original Cemetery, adjacent to Resurrection Cemetery, was basically invisible to the public. There was no public recognition that the Original Cemetery was the resting place of approximately 1000 souls. While approximately half of the grave sites are identified with the numbers 1-433, the rest of the earlier gravesites have no identification; very few are remembered by named markers.

Around the year 2000, a group called Remembering with Dignity worked to rectify this situation by having markers placed in the State Hospital Cemeteries.



The State Hospital Cemetery on the Security Hospital Campus had named markers placed at the gravesites around 2012. Because of the difficulty verifying grave locations, the Original Cemetery gravesites remain unnamed.

Early in 2023, Beth Zabel, Volunteer Service Coordinator for

the State Hospital Original Cemetery Project, contacted the Cemetery Committee with a proposal to honor the legacy of these souls. The proposal suggested that a sign that succinctly summarizes the history of the State Hospital Original Cemetery be placed, along with two benches, close to the entrance of the Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee was pleased to endorse this proposal. In early September that sign was installed and now welcomes the public to the Original Cemetery. While most of the graves at the Original Cemetery remain unnamed, their names, as found on State Hospital Records and Minnesota Death Records at the Courthouse, are memorialized on FindaGrave.com.

*Submitted by Nita Aasen*

*A dedication of the Original St Peter State Hospital Cemetery Memorial at 9am on Friday, Oct 27, 2023. This will be a short dedication ceremony. For those interested, a tour of the Original Cemetery and the St Peter State Hospital Museum will follow. Please pre-register for this tour by contacting Beth Zabel at [beth.m.zabel@state.mn.us](mailto:beth.m.zabel@state.mn.us). Or 507-985-2249.*

## Youth & Family - Out Loud!

We are officially rocking and rolling with our youth programming for the 2023-24 year! Please see the church website for the complete 2023-2024 Christian Education Schedules. Below are the October dates. Check out all the spooktacular events we have in store for you this month! If you would like to be a confirmation mentor, please let Calleigh know! [cc.flcstp@gmail.com](mailto:cc.flcstp@gmail.com)

### 4th Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest: *Deadline to submit your masterpiece is October 29th!*



Grab your paint brushes and pumpkin carving utensils - this contest is back by popular demand! Email a picture of your decorated pumpkin to Calleigh by October 29th for a chance to win a prize! The three categories that FLC staff will be judging are: Scariest Pumpkin, Funniest Pumpkin, and Most Creative Pumpkin. Get carving!



### Trunk or Treat at First Lutheran: Friday, October 27th at 5:00pm

Come one, come all! We're bringing back Trunk or Treat at First Lutheran! All youth are invited to trick or treat at First Lutheran on October 29th at 5:00. We're looking for members to volunteer to decorate their trunks! Interested? Contact Calleigh to sign up!

#### Sunday School:

October 1st 9:15am-9:55am	<b>Sunday School Rally Day!</b> <i>Join us for fun, food, crafts, and meet your teacher!</i>
October 8th 9:00am-9:55am	<b>Sunday School Class!</b>
October 15th 9:00am-9:55am	<b>Sunday School Class!</b>
October 22nd 9:00am-9:55am	<b>NO CLASS - MEA BREAK!</b>
October 29th 9:00am-9:55am	<b>Sunday School Class!</b> <i>Sunday School students sing at 10:00am Worship!</i>

#### Wednesdays! Formation/Confirmation:

October 4th	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC</b>
October 11th	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC</b>
October 18th	<b>NO CLASS - MEA BREAK!</b>
October 25th	<b>6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC</b>

## FLC Wind Ensemble!

**Join us on October 8th!**  
**Practice at 9:00 - Worship at 10:00!**  
 Email [musicflcstp@gmail.com](mailto:musicflcstp@gmail.com)  
 to sign up and get music!

