**Volume 24, Issue 1**

**The *First* Word**

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

**October 2022**

**Seek FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33**

## It’s Pastor Appreciation Month!

***Special October Dates***

First Edition Book Club meets….Oct. 1 Home of Eileen Burns

LWML Divide Zone Rally-Deer Lodge LWML Sunday Oct. 2

Dorcas Quilters meet…………….Oct. 5

WOW Bible Study…... *…………*Oct. 11

*Mountaintop Journeys with Jesus*

Dorcas Quilters meet…………..Oct. 19 WOW Bible Study…….*………...*Oct. 25

*Mountaintop Journeys with Jesus*

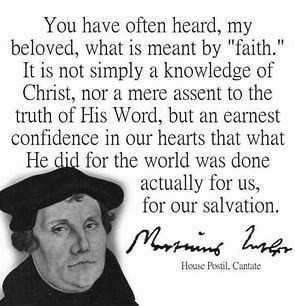
Reformation Day (observed)…..Oct. 30 FLC 135th Anniversary Dinner

FLS Fall Festival Party………...Oct. 31 Reformation Day

*This article was written in September of 2018 by Janet Addison, a pastor’s wife, and posted on the Internet.*

The New Testament records several examples of ministers who were blessed by their people. Paul especially wrote thank-you letters of appreciation throughout his ministry to specific people who blessed him with tangible, practical gifts as well as those who offered spiritual encouragement and prayers. He even made special requests for things he needed, like scrolls and a cloak, because congregations were faithful to support him and his work.

In our 20 years of service to various churches, we have found the same principles to be true. For example, whenever my husband mentioned his love for Oreos from the pulpit, people would drop by his office the next week with bags of his favorite cookies. I never understood why he couldn’t mention— just once!—Cheezits, which were my preferred snack. When church members express their gratitude toward a pastor and his family, even on an Oreo level, that’s living out Scripture!



Small treats do send your pastor a message that he’s loved, but sometimes a gesture of appreciation should be on a grander scale. God’s Word says, “Let him who is taught the Word *share in all good things* with him who teaches” (Gal. 6:6), so here are some good things to try as you *“recognize those who labor among you” and “esteem them very high- ly in love for their work’s sake”* (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

### Appreciate your pastor by being a good church member.

***In This Issue***

A Look At Our Budget 2

The Pastor’s Page 3

The gift of faithful stewardship 4

Just for KIDS! 5

Let’s celebrate October birthdays! 6

Happenings at Our School 7

Being a shepherd leader can be hard when the sheep don’t follow. A pastor spends much time praying for God’s direction for his church family and will be thankful for people who are also praying for vision and confirmation.

Supporting a new plan is also easier when you’ve prayed over it.

All believers should be kingdom builders, so actively share the Gospel in your corner of the world. Too many people are hurting because they don’t know Jesus or they need to be discipled. The preacher can’t reach everyone in your community by himself, so look for ways you can partner with him in ministry. Support his efforts to grow and maintain a healthy church. My husband feels more blessed when someone calls him with thoughtful solutions to a problem instead of just complaints.

### Appreciate your pastor by being a good friend.

Each time God moved us to a different area of ministry, He raised up specific women who deliberately chose to be my friend. These ladies loved on our

children, shared their tomatoes, helped me decorate the house, and scheduled lunch dates. They knew me as a person, beyond the role of pastor’s wife, and we remain friends after our time at their

church ended.

As a pastor’s family, we never expect special treatment, but it is deeply

meaningful when people acknowledge the unique challenges of our position and the sacrifices we choose to make for the sake of the Gospel and the church. For

example, consider all the Valentine’s, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter, and Christmas celebrations your pastoral staff sacrifices because of special church

events. We rarely get to share those

family-focused holidays with our parents or loved ones and usually end up at home alone. Our children have stayed later than everyone else after Christmas Eve

services to help snuff out candles before we could go home and open presents.