#### High School Youth Group:

<b>Wednesday, November 1st 7:30pm- 8:30pm</b>	<b>Get ready for our November Kick-Off! Our combined High School Youth Group will be gathering for food, fun, and games at First Lutheran Church this month!</b>
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# *Behold Your Saints in Glory*



## *Worshiping 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.

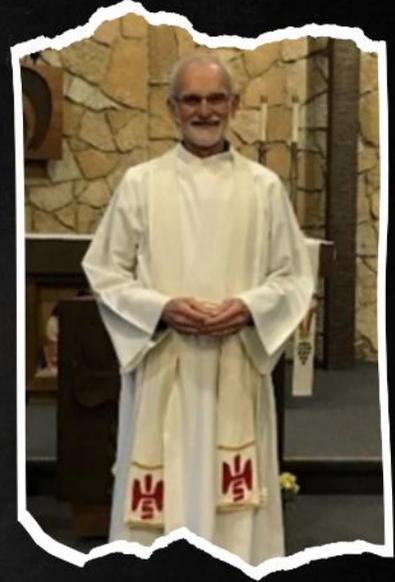
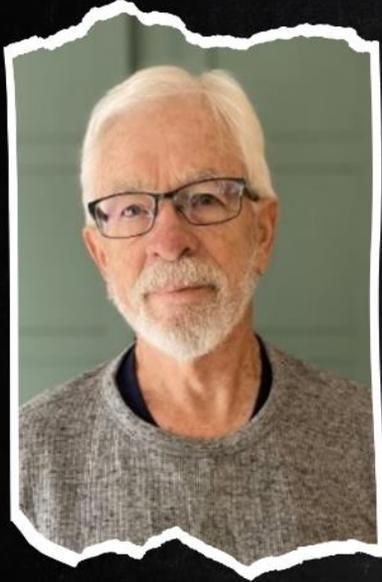
[Image artwork THE PROCESSION; Copyright © 2007 - John August Swanson Trust; Serigraph, 36" x 24";  
[www.JohnAugustSwanson.com](http://www.JohnAugustSwanson.com) - Used by permission.]

## **All Saints - November 5**

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!”

## Ordination Anniversaries for 2023!

We lift up anniversaries ending in a “5” or “0” to celebrate with the many ordained clergy in our congregation. This year, we celebrate the ordination anniversaries of Bob Stenson (55 years), Steve Kidder (50 years), and Mary Gaebler (20 years)! Thank you for your service to the church and for your many ministries. May God continue to show up in surprising ways throughout your lives!



From Left: Bob Stenson, Mary Gaebler, & Steve Kidder

## Organ Recital Series

October 15: Chad Winterfeldt

October 29: David Lim

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.

First Lutheran Church + 1114 W. Traverse Rd + Saint Peter, MN

## 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.minnesotavall eychorale.org/about/>

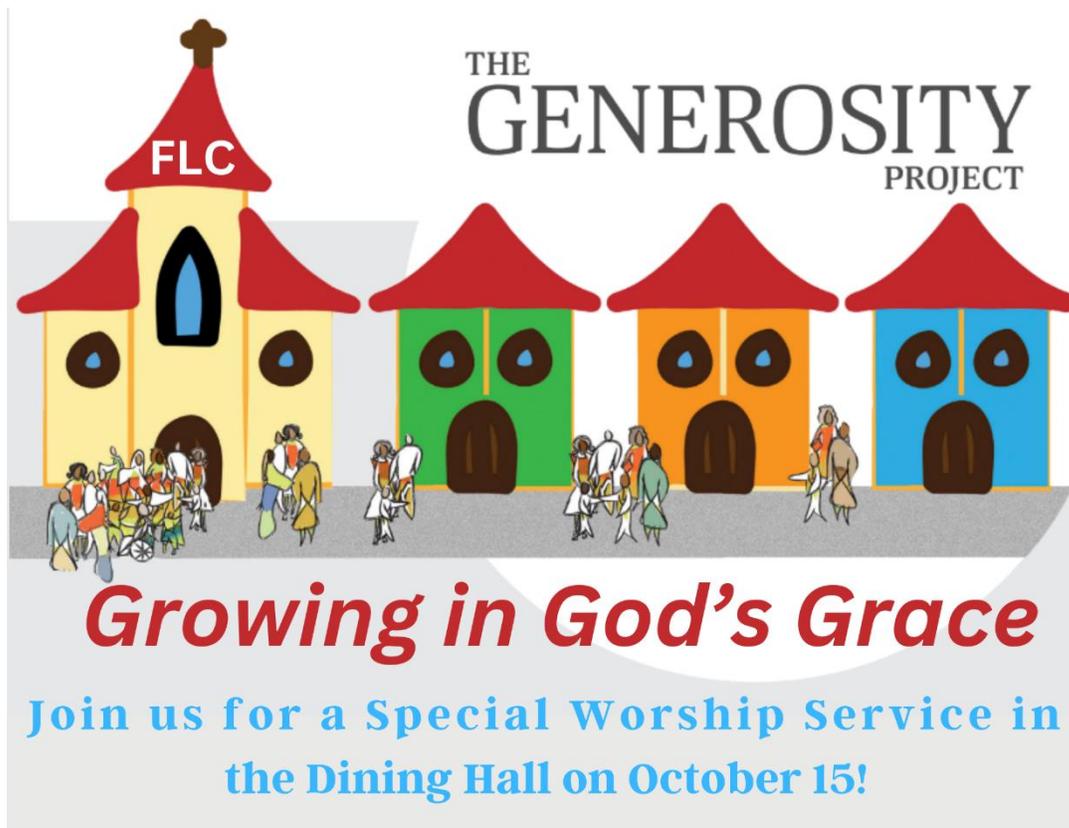
## Your Time & Talent – Allotting Your Time to Donate in 2024