Although cell phones and social media provide constant access to each other, we appreciate church members who have

reasonable expectations for my husband’s time and mental energy.

**SEE Appreciation, Pg. 2**

# Celebrating LWML Sunday



As is traditional, First Lutheran will observe LWML Sunday on Sunday, October 2.

“For Us and With Us” is the theme for LWML Sunday 2022 and is based on Paul’s letter to the Romans. Paul tells us that each of us has faced

challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength (Romans 8:31–39). But, in Christ, Who is for us and with us, we are already more than

conquerors through Him Who loved us. This celebratory LWML Sunday will encourage all

hearers of the victory which is already ours through Baptism, so we might live each day confidently trusting in Christ.

**APPRECIATION**

**Continued from Pg. 1**

Let your pastor be a cheering dad at his kids’ ballgames or a great date when he takes his wife to dinner and save the church talk for later. You can also be a good friend to your pastor by being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

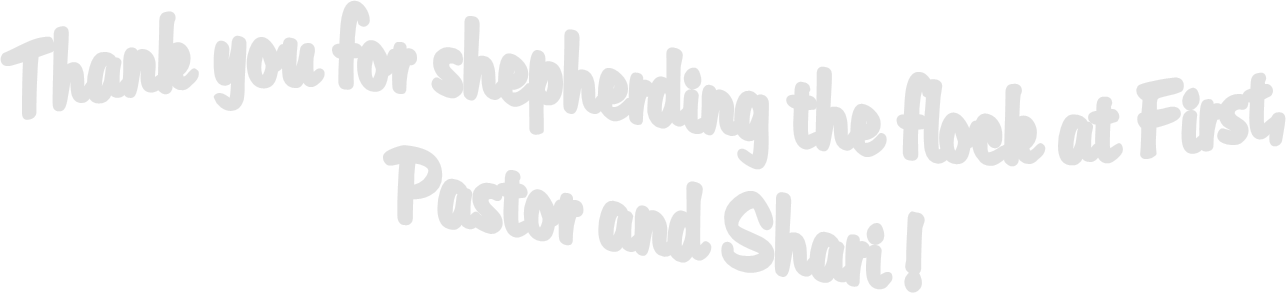
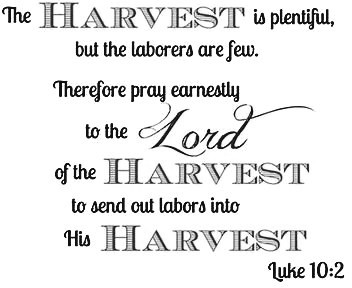
### Appreciate your pastor by being a good student.

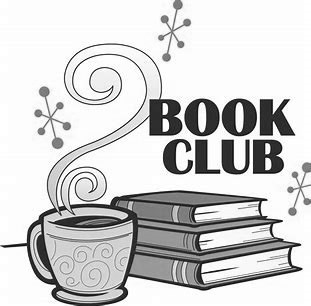
My pastor husband says the best ways a church can appreciate him is to love his family and to listen to him. His favorite compliments are not, “That was a great sermon, preacher!” He would much rather hear these: “Let me tell you

about the guy at work I’m witnessing to…” and “I have a question about a passage I read in my quiet time last week…” and “God really convicted me

about something during the sermon this morning…” The best way you can show appreciation to your pastor is to learn and grow. That’s why God called him to ministry—to feed and lead His sheep. A church full of people who pray, share their faith, and study God’s Word is the ultimate to a man in ministry.

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith”* (Gal. 6:10).





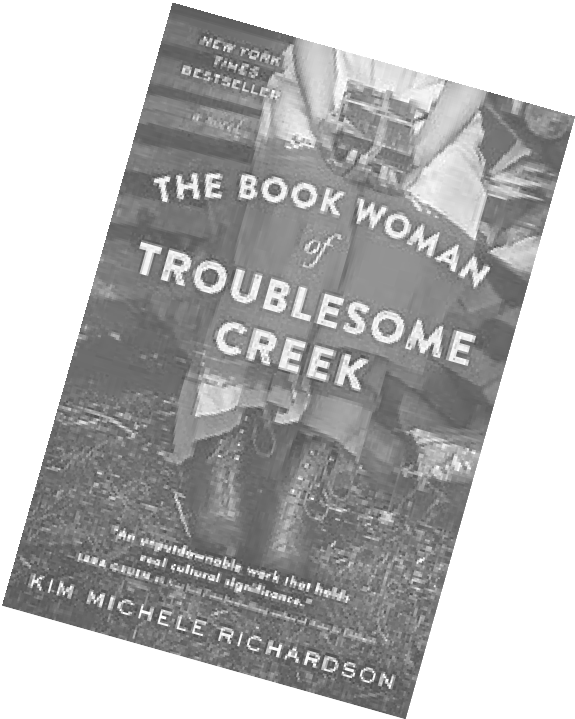
First Edition Book Club members will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, at the home of Eileen Burns. Members will meet at 11:45

a.m. at the Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot and car pool. Club members are currently reading—and will discuss—*The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

Members will meet for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, November 5, at the home of Lisa Tullis. For that meeting, members will read— and discuss—*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See.

### Please RSVP to Lisa no later than Wednesday, November 2, by

calling 650.759.5558.





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **The *First* Word** |
|  |  |
|  |  | *Published monthly by:* |
|  | **A report from your Board of Finance** | First Lutheran Church 2231 Broadway  Helena, MT 59601  (406)442-5367 |
|  | August 2022 FY 2023 Y-T-D | Rev. Larry A. Miller *Pastor*  Linda Fromm *Editor*  Susan Boyer *Calendar/Servant Schedule*  Volunteer Staff *Printing/Collation* |
| Income (Church & School) Expense (Church & School) Gain/Loss | $ 38,227.22 $ 90,470.79  $ 53,401.69 $ 96,704.82 ($ 15,174.47) ($ 6,234.03) | **Deadline for the November *First* Word is Wednesday, Oct. 19. Place articles in the *First* Word box in the church office or email to:** [***lindafromm@mac.com***](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com) |

***Why Celebrate the 135th Anniversary of First Lutheran Congregation in Helena?***

**In a movie *John and the Missus***, Canadian actor, Gordon Pinsent plays John Munn, the unofficial community leader of Cup Cove, an outport community. There is an explosion in the mine and the mine is closed. The community is then slated for closure, and its people for resettlement by the

government of Newfoundland. Munn strongly resists leaving, for, as he says, pointing to the local cemetery, "Why I know every living one of them that's buried in that there graveyard!" The profundity of the statements is almost lost in its obvious humor. For Munn, his ancestors, who actually appear in shadowed sepia tones and period costume, sitting on the rocks and porches of the community, are real people. He "knows" them even though most were dead long before he was born. It was **their work which set up that community and their determination** which raised families on little work, even littler money, on the mine, and on the cod. It was that chain of succession from father to son, and mother to daughter that made that community what it was

- and, as far as he was concerned, to abandon it was to abandon them and that dream which gave them life.

### In Joshua 4 we find the people of Israel crossing the Jordan into the promised land.

We see the elders being ordered to **choose twelve stones**, representing the twelve tribes of their nation, and **building an altar to Almighty God**. Several times in this passage the question is posed, "What do these stones mean?" The presence of these

stones gives them an opportunity to **tell their children how God had acted** in their lives and how, specifically, they had been **helped as they crossed the Jordan into their new land**. The story and the memory remained intact as **the story of God's power was told and retold**.

**This 135th Anniversary year** we have the opportunity to **remember**

what has been done among and by the members of our congregation,

**rejoice** in God’s amazing grace, and **respond** to His love as faithful stewards of His awesome gifts to us, through His congregation!