Dear Members of FLC,

Do you often get an email from me saying “**Please reply to this email if you can help with \_\_\_\_\_**”? If not, **you may not be signed up to volunteer**. The best way to do this is to check out the time and talent brochure for opportunities on our homepage and sign up with the survey link. There is a paper version of the survey you can pick up in the gathering space as well, but online submissions are preferred. As always you can call the church office to let us know about a committee that you want to join or any other volunteer role you are interested in. Worship assistants are ALWAYS needed, and the lavender sign-up sheet is in the gathering space for weekly roles to fill you can also sign up online. No experience necessary and training is provided! Rookies and “Old Hats” are welcome!

*With Kind Regards Always,*

*Angela*



# FIRST FORUMS

getting the discussion going!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

KATHRYN LOZADA FROM ISAIAH

WILL SHARE ABOUT THE IMPORTANT WORK

FLC SUPPORTS THROUGH THIS ORGANIZATION



## Worship & Arts - Repairs, Recitals, Rehearsals, and TALENT!

The organ repairs began in mid-June, and there has been steady progress for the last three months. Of course, as with any major renovation, there have been some hiccups. A delayed shipment/supply chain issue, some price increases for critical parts, scheduling conflicts, and even a part for our organ sent to the wrong church! However, Patrick Fischer - our technician - has continued to provide professional, expert service, and we are on track to have the organ playable by October.

We needed to adjust the recital series to accommodate the delays. David's recital will now close the series on November 12, and Chad Winterfeldt will kick it off on October 15. Because of those cost increases, any donations collected at the four recitals will go to offset the organ repair costs. A big thanks to the four organists for putting in a great deal of work to prepare recitals in celebration of the organ repairs!

This fall we have quite the melodious lineup! Emily hosted a full morning retreat for members of our choir on September 9. It was an excellent turnout, too! Her schedule is jam packed with the Handbell choir, Sanctuary Choir, Bonse Aba Singers, FLC Wind Ensemble, Jeremiah Band rehearsals, and more! We will also have our FLC kiddos involved with a Hand Chime group and Youth Choir, led by Sarah Chambers and Brenda McHugh! There are so many opportunities to get involved with our music ministries at FLC!

On September 17, we hosted our third annual **FLC's Got Talent!** This was another fun event for everyone!



On November 5, the Sanctuary Choir will be singing a cantata for All Saints Sunday! Please plan to attend this special day!

If you're interested in participating in any of these ensembles, or simply want to learn more, please reach out to Emily Bruflat: [musicflcstp@gmail.com](mailto:musicflcstp@gmail.com)!

*Submitted by Michelle Doose, Worship & Arts Committee Chair*

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Saint Peter, MN 56082

## Non-Profit Organization

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# GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Please turn in your 2024  
Pledge Card to Karen!  
Help us plan for next year!

# 2023