A **Special Worship Service** celebrating the 135th of our congregation, the 175th of the LCMS, and the Protestant Reformation is being planned for Sunday, October 30. Special music, litanies, an anniversary message, the gift of Holy Communion, and perhaps a few surprises are being planned for our regular worship times. As always when we celebrate, **festive food** will

also be in the center of our evening **supper** and **activities**.

Please **watch for many more details** to be announced in the weeks to come and **save the date** (October 30) as you **make your plans to attend**! It will be a great opportunity to **thank our God for His unending goodness to us** through His church!

If you would like to **help with planning and carrying out this time of remembrance for our congregation**, please give me a call (406.442.5367). We have many blessings to remember and for which to praise God as we look forward to **raising even more memorial stones for the work of Christ in our hearts and congregation!**

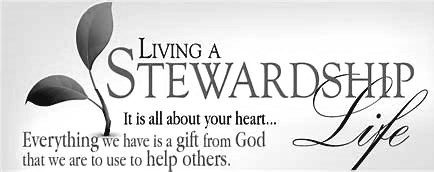
### Looking forward to celebrating God’s mercy and grace with you,

The gift of faithful stewardship **— from your Board of Steward-**

*“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21-22)*

**God was pleased.** With whom was He pleased? His son Jesus, of course! But have you ever wondered why?

What had Jesus done up to this point to cause such pleasure for His Father? Well, He didn’t get



murdered by Herod. He was in the temple like a good Jewish boy. He hadn’t done anything exceptional up to this point. No healings. No

teaching. No resurrections. Even in

Luke 3, all Jesus does is go down into

the water and is baptized by His cousin John. Nothing spectacular to inspire pleasure in the Father has been seen yet.

But that is what gives us the greatest stewardship lesson. Stewardship isn’t about the spectacular. You don’t have to give millions of dollars to be a Father-pleasing steward.

You don’t have to go to Africa for mission work to get the same kind of “atta boy” from God. Stewardship that is

faithful and God-pleasing is found in everyday life. It is the husband loving his wife because she is a gift from God. It is a mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night

because she has been given this new life to steward. It is a

child doing his or her level best because his or her talents are gifts from God.

This happens every day. You have been doing it. Simple gifts have been entrusted to you. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of the Gospel, and so many other mundane efforts are stewardship. It is your

faithfulness to the callings you have been given.

The Father was well pleased with Jesus because of what He had done up to that point. He was also well pleased with what He was going to do. The same is true of you, faithful steward. He is pleased with what you have done and what He knows you will do. He

knows you will heed His word and answer His call. He has given you all the grace you need to be His faithful steward. With you He is well pleased.

### Prayer

*Loving Father, You were well pleased with the faithful work of Your Son both before and after His Baptism in the Jordan. Grant us the grace to be faithful in the stewardship of our daily lives.*

*When we fall short, lead us back to Jesus. We know that it is because of Him that You are pleased with us. Lead us to be faithful stewards of His Gospel every day! Amen.*

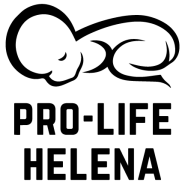
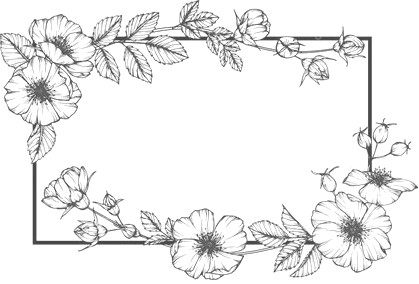
*— This article is taken from Simple Gifts, a series of LCMS Stewardship Ministry devotions. Used by permission.*

*The family of Nancy Kraft thanks the members of First Lutheran Church and Pastor and Shari Miller for prayers, expressions of care and concern and support, get well and sympathy cards, meals, flower arrangements, plants, visits with Nancy, and participation in her funeral service, where we thanked and praised God for her life and the gift of His Son ,Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord and Savior. God bless you all as you exercise and share your faith.*

*Dave Kraft*

Pro Life Helena is a Christian organization that sponsors the

Helena area *40 Days of Life* campaign each spring and fall. The organization’s “Pray to End Abortion” prayer vigil campaign began



on September 25th, and First

Lutheran members can find a folder in Ziegler Hall containing information on ways to help this mission.

Perhaps you would like to volunteer to be a sidewalk advocate. If so, there is training available, and partners to help get started.

Pro Life Helena’s mission statement is: To train, equip and support the pro-life

Helena community to be the hands and feet of Christ in order to provide a peaceful, prayerful, loving and law-abiding presence that ends abortion in our community.

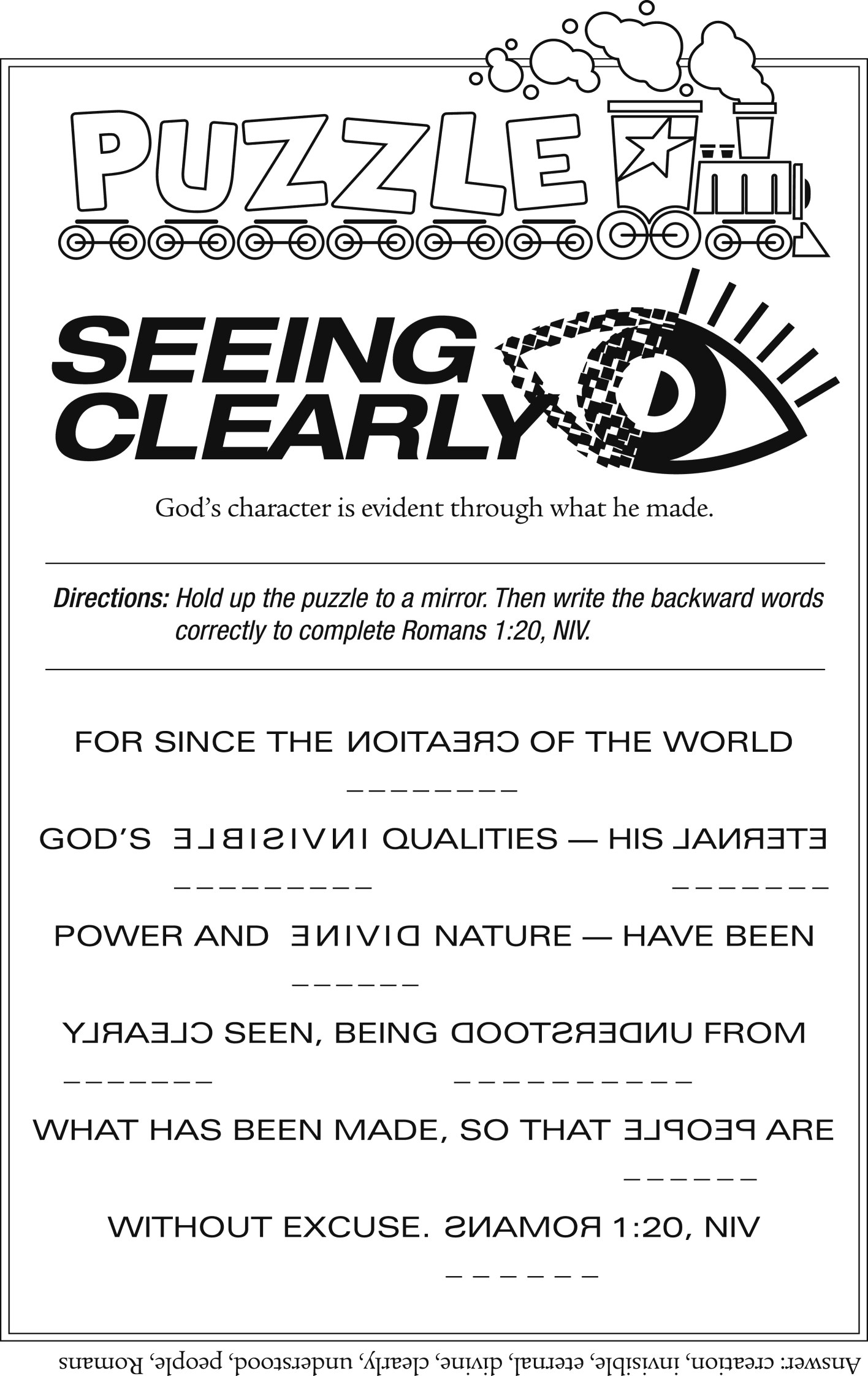
***“My name from the palms of His hands eternity will not erase. Imprest on His heart it remains in marks of indelible grace.”***

*— Augustus Toplady*

*Writer of 18th century hymn “Rock of Ages” (From the Newsletter Newsletter)*

Please check out the folder, and see Ruth Stelter if you would like more information.

*Ruth Stelter*



## “Cards 4 Kids” returns!



Packages of HALLOWEEN/THANKSGIVING CARDS will be available in Ziegler Hall beginning Tuesday, October 4, and may be purchased through Sunday, October 23. Each package is made up of 10 cards, and is priced at $5.

Not only will your family members and friends enjoy

receiving a cheerful card, but all proceeds from the sale of these cards is donated to our FLY (First Lutheran Youth) program here at the church.

Please consider donating recycled birthday cards and

any type holiday cards for me to use. I use those that have no writing on the picture side. Many thanks for your donations of envelopes, cardstock, and stickers!

*— Janice Larison*

*Images shown are for illustration purposes only. They are not actual card designs.*

Many thanks from Options Clinic for the baby items First Lutheran members have placed in the tub in Ziegler Hall. Recipient families are grateful for the help.

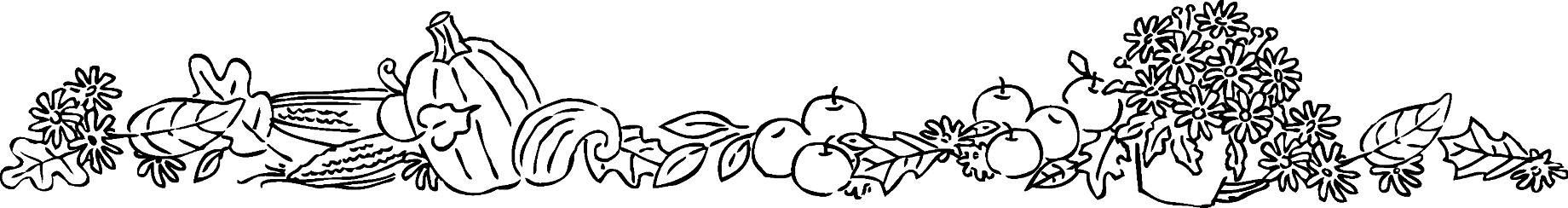
The list below shows items currently needed in the boutique. You may also show your support with a *Choose Life* license plate the next time you renew your vehicle’s plates. The cost of this specialized license plate is $25, all of which goes to Options Clinic.

*Current Boutique Needs*

Infant car seats Diapers—Size 4, 5, 6 Small board books Wipes

Gender neutral receiving blankets

*Thank you, Ruth Stelter*



October Birthdays!

**October 2**

*Korbyn Jurenka*

**October 6**

*Julia Warsinski*

**October 7**

*Arthur Worthy*

**October 8** *Paul Taylor Ross Veach Kathy Winslow*

**October 10**

*John Champagne Paul Lanter Charles Olson*

**October 11** *Maddox Rickman Thomas Tompkins*

**October 12** *Marie McManus Pastor Miller*

*Clark Spranget*

**October 13**

*William Staffeldt*

**October 15**

*Cheryl Brown*

**October 16**

*Alexander Balcerzak Steven Johnson Melanie Middlebrook*

**October 18** *Owen Carson Peter McCarthy*

**October 19**

*Gale Everson*

**October 23**

*Marvin Blokzyl Jr.*

*Chris Frank*

**October 24**

*Jeff Huotari Christine Lanter Sean O’Malley*

*Norma Jean Walker*

**October 25** *Sharon Carson Madison McCarthy*

**October 26** *Conrad Eklund Javri Pearson*

**October 27** *Cassie Cooper Mathieu Lebahn Michelle O’Malley*

*Philip Tullis*

**October 28**

*Rachel Blair Caden Stockburger*

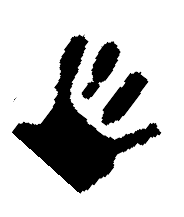
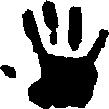
**October 29**

*Ryan Hanson*

**October 31**

*David Johnson*





## Happenings at First Lutheran School

Director Sue Taylor

Get Set Teacher Hanna Hollatz

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Lori Radtke

After School Care Julia Hollatz/Pam Worthy

Pastor Larry A. Miller

Meet our 2022*-*23 First Lutheran School students

These unique children of God share their perspective on what makes them special.



Our **Get Set students** Daisy, Knox, Killian, Kaden, Ezekiel, Beckham, Rhys, Hendrix, Izzy, Roan, Charli and Eleanor are special because they love toys, cookies, outfits (from dress-up), Transformers, flowers, hugs, and God. They are also special because they can grow big, swing on the swings, have a sister, and love their families.

Our **Pre-Kindergarten students** are special because:

**ARCHIE**: When I grow up, I will be a wrestler. I did it once. It was fun.

**AVERIE:** I like to play dollies! They are princesses.

**BRAYDEN:** I play soccer. It is fun.

**CHARLOTTE:** It is because I have a different starting

to my name. It used to be in the “D” family, but now it has a “C’ in it.

**EMERY:** My whole family. They are special and they make me more special.



**KAMILAH:** I give hugs and kisses at bed time.

**KYLIE:** My family. We spend time together.

**KYSON:** I like to play monster trucks with Hot Wheel

toys. My brother is obsessed with orange and white cats.

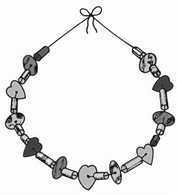
**SIERRA:** I like to make necklaces. My favorite color is

pink.

**WESTYN:** When I grow up, I will be a monster truck driver.

is for Charlotte





First Lutheran Church & School 2231 Broadway

Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (406)442-5367

Fax: (406)442-5285

School Phone: (406)442-6913 Website: [*www.firstlutheranhelena.org*](http://www.firstlutheranhelena.org/)

Email: [*churchoffice@firstlutheranhelena.org*](mailto:churchoffice@firstlutheranhelena.org)

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**U. S. POSTAGE**

**PAID HELENA, MT PERMIT NO.**

**127**

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**THE MISSION of First Lutheran Church is**

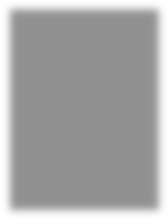
**“Sharing God’s Word with Everyone, Everywhere!”**

Tune in to **“*The Lutheran Hour”***—Sundays at 8 a.m. on the Christian Satellite Network 91.1-FM

*or* listen on ***“Family Talk”*** on Sirius XM 131

***“Woman to Woman”—***Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on KMTX 105.3-FM

# Living in the present



During Martin Luther’s great struggle to reform the church in the 16th century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words “I am baptized” on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, “I *was* baptized” but used the present-tense

verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as His son, and no human could take that from him.

Later, in his *Large Catechism*, Luther wrote: “To be baptized in God’s name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God Himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God’s own

act.”

—from *The Wired Word (The Newsletter Newsletter)*

